



LOWER REPUBLICAN NRD  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Lower Republican NRD Meeting Room, 30 North John, Alma, NE  
September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, LRNRD Board Meeting, immediately following the 1:30pm  
Budget Hearing

Meeting notices were published in the Harlan County Journal and on the District Website at [www.lrnrd.org](http://www.lrnrd.org).

**FY 2025 Budget Hearing**

A Notice of Budget Hearing & Summary Hearing, and Public Meeting Notice was published in the Harlan County Journal on September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and on the District Website at [www.lrnrd.org](http://www.lrnrd.org).

**FY2025 BUDGET HEARING & SUMMARY PUBLIC HEARING**

The Lower Republican NRD FY25 Budget Hearing was called to order by Chairman Marlin Murdoch at 1:30pm. The notice to this hearing was published in the Harlan County Journal on September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Manager Todd Siel provided the proof of publication affidavit for the notice. The chairperson provided notice that the location of the current copy of the statutes dealing with public meetings laws is located on the south wall. Siel presented an outline of the key provisions of the proposed budget statement, including, but not limited to, a comparison with the prior year's budget. Three (3) copies of the budget were available for public review. County Valuations were reviewed, and the amount of the property tax request in the draft budget document is \$1,763,965; this would equate to a tax rate of 0.034575 cents per \$100 of assessed value. The total assessed value of property differs from last year's total assessed value by 10.77%. Based on the proposed property tax request and changes in other revenue and grants, the total operating budget of the LRNRD will be under last year's by 4.68%. The floor was then opened for public comment on the proposed budget statement. All members of the public wishing to address the governing body were provided a reasonable amount of time to do so. There were no comments from the public.

Chairman Marlin Murdoch closed the budget hearing at 1:40pm.

**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](http://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 1:40pm. 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, Toby tenBensel.

Directors present: Clark Andrews, David Bartels, Lee Fintel, Troy Fletcher, Chris Grams, Matt Harrison, Tim Kahrs, Marlin Murdoch, Brad Wulf.

Others present: Jerry Kovarik, NRCS, Chelsea Erickson, KS DWR, Stockton, KS, Nate Munter, Tri-Basin NRD.

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, 8/24

LRNRD/RWP Treasurer's Report, 8/24

NRCS Staff Report, 9/24

FY2025 LRNRD Draft Budget

**Comments from the Public:** None.

**Motion #1 by Tim Kahrs seconded by Troy Fletcher to approve the August minutes as presented. Motion carried. Ayes 9 Nays 0, Absent 2. Don Duffy, Toby tenBensel.**

**Motion #2 by Tim Kahrs seconded by Dave Bartels to approve the LRNRD and Rural Water Treasurer's reports. Motion carried. Ayes 9 Nays 0, Absent 2. Don Duffy, Toby tenBensel.**

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

**LRNRD Staff Report:** Simonson gave the NRD manager's report. Nick and Todd attended the manager's retreat in Beatrice on August 26-28 although, Todd left Tuesday evening to attend the RRCA meeting in Colby, KS on the 28<sup>th</sup>. There was discussion regarding the special session and the fact that the NRDs were part of the talks to reduce the property tax burden by removing local control of funding (LB 67, Justin Wayne).

Manager Todd Siel presented the LRNRD FY2025 draft budget, the process and reasoning for the approval of the additional 1% increase in Restricted Funds Authority, and LRNRD Tax Resolution LR-09122024-01 to the board for consideration and approval.

**Motion #3 by Brad Wulf seconded by Chris Grams to approve the increase in Restricted Funds Authority by an additional 1%. Motion carried. Ayes 8 Nays 1, Matt Harrison. Absent 2. Don Duffy, Toby tenBensel.**

**Motion #4 by David Bartels seconded by Clark Andrews to approve the FY2025 LRNRD Budget as presented. Motion carried. Ayes 9 Nays 0, Absent 2. Don Duffy, Toby tenBensel.**

**Motion #5 by Tim Kahrs seconded by David Bartels to approve the LRNRD Tax Resolution LR-09122024-01, as required by Nebraska Revised Statute 77-1632, setting the property tax request at \$1,763,965.00 (\$.034575 per \$100 of assessed value). Motion carried. Ayes 9 Nays 0, Absent 2. Don Duffy, Toby tenBensel.**

**Variance Request approvals:** Nick discussed the Haussermann Farms contiguous acre trade with the board.

**Rural Water Update:** Kyle Largent has been training as the new Superintendent for the Rural Water System. Kyle has spent time going around the system with Jim Zimmermann and now taken over the duties. The Riverton expansion project is also moving forward. NRD Managers met with Chris Miller last week and had a good discussion on where to start and the steps needed to move forward. They had discussion on the best way to maximize the efficiencies when adding to the system. There will be several different aspects of the project, and we will work closely with Miller & Associates to keep everything moving forward smoothly.

**RRCA Forecast:** Todd was able to attend the RRCA meeting in Colby, KS on August 28th. As has been the case over the last few years, the meeting was uneventful compared with meetings in the past.

**Platte Republican High Flow Diversion:** Nate Munter, Tri-Basin Land Manager, said the solar submersible pump was installed, with funding provided through the EQIP contract. There is a prescribed burn planned for approximately 1,600 acres that the PRD will join, and we will repair additional cross-fence at the same time.

**Flag Creek:** Manager Nick and Todd will meet with DNR and Olsson's in Lincoln. They will discuss the Phase 1 regional sub model that Olsson's prepared and ways to improve conveyance to avoid areas where water gets backed up. We will plan to move forward with Phase 2 with the project.

**NCOPE:** No update.

**Watershed & Flood Prevention Operations Environmental Assessment Plan and Design (WFPO EA Plan):** The State office will be submitting the first version of Turkey Creek to the National office on Friday.

**WaterSMART Telemetry Meters:** The NRD will be gearing up for our second round of meter installation. McCrometer hired Jorge Gutierrez to replace Chad. Jorge has been training with the McCrometer team both here and in California over the last few weeks. As mentioned in August, the Research and Development team at McCrometer has been working to make a more durable meter with a smaller head unit that retains all the functionality of the current meters. Included in the manager's report are a few pictures that show the new design of the FlowCom head on the meters that we have been installing.

**NARD Annual Conference:** This year's annual conference is September 22-24, at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney. This conference provides the opportunity to discuss a wide range of important natural resources issues with other NRD directors, state agencies, and many other entities.

**Other Business:** The next board meeting will be held on October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 8:00am, as a virtual option meeting for both directors and the public.

**Motion #6 by Lee Fintel seconded by Matt Harrison to approve changing the October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024, board meeting time to 8 am. This will be a virtual option meeting for both directors and the public. Motion carried. Ayes 9, Nays 0, Absent 2. Don Duffy, Toby tenBensel.**

**Motion #7 by Clark Andrews seconded by Chris Grams to move that the Board go into Closed Session at 2:38pm to discuss Contractual Negotiations, Imminent Litigation and Personnel. Motion carried. Ayes 9 Nays 0, Absent 2. Don Duffy, Toby tenBensel.**

**Motion #8 by Clark Andrews seconded by Chris Grams to move that the Board come out of Closed Session at 3:54pm and declare that no actions of the board, official or unofficial, were taken during said Closed Session. Motion carried. Ayes 9 Nays 0, Absent 2. Don Duffy, Toby tenBensel.**

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be held on October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 8:00am, with a virtual option for both directors and the public. Virtual meeting details will be posted on our website.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:54pm.

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Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

