

**Upper Republican Natural Resources District
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
December 2, 2008 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: Kerry Bernhardt, Tom Gaschler, Donn Gengenbach, Dean Large, Mike Mosel, Greg Pelster, Tim Schilke, Mick Strand, Tom Terryberry and Jeff Wallin.

Board Members Absent: Terry Martin

NRD Staff: Jasper Fanning, Dirk Dinnel and Deb Hayes.

NRD Legal Counsel: Joel Burke.

Others present: Nadine Bishop (NRCS), Traci Witthuhn (RR Basin Coordinator), Stan Loeffler, Thomas Schroder, George Seward, Delbert Bussell, Mike Moreland, Russ Pankonin and Gerald Coates.

Information mailed to Directors:

Agenda	Report of District applications/contracts
Minutes	Hazard Mitigation information
Transfer application requests	SCORE camp request

Information distributed at Board meeting:

Agenda	Report of District applications,
Minutes of November 4, 2008 Regular Board meeting	contracts and agreements
Financial reports	Republican River Coalition report
NRCS report	Hazard Mitigation information
George Seward transfer requests	SCORE camp information
Delbert Bussell/John McGrath transfer request and variance application	NARD agenda for Legislative Conf.

Chairman Pelster called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm.

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

OPEN FORUMS:

Guests, NRCS staff, Board members and NRD staff were introduced. There were no comments during the Open comment period.

MINUTES:

- Mosel moved to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2008 Regular Board meeting. Seconded by Bernhardt.

Roll call vote: 9-yes, 1-abstain, 1-absent. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Manager presented the Financial Reports to the Board.

- Terryberry moved to approve the Accounts Payable and accept the Treasurer's report with a note that there is over \$85,000.00 for reserve on the building fund. Seconded by Gengenbach.

Roll call vote: 10-yes. Motion carried.

NRCS REPORT:

Nadine Bishop gave the NRCS report this month. Nadine reported on the financial audits NRCS is doing right now. Nadine's written report summarized of the programs activities in the URNRD.

Jasper asked to discuss some budget items with the Board. There is a budget item of \$150,000.00 to finance the new building. We may need to get a bridge note for financial flow until we get our tax payments. Also NPAIT rates have dropped and our current bank rates are slightly higher.

- Mosel moved to authorize the Treasurer to borrow money for operating needs up to \$250,000.00 up to the end of FY 08-09. Seconded by Bernhardt.

Discussion.

Roll call vote: 10-yes, 1-absent. Motion carried.

- Gaschler moved to accept the NRCS report of Planning activity dated December 1, 2008 to include the Conservation Plans as signed for Chase and Perkins County. Seconded by Schilke.

Roll call vote: 9-yes, 1-abstain, 1-absent. Motion carried.

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT/RULES AND REGULATIONS:

George Seward is requesting an expedited transfer (1) of 132.7 acres from the NE ¼ of Section 8-6-40 to the SW & SE ¼ of Section 2, SE ¼ of Section 10 and the NW & NE ¼ of Section 11 all in Township 3, Range 42. Mr. Seward is also requesting an expedited transfer (2) of 134 acres from the W ½ of Section 20-1-38 to the NE ¼ of Section 2, SW ¼ of Section 1, NW ¼ & SW ¼ of Section 12 and the NW ¼ & SW ¼ of Section 14 all in Township 3, Range 42.

Mr. Seward met with the Variance Committee to discuss the transfers. The Board discussed the two transfers and felt the Dundy County transfer (2) could move forward as is. This transfer would be required to offset any additional depletion in the Swanson drainage. The Board would like to set guidelines on dealing with transfers so people know what to expect from the Board.

- Large moved to approve George Seward's expedited transfer request #2 with the conditions that the existing well will no longer be used for irrigation and no new wetted acres. Seconded by Strand.

Roll call vote: 8-yes, 2-no, 1-absent. Motion carried.

Voting yes: Bernhardt, Gaschler, Gengenbach, Large, Schilke, Strand, Terryberry and Wallin.

Voting no: Mosel and Pelster. Absent: Martin.

George Seward's request (1) will be on the January agenda.

Delbert Bussell and John McGrath ARE requesting an expedited transfer of 42.5 acres from the NW ¼ of Section 28-2-36 to the NW ¼ of Section 24-7-40. Mr. Bussell is also requesting a variance to plug the well in the NW ¼ of Section 28-2-36 and to drill a new well in the NW ¼ of Section 24-7-40.

Mr. Bussell met with the Variance Committee to discuss the transfer and the variance request. The Board discussed these requests with Mr. Bussell. These items will be agenda items for the January 6, 2009 Regular Board meeting.

REPORT OF DISTRICT APPLICATIONS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS:

- Gaschler moved to accept the Report of District applications, contracts and agreements. Seconded by Large.

Roll call vote: 10-yes, 1-absent. Motion carried.

LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT:

Joel reported that he has completed the sale of the old NRD building and Chairman Pelster will need to finish signing the papers tonight.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

A. Republican River Basin meeting/Compact report:

1. Kansas has made their initial discovery request and has asked for information on certified acres, pumping information, database, meter sheets, well permits and variances. Staff has been busy compiling the information so it can be sent to DNR by December 10, 2008.

B. Republican River Basin Coalition:

2. Traci gave the Republican River Basin Coalition report and reviewed the financial report and the Nebraska Republican River Management District Association meeting. Traci discussed the bylaw changes and the operational policy changes that were discussed at the NRRMDA meeting in November. Jasper reported that the next NRRMDA meeting will be held on January 9, 2009 in McCook and will be in conjunction with the Natural Resource Commission election meeting.

C. Building Project:

3. Jasper discussed having an Open House/Informational meeting in January before the Board meeting.

- Terryberry moved to direct management to set up an open house and Information meeting on January 6, 2009. Seconded by Gaschler.

Roll call vote: 10-yes, 1-absent. Motion carried.

ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT:

Dirk reviewed the Hazard Mitigation information for Chase and Perkins County with the Board.

- Mosel moved to proceed with the rankings for Perkins County and to turn in the goals of objectives mitigation plan for Chase County. Seconded by Bernhardt.

Roll call vote: 10-yes, 1-absent. Motion carried.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION REPORT:

Mick Strand gave Information and Education Committee report. Marla Smith is preparing for SCORE camp this year and has asked if the URNRD would fund a grant for the amount of \$6500.00.

- Strand moved to approve the request of Marla Smith to donate to SCORE camp and to increase the request to \$7,000.00. Seconded by Schilke.

Roll call vote: 9-yes, 1-abstain, 1-absent. Motion carried.

Jasper asked the Board on getting an award of recognition for Donn Gengenbach. Donn will be leaving the Board in January after serving for 22 years as a Director. The Board felt an award of recognition is appropriate.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

The Board reviewed the Water for the West information for anyone that is interested in contributing.

Jasper explained the Susan Seacrest Foundation to the Board and what this foundation does. URNRD is a member of the Groundwater Foundation.

- Mosel moved to contribute \$500.00 towards the Susan Seacrest Foundation. Seconded by Terryberry.

Roll call vote: 10-yes, 1-absent. Motion carried.

NARD Legislative conference will be January 27 and 28, 2009 at Embassy Suites in Lincoln. Any Board members interested in attending will need to let Deb know by December 29, 2008.

Chairman Pelster adjourned the meeting at 9:44 p.m. The next Regular Board meeting will be Tuesday, January 6, 2009 at the NRD Office in Imperial starting at 10:00 am.

Respectfully submitted

Tom Terryberry
Secretary/Treasurer