

**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
May 7, 2024 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: CJ Swanson, Brock Stromberger, Harry Merrihew, Terry Martin, Jason Kunkel, Dean Large and Tyler Turner.

Board Member Absent: Dave Brown, Janice Stroup, Tom Schroder, Jay Lee.

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

Others Present: Andy Keep (NRCS), Grant Jones, and Stan Jones.

Information emailed to Directors:

Agenda
Regular Board meeting minutes April 2, 2024

Variance information
Report of District applications, contracts.
and agreements

Information distributed at Board meeting:

Agenda
Regular Board meeting minutes April 2, 2024
Financial reports
NRCS report

Report of District applications/contracts
and agreements
NARD Basin Tour information
Letter from City of Imperial, Grant and
Benkelman on TIF projects

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.

Introductions of Board members, NRD staff and guests.

DIRECTORS ABSENCES:

Dave Brown, Janice Stroup, Tom Schroder and Jay Lee are unable to attend today's meeting.

MINUTES:

- Stromberger moved to approve the April 2, 2024, regular Board meeting minutes as presented.
Seconded by Turner.

Roll call vote: 6-yes, 4-absent, 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 Stromberger.

Roll call vote: 7-yes, 4-absent. Motion carried.

NRCS REPORT:

Andy Keep gave the NRCS report. Andy reported that on May 22nd the State Conversationist has been invited to attend their staff meeting. EQIP and CSP obligations so far are EQIP, twenty-six contracts for \$851,500 and CSP, two contracts at \$438,000.

- Stromberger moved to approve the NRCS report of planning activity dated May 7, 2024, to include the conservation plans as signed for Chase, Dundy and Perkins County. Seconded by Swanson.

Roll call vote: 7-yes, 4-absent. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

GROUNDWATER MANGEMENT/RULES AND REGULATIONS:

Jasper and Nate reported on a request from Steve Krug that the water used from his irrigation well for a bale fire not but used towards his allocation. The well was left on for roughly eight hours. The technicians are working on how much water was used from this fall and how much water was used on extinguishing the bales. The technicians will continue to research this and get additional information and then bring it back to the Board.

VARIANCE COMMITTEE:

#1 Brian Prosser is requesting a Variance to transfer 109.1 certified acres from the NE ¼ 3-4-41 to the corners of six fields in Dundy County as extra allocation to Samuel and Beau Kramer and Pro Health LLC. The NW 4-4-36 will receive 22.0 certified acres, SW 28-4-41 will receive 24.0 certified acres, NW 28-4-41 will receive 20.5 certified acres, NE 32-4-41 will receive 17.0 certified acres, NE 33-4-41 will receive 20.0 certified acres and the SE 33-4-41 will receive 5.6 certified acres. There will be 14.2 certified acres decertified from the 123.3 certified acres on the NE 34-8-41 due to historical use and SDF increase. The well on NE 34-8-41, G-160806, will be decommissioned or converted to a livestock well. The reason for the request is the well in NE 34-8-41 needs to be replaced and since there is no certainty that better water will be found in the section Mr. Prosser would prefer to transfer the acres off the section and farm the ground as dryland instead. Transfer distances from NE 34-8-41: to NW 4-4-36, 35.1 miles; to SW 28-4-41, 23.4 miles; to NW 28-4-41, 22.9 miles; to NE 32-4-41, 23.9 miles; to NE 33-4-41, 23.9 miles; to SE 33-4-41, 24.4 miles. NE 34-8-41 has a 10-year historical use of 11.37 inches for a reduction of 11.1 certified acres. NE 34-8-41 to NW 4-4-36 has an SDF increase of 12.3% for a reduction of 3.1 certified acres. This is the first reading, and this request will be voted on at the June Board meeting.

#2 Spuds & Suds and Blackshirt Feeder is requesting to transfer a total of 763.6 certified acres from five fields in the N ½ 35-2-42, S ½ 26-2-42 and SE of 27-2-42 to the corners of twenty-one irrigated

tracts in 2-41 and 2-42 to be used as extra allocation. They are requesting no loss in certified acres due to historical use. The breakdown of fields and acres are attached to these minutes. Spuds and Suds have not irrigated the pivots on the five fields since 2016/2017 and have been using the allocation associated with the 763.6 certified acres as extra allocation for their pools. They have recently sold the land the certified acres are associated with and would like to move the certified acres to the corners of fields they own to continue to be used as extra allocation. The transfers are within a floating township, and all certified acres will be going from a higher to lower SDF. Transfer distance information and SDF information are attached to the minutes. This is the first reading, and this request will be voted on at the June Board meeting.

Grant Jones was present and addressed his concerns with moving the water 35 miles and now they are moving closer to his property. He said he needs to protect his family and property.

REPORT OF DISTRICT APPLICATIONS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS:

- Stromberger moved to approve the report of District applications, contracts and agreements dated May 7, 2024, to include the pooling contracts. Seconded by Large

Roll call vote: 7-yes, 4-absent. Motion carried.

LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT: None.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Jasper reported on the Notice of Public Hearing with Department of Natural Resources to receive comments concerning the pending Platte to Republican Basin High Flow Diversion Project's Amended application A-19594 for a surface water appropriation involving an interbasin transfer from the Platte to the Republican River Basin.

ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT:

Nate discussed the NARD/NRD Republican Basin tour on June 10th and 11th. If anyone is interested in attending let Deb know and she will get everyone registered.

INFORMATION & EDUCATION: None

LEGISLATION: None

STATE ASSOCIATION:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Chairman Martin adjourned the meeting at 9:53 am.

Respectfully submitted.

CJ Swanson
Secretary/Treasurer

6-4-24

