

**Upper Republican Natural Resources District
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
November 12, 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, Tom Schroder, Mick Strand, Tom Terryberry and Jeff Wallin.

Board Members Absent: Tim Schilke.

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

NRD Legal Counsel: Joel Burke.

Others present: Nadine Bishop (NRCS) and Stan Loeffler.

Information mailed to Directors:

Agenda

Minutes of October 22, 2009 Regular Board meeting

Dundy County Hazard Mitigation information

Information distributed at Board meeting:

Agenda

Minutes of October 22, 2009 Regular Board meeting

Financial reports

NRCS report

Report of District applications,
contracts & agreements

Republican River Coalition report

Letter to Board members

Chairman Pelster called the meeting to order at 7:37 pm.

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

Tim Schilke is excused from tonight's meeting.

OPEN FORUMS:

Guests, Board members and NRD staff were introduced.

MINUTES:

- ❖ Terryberry moved to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2009 Regular Board meeting as mailed. Seconded by Strand.

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 Treasurers report. Seconded by Gaschler.

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

NRCS REPORT:

Nadine gave the NRCS report. Nadine reported on Conservation Practices in the URNRD. NRCS is currently wrapping up the application ranking process from the CSP signup and then will be conducting field visits. Nadine also reported on terraces and water erosion.

Ted Tietjen and Ivan Regier met with the Information and Education Committee before the Board meeting. They gave the Committee a presentation on the playa lakes and potential investigation of recharge in these areas. The Committee decided to work with Ted and Ivan to put together a plan within the committee before bringing it to the Board.

REPORT OF DISTRICT APPLICATIONS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS:

- ❖ Terryberry moved to approve the URNRD report of District applications, contracts and agreements to include the NSWCP application. Seconded by Gaschler.

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

LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT:

Joel reported to the Board that the hearing for LB701 refund litigation is getting closer. There has been a stipulation sent to all parties agreeing that the cases can be heard at the same time and place, and the same evidence can be presented.

REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN MEETING/COMPACT REPORT:

Jasper reviewed the Information meetings that will be next week with DNR giving their presentation to the public. There will be a short presentation and then the public will have the opportunity to ask questions.

The NRD’s Managers and Executive Committee’s within the Republican River Basin held a meeting to discuss editorials and see what each NRD position is. Jasper, Greg, Terry and Tom Terryberry discussed this meeting with the Board.

REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN COALITION REPORT:

The Republican River Basin Coalition written report was reviewed. Dirk reminded the Board that the NRRMDA will be November 30th in Curtis. This meeting will be held in conjunction with DNR’s annual forecast meeting.

RESOLUTION FOR 457 RETIREMENT PLAN:

Jasper reviewed the 457 retirement plan that needs to be approved to bring the plan into compliance with the Pension Protection Act.

- ❖ Terryberry moved to approve the resolution to the 457 retirement plan. Seconded by Martin.

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

This resolution is attached to the minutes at the NRD office.

GROUNDWATER FOUNDATION MEMBERSHIP:

Jasper reviewed the membership form for the Groundwater Foundation with the Board. The Board has previously contributed \$100 toward membership with the Foundation.

- ❖ Martin moved to renew the Groundwater Foundation membership at the same level as in the past of \$100.00. Seconded by Terryberry.

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

ASSISTANT MANAGER’S REPORT:

Dirk reported on the Hazard Mitigation Information meeting for Dundy County. Perkins County plan was returned by FEMA for corrections and it has been resubmitted.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION REPORT:

Mick Strand gave the Information & Education Committee report. Mick reported on the meeting with Ted Tietjen and Ivan Regier. Mick also reported on the meeting they had with Robert Tigner and how to work together to get information out to the public.

Jasper reported to the Board that Frenchman Cambridge Irrigation District has a dam that has a structural defect. They will be letting some water downstream that will make its way Harlan County. The Bureau has talked to Kris Polly to see if the NRD’s are interested in leasing some of this water. Dan Smith is drafting a proposal for the Bureau of Reclamation and Frenchman Cambridge Irrigation District to explore possible water leasing concepts.

STATE ASSOCIATION:

Terry Martin reported on the NARD Association meeting that was held earlier this week.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

The Executive committee and Jasper meet with one legal firm and will be meeting with another firm on November 24th. They will then make a recommendation to the Board at the December 1, 2009 Regular Board meeting. The legal firm will assist the Board with the development of a voluntary funded offset program.

The Board discussed the idea of an alternative funding mechanism other than occupation tax and the options that were presented by DNR at the October 22, 2009 Regular Board meeting.

Chairman Pelster adjourned the meeting at 9:23 pm. The next Regular Board meeting will be Tuesday, December 1, 2009 at the NRD Office in Imperial starting at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Terryberry
Secretary/Treasurer