



Perkins Chase and
Dundy Counties
Headquarters in Imperial

Upper Republican NATURAL RESOURCE DISTRICT

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Board of Directors Regular Meeting June 12, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. 511 East 5th Street, Imperial, NE

Agendas were sent to all Board Members and all 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. The meeting was announced over KADL-Imperial, KRVN-Lexington and KOGA-Ogallala and published in area newspapers.

Board Members Present: Kerry Bernhardt, Tom Gaschler, Loren Jessen, Jason Kunkel, Dean Large, Terry Martin, Tom Terryberry, Tom Schroder and Jeff Wallin.

Board Members Absent: Brett Bullock.

NRD Staff: Jasper Fanning, Nate Jenkins, Bruce Curtis, Julia Franck and Deb Hayes.

NRD Legal Counsel: Joel Burke.

Others present: Andy Keep (NRCS), Duane Dinnel, Seth McMillan, Ben Hendrix

Information mailed to Directors:

Agenda

Minutes of May 8, 2018 Regular meeting

Information distributed at Board meeting:

Agenda

Minutes of May 8, 2018 Regular meeting

Financial reports

NRCS report

Transfer application

Report of District applications, contracts, agreements

Water Quality information

Chairman Martin called the meeting to order at 8:02 pm.

Chairman Martin announced that the Open Meetings Act is posted for anyone that would like to review it.

Brett Bullock is excused from tonight's meeting.

Introductions of Board Members, NRD Staff and guests were done.

MINUTES:

- Terryberry moved to approve the May 8, 2018 Regular Board meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Jessen.

Roll call vote: 9-yes, 1-absent. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Jasper presented the Financial Reports to the Board.

- Gaschler moved to pay the Accounts Payable and approve the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Wallin.

Roll call vote: 9-yes, 1-absent. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

NRCS REPORT:

Andy Keep with NRCS gave the NRCS report and reviewed a job announcement for a Rangeland Specialist in the Imperial Field office. The announcement is posted on USA-JOBS. Andy also brought Seth McMillen with him this evening. Seth is a summer student inter working with the Imperial field office and he is from Sidney, NE and is studying Range Management at Chadron State College.

- Terryberry moved to approve the NRCS Report of Planning Activity dated June 11, 2018 to include the Conservations Plans signed for Chase, Dundy and Perkins Counties. Seconded by Gaschler.

Roll call vote: 9-yes, 1-absent. Motion carried.

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT/RULES AND REGULATIONS:

Jasper presented a request from Ralph Holzfaster who is drilling a replacement well on Section 20-12-36 and is asking to convert the original well to fire protection well that will pump 100 gpm.

- Terryberry moved to allow Ralph Holzfaster's well be converted from an irrigation well to a fire protection well. Seconded by Bernhardt.

Roll call vote: 9-yes, 1-absent. Motion carried.

Jasper reviewed a request with the Board on recertifying certified acres. The landowner is asking to take the certified acres and move them. The landowner is taking a wiper pivot from the south side of the well to the north side and is not changing the point of withdrawal. Jasper asked if the Board wanted requests like these presented to the Board or can it be handled by management and staff.

- Gaschler moved to direct management to deal with recertification of certified acres. Seconded by Wallin.

Roll call vote: 9-yes, 1-absent. Motion carried.

The Groundwater Committee met earlier this evening to review the request of Stacy Cochran to transfer acres. They would like to transfer certified acres to satellite acres. Once they figure out what their commercial allocation request is and any offsets needed, then they will come back to the Board. When discussing this the transfer, the distance would be about 10.7 miles, which would make this a Variance request and needs to be reviewed by the Variance Committee.

Chairman Martin called a 10-minute recess to allow Variance Committee could meet with Ben Hendrix about request.

Chairman Martin called the Board back in session at 8:50 p.m.

VARIANCE COMMITTEE:

Jeff Wallin presented the Variance Committee report. Stacy Cochran is requesting to decertify all the acres on the NW ¼ of 13-8-41 with a historical use adjustment where only 14.2 acres could be transferred, and their request is to transfer that for use as a commercial livestock allocation on the NW ¼ 11-7-39, and to provide that 14.2 acres which equals 15.4-acre feet of use as offset for a commercial livestock allocation. This is approximately 11 ½ miles so it's outside the floating township and that's why it would be a variance. They will then come back to the Board for a formal request on how much additional allocation they will need and additional offset to provide.

- Wallin on behalf of the Variance Committee's recommendation is to waive the 30-day waiting period.

Roll call vote: 9-yes, 1-absent. Motion carried.

- Wallin on behalf of the Variance Committees recommendation to approve the Variance request of Stacy Cochran to retire 14.2 acres from the NW ¼ 13-8-41 and to convert those acres to 15.4-acre feet on 11-7-39 for commercial livestock use and with the stipulation any additional offsets would come within the floating township.

Roll call vote: 9-yes, 1-absent. Motion carried.

REPORT OF DISTRICT APPLICATIONS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS:

- Terryberry moved to approve the report of District applications, contracts and agreements dated June 8, 2018 to include the Board of Educational Lands and Funds contract. Seconded by Gaschler.

Roll call vote: 9-yes, 1-absent. Motion carried.

LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT: No report.

REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN MEETING/COMPACT REPORT:

Jasper reported to the Board on the upcoming Compact meeting. Next week there will be a tour with Nebraska, Colorado and Kansas groups with DNR starting at the Kansas Nebraska line and moving up and they will have a presentation at Lower Republican NRD office.

AUGMENTATION PROJECT:

Jasper reported to the Board that Todd has been checking into spraying the broad leaves instead of mowing, possibly do some interseeding and may be doing a cover crop ahead of the interseeding.

ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT:

Bruce updated the Board on projects he has been working on. Bruce discussed the status of the office remodel. It has been sent out for bids but only 2 contractors have shown interest so the date has been extended for bids.

Bruce has been working on the groundwater model and is developing a model for the District and will use the input data that is being developed for RRCA model in our model with some modifications. He has developed a model for the Rock Creek augmentation project and is looking at estimated draw down over time in the wells to see how much augmentation scenarios will affect the drawdown of the wells. We are building a drop structure downstream for the outlet at Rock Creek for erosion designed a preliminary design and gave it to Flatwater and they will do the final design and should have it done by the end of June and bids should be out in July and hope to have it built by October.

Bruce discussed the Phase designation spreadsheet with the Board and was asking if the phase requirements are ok or do they need modify them so Bruce can move forward on this.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION REPORT: No report.

LEGISLATION: No report.

STATE ASSOCIATION: No report.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Chairman Martin adjourned the meeting at 9:36p.m. The next Regular Board meeting will be held Tuesday, July 3, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Tom Terryberry
Secretary/Treasurer