



LOWER REPUBLICAN NRD

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Lower Republican NRD Meeting Room, 30 North John, Alma, NE
August 8th, 2024, at 1:30pm

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:

Meeting notices were published in the Harlan County Journal, posted in the District NRCS Office's 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: Chris Grams, Toby tenBensel, Brad Wulf.

Directors present: Clark Andrews, David Bartels, Don Duffy, Lee Fintel, Troy Fletcher, Matt Harrison, Tim Kahrs, Marlin Murdoch.

Others present: Jerry Kovarik, NRCS, Jim Schneider, Olsson.

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, 7/24

LRNRD/RWP Treasurer's Report, 7/24

NRCS Staff Report, 8/24

Comments from the Public: None.

Motion #1 by Dave Bartels seconded by Tim Kahrs to approve the July minutes as presented. Motion carried. Ayes 8 Nays 0, Absent 3. Chris Grams, Toby tenBensel, Brad Wulf.

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

NRCS Staff Report: Jerry Kovarik gave the NRCS report. Jerry reported on EQIP, CRP, and CSP.

LRNRD Staff Report: Simonson gave the NRD manager's report. Nick attended the Ground Water Management District Association (GWMDA) meeting in Omaha. Nick attended several presentations and spoke with ground water users from around the country. Middle Republican had a helicopter fly over their acres to conduct an Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) Survey. Aqua Geo Frameworks was present and explained how the AEM's Survey worked.

Nick Simonson and Don Duffy attended the Governor's meeting at the NARD office in Lincoln. The overarching idea of Governor Pillen's meeting was to have flow meters installed on all the wells across the state, and how we should use technology to help us obtain daily amounts of water being used, which Governor Pillen believes this could possibly lead to bringing more industry into the State.

Flag Creek Update: Jim Schnieder, Olsson, gave an update on the groundwater modelling on Flag Creek. Olsson ran various pumping scenarios to compare the modelled water levels to gain a baseline of water being pumped. Schnieder discussed ways to improve conveyance to avoid areas where water gets backed up. An environmental study will also need to be done.

League Association of Risk Management (LARM): Nate Fox, Fox Insurance Agency in Oxford discussed the upcoming insurance renewal coverage for the LRNRD and coverage for the electronic flow meters.

Motion #3 by Lee Fintel seconded by Clark Andrews to approve the renewal of League Association of Risk Management (LARM) insurance coverage for two years (FY2025 – FY2026) and to authorize the General Manager to sign the FY2025 LARM Renewal Resolution. Motion carried Ayes 8 Nays 0, Absent 3. Chris Grams, Toby tenBensel, Brad Wulf.

Siel presented the draft FY2025 LRNRD budget to the board.

Motion #4 by Troy Fletcher seconded by Don Duffy to approve the FY2025 Draft LRNRD budget as presented. Motion carried. Ayes 8 Nays 0, Absent 3. Chris Grams, Toby tenBensel, Brad Wulf.

Motion #5 by David Bartels seconded by Matt Harrison to set the FY2025 Occupation Tax rate at \$7.00 per acre. Motion carried. Ayes 8 Nays 0, Absent 3. Chris Grams, Toby tenBensel, Brad Wulf.

Motion #6 by Tim Kahrs seconded by Lee Fintel to set the FY2025 Budget Hearing date and time for September 12th, 2024, at 1:30pm. Motion carried. Ayes 8 Nays 0, Absent 3. Chris Grams, Toby tenBensel, Brad Wulf.

Variance Requests: None.

Rural Water Update: Miller and Associates was selected as the engineering firm for the expansion project. Managers Siel and Simonson will start working to formulate a service contract.

Motion #7 by Don Duffy seconded by Tim Kahrs to authorize Managers Siel and Simonson to formulate a service contract with Miller & Associates to provide engineering services for the Rural Water expansion project. Motion carried. Ayes 7 Nays 0, Absent 3. Chris Grams, Toby tenBensel, Brad Wulf. Abstain 1 Matt Harrison.

Republican River Compact Administration (RRCA): The annual RRCA meeting will be held August 28th in Colby, KS.

Platte Republican High Flow Diversion: Governor Pilleen announced that Tom Riley, director of the NeDNR, would be transitioning back to the private sector. Riley did not act on our application for the PRD project, and as a result, it is still in the hands of DNR until a decision is made.

NCORPE: None.

Watershed & Flood Prevention Operations Environmental Assessment Plan and Design (WFPO EA Plan): The State office will be submitting the final version to the National office.

WaterSmart Grant: Phase 2 of the grant has been approved. McCrometer technicians came to look at the electronic flow meters we were having issues with. Diagnosed the issues and fixed what they could on the meters. The President, Service Director, Director of Sales, etc., met with the NRD and presented the new meter unit they are coming out with.

Legislative Update: In special session, the tax plan the Revenue Committee was working on fell apart. The package was revised and one concept for NRDs was that there would be a tax credit to taxpayers for NRD taxes levied. The NRD would still budget and levy taxes as currently practiced, and the state would provide the payment to the county for the credit on the statement to the taxpayer.

NARD Update: The NARD Annual Conference will be held September 23-24 in Kearney. Husker Harvest Days is September 10-12.

Other Business: Senator Deb Fisher will be here at the NRD on August 20th at 3:30pm.

Motion #8 by Clark Andrews seconded by Tim Kahrs to move that the Board go into Closed Session at 4:31pm to discuss Contractual Negotiations, Imminent Litigation and Personnel. Motion carried. Ayes 8 Nays 0 Absent 3. Chris Grams, Toby tenBensel, Brad Wulf.

Motion #9 by Clark Andrews seconded by Tim Kahrs to move that the Board come out of Closed Session at 4:44pm 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. Chris Grams, Toby tenBensel, Brad Wulf.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be on September 12th, 2024, at 1:30pm. Starting with the FY2025 LRNRD Budget hearing.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:44pm.

Secretary

Date