



LOWER REPUBLICAN NRD
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Lower Republican NRD Meeting Room, 30 North John, Alma, NE
December 12, 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.

Vice Chairperson Dave Bartels called the meeting of the Lower Republican NRD Board of Directors to order at 1:30 pm. The vice 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: Lee Fintel, Matt Harrison, Marlin Murdoch.

Directors present at the NRD Office: Clark Andrews, Dave Bartels, Don Duffy, Troy Fletcher, Chris Grams, Tim Kahrs, Toby tenBensel, Brad Wulf.

Others present: Jerry Kovarik, NRCS, Dalton Refier, TBNRD, Aaron Herring, Franklin NRCS, Garold Ohmstede, Guide Rock, and Nelson Trambly.

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, 11/24

LRNRD/RWP Treasurer's Report, 11/24

NRCS Staff Report, 12/24

Todd Siel announced that we would be moving closed session to 2 pm to accommodate legal council.

Comments from the Public: None.

Motion #1 by Toby tenBensel seconded by Tim Kahrs to approve the November minutes as presented. Motion carried. Ayes 8 Nays 0, Absent 3. Lee Fintel, Matt Harrison, Marlin Murdoch.

Motion #2 by Tim Kahrs seconded by Chris Grams to approve the LRNRD and Rural Water Treasurer's reports. Motion carried. Ayes 8 Nays 0, Absent 3. Lee Fintel, Matt Harrison, Marlin Murdoch.

NRCS Staff Report: The NRCS report was emailed out prior to the meeting. Jerry Kovarik updated the board on EQIP and CSP. A copy of this report is in the minute book.

Matt Harrison arrived at 1:40 pm.

LRNRD Staff Report: Simonson gave the NRD manager's report. Simonson also updated the board on the Harlan County Reservoir and other Reservoir Lake levels. Harlan County Reservoir is at the same level as it was at this time last year.

Variance Request: Sindt Farms, Inc. in Franklin County is requesting to move acres around on a previously gravity-irrigated farm to allow for a wiper pivot. There are a couple of pending variance requests for January.

Rural Water Update: Manager Siel met with Chris Miller, Miller and Associates reviewing the Riverton Expansion Project. They came back with good insight on ways to move forward on the project. The Rural Water Project is looking for a Rural Water Superintendent.

Motion #3 by Clark Andrews seconded by Chris Grams to move that the Board go into Closed Session at 1:59 pm to discuss Contractual Negotiations, Imminent Litigation, and Personnel and to include Garold Ohmstede and Nelson Trambly. Motion carried. Ayes 9 Nays 0, Absent 2, Lee Fintel, Marlin Murdoch.

Motion #4 by Clark Andrews seconded by Toby tenBensel to move that the Board come out of Closed Session at 2:35 pm 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. Lee Fintel, Marlin Murdoch.

RRCA Forecast: The prediction for 2025 aligns with expectations, indicating it will be a Compact Call year.

Platte Republican High Flow Diversion: The upcoming PRD meeting is scheduled for January 6th at the Tri-Basin NRD. Updates will be provided regarding the ongoing work on the property. Currently, we remain in a holding pattern concerning the diversion project, and this situation is anticipated to continue for the foreseeable future.

Flag Creek Update: No update.

NCORPE: In the past month, we convened twice with the NCORPE board to discuss renewable energy leases and insurance matters. Following the fire incident, the ARC group reached out to us regarding insurance for grazing land. During our meeting on Monday, December 9th, we focused on the renewable energy lease contract and agreed to conduct further research. We plan to reconvene in February at the regular board meeting, barring any developments in the interim. One potential issue is Lincoln County's request to establish a county road through the property, the timeline for which remains uncertain.

Watershed & Flood Prevention Operations Environmental Assessment Plan and Design (WFPO EA Plan): The WFPO plan has been extended for a year.

WaterSMART Telemetry Meters: The installation of meters is ongoing, with approximately, 500 – 600 units already installed. Another shipment of meters is expected to arrive shortly.

NARD Update: Siel reported that January 27-29, 2025, is the Legislative Conference in Lincoln.

Other Business: Brad Wulf will resign from his at-large position on January 31, 2024, as he is set to become the director of Sub District 4 beginning in January 2025.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be held on January 9th at 1:30 pm, at the LRNRD office.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:34 pm.

Secretary

Date