

MINUTES
LOWER REPUBLICAN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Lower Republican NRD Meeting Room, 30 North John Street, Alma, NE
December 14, 2017 at 2:00 pm

Board of Directors Meeting

A notice of the meeting was published on the District Website at www.lrnrd.org.

Vice Chairperson, Bill Bose, called the meeting of the Lower Republican NRD Board of Directors to order at 2:00 p.m. Bill noted that guests should sign the attendance roster and noted the location of a current copy of the statutes dealing with Open Meetings Act.

Directors present: Clark Andrews, Dave Bartels, Bill Bose, Matt Harrison, Tim Kahrs, Roger Nelson, Nelson Trambly.

Absent: Terry Hoit, Marlin Murdoch, Toby tenBensel, Brad Wulf.

Others present: Jerry Kovarik, NRCS, John Thorburn, TBNRD, Andy Raun, Hastings Tribune, Randy Robinson, North Platte, Kyle Shepard, NCORPE, Chelsea Erickson, KS DWR, Steve Peterson, USGS. Staff present: Todd Siel, Scott Dicke, Shirlee Poyser, Kristi Heft, Maclane Scott, Scot Lennemann and Colt Livingston.

MATERIAL E-MAILED OUT PRIOR TO THE MEETING & HANDED OUT AT THE MEETING

1. Agenda
2. LRNRD Board Meeting Minutes, Index of Decisions, 11/17
3. LRNRD/RWP Treasurer's Report, 11/17
4. Staff Report, NRCS Report

Comments from the public: Randy Robinson, Landowners for a Common Purpose, came to encourage the board to consider their proposal on moving towards the possible sale of the surface land of the NCORPE property. They are very encouraged that the Middle Republican NRD made two motions to move forward on this process. First motion was to request that the NCOPRE board provide the MRNRD board with a formal plan on how they intend to effectively manage the land and that plan should be received within 90 days. Second motion was to direct the staff to work with Senator Hughes to develop legislation which would provide the ability to sell some of the NCORPE property. Robinson encouraged the LRNRD board to look closely at these motions.

Motion #1 by Roger Nelson seconded by Matt Harrison to approve the board minutes. Motion carried. 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Absent 4.

Motion #2 by Tim Kahrs seconded by Dave Bartels to approve the LRNRD and RWP Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried. 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Absent 4.

Jerry Kovarik gave the NRCS report. Jerry reported on EQIP, RCPP, CStwP renewals. A copy of this report is in the minute book.

Todd Siel and Scott Dicke reviewed details of the written staff report. The Nebraska Natural Resources Commission provided rankings for Water Sustainability Funding this last month. The Platte-Republican Diversion (PRD) Project was the top scoring project in 2017 and appears to be the highest-ranked project ever scored by the Commission. The funding support from the Commission is greatly appreciated as we continue to move forward with this very important project.

The Commission also provided funding for the Bostwick Irrigation District Rubicon Gates. The LRNRD has committed \$1 million dollars to Bostwick that supports this project pending acceptable compact accounting. Bostwick and the LRNRD have already started kickoff meetings with the NDNR and hope to have the 38 automated gates operational by the 2018 irrigation season. This project will provide greater canal efficiency and will allow for more water to be kept in Harlan County Reservoir year after year.

It is very exciting to have two of the five WSF funded large projects be within the LRNRD. The WSF has obligated \$897,300 to the PRD and \$2,000,000 for the Bostwick Rubicon Gates. Again, we are extremely grateful to the Commission for the support they have shown to the LRNRD and the projects we are supporting.

NWRA / NSIA – The Nebraska Water Resources Association’s annual convention with the Nebraska State Irrigation Association was held in Kearney on November 20-21. This alliance continues to provide an important voice to a diverse group of entities and individuals. It’s encouraging (and very educational for us) to meet and converse with representatives from nearly all the relevant organizations from across Nebraska that include; surface and groundwater irrigation, electric power, municipalities, industrial, conservation, recreation, professional, etc. Todd Siel was elected to the board of directors for this coming year.

NCORPE – Department of Natural Resources early forecasting for Compact Compliance in the Republican River basin next year indicate that there will be no pumping at NCORPE this coming season. Our next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 31st, 2018 at 10:00 AM in Alma. The venue change is a result of a vote at the last NCORPE board meeting where Directors wished to hold the meetings within each of the four NRD’s geographic area at least once per calendar year.

Field staff completed meter readings at the end of November and has moved onto flowmeter maintenance. Water pumped during the 2017 irrigation season to averages 6.5 inches per acre. Although there are few changes expected, it is below our long-term average of 7 inches and below last year’s usage of 8 inches. Attached in the minute book is a graph that depicts LRNRD water pumping trends.

Scott Dicke presented a power point presentation on Water Management Trends. This information is what has transpired in our district since 2005 to present. No new wells, no new acres, mechanical flow meters, and an allocation. A copy of this presentation is in the minute book.

Steve Peterson, USGS, gave a presentation on USGS data within the Lower Republican NRD and past interpretive science products within the LRNRD.

Todd Siel presented the board with the bids received for the 2018 pick-up. After lengthy discussion and two failed motions the board accepted the Alexander Motors of Superior bid in the amount of \$27,138.

Motion #3 by Matt Harrison to have the manager do more comparison research on pick-ups. Motion failed for lack of second.

Motion #4 by Nelson Trambly to accept the Tripe Motor pick-up bid. Motion failed for lack of second.

Motion #5 by Clark Andrews seconded by Tim Kahrs to accept the 2018 Chevy pick-up bid from Alexander Motors of Superior in the amount of \$27,138. Motion carried. 6 Ayes, 1 Nays. Absent 4

Scott Dicke mentioned that in June the board discussed the LRNRD pooling agreements/arrangements. Currently, when a producer signs the pooling agreement/arrangement there is a period of the allocation on the signatory form of 2013-2017. Staff would like the to allow pooling arrangements to stay in place for the 2018-2022 allocation period. We will make this notification to all those that are currently in a pooling

arrangement, let producers know that the board has allowed those agreements to stay in effect. However, if they have a change in land or ownership they need to notify the LRNRD.

Motion #6 by Tim Kahrs seconded by Nelson Trambly to allow existing pooling agreement to remain in place for the 2018-2022 allocation period. Motion carried. 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Absent 4.

Rural water update: Todd Siel gave a brief update. The door on the building has been replaced due to storm damage. Josh Minnick from Franklin did the repair work.

NCORE update: Kyle Shepard gave the update. Currently, Kyle is working on proposed legislation with Senator Dan Hughes that will allow NRD's that own augmentation projects to pay property tax. They are also working to resolve the tumbleweed problem with the insurance company. The North Platte pipeline has been completed and they are working in house on computer testing. TPNRD has reported to NCORPE that they have no plans to use the pipeline until 2020.

Other business: None.

Motion #7 by Clark Andrews seconded by Tim Kahrs to move that the Board go into Executive session at 3:27 p.m. to discuss contractual negotiations. Motion carried. Chairman admonished the board that this is the only subject that can be discussed in closed session. 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Absent 4.

Motion #8 by Nelson Trambly seconded by Roger Nelson to move that the Board come out of Executive Session at 5:00p.m. and declare that no actions of the board, official or unofficial, were taken during said Closed Session. Motion carried. 7 Ayes, 0 Nays. Absent 4.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be January 11th, 2018 at 2 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Secretary

Date