

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 6, 2023 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: Dean Large, Jay Lee, Harry Merrihew, Terry Martin, Tom Schroder, Brock Stromberger, CJ Swanson, Tyler Turner.

Board Member Absent: Dave Brown, Jason Kunkel, Janice Stroup.

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

Others Present: Joel Burke (Legal Counsel) Andy Keep (NRCS) and Jacob VanDress.

Information emailed to Directors:

Agenda

Regular Board Meeting minutes April 4, 2023

Variance Information

Report of District applications, contracts, agreements

Information distributed at Board meeting:

Agenda

Regular Board Meeting minutes April 4, 2023

Financial reports

NRCS Report

Variance Information

Report of District applications, contracts, agreements

Nebraska CLASS

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

Introductions of Board Members, Staff and Public.

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

MINUTES:

- Large moved to approve the May 2, 2023 Regular Board Meeting minutes as presented.
Seconded by Merrihew.

Roll call vote: 6-yes, 3-absent, 2-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: 8-yes, 3-absent. Motion carried.

NRCS REPORT:

Andy Keep attending the meeting and introduced Jacob VanDress. Jacob is doing an internship for rangeland management specialist trainee at NRCS and is currently going to school at UNL. Matt Zvolanek will be taking over the resource conservationist position at Grant NRCS.

- Stromberger moved to approve the NRCS Report of Planning Activity dated June 6, 2023, to include the Conservation Plans as signed for Dundy and Perkins County. Seconded by Lee.

Roll call vote: 8-yes, 3-absent. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

GROUNDWATER MANGEMENT/RULES AND REGULATIONS: None

VARIANCE COMMITTEE:

Brock Stromberger reported on the Variance request for Hughes Land Company. They are asking to drill a new irrigation well on the NE 32-8-40 to water the pivot currently being irrigated by an irrigation well in SE 29-8-40. The well in SE 29-8-40, G-044946, will continue to water the pivot in SE 29-8-40 and will no longer irrigate the field in NE 32-8-40. The 257.5 certified acres currently associated with G-044946 will be split between the two wells. The request is also to transfer acres from the original well to the new well with no decrease in certified acres due to historical use. The well in SE 29-8-40 will have 126.6 certified acres and the well in NE 32-8-40 will have 130.9 certified acres. The reason for request is the well in SE 29-8-40 currently irrigates two pivots, one in SE 29-8-40 and the other in NE 32-8-40, a new irrigation well would allow him to better manage water use on both pivots. The 10 –year average use for the acres in NE 32-8-40 and SE 29-8-40 is 11.4 inches. The 10-year average use for the pool that the fields are part of, C-41 F1, is 12.1 inches. The SDF of the current well and location of the new well is 7.0%.

This request will be an agenda item for the July Regular Board meeting.

REPORT OF DISTRICT APPLICATIONS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS:

- Stromberger moved to approve the URNRD Report of District applications, contracts and agreements dated June 6, 2023, to include the NSWCP applications, pooling contracts and dissolve pool contract. Seconded by Lee.

Roll call vote: 8-yes, 3-absent. Motion carried.

LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT: None.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Jasper reviewed the draft resolution with Nebraska CLASS with the Board. This is another investment option which is similar to NPAIT and SFIT. They are based out of Omaha, and currently they are paying more than NPAIT and SFIT and it is another investment opportunity. Jasper recommends approving the Resolution with our information and we will still be able to move funds around. This will be an agenda item for the July Regular Meeting.

ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT:

Due to the rains, there was enough water in Harlan County Lake as of June 1st. The Kansas accounting has 68,000-acre feet or more of water. The Director of DNR sent a letter and updated Kansas and Colorado on the water situation and it would not be a water short year. There are still questions about the remaining 1800 feet of water and if it will have to be delivered this year.

INFORMATION & EDUCATION: None

LEGISLATION: None

STATE ASSOCIATION: None

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: None

Chairman Martin adjourned the meeting at 9:52 am.

Respectfully submitted.

CJ Swanson
Secretary/Treasurer

7-11-23


