

Upper Republican NATURAL RESOURCE DISTRICT

Board of Directors Regular Meeting July 15, 2016 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 and Deb Hayes.

NRD Legal Counsel: Joel Burke.

Others present: Andy Keep (NRCS), Brad Johnson, Doug Baney, George Seward and Dirk Dinnel.

Information mailed to Directors:

AgendaVariance request informationMinutes of June 16, 2016

Information distributed at Board meeting:

AgendaNRCS reportMinutes of June 16, 2016 Regular meetingVariance informationFinancial reportsVariance information

Chairman Martin called the meeting to order at 8:10 p.m. Chairman Martin announced that the Open Meetings Act is posted if anyone would like to review them.

Loren Jessen is excused from tonight's meeting.

OPEN FORUMS:

Guests, Board members and NRD staff were introduced.

MINUTES:

• Wallin moved to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2016 Regular Board meeting. <u>Seconded by Terryberry.</u>

Roll call vote: 8-yes, 1-abstain, 1-absent. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Manager presented the Financial Reports to the Board.

• Terryberry moved to approve the Treasurer's report and to pay the accounts payable. Seconded by Wallin.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

NRCS REPORT:

Andy Keep gave the NRCS report. Andy reported on the Plant material program and that there are 25 centers in ecologically distinct areas. The Manhattan, Kansas plant materials center serves the States of Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma. NRCS in Nebraska is looking for suggestions for their long range plant material program plan.

• <u>Large moved to approve the NRCS reported dated July 1, 2016 to include the</u> <u>Conservation plans as signed for Chase County. Seconded by Terryberry.</u>

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

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT/RULES AND REGULATIONS: None

VARIANCE COMMITTEE:

Jeff Wallin gave the Variance report.

Doug Baney has amended his variance request and is requesting a variance to transfer 115.7 acres from the NE 1/4 of Section 30-2-37, due to historical use reduction not SDF reduction with 112.2 of those acres to the NW and SW of Section 18-4-41 and 3.5 acres to the NE of Section 19-4-41. Mr. Baney is also requesting to waive the 30day waiting period.

• Jeff Wallin moved to waive the 30-day waiting period for Doug Baney. Seconded by Bullock.

Roll call vote: 8-yes, 1-no, 1-absent. Motion carried.

Voting yes: Kerry Bernhardt, Brett Bullock, Tom Gaschler, Jason Kunkel, Terry Martin, Tom Schroder, Tom Terryberry and Jeff Wallin. Voting no: Dean Large. Absent: Loren Jessen.

 Wallin moved to approve the amended variance request of Doug Baney to transfer 115.7 acres from the NE ¼ of Section 30-2-37, due to historical use reduction not SDF reduction with 112.2 of those acres to the NW and SW of Section 18-4-41 and 3.5 acres to the NE of Section 19-4-41.

Motion failed due to lack of a second.

Nina Oakley Trust has amended their variance request and is requesting to transfer 33.4 acres from the NW ¹/₄ of Section 32-4-37 to the NW ¹/₄ of Section 18-4-41 and to waive the 30-day waiting period.

• Wallin moved to waive the 30-day waiting period for Nina Oakley Trust. Seconded by Bullock.

Roll call vote: 8-yes, 1-no, 1-absent. Motion carried.

Voting yes: Kerry Bernhardt, Brett Bullock, Tom Gaschler, Jason Kunkel, Terry Martin, Tom Schroder, Tom Terryberry and Jeff Wallin. Voting no: Dean Large. Absent: Loren Jessen.

• Wallin moved to approve the amended variance request of Nina Oakley Trust to transfer 33.4 acres from the NW ¼ of Section 32-4-37 to the NW ¼ of Section 18-4-41.

Motion failed due to lack of second.

REPORT OF DISTRICT APPLICATIONS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS: None.

LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT: None.

REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN MEETING/COMPACT REPORT:

Jasper reported that the 3 states are still working together on crediting before the annual RRCA meeting that will be held in August.

AUGMENTATION PROJECTS: No report.

PERSONNEL: Jasper reported on the new staff that has and will be starting at the NRD. Bruce Curtis will start August 15th and will be the Assistant Manager, Todd Burrell will be changing positions and will be the Rock Creek technician, Cooper Bollman is the Chase County technician, Julia Franck is the Programs assistant, Becca Monteith will be doing water quality work, Dwain Curtis is part time and helping the technicians with chemigations, fm servicing and reading and Danielle Franck will be doing an internship with the NRD. Jasper discussed building offices in the mezzanine of the shop.

• Terryberry moved to contact the architect on offices in the mezzanine of the shop. Seconded by Gaschler.

Discussion.

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

BRUNING LAW OFFICE:

Jasper discussed the work that Bruning Law office is doing with the over appropriated NRD's and lobbying assistance in Lincoln on legislative issues. The NRD's are reviewing what Districts are still interested in being a member of this service. The cost could possibly go up depending on membership dropping. Jasper recommended to leave in Budget and see what other Districts do.

• <u>Terryberry moved to continue the membership in the Coalition group. Seconded by</u> <u>Bernhardt.</u>

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

ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT:

Nate reported that the NRD was approved for the federal grant for the water metering project which is a 300,000 grant and the NRD match is 400,000. Nate and Jasper reviewed the water sustainability grant that is due on July 31^{st} . The grant would be for 2.4 million with the NRD match would be 1.6 million with in kind donations. Other options available are possibly the interbasin transfer project at NCORPE or possibly establishing a water bank.

 Gaschler moved to direct management to continue working on grant project and to look at working with NCORPE on the Platte river transfer to NCORPE and to look at the District water bank and water metering. Seconded by Schroder.

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

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION REPORT: None.

LEGISLATION: None.

STATE ASSOCIATION:

Terry Martin reported that South Dakota is setting up NRD system and Dean Edson is working with them with this.

Terry discussed NET – Platte river time lapse video for educational purposes around the State and have asked the NRD's to help sponsor this. It would cost the NARD \$2000 and the cost for the NRD's will be \$1800 for the next 3 years.

• <u>Gaschler moved to support the NET time lapse video project. Seconded by Terryberry.</u> Roll call vote: 9-yes, 1-absent. Motion carried.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: None

Chairman Martin adjourned the meeting at 10:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Tom Terryberry Secretary/Treasurer