

**Upper Republican Natural Resources District
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
November 4, 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, Terry Martin, Mike Mosel, Greg Pelster, Tim Schilke, Tom Terryberry and Jeff Wallin.

Board Members Absent: Mick Strand

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

NRD Legal Counsel: Joel Burke.

Others present: Nadine Bishop (NRCS), Traci Witthuhn (RR Basin Coordinator), Roger Stockton, Stan Loeffler, Gerald Coates, Virgil Norton and Mark Masters.

Information mailed to Directors:

Agenda

Minutes of October 7, 2008 Regular Board meeting

Report of District applications, contracts and agreements

Information distributed at Board meeting:

Agenda

Minutes of October 7, 2008 Regular Board meeting

Financial reports

NRCS reports

Invite to RC & D annual banquet

Report of District applications

Republican River Basin Coalition report

Chairman Pelster called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Chairman Pelster welcomed everyone to the new NRD building.

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. Chairman Pelster recognized Virgil Norton, past NRD Manager, as a guest this evening.

There were no comments during the open comment period.

MINUTES:

- Martin moved to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2008 Regular Board meeting as mailed. Seconded by Gaschler.

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

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

NRCS REPORT:

Nadine Bishop gave the NRCS report this month. Nadine discussed the Farm Bill programs that are in the District. Nadine reviewed the progress goals for NRCS for FY 2008 and also reviewed using goats to manage invasive species. Nadine discussed the promoting of tree planting, renovation of existing shelter belts and the decline of tree plantings throughout the state.

- Terryberry moved to approve the NRCS report dated November 3, 2008 to include the Conservation Plans as signed for Chase County. Seconded by Schilke.

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

Roger Stockton was present and invited all the Board members to the Southwest RC & D Annual Banquet that will be held in McCook on November 18, 2008.

REPORT OF DISTRICT APPLICATIONS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS:

- Martin moved to approve the report of District applications, contracts and agreements dated November 4, 2008 to include the NSWCP applications and the well decommissions. Seconded by Large.

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

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT/RULES AND REGULATIONS:

The Groundwater Committee has reviewed the transfer request of George Seward. Dean Large gave the Groundwater Committee report. Jasper reviewed comments from DNR concerning this request.

- Large moved to approve the transfer request of George Seward subject to the terms listed upon transfer: 1. no new wetted acres. 2. No carry forward transferred 3. Acres divided equally. 4. No new irrigation wells drilled. 5. Existing irrigation wells will be plugged in a manner that they cannot be used for irrigation.

Discussion.

Motion was withdrawn with consent of the second.

LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT:

None.

REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN COALITION REPORT:

Traci Witthuhn gave the Republican River Basin Coalition report. Traci gave the Coalition Financial report and reported on the Coalition projects. There will be a Nebraska Republican River Management Districts Association in Cambridge on November 19, 2008. This will be a joint meeting with DNR.

Jasper reported that the DNR meeting will be an open meeting to provide information related to negotiations and arbitration of accounting issues with Kansas and Colorado, a summary of preliminary 2008 accounting, and a forecast of the water situation during 2009.

BUILDING PROJECT:

We are in the new building and there is still some finishing work that needs completed. We have hauled in fill gravel for the parking lot and have been able to pack it some.

SALE OF NRD BUILDING:

The auction on the old building was held October 31, 2008. Cal German (German Land & Cattle) had the highest bid of \$49,500.00. The purchase agreement has been signed and Joel is holding the 10% earnest money.

- Martin moved to accept the offer of \$49,500.00 from German Land & Cattle to purchase the NRD building and direct Chairman to sign the documents. Seconded by Terryberry.

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

JOHN DEERE TRACTOR BID:

The NRD received on bid on the John Deere 3020 tractor. This bid was received from Kelly Hammerlun for the amount of \$6,675.00.

- Martin moved to approve the bid of \$6,675.00 for the John Deere 3020 from Kelly Hammerlun. Seconded by Bernhardt.

Discussion.

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

ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT:

Dirk and the Information and Education Committee had met to discuss the Hazard mitigation paperwork for Chase County. They will submit the same projects for Chase County as were submitted for Perkins County.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION REPORT:

The District newsletter was distributed a few weeks ago with the local newspapers.

STATE ASSOCIATION:

Terry Martin will be attending the NARD meeting in Valentine next week.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Chairman Pelster adjourned the meeting at 8:49 pm. The next Regular Board meeting will be Tuesday, December 2, 2008 at the NRD Office in Imperial starting at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Tom Terryberry
Secretary/Treasurer