

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 5, 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: Jason Kunkel, Dean Large, Harry Merrihew, Terry Martin, Tom Schroder, Brock Stromberger, Janice Stroup, and Tyler Turner.

Board Member Absent: Dave Brown, Jay Lee, CJ Swanson.

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

Others Present: Joel Burke, Andy Keep (NRCS) and Derek Wilson.

Information emailed to Directors:

Agenda
Regular Board Meeting minutes June 7, 2022
Variance Information

Report of District applications, contracts,
and agreements

Information distributed at Board meeting:

Agenda
Regular Board Meeting minutes June 7, 2022
Financial reports – Draft budget
NRCS Report

Variance Applications
Report of District applications, contracts,
and agreements

Chairman Martin called the regular meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.
Chairman Martin announced that the Open Meetings Act was posted in the NRD Office.
Dave Brown, Jay Lee and CJ Swanson are excused from the meeting today.
Introductions of Board Members, Staff and Public was done.

Chairman Martin announced that there will be an Open House for Harry Merrihew on July 17th for his 90th Birthday at the Methodist Church in Imperial.

MINUTES:

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

Roll call vote: 7-yes, 1-abstain, 3-absent. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Financial Report was presented to the Board. Jasper presented the billing from Spangler Roofing for the amount of \$40550.61 and insurance will cover everything except \$5000

- Large moved to accept the Treasurer's report and pay the Accounts Payable to include the invoice from Spangler roofing. Seconded by Kunkel.

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

DRAFT BUDGET:

Jasper reviewed the draft FY 22-23 budget with the Board. The salary budget will need to be approved today and then discussion was held on possible additional funds for the Retirement acre program. There is a possibility that the NRD can get additional funding from the State Water Resources Cash funds that they have available. We currently have \$1.3 million available for telemetry.

Jasper reviewed the salary budget with the Board. Jasper reported that the latest CPI is 8.6% and that is what he uses for the cost-of-living adjustments. If we increase the Districts salary budget by 4.8% that will allow us to do the 8.6% cost of living adjustment for the current employees.

- Stromberger moved to approve the District salary budget by 4.8% to allow for the 8.6% cost of living adjustment. Seconded by Merrihew.

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

AUDIT:

Jasper presented the engagement letter from RJ Meyer & Associates for the FY 21-22 audit.

- Large moved to approve the engagement letter from RJ Meyer for the FY 21-22 audit not to exceed the amount of \$5075. Seconded by Stroup.

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

NRCS REPORT:

Andy Keep gave the NRCS report and explained the Program Flexibilities to support Food Prices and Availability.

- Large moved to approve the NRCS Report of Planning Activity dated July 5, 2022, to include the Conservation Plans as signed for Chase, Dundy and Perkins County. Seconded by Stromberger.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

GROUNDWATER MANGEMENT/RULES AND REGULATIONS:

On this request they are looking for a new water source on the SE ¼ of 34-9-39. This is land that was previously owned by Jack Bond and the two pivots in the N ½ of 34-9-39 were permanently decertified. They are requesting instead of drilling a replacement well they would like to use the

existing well, but it can no longer be used in the N ½ to water the NE ¼ of that section and pipe it from that well.

- Stroup moved to approve the Randall Bond request to transfer the point of withdrawal on the SE ¼ 34-9-39. Seconded by Kunkel.

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

VARIANCE COMMITTEE:

Brock Stromberger gave the Variance Committee report:

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 wiper 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 use 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.

- Stromberger on behalf of the Variance Committee recommends to approve the Variance request of Timothy John Wilson Revocable Trust as presented based on being on the same tract of land and eliminating a wiper pivot to improve the efficiency of irrigating by having one regular full-sized pivot that can go all the way around.
The approved request is to drill a replacement well on the NE ¼ 2-9-41 and 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 will keep all carryforward associated with the transferred acres (193.74 inches) and are able to pool the new fields together due to being in the same tract and eliminating a wiper pivot.

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

REPORT OF DISTRICT APPLICATIONS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS:

- Large moved to approve the URNRD Report of District applications, Contacts and Agreements dated July 5, 2022 to include the NSWCP applications. Seconded by Turner.

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

LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT: No report

REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN MEETING/COMPACT REPORT:

Jasper reported that the annual Basin meeting will be held in August.

AUGMENTATION PROJECT:

Augmentation wells are not running as Harlan is full.

Jasper reported that the NRD has hire Craig Eddie to fill John Lemon's position.

ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT:

Nate presented Resolution for the WaterSmart Grant for FY23 program. We will be applying for \$1.1 million and they require a resolution that Jasper and Nate have the authority to enter into an agreement.

- Turner moved to approve Resolution UR-2022-07 for the WaterSmart Grant. Seconded by Stromberger.

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

INFORMATION & EDUCATION: No report.

LEGISLATION: No report.

STATE ASSOCIATION: No report.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: No report

Chairman Martin adjourned the meeting at 9:47 am.

Respectfully submitted.

CJ Swanson
Secretary/Treasurer


8-2-22