

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
January 5, 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: Terry Martin, Jason Kunkel, Jay Lee, Harry Merrihew, Janice Stroup, Tom Terryberry, Tom Schroder, Tyler Turner, Kerry Bernhardt, Brock Stromberger.

Board Members Absent: Dean Large.

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

Others Present: Dave Brown, Andy Keep,

Information mailed to Directors:

Agenda	Variance request information
Minutes of December 8th Regular Board Meeting	

Information distributed at Board meeting:

Agenda	Allocation request
Minutes of December 8 th Regular Board Meeting	Variance application information
Financial reports	Report of District application/contract/agreement
NRCS report	NARD Dividend Resolution


Chairman Martin called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.

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

Dean Large is excused from this month's meeting.

Introductions of Board, staff and others present were done.

MINUTES:


 Kunkel moved to approve the December 8, 2020 Regular Board meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Lee.

Roll call vote: 7-yes, 2-absent, 2-abstain. Motion carried.

Janice Stroup arrived at meeting 9:09 am.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Financial Report was presented to the Board.

 Terryberry moved to accept the Treasurer's Report and pay the Accounts Payable.
Seconded by Stromberger.

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


PUBLIC COMMENT: No comments.

NRCS REPORT:

Andy Keep reported on the Unfunded Cooperative Agreement. NRCS is requiring each NRD develop an Unfunded Cooperative Agreement with NRCS this year. The Board reviewed the Statement of Work, Annual Usage report and the Off-Highway Vehicle statement of work.

 Lee moved to approve the NRCS Statement of Work. Seconded by Bernhardt.

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

 Terryberry moved to approve the NRCS report of planning activity dated January 5, 2021 to include the Conservation Plans as signed for Perkins County. Seconded by Stromberger.

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

GROUNDWATER MANGEMENT/RULES AND REGULATIONS:

Imperial Beef and Don Hutchens are requesting an allocation request. Imperial Beef will be increasing the capacity of the feedlot and will be increasing their water consumption. This requires an offset of 68.8 acre-feet (63.5 certified acres). This offset will come from Don Hutchens property and he will be decertifying 63.5 certified acres from the SE 22-9-39.

Other information - The field's 5-year historical average is 9.65 inches, the SE 22-9-39 consists of two pivots watered by one well with 260.6 certified acres, the pivot in SE 22-9-39 will continue to be watered with 130.0 certified acres, the certified acres for Imperial Beef's allocation offset will come from the pivot in SW 22-9-39. Based on historical use and 130.0 certified acres remaining 66.09 certified acres can be used as offset, an increase in SDF of 3.9% causes an additional reduction of 2.58 certified acres, this leaves 63.5 certified acres available for offset. The distance of transfer is 8.4 miles.

 Stromberger moved to approve Imperial Beef and Don Hutchens allocation request.
Seconded by Merrihew.

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

VARIANCE COMMITTEE:

#1 George Seward - George Seward is requesting a Variance to transfer 135.0 certified acres from the SE 22-2-40, 110.0 certified acres from the SW 35-2-40, 127.08 certified acres from the NE 33-4-40 and 66.17 certified acres from the NW ¼ 34-2-40 for a total of 438.25 certified acres to the SE ¼ 14-4-41, NE 15-4-41 and SE 10-4-41 to develop three new pivots. The SE ¼ 14-4-41 will receive 150.0 certified acres, NE 15-4-41 will receive 150.0 certified acres and the SE 10-4-41 will receive 138.25 certified acres. New irrigation wells will be drilled on SE ¼ 14-4-41, NE 15-4-41 and SE 10-4-41 and the wells on SE 22-2-40, SW 35-2-40, NE 33-2-40 and the NW 32-2-40 will be decommissioned or converted to livestock wells. Applicant is purchasing the four tracts and would like to move the certified acres closer to the other tracts he farms and to areas with lower SDF's. The 5-year historical average use of SE 22-2-40 is 13.79 inches, SW 35-2-40

is 14.47 inches, NE 33-2-40 is 12.25 inches, NW 34-2-40 is 6.67 inches. The SDF at SE 14-4-41 and NE 15-4-41 is 4.8% and the SE 10-4-41 is 5.5%. The SDF at SE 22-2-40 & SW 35-2-40 is 49%, NE 33-2-40 is 39% and NW 34-2-40 is 42%. The transfer is over about 16 miles and the new pivots will water about 123 acres. This will be an agenda item at the February Board meeting.

#2 Brad Loker and George Seward is requesting a Variance for George Seward to bank the certified acres and corresponding allocations from the fields SW 21-2-39 and NW 28-2-39, The W 21-2-39 is 116.0 certified acres with a 14.46 inch 5-year historical average and NW 28-2-39 is 132.0 certified acres with a 16.32 inch 5 year historical average, for a total of 248.0 certified acres to be banked. Mr. Seward would like to be able to transfer these certified acres at their current 5-year historical average, in the next few years. Mr. Seward can purchase these certified acres from Mr. Loker but does not have a place to transfer certified acres. Both fields were enrolled in CREP from 2006 to October 2020, the 5-year historical average of SW 21-2-39 is 14.46 inches and the SDF is 33% and the 5-year historical average of NW 28-2-39 is 16.32 inches and SDF is 33%. This will be and agenda item for the February Board meeting.

REPORT OF DISTRICT APPLICATIONS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS: No report

- ✚ Stromberger moved to approve the URNRD Report of District applications, contracts and agreements dated January 5, 2021, and to include the NSWCP applications and the Board of Educational Lands & Funds. Seconded by Stroup.

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

LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT:

Jasper reported on the Madrid Ethanol plant had protested their tax valuation a few years ago and they filed suit against all the political subdivisions that had taxed them because they won their case for the valuation. We have already paid them their taxes and they are alleging that we owe them more because we were in possession of their money that we weren't entitled to. Joel advice is to let this be defended by the county, so we are seeing where this goes.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Jasper reported that we are still waiting on a few cooperators to get us back energy usages to finalize the usage report. These people may need to submit a Variance application to the Board to adjust their usages. Some will receive them by email and the rest will be mailed out.

ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT: No report.

INFORMATION & EDUCATION: No report.

LEGISLATION:

Legislature will go into session January 6, 2021.

STATE ASSOCIATION:

Jasper and Terry reported on the Dividend Resolution for the NARD new office building.

- ✚ Bernhardt moved to approve the Dividend Resolution for the NARD Office Building. Seconded by Turner.

Roll call vote: 10 – yes, 1- absent.

We are still waiting to hear on NARD Legislative Conference that is held the end of January.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: No report.

Chairman Martin adjourned the meeting at 9:55 a.m. The next Regular Board meeting will be Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 9:00 am.

Respectfully submitted



~~Tom Terryberry~~ CJ Swanson
Secretary/Treasurer