



LOWER REPUBLICAN NRD BOARD MEETING MINUTES

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

January 8, 2026, LRNRD Board Meeting immediately following the 1:00 pm Penalty Hearing

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.lrnrd.org.

Chairman Marlin Murdoch called the meeting of the Lower Republican NRD Board of Directors to order with an invitation to prayer at 4:50 pm. The chairman provided notice that the location of the current copy of the statute dealing with public meetings laws is on the south wall of the boardroom and on the district website.

Excused Absences: Chris Grams, Tim Kahrs.

Directors present at the NRD Office: Brian Ballou, David Bartels, Don Duffy, Lee Fintel, Troy Fletcher, Matt Harrison, Marlin Murdoch, Toby tenBensel, Brad Wulf.

Others present:

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, 12/25

LRNRD/RWP Treasurer’s Report, 12/25

Motion #1 by Brad Wulf seconded by Don Duffy to accept the Executive Committee/Officers, Human Resources Committee, Scholarship Committee, LRNRD Project Committee, Platte to Republican Basin High Flow Diversion Project, Representatives and Alternates as presented. Motion carried. Aye 9, Nays 0, Absent 2, Chris Grams, Tim Kahrs.

Executive Committee/Officers:

- Marlin Murdoch Chairperson
- David Bartels Vice Chairperson
- Toby tenBensel Secretary
- Tim Kahrs Treasurer

Representatives:

- Don Duffy NARD Representative
- Lee Fintel NARD Alternate
- Lynetta Snelling Trailblazer RC&D Representative
- Todd Siel Trailblazer RC&D Alternate
- Troy Fletcher NCORPE Representative
- Tim Kahrs NCORPE Alternate

LRNRD Project Committee:

Matt Harrison, Marlin Murdoch, Toby tenBensel

Platte to Republican Basin High Flow Diversion Project

Todd Siel, Voting Member, Nick Simonson, Alternate Voting Member

Scholarship Committee:

Mary Goebel, Nick Simonson, Don Duffy, Troy Fletcher, Brad Wulf

Human Resource Committee:

Lee Fintel, Tim Kahrs, Marlin Murdoch

Motion #2 by Toby tenBensel, seconded by Troy Fletcher, to authorize the Lower Republican NRD Board Chairperson, Treasurer, and the District’s General Manager, Assistant Manager, and Administrative Bookkeeper/Assistant to sign/open/close on all LRNRD accounts, LRNRD Rural Water Accounts and the Platte to Republican Basin High Flow Diversion Project (PRD). Motion carried. Aye 9, Nays 0, Absent 2, Chris Grams, Tim Kahrs.

Motion #3 Toby tenBensel, seconded by Dave Bartels, to approve the December minutes as presented. Motion carried. Aye 9, Nays 0, Absent 2, Chris Grams, Tim Kahrs.

Motion #4 by Dave Bartels, seconded by Don Duffy, to approve LRNRD and Rural Water Treasurer's reports. Motion carried. Aye 9, Nays 0, Absent 2, Chris Grams, Tim Kahrs.

NRCS Staff Report: None.

LRNRD Staff Report: None.

Variance Requests: None.

Rural Water Expansion Project: Chris Miller of Miller and Associates has completed surveys in both Riverton and Red Cloud, where we are looking for the proposed pipeline route. Also, water sample tests have detected coliform bacteria. Chlorination of the system is being performed, and a follow-up test will be conducted. The DWEE representative suggested that the water test be sent to a different laboratory. Nick has begun the process of obtaining Grade 4 Water Operator certification to ensure two staff members are licensed to operate the system.

RRCA - NCORPE Update: NCORPE, Rock Creek, and Turkey Creek wells are being pumped for the request by Kansas Bostwick to have 57,000 acre-feet of irrigation supply for 2026 in Harlan County Lake. NCORPE started pumping this week, and we are ramping up pumping over the next several days in order to get to our target of 50 cfs being delivered from those wells.

We will continue to monitor our need for pumping and will be meeting with the BOR, DWEE, FCID, NBID and the other NRDs regularly to ensure we are on track to provide KBID with the compliance amount requested.

WaterSmart: We have installed 950 meters. Phase 1 of the grant will be completed by 9/30/2026. Phase 2 installations have started as the Phase 1 sites are below 100 remaining.

NARD Update: The NARD Legislative Conference is scheduled for January 26-28, 2026.

Other Business: The NARD Washington, DC trip is approaching for NRDs who wish to send a representative and the board encouraged both managers and/or directors to attend if they are willing and able. The South Central Water Conference is on February 5th, 2026.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be held on February 12th, 2026, at 1:30 pm.

The meeting concluded at 5:48 pm.

Secretary

Date