



LOWER REPUBLICAN NRD

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Lower Republican NRD Meeting Room, 30 North John, Alma, NE

July 11th, 2024, at 1:30pm

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:

Meeting notices were published in the Harlan County Journal and on the District Website at www.lrnrd.org. Chairperson Marlin Murdoch called the meeting of the Lower Republican NRD Board of Directors to order with an invitation to prayer at 1:30pm. 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: Troy Fletcher, Matt Harrison, Chris Grams.

Directors present: Clark Andrews, David Bartels, Don Duffy, Lee Fintel, Tim Kahrs, Marlin Murdoch, Toby tenBensel, Brad Wulf.

Others present: Jerry Kovarik, NRCS, Jack Gibbens, NRCS, Nolan Little, TBNRD.

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, 6/24

LRNRD/RWP Treasurer's Report, 6/24

LRNRD/NRCS Staff Report, 7/24

Comments from the Public: In 2022, the NRD's invested in scantrons for scoring Land and Range Judging contests. Jack Gibbens, NRCS, gave an update from the Range Judging Committee and discussed the pros and cons of incorporating the scantrons into the Range Judging contests.

Motion #1 by Don Duffy seconded by Toby tenBensel to approve the June minutes as presented. Motion carried. Ayes 8 Nays 0, Absent 3.

Motion #2 by David Bartels seconded by Tim Kahrs 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, CRP, and CSP.

LRNRD Staff Report: Managers Todd Siel and Nick Simonson gave the NRD staff report. They reported on the RRCA Forecast, PRD, and NCORPE. Nick will attend the Groundwater Management Districts Association meeting July 17-19. Nick attended Governor Pillen's town hall meeting in Holdrege. Governor Pillen is looking for a way to reduce property taxes and possibly place a cap on political subdivisions are funded through property taxes, which includes NRDs. A full report is in the minute book.

League Association of Risk Management (LARM): The LRNRD insurance coverage through LARM is up for renewal. Todd is looking at the different Contribution Credit Options.

Variance Requests: There are a few pending Contiguous Trades being considered at this time. Randy Knehans, Shad Ingram, Robb Rutt, Greg Christensen, Kevin and Susan Biskup, Dean and Joe Witte.

Rural Water Update: Managers Siel and Simonson will interview 3 engineering firms for the expansion project. They will have a decision by the August meeting. Siel has spoken to NDEE about the Interlocal agreement funding through the EPA. Siel also presented the draft FY2025 budget. Siel mentioned the continued search for a new RW Superintendent, and the current Superintendent Jim Zimmerman will stay till a new hire is found.

Motion #3 by Toby tenBensel seconded by Tim Kahrs to approve the Draft FY2025 Rural Water Budget. Motion carried. Ayes 8 Nays 0, Absent 3.

Republican River Compact Administration (RRCA): The LRNRD received notification stating that the irrigation supply for the 2024 season reached 119,000 acre-feet. This means that "Water-Short Year Administration"

will not be in effect for 2024. The lake level will be monitored through the summer and hopes are that the elevation at the end of the irrigation season will be significantly higher than last year. While it is much too early to guess where we will end up the lake levels are much better than they were at this time last year.

Platte Republican High Flow Diversion: PRD meeting was held at the LRNRD office in June. They are looking to update the feasibility study and get the design ready to go. Manager Siel presented the draft FY2025 PRD budget.

Motion #3 by Brad Wulf seconded by Clark Andrews to approve the Draft FY2025 Platte Republican High Flow Diversion Budget. Motion carried. Ayes 8 Nays 0, Absent 3.

Flag Creek Update: NRD Managers met with Olssons to crunch numbers. There will be a meeting with DNR in August or September to see what the next steps of Phase 1 need completed, then design plans for Phase 2. Olsson wants to have a detailed model prepared for our planning meeting with DNR.

NCORPE: The next meeting will be on July 17th in Curtis.

Watershed & Flood Prevention Operations Environmental Assessment Plan and Design (WFPO EA Plan):

NRCS, Olsson and the LRNRD met, and everyone should now have the final version of the draft. The Turkey Creek Plan will be submitted to the National office soon.

WaterSmart Grant: Chad has accepted a job with Valmont out of McCook. McCrometer will be hiring a new technician in our region.

Outdoor Classroom: Manager Simonson attended the Alma City Council meeting. The Outdoor Classroom was discussed. It was agreed that the NRD will assume ownership of the Outdoor Classroom from the City of Alma.

NARD Update: The NARD Committee approved changes to the 414(h) Retirement Plan. The board approved an increase of employee contribution from 5.5% to 6.5% and employer contribution from 6.0% to 7.0% effective January 1, 2025.

Motion #5 by Toby tenBensel seconded by Lee Fintel to approve changes to the 414(h) Retirement Plan, outlined in the attached resolution. The employee contribution will change from 5.5% to 6.5% and employer contribution from 6.0% to 7.0% effective January 1, 2025. Motion carried. Ayes 8 Nays 0, Absent 3.

Twin Valley Weed Management: TVWMA received grant funding from the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) and matching funds from the NE Environmental Trust. NDA decided against funding any Weed Management Areas in the state for FY2025. Several possibilities are still being investigated for funding.

Other Business: None.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be on August 8th, 2024, at 1:30pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:44pm.

Secretary

Date