



Perkins, Chase and
Dundy Counties
Headquarters in Imperial
www.urnrd.org

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
August 4, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.
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. The call-in information for the meeting was sent to area papers, radio stations and all others requesting agendas.

Board Members Present: Kerry Bernhardt, Dean Large, Janice Stroup, Terry Martin, Harry Merrihew, Brock Stromberger, Jason Kunkel, Tyler Turner and Tom Terryberry, Tom Schroder.

Board Members Absent: Jay Lee.

NRD Staff: Nate Jenkins, Bruce Curtis, Julia Strand and Deb Hayes.

Others Present:

Information mailed to Directors:

Agenda	Variance request information
Minutes of July 7th Regular Board Meeting	Report of District applications, contracts, agreements

Information distributed at Board meeting:

Agenda	Variance request information
Minutes of July 7th Regular Board Meeting	Report of District applications, contracts, and agreements
Financial reports	Retirement acres
NRCS report	

Chairman Martin called the meeting to order at 9:10 am.

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

Jay Lee is excused from this month's meeting.

MINUTES:

✚ Stromberger moved to approve the July 7, 2020 Regular Board meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Bernhardt.

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

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Financial Report was presented to the Board.

- ✚ Merrihew moved to accept the Treasurer's Report and pay the Accounts Payable as amended. Seconded by Stroup.

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

The Budget Committee will meet after we receive the County Valuations. The Budget Hearing will need to be held separately from the Regular Board meeting. Deb requested that the Regular Board meeting be moved to September 8th. The Board set the Board meeting on September 8th and the Budget Hearing will be held at 9:00 am and the Regular Board meeting will start at 9:30 or immediately following the Budget Hearing.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No comments.

NRCS REPORT:

Andy Keep sent a written NRCS report to the Board this month. Staff is currently writing EQIP contracts, CSP contracts and developing CRP plans. They are hoping to obligate \$600,000 worth of EQIP funds soon. CRP and Emergency Grazing has been authorized in Chase and Dundy Counties. There has been 297 acres approved in Chase County and 1180 acres in Dundy County.

- Terryberry moved to approve the NRCS Report of Planning Activity dated August 4, 2020 to include the Conservations Plans as signed for Chase and Perkins County. Seconded by Stromberger.

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

UPPER REPUBLICAN NRD RULES AND REGULATIONS: None

VARIANCE COMMITTEE:

1. Kerry Bernhardt reviewed the three Variance requests that are on the agenda.

George Seward and Brad Loker are requesting a Variance to transfer 116.0 certified acres from SW 21-2-39, 128.0 certified acres from NE 28-2-39, 132.0 certified acres from NW 28-2-39, 130.2 certified acres from SW 28-2-39, 158.6 certified acres from NW 34-2-39, and 130.0 certified acres from NE 33-2-39 to SE 14-4-41, SW 14-4-41, NE 15-4-41, SE 10-4-41, and SW 10-4-41 and drill 5 new irrigation wells to develop new irrigated ground. Each new pivot will receive 150.0 certified acres for a total of 750.00 certified acres. The remaining 44.8 certified acres will be transferred to the corners of SE 31-3-41 (30.8 certified acres) and NE 31-3-41 (14 certified acres) with the stipulation that no new acres will be irrigated. The wells on SW 21-2-39, NE 28-2-39, NW 28-2-39, SW 28-2-39, NW 34-2-39, and NE 33-2-39 will be decommissioned or converted to livestock wells. This transfer will take place after the certified acres come out of CREP in October 2020. The request is also to waive the 30-day waiting period.

The Board reviewed the Variance request and the information with it.

- ✚ Bernhardt on behalf of the Variance Committee recommendation moved to deny the request of George Seward and Brad Loker to waive the 30-day waiting period. Discussion.

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

This request will be on the agenda September 8, 2020 Regular Board meeting.

#2 George Seward is requesting a Variance to transfer 126.2 certified acres from NW 9-1-40 and 87.0 certified acres from NW 23-1-40 to the corners of NW 15-4-41 (21.51 certified acres), NW 24-4-42 (35.35 certified acres), and NE 31-3-41 (16.22 certified acres), NE 14-3-42 (13.8 certified acres), NW 14-3-42 (14.17 certified acres), SW 14-3-42 (6.62 certified acres), SE 2-3-42 (39.75 certified acres), SW 2-3-42 (21.75 certified acres), NW 11-3-42 (20.05 certified acres), and S2 11-3-42 (23.98 certified acres) for a total of 213.2 certified acres transferred with no reduction of certified acres due to historical use and no increase in acres irrigated. The certified acres transferrable off NW 9-1-40 based on historical use are 66.58 certified acres and the certified acres transferrable off NW 23-1-40 based on historical use are 32.38 certified acres. The wells on NW 9-1-40 and NW 23-1-40 will be decommissioned or converted to livestock wells. The transfer will take place after the certified acres come out of CREP in October 2020. The request is also to waive the 30-day waiting period.

The Board reviewed this Variance request and the information with it.

✚ Bernhardt on behalf of the Variance Committee recommendation moved to deny the request of George Seward to waive the 30-day waiting period.

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

This request will be on the agenda September 8, 2020 Regular Board meeting.

#3 George Seward is requesting a Variance to transfer 128.49 certified acres from NE 11-1-39 to NW 15-4-41 and drill a new irrigation well to develop new irrigated acres. The well on NE 11-1-39 will be decommissioned or converted to a livestock well. The transfer will take place after the certified acres come out of CREP in October 2020. The request is also to waive the 30-day waiting period.

The Board reviewed this Variance request and the information with it.

✚ Bernhardt on behalf of the Variance Committee recommendation moved to deny the request of George Seward to waive the 30-day waiting period.

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

This request will be on the agenda September 8, 2020 Regular Board meeting.

The Board has asked for additional information on all 3 Variance requests and that the neighboring landowners be sent information concerning these Variances.

REPORT OF DISTRICT APPLICATIONS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS:

➤ Terryberry moved to approve the Report of District Applications, Contracts and Agreements dated August 4, 2020 to include the NSWCP applications and the Corners for Wildlife applications. Seconded by Stromberger.

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

LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT: No report.

REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN MEETING AND COMPACT MEETING REPORT: No report.

AUGMENTATION PROJECTS:

Nate reported on Rock Creek and one of the augmentation wells the VFD drive is bad and will need fixed.

Terry Martin gave a report on the NCORPE meeting that was held in July.

ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT:

Nate reported on the Retirement Program and reviewed the information that is in the Board packets.

✚ Stromberger moved to accept the top 3 bids that are highlighted in green on the retirement acres information sheet. Seconded by Turner.

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

INFORMATION & EDUCATION: No report.

LEGISLATION: Back in session.

STATE ASSOCIATION:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: None

Chairman Martin adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m. The next Regular Board meeting will be Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 9:30 am or immediately following the Budget hearing.

Respectfully submitted

Tom Terryberry
Secretary/Treasurer