



LOWER REPUBLICAN NRD BOARD MEETING MINUTES

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

October 9th, 2025, LRNRD Board Meeting, at 7:30 AM – **Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

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 7:30 AM.

Manager Todd Siel announced that the current copy of the statute regarding public meeting laws is posted on the south wall. Guests were asked to sign the attendance roster.

Excused Absences: Don Duffy, Tim Kahrs.

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

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

Others present, via Zoom: Chelsea Erickson, KS DWR, Stockton, Kansas.

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

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

Agenda

LRNRD Board Meeting Minutes, 9/25

LRNRD/RWP Treasurer's Report, 9/25

LRNRD Staff Report, 10/25

Comments from the Public: None.

Motion #1 by Matt Harrison, seconded by Troy Fletcher, to approve the September minutes as presented.

Motion carried. Aye 9, Nays 0, Absent 2, Don Duffy, Tim Kahrs.

Motion #2 by Troy Fletcher, seconded by Matt Harrison, to approve the LRNRD and Rural Water Treasurer's reports. Motion carried. Aye 9, Nays 0, Absent 2, Don Duffy, Tim Kahrs.

NRCS Staff Report: There was no NRCS report due to the government shutdown.

LRNRD Staff Report: Harlan County Reservoir is currently 58.6% full, 2.6 feet lower than this time last year. The lake numbers indicate that Harlan is holding 27,580 acre-feet less than it was at this time last year. A copy of this report is in the minute book.

Variance Request: A couple of variance requests were received this summer. Nick will have them ready for the November meeting if all the paperwork is completed.

The Rural Water Expansion Project: Work has been progressing at the pump house since installing the VFDs. We replaced the existing pump and reinstalled the spare pump to change the seal in the new pump. Although this wasn't part of the original plan, it worked well to put the spare pump back in and ensure that the work done to repair it improved its operation compared to when it was previously removed.

RRCA Update: Kansas issued a water call on October 1st, requesting that Kansas Bostwick have at least 57,000 acre-feet available for irrigation in the 2026 season. The initial estimate for the guaranteed amount accessible to KBID on January 1st, 2026, was around 43,000 acre-feet, though this could fluctuate by several thousand acre-feet depending on moisture and other conditions. The yearly forecast meeting is set for November 20th in Curtis. It looks like we're likely to face another Compact Call Year unless there's a significant change in the weather patterns.

NCORPE: The next meeting is set for November 19th in Alma. We will discuss our ability to pump this winter and spring to meet KBID's compliance volume request.

WaterSmart: We have completed approximately 25 flow meter installations since the end of the irrigation season. Recent muddy conditions have caused some delays.

NARD Update: NARD Annual Conference was held in Kearney on September 28-30. Todd, Nick, Shirlee and Mary attended the Annual Conference.

Other Business: We are reading meters in the field at a good pace. Approximately 450 meters have been read, but that doesn't include what they read during the week. We also have over 600 meters that we will upload from the telemetry meters over the next couple of weeks.

There will be a status conference meeting on October 22nd, at the Harlan County Courthouse regarding pending litigation with Steve Seeman and SBS Farms.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be held on November 13th at 1:30 PM.

The meeting concluded at 8:08 AM.

Secretary

Date

Recorded and distributed by: Shirlee Poyser, Administrative Assistant
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