

MINUTES
LOWER REPUBLICAN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT PUBLIC HEARING ON
PENALTY HEARING
LOWER REPUBLICAN NRD OFFICE, ALMA, NE
JANUARY 8TH, 2026 @ 1:00 PM

INFORMATIONAL MATERIAL AVAILABLE BEFORE THE MEETING:

1. Agenda, 1/8/2026

The Penalty Hearing notice was published in the Harlan County Newspaper and on the District website.

Chairperson Marlin Murdoch called the Penalty Hearing of the Lower Republican NRD Board of Directors to order at 1:00 p.m.

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

Absent: Chris Grams, Tim Kahrs.

Others present: Attorney Don Blankenau, Attorney Dave Domina, Robert and Tamara Bishop, Julie Smith.

Attorney Luke Deavers, Hearing Officer, and Megan Bellamy, Court Reporter.

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

The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony regarding Violations and Penalties for tampering with Well Flow Meters and operating a Well Without a Properly Installed and Operational Flow Meter against SBS Farms, Inc., also known as SBS Farm, Inc., SBS Farms, Furnas County, SBS Farms Furnas County, Inc., Robert Bishop, Tamara Bishop, and Julie Smith. The alleged violations occurred on the following described lands in July of 2016:

1. The East Half of the Southwest Quarter (E/2SW/4) and the Southeast Quarter (SE/4) of Section Twenty-Six (26), Township Two (2) South, Range Twenty-One (21) West of the Sixth (6th) P.M., containing 72.3 acres certified for groundwater irrigation by the LRNRD on 10/6/2004.
2. The Northeast Quarter (NE/4) of Section Thirty-Five (35), Township Two (2) South, Range Twenty-One (21) West of the Sixth (6th) P.M., containing 119.3 acres certified for groundwater irrigation by the LRNRD on 10/6/2004.
3. The West Half (W/2) of Section Thirty-Five (35), Township Two (2) South, Range Twenty-One (21) West of the Sixth (6th) P.M., containing 219.1 acres certified for groundwater irrigation by the LRNRD on 10/6/2004.

The Penalty Hearing was closed at 4:03 PM.

Secretary

Date