



LOWER REPUBLICAN NRD

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Lower Republican NRD Meeting Room, 30 North John, Alma, NE  
May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 7:00pm

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:**

Meeting notices were published in the Harlan County Journal and on the District Website at [www.lrnrd.org](http://www.lrnrd.org). Chairperson Marlin Murdoch called the meeting of the Lower Republican NRD Board of Directors to order at 7:00pm. The chairperson provided notice that the location of the current copy of the statute dealing with public meetings laws is located on the south wall. Guests were asked to sign the attendance roster.

Excused Absences: Don Duffy, Troy Fletcher, Tim Kahrs.

Directors present: Clark Andrews, David Bartels, Lee Fintel, Chris Grams, Marlin Murdoch, Matt Harrison, Toby tenBensel, Brad Wulf.

Others present: Jerry Kovarik, NRCS, Kayle Rupe, Ragan, David Brewster, McCook, Craig Scott, BOR, McCook, Sam Gruwell and Lynette Gruwell, Hildreth.

Staff present: Todd Siel, Nick Simonson, Shirlee Poyser.

**MATERIAL E-MAILED OUT PRIOR TO THE MEETING & AVAILABLE AT THE MEETING**

Agenda

LRNRD Board Meeting Minutes, 4/24

LRNRD/RWP Treasurer's Report, 4/24

LRNRD/NRCS Staff Report, 5/24

**Comments from the Public:** none.

**Motion #1 by Toby tenBensel seconded by Matt Harrison to approve the April minutes as presented. Motion carried. Ayes 8 Nays 0, Absent 3.**

**Motion #2 by Chris Grams seconded by Toby tenBensel to approve the LRNRD and Rural Water Treasurer's reports. Motion carried. Ayes 8 Nays 0, Absent 3.**

**NRCS Staff Report:** Jerry Kovarik gave the NRCS report. Jerry reported on EQIP, CSP and RCPP. A full report is in the minute book.

**LRNRD Staff Report:** Managers Todd Siel and Nick Simonson gave the NRD staff report. They reported on the RRCA Forecast, Static Water Levels (SWL), Water Jamboree, WaterSmart Grant, and Lake Levels. A complete copy of the report is in the minute book.

**Tree Planting:** Tree planting has not started but all the sites were tilled a couple of weeks ago. We discussed with the Jaeger crew and felt it may work better to get the tilling done, then come back later with the tree planting crew. They should be able to get everything planted by next week if the weather cooperates.

**Pooling / Chemigation / Occupation Tax:** June 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline! Staff have been reminding all the irrigators in our district about the approaching deadline for three important items: Occupation Tax exemptions, pooling agreements and/or arrangements, and chemigation permits. Mary has announced a reminder for all three in her KRVN report, posted to our social media accounts, and gave it front page billing on our newsletter. It is a busy time of year for agriculture, so we try and encourage everyone to address this long before the deadline.

**LRNRD Scholarship Recipients:** Kayla Rupe and Samuel Gruwell, both of Wilcox-Hildreth High School, thanked the board for the \$1,000 scholarships and spoke to the board about their college plans.

**Water Jamboree:** We held another successful Water Jamboree on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. The weather was wonderful on both days, and we got a nice rain the next day. It usually rains during one or both days of the event, but we were lucky this year. This event is a highlight for our area schools and, as stated by one of this year's participants, the kids love this event. There are a lot of hours and volunteers that make this happen and we appreciate every one of them for giving their time and effort to make this event what it is.

**Variance Request approvals:** Staff approved variance requests were discussed with the board.

Craig Scott, EISD Manager at Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), out of McCook, gave a presentation on Harlan County Lake operations and the 2024 account balances, along with KBID and NBID targets.

**Rural Water Update:** Letters of Request for Qualifications were sent out to six engineers for the RWD expansion project. RFQ's are to be received in the LRNRD office by June 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Republican River Compact Administration (RRCA):** Managers Todd and Nick have met with US Bureau of Reclamation staff to learn more about inflows, lake levels, and the estimated shut-off elevation in Harlan County Lake. It has been helpful to get an understanding as to where things stand when it comes to the status of the Water Short Year designation and the Bostwick account balances. Rain has helped to keep the inflows up and we are about 8,000 acre-feet from hitting the target inflows for January through May.

**Platte Republican High Flow Diversion:** NeDNR will be holding a public hearing in Bertrand, NE on June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Flag Creek Update:** Once we receive information back from Olsson, we will be able to start developing the next phase of the project.

**NCORPE:** No update.

**Watershed & Flood Prevention Operations Environmental Assessment Plan and Design (WFPO EA Plan):** The Turkey Creek Plan will be submitted soon.

**WaterSmart Grant:** Chad has installed around four hundred meters. There are a few glitches in the two software programs, but they are getting them worked out.

**NARD Update:** The NARD board of directors meeting will be June 10<sup>th</sup> in McCook and the NARD Basin Tour will take place after the completion of the meeting. The group is staying in McCook and the tour will be a 2-day bus tour on June 10-11.

**Other Business:** Board meetings will be held at 1:30pm.

**Motion #6 by Clark Andrews seconded by Chris Grams to move that the Board go into Closed Session at 8:41pm to discuss Contractual Negotiations, Imminent Litigation and Personnel. Motion carried. Ayes 8 Nays 0 Absent 3.**

**Motion #7 by Clark Andrews seconded by Toby tenBensel to move that the Board come out of Closed Session at 9:28pm and declare that no actions of the board, official or unofficial, were taken during said Closed Session. Motion carried. Ayes 8 Nays 0 Absent 3.**

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be on June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 1:30pm.

The meeting adjourned at 9:28pm.

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Secretary

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Date