

**Upper Republican Natural Resources District
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
September 2, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.
135 West 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, Terry Martin, Mike Mosel, Greg Pelster, Tim Schilke, 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), Stan Loeffler, George Seward and Gerald Coates.

Information mailed to Directors:

Agenda

Minutes of August 5, 2008 Regular Board meeting

Transfer application

Report of District applications, contracts and agreements.

Information distributed at Board meeting:

Agenda

NRCS information

Minutes of August 5, 2008 Regular Board meeting

Report of District applications & contracts

Financial reports

Personnel and Operating policies

Budget and Resolutions for FY 08-09

NARD Resolutions packet

Chairman Pelster opened the FY 08-09 Budget Hearing and FY 08-09 Levy hearing at 7:30.

The budget and levy information was published in the Imperial Republican, Benkelman Post, Wauneta Breeze and the Grant Sentinel Tribune.

Chairman Pelster asked for any testimony on the budget or mill levy. There was no testimony at this time.

Chairman Pelster called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm.

Chairman Pelster announced that the Open Meetings Act is posted by the door 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:

- ✓ Martin moved to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2008 Regular Board meeting as mailed. Seconded by Gaschler.

Roll call vote: 10-yes, 1-no. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Manager presented the Financial Reports to the Board.

- ✓ Terryberry moved to approve the Accounts Payable and accept the Treasurers Report. Seconded by Gengenbach.

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

Mosel arrived at 7:55 p.m.

Chairman Pelster reminded everyone that the budget and levy hearing is still open and asked if there was any testimony on the budget or levy.

Donn Gengenbach read the FY 08-09 Property Tax request and Levy Resolution, the Occupation Tax Resolution and the Resolution to adopt the budget.

- ✓ Gengenbach moved to adopt Resolution No UR -2008-09-02-01 for the Property tax and levy, adopt Resolution No. UR 2008-09-02-02 for the Occupation tax, and adopt Resolution No. UR-2008-09-02-03 for the attached budget. Seconded by Schilke.

Discussion.

The written testimony from Knudson Law Firm was submitted. This testimony is attached to the minutes and to the budget information.

Dirk Dinnel arrived at 8:11 p.m.

Chairman Pelster closed the Budget and Levy Hearing at 8:14 pm.

Chairman Pelster asked for any additional discussion on the motion.

- ✓ Strand moved to amend the main motion and to change the occupation tax resolution No. UR-2008-09-02-02 and to strike \$2.00 per irrigated acre and insert \$4.00 per irrigated acre. Seconded by Bernhardt.

Roll call vote: 10-yes, 1-no. Amendment carried.

Voting yes: Bernhardt, Gaschler, Gengenbach, Large, Martin, Mosel, Pelster, Schilke, Strand and Terryberry. Voting no: Wallin

The main motion now reads: moved to adopt Resolution No UR -2008-09-02-01 for the Property tax and levy, adopt Resolution No. UR 2008-09-02-02 for the Occupation tax at \$4.00 per irrigated acre, and adopt Resolution No.UR-2008-09-02-03 for the attached budget.

Roll call vote: 10-yes, 1-no. Amended motion carried.

Voting yes: Bernhardt, Gaschler, Gengenbach, Large, Martin, Mosel, Pelster, Schilke, Strand and Terryberry. Voting no: Wallin

NRCS REPORT:

Nadine gave the NRCS report and reviewed the 2008 Farm Bill summary of selected Legislative changes. Jasper and Nadine discussed TSP work that is done between the two entities.

- ✓ Terryberry moved to approve the NRCS report of planning activity dated September 2, 2008 and the Conservation Plans as signed for Chase, Dundy and Perkins County. Seconded by Martin.

Roll call vote: 11-yes. Motion carried.

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT/RULES AND REGULATIONS:

The Board reviewed the Transfer Application presented by George Seward. Mr. Seward is asking to transfer certified acres from the W ½ of Section 20-1-38 and the NE ¼ of Section 8-6-40 to his pool in 3-41 and 3-42. There will be no increase of irrigated acres only an allocation increase to the properties it is transferring to.

Chairman Pelster called a 10 minute recess at 8:40 p.m.
The Board was back in session at 8:55 p.m.

- ✓ Gaschler moved to table consideration of the transfer application of George Seward. Seconded by Martin.

Roll call vote: 11-yes. Motion carried.

REPORT OF DISTRICT APPLICATIONS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS:

The Board reviewed the District applications, contracts and agreements.

- ✓ Terryberry moved to approve the Report of District applications, contracts and agreements and to include the NSWCP application that was not on the report. Seconded by Gengenbach.

Roll call vote: 11-yes. Motion carried.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Jasper reported that there have been no meetings for the Basin or Coalition.

Jasper gave a building update to the Board. Sometime within the first half of October they hope to have the building completed. The Board discussed what type of sign to put outside.

Jasper gave the Board a copy of the Personnel and Operating policies for them to review. The auditors found conflicting sentences in the sick leave policy. Jasper drafted possible changes for the sick leave policy and presented these changes to the Board.

ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT:

Dirk reported no new information from Chase and Perkins County on their Hazard Mitigation Plans. He has been contacted by Dundy County and they will be starting to work on a Hazard Mitigation Plan and the NRD will possibly be asked to participate with it.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION REPORT:

Mick Strand gave the Information and Education Committee report. The Information and Education Committee met and discussed an Upper Republican NRD Friends of Conservation Award. They have chosen Lynn Flaming as the recipient of this award.

- ✓ Strand moved to nominate Lynn Flaming for the URNRD Friends of Conservation award. Seconded by Gaschler.

Discussion.

Roll call vote: 11-yes. Motion carried.

Mick reported that NACD has a National Friends of Conservation Award and would like to nominate Lynn Flaming for this award also.

- ✓ Strand moved to nominate Lynn Flaming for the NACD Friend of Conservation award.
Seconded by Gaschler.

Roll call vote: 11-yes. Motion carried.

Jasper reported that all the NRD's are working on public relation information sheets for their basin and their individual NRD. This is one way of getting accurate information out for all the NRD's.

LEGISLATION:

The resolution packet for NARD Annual Conference was reviewed by the Board. These resolutions will be voted on at NARD Annual Conference.

- ✓ Martin moved that Tom Gaschler be appointed as the NARD alternate voting delegate.
Seconded by Bernhardt.

Roll call vote: 11-yes. Motion carried.

Jasper reported on the Compact meeting that was held in Lincoln last month. The States have agreed that they proceed with arbitration.

Chairman Pelster adjourned the meeting at 9:59 pm. The next Regular Board meeting will be Tuesday, October 7, 2008 at the NRD Office in Imperial starting at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Tom Terryberry
Secretary/Treasurer