

**Upper Republican Natural Resources District
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
March 5, 2009 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, Dean Large, Terry Martin, Mike Mosel, Greg Pelster, Tim Schilke, Tom Schroder, Tom Terryberry and Jeff Wallin.

Board Members Absent: Mick Strand.

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

Others present: Nadine Bishop (NRCS), Traci Witthuhn (RR Basin Coordinator), Stan Loeffler, Gerald Coates and Lisa Schilke.

Information mailed to Directors:

Agenda

Minutes-February 3, 2009 Regular Board meeting

Minutes-February 19, 2009 Special Board meeting

Report of District applications, contracts and agreement

Request to donate trees from Dundy County Tree Board

Request for funding for Chase County Progressive Agriculture Safety Day

Information distributed at Board meeting:

Agenda

Transfer rule changes

Minutes-February 3, 2009 Regular Board meeting

Report of District applications, contracts

Minutes-February 19, 2009 Special Board meeting

Republican River Basin report

Financial reports

building change orders

NRCS reports

AWEP program information

Chairman Pelster called the meeting to order at 7:42 pm.

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

Mick Strand is excused from tonight's meeting.

OPEN FORUMS:

Guests, Board members and NRD staff were introduced.

MINUTES:

The Board reviewed the minutes of the February 3, 2009 Regular Board meeting.

- Terryberry approved the minutes of the February 3, 2009 Regular Board meeting as mailed. Seconded by Martin.

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

The Board reviewed the minutes of the February 19, 2009 Special Board meeting.

- Large moved to approve the minutes for the February 19, 2009 Special Board meeting as mailed. Seconded by Bernhardt.

Roll call vote: 8-yes, 1-abstain, 2-absent. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Manager presented the Financial Reports to the Board.

- Terryberry moved to pay the Accounts Payable and to accept the Treasurers report. Seconded by Schilke.

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

Wallin arrived at 7:55 pm.

NRCS REPORT:

Nadine Bishop gave the NRCS report. Nadine gave a report on the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP) and the EQIP timeline for 2009. Nadine did a power point presentation on the web soil survey.

- Terryberry moved to approve the NRCS report dated March 2, 2009 to include the Conservation Plans as signed. Seconded by Martin.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Dirk reported to the Board on the Code Red system that Chase County is involved with. Paul Kunneman was to come to the meeting tonight and report on this project. This project would cost approximately \$700 if the Board is interested. This will be discussed further during the Assistant Manager's report.

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT/RULES AND REGULATIONS:

The Board reviewed the transfer rule changes that will go to public hearing.

- Large moved to propose the amendments under Rule 11 Transfers for public hearing. Seconded by Martin.

Discussion.

Roll call vote: 9-yes, 1-no, 1-absent. Motion carried.

Voting yes: Bernhardt, Gaschler, Large, Martin, Mosel, Pelster, Schilke, Schroder, Terryberry.

Voting no: Wallin. Absent: Strand.

- Martin moved on Rule 11.01.02 to insert the word "transfer" after the word "with". Seconded by Large.

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

- Large moved to schedule the Public Hearing for the rule changes for May 5, 2009 at the Regular Board meeting. Seconded by Martin.

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

REPORT OF DISTRICT APPLICATIONS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS:

- Large moved to approve the report of District applications, contracts and applications. Seconded by Gaschler.

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

REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN MEETING/COMPACT REPORT:

Jasper discussed the arbitration meetings that will be starting on March 9th in Denver. These meetings are scheduled for two weeks to discuss damages, future compliance and accounting issues.

The Corp of Engineers is undergoing a groundwater cleanup project in Hastings. The local NRD insisted that this water be put to beneficial use. The local NRD is taking applications from engineers for potential uses of this water. Jasper is on their agenda to discuss the possibility of the Basin NRD's getting that water to the Republican River.

REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN COALITION:

Traci presented the Coalition report to the Board. Traci reviewed the financial report and the grant proposals that were submitted for continuation of the augmentation engineering study and the water balance study. There has been no new information on the FCID interest request. Traci also reported that the SW Weed Management received a grant for \$300,000 to continue their projects.

BUILDING REPORT:

Jasper presented the change orders from the building project. These are for the electrical changes and for changes on the windows.

- Martin moved to pay the items on the change orders as presented. Seconded by Mosel.

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

DISTRICT IRRIGATION RETIREMENT PROGRAM:

The Board reviewed the district irrigation retirement program with the changes from last month.

- Martin moved to approve the Upper Republican NRD Irrigation Retirement Program as presented. Seconded by Schilke.

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

UAP ALLOCATION:

Jasper reported to the Board that UAP needs more of an industrial allocation. Jasper will see if UAP and the City of Imperial can work something out on their allocation.

AWEP PROGRAM:

Dirk and Traci have been working on this grant application. This is a 5 yr retirement program for irrigated acres. They are asking for \$173 per acre for a five year payment. The District would contribute \$600 per acre to make it a permanent retirement. These acres can still be dryland farmed.

- Martin moved to direct management to pursue the AWEP program to retire acres in the quick response and alluvial flood plains not to exceed 12,000 acres. Seconded by Bernhardt.

Discussion.

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

ASSISTANT MANAGER’S REPORT:

Dirk reported to the Board that the applications have been submitted for Chase and Perkins County. JEO will do the final draft and it will be reviewed and then submitted to FEMA. Dundy County has received approval and will start working on their plan in April. Dirk discussed the Code Red program with the Board. It is a program that will go through the County and not through Hazard Mitigation. The cost of the program is approximately \$700.00 and the County is going ahead with the program.

Dirk discussed a possible flood control project that he has been discussing with Tom Gaschler. The land belongs to John Flood at Swinging Bridge and the area discussed is off the canal coming out of Nolan’s dam. The landowner suggested using Nolan’s dam for flood control, use the canal as a way to move water then to have a depression and use this area for a water storage area for flooding. Jasper suggested having Dirk discuss this project with the County and Paul Kunneman.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION REPORT:

Mike Mosel gave the Information & Education Committee report. Mike reported on the request from Lisa Schilke for the Chase County Progressive Agriculture safety day that will be held in June. Lisa Schilke gave a presentation on the safety day program.

- Mosel moved to donate \$2000.00 for the Progressive Agriculture safety day. Seconded by Martin.

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

The Board reviewed the request from the Benkelman Tree board asking the NRD to sponsor trees for the elementary students for the Arbor Day presentation.

- Terryberry moved to donate 204 trees to the Benkelman Tree for Arbor Day. Seconded by Martin.

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

LEGISLATION:

Jasper reviewed the testimony from the LB 651 hearing that was held last week. Jasper also reviewed other items concerning LB 651.

Jasper discussed the Improvement Project Area (IPA) that Tri Basin NRD has been exploring. They are investigating this type of funding for the purposes of funding for offset and recharge projects. Jasper feels this is an avenue for the URNRD to explore. The NRD could have some meetings in the District to get feedback from irrigators for projects like this.

STATE ASSOCIATION:

Terry Martin will be attending the association meeting next week.

Chairman Pelster adjourned the meeting at 9:48 pm. The next Regular Board meeting will be Tuesday, April 7, 2009 at the NRD Office in Imperial starting at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Tom Terryberry
Secretary/Treasurer