

Upper Republican
NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

P.O. Box 1140
511 East 5th St.
Imperial, NE 69033
Phone 888-883-9066

**Board of Directors Regular Meeting
December 7, 2021 at 9:00 am
511 East 5th Street, Imperial, NE**

Agendas were sent to all Board Members and 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, and posted on the District website. The meeting was announced over KADL-Imperial, KRVN-Lexington and KOGA-Ogallala and published in area newspapers.

Board Members Present: Dave Brown, Jason Kunkel, Dean Large, Jay Lee, Harry Merrihew, Terry Martin, Brock Stromberger, Tom Schroder, Janice Stroup, and Tyler Turner.

Board Members Absent: CJ Swanson.

NRD Staff: Jasper Fanning, Nate Jenkins, Julia Strand, and Deb Hayes.

Others Present: Monte Nordhausen, Jason Anderson, Brad Dixon, Rich Keiser, Wayne Haarberg, Jim Haarberg, Dr. Eric Behlke.

Information emailed to Directors:

Agenda

Variance Information

Minutes of November 2nd Regular Board Meeting

Information distributed at Board meeting:

Agenda

Minutes of November 2nd Regular Board Meeting

NRCS report

Financial reports

Variance Information

FY 20-21 Audit


Report of District applications, contracts,
and agreements

Chairman Martin called the regular meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

Chairman Martin announced that the Open Meetings Act was posted in the NRD Office.

Janice Stroup arrived at 9:04 am.

MINUTES:


 Large moved to approve the November 2, 2021 Regular Board meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Stromberger.

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

Tom Schroder arrived at 9:06 a.m.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Financial Report was presented to the Board.

 Kunkel moved to accept the Treasurer's report and pay the Accounts Payable. Seconded by Merrihew.


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

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Rich Keiser, Wayne Haarberg, Brad Dixon and Monte Nordhausen had comments on the Variance request that on the agenda.

NRCS REPORT:

Andy Keep sent the NRCS report which reviewed the Farming Evolution 2022 meeting that will be held on February 16-17 at the Phillips County Event Center in Holyoke, CO. Also on the report were the NRCS FY 22 Agency Priorities.

 Large moved to approve the NRCS Report of Planning Activity dated December 7, 2021 to include the Conservation Plans as signed for Perkins County. Seconded by Lee.

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


GROUNDWATER MANGEMENT/RULES AND REGULATIONS:

Dean Large reported that the Groundwater Committee had met and will continue to review Rules and Regulations.

VARIANCE COMMITTEE:

Brock Stromberger gave the Variance Committee report:

L & J Partnership (Joan Krutsinger-Partner/Manager) and Blackshirt Feeders LLP (Dr. Eric Behlke-Managing Partner) are requesting a transfer of 100% of the available certified acres (199.3) from the N ½ 10-1-38 to 15-4-38. The two wells G-030854 and G-034290 will be retired on the former property and one or two new wells will be drilled on the latter property to develop about 200 new irrigated acres. Consistent with other wells in the immediate vicinity, the capacity of the well on the former property has dwindled. The request is being made to transfer water rights from the current area to an area with productive farm ground with a greater potential for a more consistent water supply. The N ½ 10-1-38 currently has 277.2 certified acres, based on historical use 199.3 certified acres are transferable and the remaining 77.9 certified acres will be decertified. The SDF for N ½ 10-1-38 is 26.1% and the SDF in 15-4-38 is 10% and 13%. The transfer is 16.8 miles.

 Stromberger on behalf of the Variance Committee's recommendation moved to approve the Variance request of L & J Partnership (Joan Krutsinger) and Blackshirt Feeders LLP (Dr. Eric Behlke) to transfer 199.3 certified acres from the N ½ 10-1-38 to 15-4-38. The two wells G-030854 and G-034290 will be retired on the former property and one or two new wells will be drilled on the latter property to develop about 200 new irrigated acres. Consistent with other wells in the immediate vicinity, the capacity of the well on the former property has dwindled. The request is being made to transfer water rights from the current area to an area with productive farm ground with a greater potential for a more


consistent water supply. The N ½ 10-138 currently has 277.2 certified acres, based on historical use 199.3 certified acres are transferable and the remaining 77.9 certified acres will be decertified.

Discussion.

Roll call vote: 4-yes, 5-no, 1-abstain, 1-absent. Motion failed.

Voting yes: Martin, Schroder, Stromberger, Turner. Voting no: Brown, Kunkel, Large, Lee, Merrihew. Abstain-Stroup. Absent - Swanson.

REPORT OF DISTRICT APPLICATIONS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS:

 Large moved to approve the Report of District applications, contracts and agreements dated December 7, 2021, to include the NSWCP application, pooling contracts and well decommissioning. Seconded by Kunkel.

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

LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT: No report.


MANAGERS REPORT:

REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN MEETING/COMPACT REPORT: No report

AUGMENTATION PROJECT: No report

REDISTRICTING:

Jasper reported that due to the 2020 census being done the state statute requires us to recertify our subdistricts. Julia has completed the mapping on the subdistrict redistricting. There are a few areas that the shape has changed, and Jasper had Julia make the modification to our subdistricts for these changes.

 Stroup moved to approve the Subdistrict redistricting maps as presented. Seconded by Brown.

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

ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT:

Nate reported to the Board that they had a company that is managing the telemetry data. Nate and Jasper reviewed this with the Board and asked that Board what data they think should be displayed for irrigators to view online.


INFORMATION & EDUCATION: No report.

LEGISLATION:

STATE ASSOCIATION:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Jasper reviewed the FY 2020-2021 audit with the Board.

 Kunkel moved to accept the FY 20-21 audit report and to sign the documents with the audit. Seconded by Turner.

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

Due to a conflict the January Board meeting will be held January 11, 2022.

Chairman Martin adjourned the meeting at 10:46 a.m.

The next Regular Board meeting will be Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 9:00 am.

Respectfully submitted.

CJ Swanson
Secretary/Treasurer

1-14-22



~~1-22-~~