

**Board of Directors Regular Meeting
October 6, 2020 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: Kerry Bernhardt, Terry Martin, Harry Merrihew, Brock Stromberger, Jason Kunkel, Tyler Turner, Tom Terryberry, Tom Schroder.

Board Members Absent: Jay Lee and Janice Stroup.

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

Others Present: Andy Keep (NRCS) and Brandon Kuenning.

Information mailed to Directors:

Agenda	Report of District applications,
Minutes of September 29 th Special Board Meeting	contracts, agreements
Variance Information	

Information distributed at Board meeting:

Agenda	Well Connection request
Minutes of September 29 th Special Board Meeting	Variance request information
Financial reports	Report of District applications, contracts,
NRCS report	and agreements


Chairman Martin called the meeting to order at 9:28 am.

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

Jay Lee and Janice Stroup are excused from this month's meeting.

Introductions of Board, staff and others present were done.


MINUTES:

-  Kunkel moved to approve the September 29, 2020 Special Board meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Stromberger.

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

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Financial Report was presented to the Board.

-  Bernhardt moved to accept the Treasurer's Report and pay the Accounts Payable as amended. Seconded by Kunkel.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: No comments.

NRCS REPORT:

Andy Keep gave the NRCS report to the Board this month. Andy reported on the Conservation Agricultural Mentoring Program. NRCS is looking for producer volunteers to mentor new NRCS employees and will engage with them several times during the year to help them advance their knowledge, skills and abilities related to local production agricultural and natural resources.

- ✚ Terryberry moved to approve the NRCS Report of Planning Activity dated October 6, 2020 to include the Conservations Plans as signed for Chase, Dundy and Perkins County. Seconded by Stromberger. Roll call vote: 9-yes, 2-absent. Motion carried.

UPPER REPUBLICAN NRD RULES AND REGULATIONS:

Brandon Kuenning has a well connection request and is requesting to connect the wells in the SE 22-9-39 and the NE 27-9-39 with a pipeline. Both fields have certified acres and are currently irrigated. This connection would help increase the available water to irrigate with. This request is contingent on the variance request that will be presented later to the Board.

VARIANCE COMMITTEE:

Kerry Bernhardt gave the Variance Committee report and reported that Dan & Donna Hutchens/Brandon Kuenning/George Seward have edited their Variance request and are requesting to transfer 96.7 certified acres from the SW 22-9-39 to the SW 31-4-40, NW 24-4-42 and the NE 23-4-41. The SW 31-4-40 will receive 29 certified acres, the NW 24-4-42 will receive 33.3 certified acres and the NE 23-4-41 will receive 34.4 certified acres. The field in SW 22-9-39 shares a well with the field in SE 22-9-39 and the request is to have no reduction based on historical use on the remaining 130.3 certified acres on SE 22-9-39. The 130.3 certified acres on SW 22-9-39 have been reduced based on the 5-year historical average of 9.65 inches. The transfer will result in a slight increase in SDF from 1.6% to 4.6%, the request includes no reduction of certified acres based on an increase in SDF. George Seward is no longer wanting to develop new certified acres with the transferred acres. All certified acres will go to the corners of currently irrigated fields. Other information, based on historical use reductions of the current 260.6 certified acres, the S2 22-9-39 would have 193.4 certified acres to transfer and keep on SE 22-9-39.

✚ Bernhardt on behalf of the Variance Committee made the recommendation to deny the variance request of Hutchens/Kuenning/Seward, the request is to transfer 96.7 certified acres from the SW 22-9-39 to the SW 31-4-40, NW 24-4-42 and the NE 23-4-41. The SW 31-4-40 will receive 29 certified acres, the NW 24-4-42 will receive 33.3 certified acres and the NE 23-4-41 will receive 34.4 certified acres. The field in SW 22-9-39 shares a well with the field in SE 22-9-39 and the request is to have no reduction based on historical use on the remaining 130.3 certified acres on SE 22-9-39. The 130.3 certified acres on SW 22-9-39 have been reduced based on the 5-year historical average of 9.65 inches. The transfer will result in a slight increase in SDF from 1.6% to 4.6%, the request includes no reduction of certified acres based on an increase in SDF. George Seward is no longer wanting to develop new certified acres with the transferred acres. All certified acres will go to the corners of currently irrigated fields. Other information, based on historical use reductions of the current 260.6 certified acres, the S2 22-9-39 would have 193.4 certified acres to transfer and keep on SE 22-9-39. The reason to deny this request is due to the historical use request and the change of location.

Discussion.

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

Brandon Kuenning well connection request will be an agenda item for the November 3, 2020 Regular Board meeting.

REPORT OF DISTRICT APPLICATIONS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS:

- ✚ Large moved to approve the Report of District Applications, Contracts and Agreements dated October 6, 2020 to include the NSWCP applications and the pooling contracts. Seconded by Bernhardt.

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

LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT: No report.

REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN MEETING AND COMPACT MEETING REPORT:

Jasper reported that Kansas is going to continue to work with Nebraska to resolve issues.

AUGMENTATION PROJECTS: No report.

ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT:

Nate reported to the Board that some irrigators will be receiving letters on telemetry meters the technicians will start installing about 450 new telemetry units around the end of October until early spring.

Bruce reviewed the model information that was presented at the September Special Board meeting with the Board. He found a different way to present it that should help with understanding the information.

INFORMATION & EDUCATION: No report.

LEGISLATION: No report.

STATE ASSOCIATION:

Terry and Jasper discussed the NARD losses since they were unable to have NARD Annual Conference this year and due to the loss of their office from the protests this year. Funding from this conference helps with operating expenses and with NARD Foundation funds. There was discussion on if NRDs would consider donating to NARD to assist with the loss or if there are other avenues to be reviewed.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: No report.

Chairman Martin adjourned the meeting at 10:44 a.m. The next Regular Board meeting will be Tuesday, November 3, 2020 at 9:00 am.

Respectfully submitted

Tom Terryberry
Secretary/Treasurer