

Board of Directors Regular Meeting
January 11, 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: 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: Andy Keep and Chance Thayer.

Information emailed to Directors:

Agenda

Minutes of December 7th Regular Board Meeting

Report of District applications, contracts,
and agreements

Information distributed at Board meeting:

Agenda

Minutes of December 7th Regular Board Meeting

Financial reports

NRCS Report

Report of District applications, contracts,
and agreements

Rock Creek Annual Report

SCORE Camp information

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.

CJ Swanson is excused from today's meeting.

MINUTES:

- Stromberger moved to approve the December 7, 2021 Regular Board meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Merrihew.

Roll call vote: 8-yes, 3-absent. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Financial Report was presented to the Board.

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

Roll call vote: 8-yes, 3-absent. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

NRCS REPORT:

Andy Keep gave the NRCS report and Chase County has been selected to host the 2022 Range Judging Contest for area 3. The contest will be held the in September 2022.

Sara Hudson has been selected to be the Resource Conservationist in the Imperial Field Office.

▪ Large moved to approve the NRCS Report of Planning Activity dated January 11, 2022 to include the Conservation Plans as signed for Perkins and Dundy County. Seconded by Kunkel. Roll call vote: 7-yes, 3-absent, 1-abstain. Motion carried.

GROUNDWATER MANGEMENT/RULES AND REGULATIONS:

The Groundwater Committee will meet after the Board meeting to review Rules and Regulations.

VARIANCE COMMITTEE: None

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: 8-yes, 3-absent. Motion carried.

Tyler Turner arrived at 9:15 am.

Tom Schroder arrived at 9:16 am.

LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT:

Joel reported that the Attorney has gotten back to him concerning the mineral rights interest for our Dundy County property. He reported to get a title opinion for all the mineral interest that the cost is between \$12000 and \$17000 to do this. This is time consuming as they go back and trace any mineral interest.

▪ Stromberger moved to proceed with the title opinion for the mineral rights at Dundy County property for \$12000 to \$17000. Seconded by Stroup. Roll call vote: 10-yes, 1-absent. Motion carried.

Nate discussed the filing of easements with the Counties and what the Department of Revenue is telling County Officials. They are saying that water right transfers and CREP contracts require an easement and need County Planning Commission approval. They are saying that if they do not receive county approval then the Assessor does not acknowledge the easement when they are assessing property. If the Planning Commission has no comments on the easement, then it is deemed approved.

REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN MEETING/COMPACT REPORT: No report

AUGMENTATION PROJECT:

Jasper reported that the Governor held a press conference announcing the Committee for big water projects for tourism and economic development throughout Nebraska and presented some

of the proposals in different areas. The Governor and the Attorney General recommended spending \$500 million to construct a storage reservoir on the South Platte River to utilize Nebraska's reserve to water right under the South Platte compact for non-irrigation season deliveries to Nebraska. Colorado has several projects and if those move forward and their accounting plans that over the next few decades 90% of the water coming into Nebraska no longer will. For Nebraska to approach Colorado to start discussing the South Platte compact and the water that we are entitled to under the reserved water right under the compact the State has proposed building a project to utilize the reserve water right on the South Platte compact.

ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT:

Nate asked Chairman to open the hearing for the Rock Creek Augmentation Project.

Chairman Martin opened the Public Hearing for Rock Creek Augmentation Project at 9:53 am. The hearing had been advertised in the Imperial Republican, Grant Tribune and the Benkelman Post. Nate reviewed the 2021 Annual report which contains the required information. Chairman Martin asked for any testimony on the Rock Creek report and there were none. Chairman Martin asked if there were any questions concerning the report or the Rock Creek project and there were none. Chairman Martin closed the Public Hearing at 9:56 am.

- Turner moved to approve the 2021 Annual Report for the Rock Creek Augmentation Project. Seconded by Kunkel.

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

Nate reviewed draft reports that will displayed on the AMR with the telemetry data. They are hoping to have it formatted for a computer and a cell phone.

INFORMATION & EDUCATION:

Nate presented the SCORE camp letter to the Board. He would like to have this on the February agenda so he can talk to CCS Foundation and get more information from them.

This will be an agenda item at the February Board meeting.

LEGISLATION:

Jasper reported that a few bills have been introduced. He did review an issue with NCORPE and not filing a budget this year. They had reviewed the Budget act and NCORPE does not levy property tax or have valuations, so they did not file a budget.

STATE ASSOCIATION:

The Board selected Jason Kunkel as voting delegate and Terry Martin as alternate for NARD Legislative Conference.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Election of Officers:

- Stromberger moved to keep the same current Officers for 2022. Seconded by Brown.

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

- Brown moved to keep the same current Committees for 2022. Seconded by Lee.

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

- Stromberger moved to waive the NRD requirement that Board officers need to be elected by secret ballot. Seconded by Turner.
Roll call vote: 10-yes, 1-absent. Motion carried.

Chairman Martin adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

The next Regular Board meeting will be Tuesday, February 1, 2022 at 9:00 am.

Respectfully submitted.

CJ Swanson
Secretary/Treasurer

 2-8-22