

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**  
**April 4, 2023 at 9:08 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:** Jason Kunkel, Harry Merrihew, Terry Martin, Brock Stromberger, Janice Stroup, Tom Schroder, CJ Swanson, Dean Large, Jay Lee, Dave Brown and Tyler Turner.

**Board Member Absent:** None

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

**Others Present:** Joel Burke (Legal Counsel) Andy Keep (NRCS), James Mandeville,

**Information emailed to Directors:**

Agenda

Regular Board Meeting minutes March 14, 2023

Draft Rules/Regulations Order 36

Variance information

**Information distributed at Board meeting:**

Agenda

Regular Board Meeting minutes March 14, 2023

Financial reports

NRCS report

Draft Rules/Regulations Order 36

Variance Information

Report of District Applications, Contracts  
and Agreements

Chairman Martin called the regular meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Introductions of Board Members, Staff and Public.

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

**MINUTES:**

- Stromberger moved to approve the March 14, 2023 Regular Board meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Brown.

Roll call vote: 11-yes. Motion carried.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

The financial report was presented to the Board.

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

Roll call vote: 11-yes. Motion carried.

## **NRCS REPORT:**

Andy Keep gave the NRCS report and discussed the National Resources Inventory Grazing Land Onsite study. The NRCS will be conducting an on-site grazing land study inventory.

- Large moved to approve the NRCS Report of Planning Activity dated April 4, 2023, to include the Conservation Plans as signed for Chase and Perkins County. Seconded by Brown.

Roll call vote: 11-yes. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

## **GROUNDWATER MANGEMENT/RULES AND REGULATIONS:**

Jasper reviewed the draft Rules and Regulations Order #36 and the changes that were discussed last month.

- Large moved to approve the URNRD Rules and Regulations Order #36 for Groundwater Control. Seconded by Swanson.

Roll call vote: 11-yes. Motion carried.

## **VARIANCE COMMITTEE:**

Stromberger presented the variance request application from Steve Wallin to the Board. Mr. Wallin is purchasing the SE ¼ 34-5-37 which is a ¾ turn wiper pivot in the SW ¼, SE ¼ and the NE ¼ of the section with 354.6 certified acres and the property in the NW ¼ of 34-5-37 which is not currently irrigated. He is requesting to shorten the existing pivot and transfer certified acres from the S ½ 27-5-36 to irrigate a full circle of 394.1 acres with no endguns on section 34-5-37. He will remove the end guns from the fields in S ½ 27-5-36 to transfer 29 certified acres from SE 27-5-36 and 10.5 certified acres from the SW 27-5-36. He is also requesting to transfer 167.5 inches of carryforward with the 39.5 certified acres from S ½ 27-5-36. Mr. Wallin would like to be able to better manage the water on section 34-5-37 and use water more efficiently with a full pivot and no end guns and this will allow him to be more efficient with water use on the fields in the S ½ 27-5-36. The SW 27-5-36 is 5.8 miles from the SE 34-5-37 and SE 27-5-36 is 6.05 miles from SE 34-5-37. SDF of the wells in S ½ 27-5-36 is 35.9% and SDF of the well in 34-5-37 is 25.9%. The SE ¼ and SW ¼ 27-5-36 are pooled together and have a 5-year average of 15.9 inches, they also have a pending penalty of 6.87 inches and the 2 for 2 penalty was taken off to get the requested carryforward transfer. S & L Farms will continue to own the NW ¼ 34-5-37 for a few years per a purchase agreement.

- Stromberger on behalf of the Variance Committee recommended to approve the variance request of Steve Wallin to shorten the existing pivot and transfer certified acres from the S ½ 27-5-36 to irrigate a full circle of 394 acres with no endguns on section 34-5-37. Endguns will be removed from the fields in S ½ 27-5-36 to transfer 29 certified acres from SE 27-5-36 and 10.5 certified acres from the SW 27-5-36 and to transfer 167.5 inches of carryforward with the 39.5 certified acres from S ½ 27-5-36. The approval is contingent on the lien search being completed and approved by any lienholders.

Roll call vote: 11-yes, Motion carried.

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

- Brown moved to approve the URNRD Report of District applications, contracts and agreements dated April 4, 2023, to include the NSWCP applications, pooling contracts and well decommissioning application. Seconded by Stromberger.

Roll call vote: 11-yes. Motion carried.

**LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT:** None.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:**

Jasper discussed with the Board selling the John Deere tractor 5105 and accessories and leasing a skid steer. The tractor is not big enough for some of the things we use it for.

- Lee moved to sell the tractor and accessories and lease a skid steer. Seconded by Schroder.

Roll call vote: 11-yes. Motion carried.

Jasper discussed the advertising for the conservation technician position and interviewed four applicants and has hired three of those applicants. Jasper has promoted Cooper Bollman to field supervisor. Fay Hiykel will be the Dundy County technician; Brett Harmon will train with Mike Nesbitt and will become the Perkins County technician and Jeff Lempke will train with Cooper and become the Chase County technician. Once trained they will continue to install telemetry meters. Mike Nesbitt and Dwain Curtis will remain as part time technicians.

**ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT:**

Nate discussed working with Murfin Oil on access to our existing road for access to neighboring property to drill an oil well on. This would be treated as an easement on our property.

- Turner moved to allow management to move forward with working with Murfin Oil. Seconded by Swanson.

Roll call vote: 11-yes. Motion carried.

Nate reported that we signed a \$1.1 million contract with the State for the telemetry project. He is still waiting to hear about Federal funds.

**INFORMATION & EDUCATION:** None

**LEGISLATION:** None

**STATE ASSOCIATION:** None

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

Chairman Martin adjourned the meeting at 9:55 am.

Respectfully submitted.

CJ Swanson  
Secretary/Treasurer

  
5-2-23