



Perkins Chase and
Dundy Counties
Headquarters in Imperial

Upper Republican NATURAL RESOURCE DISTRICT

P.O. Box 1140
511 East 5th St.
Imperial, NE 69033
Phone 308-882-5173
308-882-5584
FAX 308-882-4521

Board of Directors Regular Meeting July 12, 2017 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, Brett Bullock, Tom Gaschler, Jason Kunkel, Dean Large, Terry Martin, Tom Schroder, Tom Terryberry and Jeff Wallin.

Board Members Absent: Loren Jessen.

NRD Staff: Jasper Fanning, Nate Jenkins, Bruce Curtis, Julia Franck and Deb Hayes.

NRD Legal Counsel: Absent

Others present: Brad Johnson, Russ Pankonin, Brandon Kuenning, Jerry Kuenning and Nick Fowler.

Information mailed to Directors:

Agenda	Report of District applications, contracts, agreements
Minutes of June 15, 2017 meeting	

Information distributed at Board meeting:

Agenda	NRCS report
Minutes of July 12, 2017 meeting	Variance information
Financial reports	Report of District applications, contracts, agreements
Draft Budget	City of Imperial letter

Chairman Martin called the meeting to order at 8:03 pm.

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

Loren Jessen is excused from tonight's meeting.

OPEN FORUMS:

Guests, Board members and NRD staff were introduced.

MINUTES:

- Terryberry moved to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2017 Regular Board meeting as presented. Seconded by Wallin.

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

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Manager presented the Financial Reports to the Board.

- Terryberry moved to pay the Accounts Payable and to accept the Treasurer’s Report. Seconded by Wallin.

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

BUDGET COMMITTEE:

Tom Gaschler reported that the Budget Committee met with Jasper and reviewed the draft budget. There are not many changes from last year’s budget.

Jasper reviewed the draft budget with the Board and discussed some of the NRD projects.

Brett Bullock left the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

NRCS REPORT:

The Board reviewed the written report that Andy Keep had sent for the meeting.

- Terryberry moved to approve the NRCS report dated July 12, 2017 to include the Conservation Plans for Chase, Dundy and Perkins County. Seconded by Wallin.

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

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT/RULES AND REGULATIONS: None.

VARIANCE COMMITTEE:

Jeff Wallin gave the Variance Committee report.

#1 George Seward is requesting a variance to transfer 35.7 certified acres from the SW ¼ 22-1-40 to the SE ¼ 23-3-42 (136.5 certified acres) and SW ¼ 23-3-42 (98.7 certified acres). There are 13 miles between SW 22-1-40 and the SE & SW 23-3-42. There will be no carryforward and no additional irrigated acres.

Wallin and the Variance Committee recommendation is to approve the Variance request for Allan Bush and George Seward to transfer 35.7 certified acres from the SW ¼ 22-1-40 to the SE ¼ 23-3-42 and SW ¼ 23-3-42. There will be no carryforward and no additional irrigated acres. This approval is contingent on the lien search being signed and completed.

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

#2 Brandon and Jerry Kuenning are requesting a Variance to transfer acres from the NE 25-9-40 to a satellite pivot in NW 9-9-40. The pool average is 12.348 which is the number that would be used to determine what can be moved on this transfer. There are 124.4 allocated acres in NE 25-9-40 which would make 118.16 acres available to transfer

This will be an agenda item for the August 1st Regular Board meeting.

REPORT OF DISTRICT APPLICATIONS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS:

- Large moved to approve the URNRD Report of applications, contracts and agreements dated July 12, 2017 to include the NSWCP applications and well decommissioning applications. Seconded by Gaschler.

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

LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT: No report.

REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN MEETING/COMPACT REPORT:

Jasper reported that the three compact states met in Manhattan last week and there was discussion with the Bureau of Reclamation and discussion by the State in working with the irrigation districts to make sure they are efficiently managing their water supply. There has been some analysis by the Department of Natural Resources that during the months of May and June 7000 acre feet of water had been released from Harlan County and they had caught some timely rains and 6950 acre feet of that 7000 had gone past the Guide Rock diversion and not been diverted into the canal. There was some discussion that the Franklin canal might have had a timely rain and so it looked like maybe there would not be irrigation so instead of leaving water in the canal over the weekend the staff released it into the river. Director Fassett was asking questions about this as well as Nebraska people, including if there was a better way to manage the water since Nebraska worked so hard to put an extra 20,000 acre feet in the reservoir. It sounds like Reclamation will be taking an active role in helping the irrigation districts take a proactive approach at managing the releases and making sure that water is being used. Last year KBID really didn't draw down their downstream reservoir so they took more water out of Harlan County, had they used downstream reservoir more for the lower end of the project it would have conserved more water in Harlan County.

AUGMENTATION PROJECTS:

Jasper reported that the SCADA system had issues. Jasper has visited with Pivot Electric about modifying the PLC's in those wells, reprogramming those so that they store data locally and backfill when communications are lost for a period of time and putting solar powered SCADA plc's and transmitters at the discharges to make the flowmeter reading part of that system. The quote Jasper received for this is \$90,000 so a decision will need to be made later for this.

There are also some issues with erosion below the outfall at the fish hatchery and Bruce and Julia have been working on a rock crossing structure to control the erosion. The culvert has failed again so they are trying to get something permanent there.

Jasper reported on the meeting with the NCORPE partners and the Middle Republican NRD and Twin Platte NRD managers discussed the allocations they are purposing to put on the NCORPE project. The Middle Republican is looking at a 12-inch allocation over a 10-year period for the project. Twin Platte NRD said they want to be consistent with Middle Republican NRD and decided a 12-inch allocation is probably what they would want to have as well for the project. The allocation would provide each partner with 4,000 acre feet that could be used for compact compliance over the 10-year allocation period.

ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT: No report.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION REPORT: No report.

LEGISLATION:

Jasper and Nate reported on Brenda Burman, who has held the position of Administrative Assistant and Deputy Commissioner for Bureau of Reclamation. She is applying for the position of Commissioner of Bureau of Reclamation.

- Gaschler moved to provide a letter of support for Brenda Burman. Seconded by Kunkel.

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

STATE ASSOCIATION: No report.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

- Terryberry moved to go into Executive session to protect the public interest and to discuss real estate strategy and transactions with the Board and Staff present. Seconded by Wallin.

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

The Board went into Executive session at 9:20 p.m.

- Terryberry moved to come out of Executive Session at 10:15 p.m. Seconded by Wallin.

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

Chairman Martin adjourned the meeting at 10:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Tom Terryberry
Secretary/Treasurer