

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
March 1, 2022 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: Jason Kunkel, Dean Large, Jay Lee, Harry Merrihew, Terry Martin, Brock Stromberger, Tom Schroder, Janice Stroup, CJ Swanson and Tyler Turner.

Board Member Absent: Dave Brown.

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

Others Present: Andy Keep (NRCS), Duane Dinnel, Brad Dixon, Monte Nordhausen, Steve Grams and Wayne Haarberg.

Information emailed to Directors:

Agenda	Report of District applications, contracts,
Minutes of February 8th Regular Board Meeting	and agreements
Long Range Plan	

Information distributed at Board meeting:

Agenda	Model maps on Blackshirt Feeders
Minutes of February 8th Regular Board Meeting	Report of District applications, contracts,
Financial reports	and agreements
NRCS Report	Long Range Plan

Chairman Martin called the regular meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

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

Board Members and Staff introduced themselves.

MINUTES:

- Large moved to approve the February 8, 2022 Regular Board meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Stromberger.

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

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Financial Report was presented to the Board.

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

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

NRCS REPORT:

Andy Keep gave the NRCS report and reported that NRCS is providing Nebraska's farmers and ranchers financial and technical assistance to plan and implement conservation practices through Conservation Incentive Contracts. These contracts are an option through EQIP management practices on working landscapes. They help producers address priority resource concerns like sequestering carbon and improving water quality.

- Large moved to approve the NRCS Report of Planning Activity dated March 1, 2022, to include the Conservation Plans as signed for Chase, Dundy and Perkins County.
Seconded by Lee.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Brad Dixon asked the Board about the Blackshirt Feeders maps and their Variance request. The Board will be reviewing the maps during the meeting, and they have not received any information from Blackshirt Feeders.

GROUNDWATER MANGEMENT/RULES AND REGULATIONS:

Dean reported that the Groundwater Committee has been meeting and reviewing the Rules and Regulations.

Jasper discussed the possibility in the future of a request for approving the offset from Blackshirt Feeders. Bruce Curtis made modeling maps and reviewed them with the Board. There was lengthy discussion and questions asked on the modeling information.

VARIANCE COMMITTEE: No report.

REPORT OF DISTRICT APPLICATIONS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS:

- Large moved to approve the Report of District applications, contracts and agreements dated March 2, 2022, to include the NSWCP applications and pooling contracts.
Seconded by Kunkel.

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

LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT: No report.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN MEETING/COMPACT REPORT: No report

AUGMENTATION PROJECT: No report.

ISSUE WELL PERMITS FOR BELF:

Jasper reviewed the well permits for School Lands to drill new wells in Perkins County. This request was approved in 2016 to drill two new wells and had several stipulations. They have been working with tenant and are now ready to drill these wells.

UPDATE ON CITY OF BENKELMAN COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY SETTLEMENT:

Jasper reported that Joel has received a letter from the Dundy County Attorney and the Attorney representing the City of Benkelman and the Community Redevelopment Authority relating to the TIF funds and projects they were doing. They were not operating their CRA appropriately and the taxing entities had not received as much in taxes as what they should have. Dundy County and CRA are working to resolve the issue and negotiate a settlement and Dundy County has been negotiating on behalf of all the political subdivisions who collect taxes with the CRA. The CRA does not have enough assets or funds to pay everything back. Both attorneys will want each political subdivision to approve the settlement soon.

ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT:

Nate presented information on a wind energy company that is interested in the Rock Creek property. They are interested in renting all the Rock Creek property for wind farm development. Typically, there is usually 4 or 5 years that the wind developer measures the wind potential on the site and then decide if they want to move forward. The Board needs to discuss lease negotiations with the company. Joel Burke and Don Blankenau have a copy of the lease and are reviewing it.

- Large moved to go into Executive Session with the Board and Staff present to discuss negotiations on the wind energy proposal. Seconded by Kunkel.

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

The Board went into Executive Session at 10:36 a.m.

- Kunkel moved to come out of Executive Session at 11:02 a.m. Seconded by Merrihew.

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

- Stroup moved to continue working with the developer and engaging Blankenau Wilmoth as Legal Counsel. Seconded by Lee.

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

Nate presented the Long-Range Plan for 2022-2026 to the Board for approval. DNR has reviewed the plan and they have approved it.

- Large moved to approve the Long-Range Implementation Plan for 2022 – 2026. Seconded by Swanson.

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

INFORMATION & EDUCATION: No report.

LEGISLATION:

Senator Groene has resigned, and Senator Jacobson has been appointed in his place. Senator Jacobson has taken LB 787 which was eligible for consent agenda. LB 787 would require NCORPE to hold a budget hearing.

STATE ASSOCIATION: No report

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: No report

Chairman Martin adjourned the meeting at 11:12 am.

The next Regular Board meeting will be Tuesday, April 5, 2022, at 9:00 am.

Respectfully submitted.

CJ Swanson
Secretary/Treasurer

 4-5-22