

**Upper Republican Natural Resources District
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
April 7, 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, Mick Strand, Tom Terryberry and Jeff Wallin.
NRD Staff: Jasper Fanning, Dirk Dinnel and Deb Hayes.
NRD Legal Counsel: Joel Burke.
Others present: Nadine Bishop (NRCS), Traci Witthuhn(RR Basin Coordinator), Robert Tigner (Extension Educator), Gerald Coates, Robert Ellis and Stan Loeffler.

Information mailed to Directors:

Agenda	Report of District applications,
Minutes-March 5, 2009 Regular Board meeting	contracts, agreements
Transfer request	Pooling requests

Information distributed at Board meeting:

Agenda	Transfer application
Minutes-March 5, 2009	Report of District applications,
Financial reports	contracts, agreements
NRCS report	Coalition report

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

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

OPEN FORUMS:

Guests, Board members and NRD staff were introduced.

MINUTES:

The Board reviewed the minutes of March 5, 2009 Regular Board meeting. Deb reported a correction in the minutes for motion #2. The roll call vote should be: 8-yes, 1-abstain, 2-absent.

- Terryberry moved to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2009 Regular Board meeting as corrected. Seconded by Martin.

Roll call vote: 10-yes, 1-abstain.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Manager presented the Financial Reports to the Board.

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

Roll call vote: 11-yes. Motion carried.

NRCS REPORT:

Nadine Bishop gave the NRCS report. This month Nadine reported on wind erosion complaints that they will be looking at next week. With the new farm bill there will be changes to their cost share contracts and they are waiting for these to get settled and put into their ranking system. They will be having a field office appraisal the week of May 11th and the NRD Manager or a Board Member may be contacted to discuss any concerns they may have and if NRCS is working well with the NRD.

Robert Tigner introduced himself to the Board. Mr. Tigner is the new Extension Educator and he will be holding a chemigation class in May for those people that have asked for a class.

- Terryberry moved to approve the NRCS report dated April 2, 2009 to include the Conservation Plans as signed for Chase, Dundy and Perkins County. Seconded by Strand.

Roll call vote: 11-yes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no public comments this month.

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT/RULES AND REGULATIONS:

The Board reviewed Robert Ellis transfer request. Mr. Ellis is requesting to transfer 70.90 acres from the SE ¼ 33-3-37 to the SE ¼ 13-2-38. This would be moving acres approximately 3 miles.

- Martin moved to approve the transfer request of Robert Ellis to transfer 70.9 irrigated acres from the SE ¼ 33-3-37 to the SE ¼ of Section 13-2-38 and to transfer 39" of carry forward associated with those acres. Seconded by Bernhardt.

Discussion.

Martin withdrew the motion with approval of the second.

- Martin moved to postpone action on Robert Ellis transfer request until the issue is resolved. Seconded by Mosel.

Roll call vote: 11-yes. Motion carried.

REPORT OF DISTRICT APPLICATIONS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS:

The Board reviewed the Report of District applications, contracts and agreements.

- Mosel moved to approve the report of District applications, contracts and agreements to include the NSWCP applications and pooling contracts. Seconded by Gaschler.

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

LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT:

None.

REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN MEETING/COMPACT REPORT:

Jasper reported on the Frenchman Cambridge Irrigation District interest request. Brad Edgerton and Dale Cramer were present at the NRRMDA and Coalition meetings and talked about the interest request also. Brad and Dale were going to review the request with their Board and possibly amend the interest request and justify the interest rate. Frenchman Cambridge is also going to petition DNR to declare the Republican River Basin over appropriated.

REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN COALITION REPORT:

Traci gave the Republican River Basin Coalition report. Traci's report included the financial report, upcoming projects, minutes from the April 3rd Coalition meeting and NRRMDA meeting, FCID interest request and the water contingency cash fund loan.

Jasper discussed the Coalition possibly using Kris Polly. Kris has assisted the NRD's with surface water leases in the past and has worked for the Bureau of Reclamation.

Jasper updated the Board on the arbitration trial. It is finished except that Kansas has called the Bureau of Reclamation as a witness. They will reconvene the trial next week for the Bureau to testify. The States will be making their closing oral arguments and their briefs will be due in two or three weeks. The decision should be made by June 17th.

BUILDING PROJECT:

The current tree cooler is not keeping it cold enough for the trees. A new one will be installed next week. The other cooler will possibly be modified for the server room.

AWEP PROGRAM:

The AWEP program grant application has been submitted.

ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT:

Dirk reported on the flood projects he has discussed with Paul Kunneman. Mr. Kunneman is reviewing these projects with JEO and waiting on information on how to proceed. Dirk has not heard anything on the Dundy County kickoff.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION REPORT:

The next conservation award is the Conservation Practices award. If anyone has a name that comes to mind let the Information and Education Committee know or contact Heather.

LEGISLATION:

Jasper reviewed legislation bills LB 681 and LB 651 with the Board and how they are progressing.

STATE ASSOCIATION:

Terry Martin attended the State Association meeting and reviewed items that the NARD is working on.

Chairman Pelster adjourned the meeting at 8:44 pm. The next Regular Board meeting will be Tuesday, May 5, 2009 at the NRD Office in Imperial starting at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Tom Terryberry
Secretary/Treasurer