

**Upper Republican Natural Resources District
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
December 7, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.
511 East 5th Street, Imperial, NE**

Agendas were sent to all Board Members and all others requesting agendas. Agendas were posted in the NRD Office in Imperial, the NRCS Offices in Grant and Imperial, and the FSA Office in Benkelman. The meeting was announced over KADL-Imperial, KRVN-Lexington and KOGA-Ogallala and published in area newspapers.

Board Members Present: Dean Large, Terry Martin, Mike Mosel, Greg Pelster, Tim Schilke, Tom Schroder, Mick Strand, Tom Terryberry and Jeff Wallin.

Board Members Absent: Kerry Bernhardt and Tom Gaschler.

NRD Staff: Jasper Fanning, Nate Jenkins and Deb Hayes.

NRD Legal Counsel: Joel Burke.

Others present: Nadine Bishop (NRCS), Dan Leinen, Bart Strombeger, Josh Wendell and Jason Kunkel.

Information mailed to Directors:

Agenda	Resolution for NARD insurance
Minutes of the November 2, 2010 meeting	Score Camp request
Report of District applications, contracts and agreements	

Information distributed at Board meeting:

Agenda	Retirement program information
Minutes of November 2, 2010 Board meeting	Resolution for NARD Flexible Benefits Plan
Financial reports	Dundy County Hazard Mitigation request
NRCS report	SCORE Camp request
Report of District applications, contracts and agreements	

Chairman Pelster called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Chairman Pelster announced that the Open Meetings Act is posted if anyone would like to review it.

Kerry Bernhardt and Tom Gaschler are excused from the meeting tonight.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Guests, Board members and NRD staff were introduced.

MINUTES:

- Martin moved to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2010 Regular Board meeting as mailed. Seconded by Strand.

Roll call vote: 7-yes, 1-abstain, 3-absent. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Manager presented the Financial Reports to the Board.

- Martin moved to pay the Accounts Payable and to accept the Treasurer's report. Seconded by Mosel.

Roll call vote: 8-yes, 3-absent. Motion carried.

The new auditing firm is finishing up the audit and does not have anything to report tonight.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

There were no comments this month.

NRCS REPORT:

Nadine gave the NRCS report for this month. NRCS had several program deadlines for this month. These deadlines are for EQIP, CSP, WRP and CRP contracts that have been approved. Aaron Sisson is the new Farm Bill Biologist and is stationed in Grant and will cover Perkins, Chase and Dundy Counties.

- Terryberry moved to approve the NRCS report of planning activity dated December 6, 2010 to include the Conservation Plans as signed. Seconded by Martin.

Roll call vote: 8-yes, 3-absent. Motion carried.

VARIANCE COMMITTEE:

There are no variances for tonight.

REPORT OF DISTRICT APPLICATIONS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS:

- Terryberry moved to approve the Report of District applications, contracts and agreements dated December 7, 2010 to include the NSWCP applications, pooling contracts and well decommissioning applications. Seconded by Schilke.

Roll call vote: 7-yes, 1-abstain, 3-absent. Motion carried.

Dan Leinen was present and is requesting to dissolve the pooling agreement with the Florence Daniels Revocable Trust, Pleasant View Ranch Inc, Dan and Sally Leinen and Stromberger Farms, Inc. They are dissolving the Florence Daniels Trust to settle the estate.

- Terryberry moved to approve the request of Florence Daniels Revocable Trust, Pleasant View Ranch, Inc. Dan & Sally Leinen and Stromberger Farms, Inc to remove the NW ¼ of Section 26-3-41 with the amount of 82.75 "/u>

Roll call vote: 8-yes, 3-absent. Motion carried.

LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT:

Joel reported that a settlement proposal has not been received yet from the Attorneys. Joel has been in contact with the hearing officer to get an adjudicatory hearing scheduled and hopes to have a hearing set for the week after Christmas.

Jasper reported to the Board that a group of Irrigation Districts requested a hearing with DNR on Upper Republican and Middle Republican NRD's Integrated Management Plans. They are contesting that Nebraska does not have the authority to regulate them based upon a forecast. Since Upper Republican NRD is an interested party Jasper has asked Mr. Barga to draw up a request to intervene on URNRD's behalf.

Jasper reported that a second request for hearing was made by a group of landowners in Middle Republican NRD on groundwater regulations. DNR has asked for an additional 30 days to set a hearing date.

REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN MEETING/COMPACT REPORT:

Jasper showed the Board the preliminary Republican River Basin Forecast that was done by DNR.

Wallin arrived at 8:00 p.m.

Chairman Pelster called a 5 minutes recess at 8:15 p.m.

Chairman Pelster called the meeting back to order at 8:20 p.m.

DISTRICT RETIREMENT PROGRAM:

Jasper reviewed the Groundwater Committee meeting and their discussion on the Retirement program. The Committee put together a formula to compensate those that enroll lands in programs based upon the reductions in stream depletions associated with irrigation of those acres. The Committee is proposing \$2000 per acre-foot reduction in stream depletions, which will be estimated from a 50 year sdf map created with the compact model. In addition to being paid to retire acres irrigators would still be able to dryland farm the ground. A public hearing will need to be held before any Board action can be taken.

REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN COALITION REPORT:

Nate gave the Coalition report. Nate reported that Tri Basin NRD has discussed the possibility of joining the Coalition. The Coalition approved a new Inter Local Agreement and bylaws pending on if Tri Basin joined the Coalition. There was an update on the Water Balance Study by Brown and Caldwell.

EMPLOYEE FLEXIBLE BENEFIT PLAN:

The Board reviewed the resolution of the Board of Directors of NARD for the Flexible Benefits Plan.

- Martin moved to adopt NARD Flexible Benefits participation agreement. Seconded by Terryberry.

Roll call vote: 9-yes, 2-absent. Motion carried.

ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT:

Jasper reviewed the request from Elaine Frasier, Dundy County Emergency Manager, for financial assistance with their Hazard Mitigation Plan.

- Strand moved to give Dundy County Hazard Mitigation in the amount of \$2500 maximum. Seconded by Martin.

Roll call vote: 9-yes, 2-absent. Motion carried.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION REPORT:

Mick Strand reviewed the request from Marla Smith to sponsor SCORE camp that will be held in June of 2011.

- Strand moved to donate \$7000 to Score Camp funding. Seconded by Martin.

Roll call vote: 9-yes, 2-absent. Motion carried.

LEGISLATION:

Jasper reported to the Board the NARD Legislative Conference will be held at the end of January. If anyone is interested in attending they will need to let Deb know by the January Board meeting.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Tom Terryberry reported that there will be a Video Conference with Jim Goeke on December 13th for the Sustainability Task Force members.

Chairman Pelster reminded everyone that the current Board Members will still hold office for the January 4, 2011 Regular Board meeting. The new Board members will take office on January 6, 2011. All new Board Members and all reelected Board members will need to take their Oath of Office on this date or soon after.

Jasper extended an invitation to the Board and their spouses to the NRD Christmas party that will be held on December 17, 2011.

Chairman Pelster adjourned the meeting at 9:04 p.m. The next Regular Board meeting will be Tuesday, January 4, 2011 at the NRD Office in Imperial starting at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Tom Terryberry
Secretary/Treasurer