

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
April 5, 2022 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: Dave Brown, Jason Kunkel, Dean Large, Harry Merrihew, Terry Martin, Brock Stromberger, Janice Stroup, CJ Swanson and Tyler Turner.

Board Member Absent: Jay Lee and Tom Schroder.

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

Others Present: Andy Keep (NRCS), Duane Dinnel, Andy Keep and Mike Nesbitt.

Information emailed to Directors:

Agenda

March 1, 2022 Regular Board Meeting minutes
Long Range Plan

Report of District applications, contracts,
and agreements

Information distributed at Board meeting:

Agenda

March 1, 2022 Regular Board Meeting minutes
Financial reports
NRCS Report

Variance Applications

Report of District applications, contracts,
and agreements

Email on EcoBalance Climate Smart Program

Chairman Martin called the regular meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

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

Tom Schroder and Jay Lee are excused from meeting today.

Board Members and Staff introduced themselves.

Mike Nesbitt announced to the Board that after 42 years of working for the NRD he will be retiring on May 6th.

MINUTES:

- Large moved to approve the March 1 2022, Regular Board meeting minutes as presented.
Seconded by Merrihew.

Roll call vote: 7-yes, 1-abstain, 3-absent. 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, 1-abstain, 2-absent. Motion carried.

Jason Kunkel arrived at 9:14 a.m.

NRCS REPORT:

Andy Keep gave the NRCS report and reported that Robert Lawson has been selected as Nebraska's newest State Conservationist. He has been with NRCS for 20 years. Visitors can now go into the Imperial NRCS without masks. There is a possibility that these requirements will be changing week by week.

- Large moved to approve the NRCS Report of Planning Activity dated April 5, 2022, to include the Conservation Plans as signed for Chase and Dundy County. Seconded by Kunkel.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

GROUNDWATER MANGEMENT/RULES AND REGULATIONS:

Jasper reported that the Groundwater Committee will be meeting after the Board meeting today.

VARIANCE COMMITTEE:

Brock Stromberger gave the Variance Committee report.

#1 Ron Jones is requesting a Variance to transfer 205 certified acres with no reduction in certified acres due to historical use, from the NE 9-1-38 to NE 4-2-39 and NW 10-2-39 which are currently satellite acres. The NE ¼ of 4-2-39 will receive 130 certified acres and will be watered by the well in NW 3-2-39. The NW ¼ 10-2-39 will receive 75 certified acres and will be watered by the well in NE 10-2-39. The remaining 114.4 certified acres on the NE ¼ 9-1-38 will be decertified and the well, G-068463 will be decommissioned. The NE 9-1-38 does not have a recent historical use but they would like to move the certified acres to more efficient wells and bring certified acres to their satellite acres. Based on historical use 0.0 acres are transferable from NE 9-1-38, and the well has an SDF of 23.2%. The well on NW 3-2-39 has an SDF of 14.4% and the well on the NE 10-2-39 has an SDF of 14.3 % for an SDF decline of 8.8%.

Brock and the Board reviewed this Variance request with Mr. Jones. This Variance request will be an agenda item for the May Regular Board meeting.

#2 T. J. Martin is requesting to transfer 180.8 certified acres from the NW ¼ 12-6-42 and 64.1 certified acres from SWA 30-7-41 to W ½ 5-6-41 with no reduction in certified acres due to historical use or SDF increase and to develop two new pivots. The wells on the NW 12-6-42 and SWA 30-7-41 will be decommissioned or converted to livestock wells and two new irrigation wells will be drilled on W ½ 5-6-41. The NW ¼ 5-6-40 will receive 122.45 certified acres and the SW ¼ 5-6-41 will receive 122.45 certified acres. The NW 12-6-42 is sandy ground with high erosion and the well on SWA 30-7-41 is sucking air. The W ½ 5-6-41 is better ground and has better water. The well on NW 12-6-42 has an SDF of 18.3%, the well on SWA 30-7-41 has an SDF of 18.5% and W ½ 5-6-41 has an SDF of 31.3 % for an SDF increase of 12.9%. Based on

historical use and SDF increase 14.7 acres are transferrable from NW 12-6-42 and 20.05 certified acres are transferrable from SWA 30-7-41. Mr. Martin is also requesting to waive the 30-day waiting period.

When the Variance Committee met with Mr. Martin, Brock and Tyler were the only two Committee members present and felt it would be best not to waive the 30 days waiting period. The Board reviewed this request with Mr. Martin. This Variance request will be an agenda item for the May Regular Board meeting.

REPORT OF DISTRICT APPLICATIONS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS:

- Stromberger moved to approve the Report of District applications, contracts and agreements dated April 5, 2022 to include the NSWCP applications and pooling contracts. Seconded by Brown.

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

LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT:

Joel reported on the Benkelman Community Redevelopment Authority. The CRA funds can only be used to pay back the debt for the bonds or funds. After an audit by the State Auditor and some violations and discrepancies were found. It was found that the CRA had collected over \$533,000 that was supposed to go to pay off debt but was used for other purposes. The CRA is able to come up with \$320,000 and there are eight entities involved that are taxing authorities that will get money out of this amount which for the NRD is approximately \$12,000.

- Stroup moved to take the funds that we can get from the Benkelman CRA. Seconded by Turner.

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

REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN MEETING/COMPACT REPORT: No report

Jasper reported on a letter for Stakeholder Feedback on EcoBalance Climate-Smart program and are asking for a letter of support for a USDA grant. This will be a May agenda item.

AUGMENTATION PROJECT:

Nate reported that Renewable Energies moved the transmission line 50 miles away from Rock Creek property so will not be looking at wind energy at Rock Creek.

FEEDLOT WATER CONSUMPTION:

Jasper reviewed information from Black Shirt Feeders had sent for an estimate water consumption for cattle, UNL NebGuide water requirements for Beef cattle and the water section from NRC 8th edition.

ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT: No report.

INFORMATION & EDUCATION:

CJ told the Board that the I & E Committee had met with Danielle before the meeting to review NARD Award Nominations.

LEGISLATION: No report.

STATE ASSOCIATION:


Terry reported that the NRD's are celebrating their 50-year anniversary and there was an article in the Leadership Magazine about this.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: No report

Chairman Martin adjourned the meeting at 10:27 am.

Respectfully submitted.

CJ Swanson
Secretary/Treasurer


5-3-2021