

**Board of Directors Regular Meeting
November 7, 2023 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: Harry Merrihew, Terry Martin, Dave Brown, Tom Schroder, CJ Swanson, Brock Stromberger, Jay Lee and Tyler Turner.

Board Member Absent: Jason Kunkel, Dean Large, Janice Stroup.

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

Others Present: Joel Burke (Attorney) and Andy Keep (NRCS), Kort Kemp, John Engbrecht.

Information emailed to Directors:

Agenda	Variance Information
Regular Board meeting minutes November 7, 2023	Report of District applications, contracts, agreements

Information distributed at Board meeting:

Agenda	NRCS Report
Regular Board meeting minutes November 7, 2023	Report of District applications, contracts, Variance request information

Chairman Martin called the regular meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

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

Introductions of Board Members, NRD Staff and guests.

MINUTES:

- Brown moved to approve the October 3, 2023 Regular Board meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Merrihew.

Roll call vote: 6-yes, 3-absent, 2-abstain. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Financial report was presented to the Board.

- Stromberger moved to accept the Treasurer's report and pay the accounts payable. Seconded by Turner.

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

AUDIT REPORT:

The Board reviewed the FY 22-23 audit report.

- Turner moved to approve the FY 22-23 audit report. Seconded by Stromberger.

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

NRCS REPORT:

Andy Keep with NRCS gave the NRCS report and reviewed the Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Mitigation Activities for FY 2024 and the practices eligible for Inflation Reduction Act Funding.

- Swanson moved to approve the NRCS Report of Planning Activity dated November 7, 2023 to include the Conservations Plans as signed for Perkins County. Seconded by Brown

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

GROUNDWATER MANGEMENT/RULES AND REGULATIONS: None

VARIANCE COMMITTEE:

Brock Stromberger presented the Variance Committee report.

#1 - Board of Educational Lands and Funds are requesting to transfer 124.8 certified acres from SW ¼ 36-4-41 to the NE ¼ 16-10-36 and drill a new irrigation well on the quarter. The current irrigation well on the SW ¼ 36-9-41 will be decommissioned or converted to a livestock well.

- Stromberger on behalf of the Variance Committees recommendation to approve the Variance request of Board of Educational Lands and Funds to transfer 124.8 certified acres from the SW ¼ 36-4-41 to the NE /14 16-10-36 and drill a new irrigation well on this quarter. There will be no carryforward which is a reduction of 169 inches of carryforward. The current irrigation well on the SW ¼ 36-9-41 will be decommissioned or converted to a livestock well. Approval is contingent upon the lien search being completed and approved by lienholder.

Roll call vote: 5-yes, 2-no, 3-absent, 1-abstain. Motion carried.

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

#2 – Chris Cornelius, Triangle C Farms and Ranches are requesting to transfer 125.0 certified acres from NE ¼ 12-11-38 to NE ¼ 28-11-37 with no reduction in certified acres due to SDF increase, decommission the irrigation well in NE ¼ 12-11-38 and drill a new irrigation well in the NE ¼ 28-11-37. They would also like to transfer the full 81.20 inches of carryforward with the certified acres and would like the ability to pool the new certified acres with their other fields. The transfer distance is 4.4 miles, the 10-year historical average of NE 12-11-38 is 13.04 inches and the SDF of NE 12-11-38 is 0.05% and the SDF of NE 28-11-37 is 0.2% for an increase of 0.15% which would be a decrease of 0.19 certified acres.

- Stromberger on behalf of the Variance Committees recommendation to approve the Variance request of Chris Cornelius, Triangle C Farms and Ranches to transfer 125.0 certified acres from NE ¼ 12-11-38 to NE ¼ 28-11-37 with no reduction in certified acres due to SDF increase, decommission the irrigation well in NE ¼ 12-11-38 and drill a new irrigation well in the NE ¼ 28-11-37. The carryforward will be reduced from 81.20 inches to 40.5 inches and may stay in the existing pool.

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

#3 George Seward is requesting a Variance to transfer 140 certified acres from the NW ¼ 23-4-40 to SW ¼ 14-4-41 and drill a new irrigation well and 134.1 certified acres from NE ¼ 22-4-40 to NW ¼ 15-4-41 and drill a new irrigation well to develop a new irrigated circle in each quarter. The wells on NW 23-4-40 and NE 22-4-40 would be decommissioned or converted to livestock wells. The new circles will each be about 123 acres and have no end guns. The transfer of acres and development of the new circles would take place in about three years so grass could be established on NW 23-4-40 and NE 22-4-40. The request is also for new reduction in certified acres due to historical use. The SDF at both NW 23-4-40 and NE 22-4-40 is 5.4%, the SDF as SW 14-4-41 is 4.9% and the SDF at NW 15-5-41 is 4.6%. The transfer distances are 5.8 miles from NW 23-4-40 to SW 14-4-41 and 6.4miles from NE 22-4-40 to NW 15-4-41. Based on historical use 112.6 certified acres could be transferred from NW 23-4-40 and 99.7 certified acres could be transferred from NE 22-4-40. This will be an agenda item for the December Board meeting.

REPORT OF DISTRICT APPLICATIONS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS:

- Stromberger moved to approve the URNRD Report of District applications, contracts and agreements dated November 7, 2023, to include the pooling contract and transfer application. Seconded by Brown.

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

LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT: None.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Nate reported that they had reached an agreement on retirement acres and are still working on a few other items to finish up the agreement.

ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT:

Nate reported that the technicians are installing more flowcoms and are waiting until later to install antennas.

INFORMATION & EDUCATION: None

LEGISLATION: None

STATE ASSOCIATION:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: None

Chairman Martin adjourned the meeting at 9:47 am.

Respectfully submitted.

CJ Swanson
Secretary/Treasurer