

Upper Republican  
NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

P.O. Box 1140  
511 East 5<sup>th</sup> St.  
Imperial, NE 69033  
Phone 888-883-9066

**Board of Directors Regular Meeting  
February 8, 2022 at 9:00 am  
511 East 5<sup>th</sup> 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, CJ Swanson and Tyler Turner.

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

**Others Present:** Joel Burke, Andy Keep (NRCS) and many others were in attendance.

**Information emailed to Directors:**

Agenda	Report of District applications, contracts, and agreements
Minutes of January 11th Regular Board Meeting	

**Information distributed at Board meeting:**

Agenda	Variance Information
Minutes of January 11th Regular Board Meeting	Report of District applications, contracts, and agreements
Financial reports	SCORE Camp information
NRCS Report	

Chairman Martin called the regular meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

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

Board Members and Staff introduced themselves.

**MINUTES:**

- Merrihew moved to approve the January 11, 2022, Regular Board meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Brown.

Roll call vote: 10-yes, 1-abstain. 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 Lee.

Roll call vote: 11-yes. Motion carried.

### **NRCS REPORT:**

Andy Keep gave the NRCS report and reported on the CRP sign up. General CRP sign up will run from January 31<sup>st</sup> to March 11<sup>th</sup> and Grassland CRP sign up will run from April 4<sup>th</sup> until May 13<sup>th</sup>. Producers and landowners can also enroll acres in Continuous CRP which includes CREP and SAFE. Andy also reported that the NRCS Local Workgroup will be meeting March 16<sup>th</sup> at the NRD Office.

- Large moved to approve the NRCS Report of Planning Activity dated February 8, 2022, to include the Conservation Plans as signed for Chase and Perkins County. Seconded by Swanson.

Roll call vote: 11-yes. Motion carried.

### **SOUTHWEST WEED MANAGEMENT:**

Jim Bowen, manager of Southwest Weed Management, gave a presentation on projects the organization has been working on and possible future projects.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Members of the public provided comments on the Blackshirt Feeders variance request and its planned feedlot in Dundy County.

Chairman Martin called a 10-minute recess at 10:54 am.

Chairman Martin called the meeting back in session at 11:08 am.

### **PRESENTATIONS:**

Blackshirt Feeders and Settje Agri Services gave a presentation on the feedlot design and answered questions.

Jim Schneider with Olsson engineering and design firm presented information on the groundwater model of the district Olsson is developing and that is close to completion.

### **VARIANCE COMMITTEE:**

Brock Stromberger gave the Variance report.

L & J Partnership (Joan Krutsinger-Partner/Manager) and Blackshirt Feeders LLP (Dr. Eric Behlke-Managing Partner) are requesting a transfer of certified acres (199.3) from the N ½ 10-1-38 to 15-4-38. The two wells G-030854 and G-034290 will be retired on the former property and one or two new wells will be drilled on the latter property to develop about 200 new irrigated acres.

- Stromberger and the Variance Committee recommendation is to move any voting action to the March 1, 2022, Regular Board meeting while adding stipulations and conditions to this Variance request and take action at that meeting.

Discussion.

Roll call vote: 11-yes, Motion carried.

The Board will have a hearing type format for this Variance request.

**GROUNDWATER MANGEMENT/RULES AND REGULATIONS:**

Jasper discussed the Blackshirt Feeders LLP commercial allocation offset requirements for feedlots with the Board. Blackshirt Feeders does not yet have specific pivots that they would provide as offset. Per our rules they would be able to drill a commercial livestock well and they would have 40-acre feet of allocation. For additional allocation they would have to come and present what pivots they would have for offset and the Board would have to approve those offsets.

**REPORT OF DISTRICT APPLICATIONS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS:**

▪ Large moved to approve the Report of District applications, contracts and agreements dated February 8, 2022, to include the NSWCP application, pooling contracts, and Board of Educational Lands and Funds contracts. Seconded by Stroup.  
Roll call vote: 9-yes, 2-abstain. Motion carried.

**LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT:** No report.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:**

Jasper reviewed the 2020 Well Measurement report with the Board. Jasper asked if the Board would want this report every year or to follow the 5-year allocation period. The Board would like it to follow the 5-year allocation period.

**REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN MEETING/COMPACT REPORT:** No report

**AUGMENTATION PROJECT:**

Grazing bids were opened during the NCORPE meeting.

**ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT:** No report.

**INFORMATION & EDUCATION:**

Tom Schroder presented the Information and Education report. Chase County Schools Education Foundation presented a request for SCORE Camp donation. The I & E Committee met and reviewed the request.

▪ Schroder moved to donate \$10,000 to Chase County Schools Education Foundation's SCORE Camp. Seconded by Brown.  
Roll call vote: 11-yes, Motion carried.

**LEGISLATION:**

Jasper and Nate reviewed Legislative bills.

Jasper reported that the Bonding authority to use occupation tax to issue River Flow Enhancement bonds expires January 1, 2023.

**STATE ASSOCIATION:** No report


**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** No report

Chairman Martin adjourned the meeting at 1:38 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted.

CJ Swanson  
Secretary/Treasurer

  
3-1-22