

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
June 4, 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: Dave Brown, Jason Kunkel, Dean Large, Jay Lee, Harry Merrihew, Terry Martin, Brock Stromberger, Janice Stroup, CJ Swanson and Tyler Turner.

Board Member Absent: Tom Schroder.

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

Others Present: Andy Keep (NRCS), Stan Jones, Brian Prosser, Beau Kramer, Brad Dixon and Matth Greenway.

Information emailed to Directors:

Agenda

Regular Board meeting minutes May 7, 2024

Variance information

Report of District applications, contracts,
and agreements

Information distributed at Board meeting:

Agenda

Regular Board meeting minutes May 7, 2024

Financial reports

NRCS report

Variance information

Report of District applications/contracts
and agreements

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

Tom Schroder is unable to attend today's meeting.

MINUTES:

- Merrihew moved to approve the May 7, 2024, Regular Board meeting minutes as presented.

Seconded by Brown.

Roll call vote: 7-yes, 1-absent, 3-abstain. 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 Stromberger.

Roll call vote: 10-yes, 1-absent. Motion carried.

Matt Greenway with FNIC reviewed the general insurance policy he put together for the Board.

- Stromberger moved to have the Executive Committee make a recommendation on the general insurance policy. Seconded by Turner.

Roll call vote: 10-yes, 1-absent. Motion carried.

NRCS REPORT:

Andy Keep gave the NRCS report. Andy reported on the state conservationist visiting the local NRCS office and thanked Nate for attending the meeting. Also, the NRCS staff is in the field completing highly erodible land and wetland conservation compliance reviews.

- Large moved to approve the NRCS report of planning activity dated June 4, 2024, to include the conservation plans as signed for Perkins County. Seconded by Swanson.

Roll call vote: 10-yes, 1-absent. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Stan Jones read the mission statement of Upper Republican NRD and told the Board he feels it is their obligation to uphold this statement. He discussed with the Board his concerns with the variance requests and the Board's responsibilities.

GROUNDWATER MANGEMENT/RULES AND REGULATIONS:

Nate gave an update on the request from Steve Krug that the water used from his irrigation well for a bale fire.

- Large moved to deny Steve Krug's request for an emergency allocation, Seconded by Brown.

Roll call vote: 10-yes, 1-absent. Motion carried.

VARIANCE COMMITTEE:

Brock Stromberger gave the Variance requests report.

#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. The Variance Committee did not make a recommendation for this Variance request.

- Large moved to deny the Variance request of Brian Prosser 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. Seconded by Lee.

Roll call vote: 9-yes, 1-no, 1-absent. Motion carried. Voting yes: Brown, Kunkel, Large, Lee, Martin, Stromberger, Stroup, Swanson and Turner. Voting no: Merrihew. Absent: Schroder.

#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.

Dean Large left at 10:55 am.

- Stromberger on behalf of the Variance Committees recommendation to approve the Variance request of Spuds & Suds and Blackshirt Feeders 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. And no loss in certified acres due to historical use.

Discussion.

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

REPORT OF DISTRICT APPLICATIONS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS:

- Stromberger moved to approve the report of District applications, contracts and agreements dated June 4, 2024, to include the well decommissioning applications. Seconded by Stroup.

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

LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT: None.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Jasper reported we will be transferring our health insurance from our current provider to Blue Cross Blue Shield.

ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT:

Nate reported on the telemetry meters that the technicians have installed all of the automated meters that they can. We currently are using six towers for the telemetry meters. We have maxed out the towers and are checking into renting more towers. One would be by Benkelman and another one by Elsie. Nate is working with BW Telcom and Viaero on using their towers.

- Brown moved to authorize staff to enter into leases of towers with these two companies.
Seconded by Merrihew.

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

INFORMATION & EDUCATION: None

LEGISLATION: None

STATE ASSOCIATION:

NARD Republican River Basin tour will be next week,

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: None.

Chairman Martin adjourned the meeting at 11:10 am.

Respectfully submitted.

CJ Swanson
Secretary/Treasurer

7-2-24
