



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:**

Meeting notices were published in the Harlan County Journal, posted in the District NRCS Offices, and on the district website at [www.lnrnd.org](http://www.lnrnd.org).

Chairman Marlin Murdoch called the meeting of the Lower Republican NRD Board of Directors to order at 7:30 AM. He noted that the current copy of the statute regarding public meeting laws is posted on the south wall of the boardroom and is available on the district website. Marlin Murdoch led the group in prayer.

Excused Absences: Don Duffy.

Directors present at the NRD Office: Troy Fletcher, Matt Harrison, Marlin Murdoch.

Directors present via Zoom: Dave Bartels, Brian Ballou, Lee Fintel, Chris Grams, Tim Kahrs, Toby tenBensel, Brad Wulf.

Others present: Jerry Kovarik, NRCS.

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

**MATERIAL E-MAILED OUT BEFORE THE MEETING & AVAILABLE AT THE MEETING**

Agenda

LRNRD Board Meeting Minutes, 4/25

LRNRD/RWP Treasurer's Report, 4/25

NRCS Staff Report, 5/25

LRNRD Staff Report, 5/25

**Comments from the Public:** None.

**Motion #1 by Matt Harrison, seconded by Troy Fletcher, to approve the April minutes as presented. Motion carried. Ayes 10, Nays 0, Absent 1, Don Duffy.**

**Motion #2 by Troy Fletcher, seconded by Matt Harrison, to approve LRNRD and Rural Water Treasurer's reports. Motion carried. Ayes 10, Nays 0, Absent 1, Don Duffy.**

**NRCS Staff Report:** The NRCS report was emailed out before the meeting. Jerry Kovarik updated the board on Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), and Food Security Act (FSA) Compliance Status Reviews. A copy of this report is in the minute book.

**LRNRD Staff Report:** Siel and Simonson provided the NRD manager's report. Harlan County Reservoir is currently 75.1% full, which is 2.1 feet lower than at this time last year. The lake numbers indicate that Harlan is holding 23,819 acre-feet less than it was at this time last year. The reported precipitation total at the Corps office last month was 1.17 inches, while it was 1.34 inches at the NRD office.

**Variance Requests:** LRNRD Staff approved two (2) variance requests: Clason Trust and James Choquette.

**Rural Water Update:** Mitch Daily, from the Guide Rock area, was hired as the Rural Water Superintendent and has taken over the duties. He has already begun training and familiarizing himself with the system. We remain hopeful that the expansion project will successfully pass the review process. While we support efforts to decrease spending, we remain optimistic. Siel mentioned that the Rural Water pickup is experiencing some issues. A decision was made to fix the pickup and continue to use it.

**NARD Update:** LB 317, the Merger Bill, passed through the legislature and was signed into law by Governor Pillen. Jesse Bradley has been appointed the new Director of the Department of Water, Energy, and Environment (DWEE). Matt Manning, who led the Perkins County Canal Project, is now the Chief Water Officer. We will have excellent leadership in place as this new agency develops. Otherwise, things have been relatively quiet on the Natural Resources and Agriculture front from the Capitol. It is day 74 of the 90-day session, and they will be working almost solely on getting the budget "rightsized" to meet their statutory obligation to deliver a balanced budget to the Governor by May 15th or Day 80 of the session.

**Other Business:** No other updates

Board of Directors Meeting

5/8/2025

The next board meeting is scheduled for June 12, 2025, at 1:30 PM, at the LRNRD office.

The meeting concluded at 8:10 AM.

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Secretary

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Date

Recorded and distributed by: Shirlee Poyser, Administrative Assistant  
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