

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 7, 2022 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, Dean Large, Jay Lee, Harry Merrihew, Terry Martin, Tom Schroder, Brock Stromberger, Janice Stroup, CJ Swanson and Tyler Turner.

Board Member Absent: Jason Kunkel.

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

Others Present: Andy Keep (NRCS), Brad Dixon, Larry Coppersmith and Derek Wilson.

Information emailed to Directors:

Agenda
Regular Board Meeting minutes May 3, 2022
Variance Information

Report of District applications, contracts,
and agreements

Information distributed at Board meeting:

Agenda
Regular Board Meeting minutes May 3, 2022
Financial reports
NRCS Report

Variance Applications
Report of District applications, contracts,
and agreements
NARD Resolutions

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.

Jason Kunkel is excused from the meeting today.

Introductions of Board Members, Staff and Public was done.

MINUTES:

- Large moved to approve the June 7, 2022, Regular Board meeting minutes as presented.
Seconded by Stromberger.

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

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Financial Report was presented to the Board.

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

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

NRCS REPORT:

Andy Keep with NRCS reported that they are almost done writing EQIP contracts for FY 2022. They had received over \$850,000 worth of EQIP funding this year for a total of twenty-nine contracts. Andy reviewed the Coronavirus Agricultural Relief Payments with the Board.

- Large moved to approve the NRCS Report of Planning Activity dated June 7, 2022, to include the Conservation Plans as signed for Chase and Perkins County. Seconded by Lee.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

GROUNDWATER MANGEMENT/RULES AND REGULATIONS: None.

VARIANCE COMMITTEE:

Brock Stromberger gave the Variance Committee report:

#1 Timothy John Wilson Revocable Trust is requesting a Variance to transfer acres. The well in NW ¼ 2-9-41 currently irrigates a full pivot of 130.3 certified acres and a wipe pivot of 128.9 certified acres in the N ½ 2-9-41. There are also two smaller pivots of 49.0 certified acres in the E ½ NE ¼ 2-9-41 that were irrigated by a well in the E ½ NE ¼ 2-9-41. The new landowners plan to drill a replacement well on the NE ¼ 2-9-41 and would like to transfer the 128.9 certified acres currently on the wiper pivot from the well in NW ¼ 2-9-41 to the new irrigation well with no reduction due to the historical use and will combine those acres with the 49.0 certified acres that will be associated with the replacement well. A new pivot of about 125 acres will be installed in the NE ¼ and the wiper pivot and the two small pivots in the E ½ of the NE ¼ 2-9-41 will be removed. The new well will have 177.9 certified acres. They are considering using a drip irrigation which would be more efficient and could us more of the allocated acres. This will be dependent on the cost of drip, and how good of a replacement well that they can get after drilling test holes. The request is also to keep all carryforward associated with the transferred acres (193.74 inches). They would like to be able to pool the new fields together. The Board reviewed this Variance request. This is the first reading of this request, and this will be on the agenda in July.

#2 Coppersmith Farms and Lazy AC LLC are requesting a Variance on pooling. The pool P-51 F1 is being split between Coppersmith Farms, which previously owned all fields in the pool, and Lazy AC LLC. The pool currently consists of five certified fields, with a total of 676.1 certified acres and one satellite pivot of about 68 acres. Going forward Coppersmith Farms will keep fields SE 1-11-35 and the NE 12-11-35 which will be pooled together. Lazy AC LLC will receive fields NE 3-11-35, SE 3-11-35 and SE 35-12-35, which waters the satellite pivot, to be pooled together. The two entities would like to split the carryforward based on percentage of actual acres being watered and not evenly across all certified acres, to allow the new pool with satellite acres to receive a larger amount of carryforward. The current pool has 54.83 inches of carryforward and with the split the new Coppersmith Farms pool would receive 4982 inches of carryforward and the new Lazy AC LLC fields would receive 58.05 inches of carryforward. They would also like to be able to form a new pool for the Lazy AC LLC fields without limiting the carryforward to 39 inches.

- Stromberger, on behalf of the Variance Committees recommendation moves to waive the 30-day waiting period for Coppersmith Farms and Lazy AC LLC.

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

- Stromberger on behalf of the Variance Committees recommendation moved to approve the request of Coppersmith Farms and Lazy AC LLC as presented.

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

REPORT OF DISTRICT APPLICATIONS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS: None

LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT: No report

REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN MEETING/COMPACT REPORT:

Jasper reported that they are trying to set a date in August for the annual Compact meeting in Burlington.

AUGMENTATION PROJECT:

Jasper reported that Rock Creek and NCORPE wells are not operating so both sites are doing maintenance only on the wells.

Todd is currently helping out with Dundy County chemigations due to John Lemon resignation. Dwain is also helping with Dundy County chemigations. Mike Nesbitt is working part-time and doing chemigations in Perkins County.

NARD RESOLUTIONS/PARTICIPATION AGREEMENTS:

Jasper reported that the NARD Risk Pool Committee has increased the rates for health insurance.

Jasper presented the Resolution for the NARD 414(h) and 457 retirement plans to the Board.

- Large moved to approve the Resolutions for the 414(h) and 457 NARD Retirement plans. Seconded by Stromberger.

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

ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT:

Nate presented the UNL TAPS donation request. We have donated \$1000 to the UNL Taps program in previous years.

- Brown moved to approve the UNL Taps donation request for \$1000. Seconded by Turner.

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

Nate reported that he was contacted by the State concerning Water Resources Cash Funds and funding they have available program that could be used on the telemetry project, but the funds will need to be spent by May 2023. Nate will continue discussions with them. We will also be applying for a Federal grant with the Bureau of Reclamation to help fund the project. We would not get funds until after the State funding is spent.

Nate discussed the Carbon Sequestration program with the Board. The program has a lot of interest this year and they are working on an initial survey. They will get back to us within the next couple of months and let us know if they want to move forward.

The NRD has been working with Game and Parks and SW Weed Management at Game and Parks Hatchery by our augmentation site. The trees are in the channel, some are dying, and culverts are plugging up. SW Weed management has agreed to pay \$25,000 for the tree removal project. The NRD will now need to work with Game and Parks on what trees and what area they would like cleaned up.

INFORMATION & EDUCATION: No report.

LEGISLATION: No report.

STATE ASSOCIATION: No report.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Terry discussed the phone scam and emails going to Board members and reminded Board not to respond.

Terry reported that the Dundy County Commissioners approved the feedlot application for Blackshirt Feeders with several stipulations.

Chairman Martin adjourned the meeting at 10:10 am.

Respectfully submitted.

CJ Swanson
Secretary/Treasurer


