

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
July 11, 2023 at 9:02 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, Harry Merrihew, Terry Martin, Tom Schroder, Brock Stromberger, Janice Stroup, CJ Swanson, Tyler Turner.

Board Member Absent: Jay Lee and Jason Kunkel.

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

Others Present: Andy Keep (NRCS).

Information emailed to Directors:

Agenda	Variance Information
Regular Board Meeting minutes June 6, 2023	Report of District applications, contracts, agreements

Information distributed at Board meeting:

Agenda	Variance Information
Regular Board Meeting minutes June 6, 2023	Report of District applications, contracts, agreements
Financial reports	Nebraska CLASS
NRCS Report	

Chairman Martin called the regular meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

Introductions of Board Members, Staff and Public.

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

MINUTES:

- Stromberger moved to approve the June 6, 2023, Regular Board Meeting minutes as presented.
Seconded by Turner

Roll call vote: 7-yes, 7-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 Brown.

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

Jasper met with the Budget Committee and discussed the FY 23-24 salary budget. The Consumer Price Index is at 4% right now. Jasper and the Budget Committees recommendation is a 4% cost of living adjustment and a 6% increase in the overall salary budget to set it at \$1,286,233 to allow for merit raises.

- Brown moved to approve the FY 23-24 salary budget at a 4% cost of living adjustment and a 6% increase in the overall salary budget to set it at \$1,286,233 to allow for merit raises. Seconded by Stromberger.

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

NRCS REPORT:

Andy Keep gave the NRCS report and he reported that NRCS staff are working on CRP contracts for the rest of the year as FSA figures who was approved for certain sign ups. They are still working on a few EQIP contracts and a few CSP contracts and also doing training sessions.

- Large moved to approve the NRCS Report of Planning Activity dated July 11, 2023, to include the Conservation Plans as signed for Chase, Dundy and Perkins County. Seconded by Merrihew.

Roll call vote: 9-yes, 2-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%.

- Stromberger on behalf of the Variance Committee's recommendation moved to approve drilling of 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 will continue to water the pivot in SE 29-8-40 and will no longer irrigate the field in NE 32-8-40. Due to historical use, there will be a reduction of 8 certified acres and the remaining acres (249.5) will be divided between the two wells. They will be allowed to pool field with the current pool.

Roll call vote: 7-yes, 2-no, 2-absent. Motion carried.

Voting yes: Large, Merrihew, Martin, Schroder, Stromberger, Swanson, Turner. Voting no: Brown and Stroup. Absent: Lee and Kunkel.

REPORT OF DISTRICT APPLICATIONS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS:

- Large moved to approve the URNRD Report of District applications, contracts and agreements dated July 11, 2023, to include the NSWCP applications and pooling contracts. Seconded by Brown.

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

LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT: None.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Jasper presented Resolution 071123-1 with Nebraska CLASS to the Board for approval.

- Merrihew moved to approve the Nebraska CLASS Resolution 071123-1 as presented and approved Jasper Fanning, Deb Hayes and CJ Swanson as authorized users. Seconded by Stroup.

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

ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT:

Nate reviewed the request for UNL Taps sponsorship for \$1000. The NRD has been a sponsor for the past several years.

- Brown moved to approve the request for sponsorship for the UNL-Taps program for \$1000. Seconded by Swanson.

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

Nate also reported that PCS is working on the AMI system and displaying water information to the irrigators. They are still working on a data transfer issue and how to display this information and also discussing doing some training in the office for irrigators to learn the system.

INFORMATION & EDUCATION: None

LEGISLATION: None

STATE ASSOCIATION: None


BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

NCORPE meeting is July 19th in Curtis with a tour of NCORPE to follow. Dean discussed that he may not be able to attend the meeting and Tom Schroder would be interested in attending the NCORPE meeting.

Chairman Martin adjourned the meeting at 9:30 am.

Respectfully submitted.

CJ Swanson
Secretary/Treasurer


8-29-23