

MINUTES
LOWER REPUBLICAN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Lower Republican NRD Meeting Room, 30 North John Street, Alma, NE
August 13, 2015 at 7 pm

Board of Directors Meeting

A notice of the meeting was published in the local newspapers within the District and on the District Website at www.lnrdrd.org.

Informational Material Mailed out Prior to the Meeting

1. Agenda, 8/15
2. LRNRD Board Meeting, Variance Minutes & Index of Decisions, 7/15
3. LRNRD, N-CORPE & Rural Water Treasurer's Report, 7/15
4. NRCS Report, Assistant Manager's Report
5. Board Action on Change in Location of Certified Acres on Contiguous Property
 - a.) **Matt Kasson**
 - b.) **Anthony Chrisman**
6. Variance Requests
 - a.) **James Drake #242**
7. Replacement Wells Update

Material Handed out at the Meeting:

1. Static Water Level Changes
2. River Basin Plan Hydrologically Connected
3. FY2016 Rural Water Budget
4. FY2016 NCORPE Budget
5. FY2106 LRNRD Budget

Chairperson Marlin Murdoch called the meeting of the Lower Republican NRD Board of Directors to order at 7:04 p.m. Marlin Murdoch noted that guests could sign the attendance roster and noted the location of a current copy of the statutes dealing with public meetings laws and the booklet with the information provided to directors.

Directors present: Clark Andrews, Dave Bartels, Bill Bose, Matt Harrison, Terry Hoit, Tim Kahrs, Marlin Murdoch, Roger Nelson, Toby tenBensel, Nelson Trambly, Brad Wulf.

Absent: none.

Others present: Nolan Little, Tri-Basin NRD, Jerry Kovarik, NRCS, Andy Ruhn, Hastings Tribune, Troy Fletcher, Oxford, Shannon Rothchild, Nex-Tech, James Drake, Orleans. Staff present: Mike Clements, Scott Dicke, and Shirlee Poyser.

Motion #1 by Matt Harrison seconded by Tim Kahrs to approve the board minutes and variance minutes from the July Board Meeting. Motion carried. Ayes 11. Nays 0.

Motion #2 by Nelson Trambly seconded by Matt Harrison to approve the LRNRD, NCORPE and Rural Water Treasurer's Reports as presented. Motion carried. Ayes 11. Nays 0.

Jerry Kovarik gave the NRCS report. He updated the board on the EQIP, and CSP programs. Carrie Feusner will be the new Technician in Harlan County. Marla Lans is the Program Specialist.

There was no Manager's report.

Scott Dicke highlighted the Assistant Manager's report. A copy of the full report is in the minute book.

- Water Quality updates: 275 Chemigation inspections have been completed, 80+ awaiting inspection. The annual nitrate sampling throughout the district is about 75% complete.
- Water quantity update: A chart was designed to show the static water level measurements in the district.
- Flow meter maintenance: The NRD is receiving more calls to repair flow meters outside the Lower Republican.

- LRNRD, Tri-Basin and Central Nebraska have started talks to investigate a project that can divert excess Platte River flow into the Republican River Basin.
- Rural Water Update: Rural Water is considering the purchase of a building in Franklin, for storage of Rural Water equipment.

Motion #3 Clark Andrews seconded by Brad Wulf to approve the Change in Location of Certified Acres on Contiguous Property for: Matt Kasson and Anthony Chrisman. Motion carried. Ayes 11. Nays 0.

James Drake's variance request was presented.

Motion #4 Brad Wulf seconded by Toby tenBensel to approve James Drakes #242 Variance Request. Motion carried. Ayes 11. Nays 0.

Middle Republican has worked on the groundwater level changes map since 2002-2015 for the entire Republican Basin including Colorado and Kansas. They have contracted with USGS to see if others would contribute to the project. It will be approximately \$6,000. Scott Dicke would like to get more specific information on the project.

The LRNRD had approved funds to participate in the Nebraska Educational Network Program. Out of the 23 NRD's two have declined contributing to the program which has raised the rate. The approximate cost will be \$3,780 depending how many other NRD's partake.

Motion #5 by Roger Nelson seconded by Toby tenBensel to approve up to \$4,000 to be contributed to the Nebraska Educational Network Program. Motion carried. Ayes 6. Nays 5 – Tim Kahrs, Clark Andrews, Dave Bartels, Bill Bose, Matt Harrison.

Mike Thompson, DNR was contacted on replacement/new irrigation wells. DNR cannot register a new irrigation well as a replacement well if the new well is not going to "deliver water to the same tract of land". DNR has asked that the NRD propose language to be included on the LRNRD permit form. A copy of replacement/new irrigation wells correspondence is in the minute book.

"The LRNRD has approved the drilling of a new irrigation well as described on this form as a replacement well as set forth in LRNRD rules and procedures. It does not meet the criteria set forth in NE Rev. Stat. 46-602 (2) (b), which requires a replacement irrigation well to deliver water to the same tract of land as the old well being replaced. Therefore, LRNRD understands the new well will be registered as a new well and given a new registration number, even though it functionally replaces the old well".

Shannon Rothchild, Nex-Tech, gave an IT systems presentation to the board, covering state-of-the-art technologies and enhanced services.

The Republican River Basin Wide Plan is in the process of being developed. The state has developed a map showing the generalized well depletion zones in the Republican River Basin NRD's. Stakeholders and the NRD's are trying to determine what is hydrologically connected. Stakeholders want to determine that the stream or transitional streams are all hydrologically connected. With this the Republican River Basin Wide Plan, by statute, will cover the hydrologically connected areas. Scott asked the board if the LRNRD wants to encompass everything from the transitional 10-5 or the stream 10-2, as the LRNRD is predominately in the transitional zone. It would be consistent to have everything hydrologically connected.

Motion #6 by Tim Kahrs seconded by Matt Harrison to support having the entire Republican River Basin designated as Hydrologically Connected for the Basin-wide Plan. Motion carried. Ayes 11. Nays 0.

Set the 2015 occupational tax for \$10 per acre.

Motion #7 by Dave Bartels seconded by Toby tenBensel to approve the \$10 per acre Occupation Tax for FY2016. Motion carried. Ayes 11. Nays 0.

Mike Clements went through the Rural Water, NCORPE and LRRND Budgets.

Motion #8 by Nelson Trambly seconded by Bill Bose to approve the FY16 Rural Water Budget as presented. Motion carried. Ayes 11. Nays 0.

Motion #9 by Tim Kahrs seconded by Roger Nelson to approve the FY16 N-CORPE Budget as presented. Motion carried. Ayes 11. Nays 0.

Motion #10 by Nelson Trambly seconded by Roger Nelson to take the proposed budget FY2016 LRNRD Budget to public hearing. Motion carried. Ayes 11. Nays 0.

Motion #11 by Bill Bose seconded by Tim Kahrs to set the Levy budget hearing date for September 10, 2015 at 6:45 PM. Motion carried. Ayes 11. Nays 0.

Motion #12 by Bill Bose seconded by Tim Kahrs to set the FY2016 Budget Hearing date for September 10, 2015 at 6:45PM. Motion carried. Ayes 11. Nays 0.

There were no comments from the public.

Meeting adjourned at 9:47PM.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be September 10, 2015 immediately following the budget and variance hearings at 7 PM.

Secretary

Date