



Perkins Chase and
Dundy Counties
Headquarters in Imperial

Upper Republican NATURAL RESOURCE DISTRICT

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Board of Directors Regular Meeting June 16, 2016 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, Jason Kunkel, Dean Large, Terry Martin, Tom Schroder, Tom Terryberry and Jeff Wallin.

Board Members Absent: Loren Jessen and Brett Bullock.

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

NRD Legal Counsel: Joel Burke.

Others present: Andy Keep (NRCS), Brad Johnson and Russ Pankonin.

Information mailed to Directors:

Agenda 6-16-16

Variance request information

Minutes of May 3rd Board meeting

Report of District applications, contracts, agreements

Information distributed at Board meeting:

Agenda

NRCS report

Minutes of May 3rd Board meeting

Variance request information

Financial reports

USGS Joint Funding agreement

Draft Budget

Chairman Martin called the meeting to order at 7:50 pm.

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

Loren Jessen is excused from today's meeting.

OPEN FORUMS:

Guests, Board members and NRD staff were introduced.

MINUTES:

- Terryberry moved to approve the minutes of the May 3, 2016 Regular Board meeting as presented. Seconded by Wallin.

Roll call vote: 8-yes, 2-absent. Motion carried.

Chairman Martin reviewed the Public Hearing information from the City of Grant on redeveloping property that has been declared as a blighted area.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Manager presented the Financial Reports to the Board.

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

Roll call vote: 8-yes, 2-absent. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No comments.

NRCS REPORT:

Andy Keep gave the NRCS report and reported on Emerald Ash Borer being found in Nebraska. The Nebraska Department of Agriculture confirmed the first finding in the State. Emerald Ash borer is an invasive beetle that attacks and kills all species of Ash trees. NRCS is recommending to avoid planting in conservation plantings which hasn't been done for several years.

- Terryberry moved to approve the NRCS report of planning activity dated June 1, 2016 and to include the Conservation Plans as signed for Chase and Perkins County. Seconded by Gaschler.

Roll call vote: 8-yes, 2-absent. Motion carried.

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT/RULES AND REGULATIONS: No report.

VARIANCE COMMITTEE:

Jeff gave the Variance Committee report and reported that Doug Baney and Nina Oakley variance requests had been withdrawn. Jasper reviewed the maps from the Baney/Oakley requests that were put together by Flatwater Group.

Jasper and the Board discussed transfers and what information the Board wants for these requests. Jasper also discussed the possibility of advertising variance requests, informing neighboring landowners of variance requests. The person applying for the variance could be responsible for these requests.

REPORT OF DISTRICT APPLICATIONS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS:

The Board reviewed the Report of District applications, contracts and agreements.

- Terryberry moved to approve the Report of District applications, contracts, and agreements. Seconded by Kunkel.

Roll call vote: 8-yes, 2-absent. Motion carried.

LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT: No report this evening.

REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN MEETING/COMPACT REPORT:

Jasper reported that the 3 states are still meeting monthly and working on a long term agreement prior to the RRCA meeting in August.

SERVICE AGREEMENT:

Jasper reviewed the Service Agreements with Flatwater Group for their technical and GIS services.

- Bernhardt moved to approve the service agreements with Flatwater Group. Seconded by Gaschler.

Roll call vote: 8-yes, 2-absent. Motion carried.

AUGMENTATION PROJECTS:

Jasper reported that they are finished pumping at NCORPE and pumped slightly over 35000 acre feet. Jasper reviewed the pumping during water short years with the Board and said he is receiving monthly updates as the forecast is being updated from estimated data and pumping requirements to actual data and pumping requirements as it becomes available.

USGS JOINT FUNDING AGREEMENT:

Jasper reviewed the USGS Joint funding agreement for recorder wells with the Board.

- Terryberry moved to approve the USGS joint funding agreement for \$9680. Seconded by Wallin.

Roll call vote: 8-yes, 2-absent. Motion carried.

Nate reported on the grant he has submitted for 15 automated recorder wells and some automated flowmeters. The grant submitted was for \$300,000 and the NRD part would be \$400,000. Nate recommended to put in for the sustainability grant that is due by July 31st. Jasper recommended to the Board that URNRD apply for both grants and the Board directed Nate to do this.

Nate discussed NCORPE Interbasin transfers on the Platte and Flatwater is looking at the feasibility of a pipeline for this.

PERSONNEL:

Jasper talked to the Executive Committee and the Budget Committee before the Board meeting about the draft budget. Jasper and Nate have been interviewing for GIS Specialist/Assistant Manager, a Water Program specialist, and a Rock Creek Technician. Jasper discussed chemigation inspections and additional technical work regarding water quality and moving on to Phase 2 and to help the current technicians have time to do some of their spot checks on wells and to make sure meters are working he is looking at the possibility of hiring a JR technician. This person would be able to assist all the technicians and would be trained for the technician position a senior technician retires in a few years. Jasper presented the draft budget to the Board.

- Terryberry moved to direct management to hire a Jr. technician. Seconded by Gaschler.

Roll call vote: 8-yes, 2-absent. Motion carried.

- Gaschler moved to approve the line item on Budget dealing with the employee wages on the draft budget for FY 16-17 for \$997500. Seconded by Terryberry.

Roll call vote: 8-yes, 2-absent. Motion carried.

ASSISTANT MANAGER’S REPORT:

Nate has been working with SWPP on getting a group of urban senators out to our area this summer to talk about water issues and power issues. Nate is also trying to get some other organizations involved with this and is also working with Senator Hughes on this.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION REPORT:

Tom Gaschler reviewed Range Camp Scholarships with the Board. There were 7 students from the District that went to Range Camp and only 5 of them wrote the required essay.

- Gaschler moved to provide half the funding for 5 students that are attending Range Camp. Seconded by Terryberry.

Roll call vote: 8-yes, 2-absent. Motion carried.

LEGISLATION:

Jasper reviewed that URNRD was part of the Nebraska Over Appropriated Coalition that had some water issues with over and fully appropriated and this Coalition had hired Bruning Law Firm to assist with lobbying efforts and the worked on our behalf and the other NRD’s behalf when needed. The question is being asked if we want to extend this contract for another year. This will be an agenda item for July Board meeting.

STATE ASSOCIATION:

Terry reported on the NARD Board meeting that was held earlier this week in York and he also attended the NARD tour that as held this year.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: No report.

Chairman Martin adjourned the meeting at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Tom Terryberry
Secretary/Treasurer