



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
FAX 308-882-4521

**Board of Directors Regular Meeting
September 10, 2019 at 9:00 a.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, Jason Kunkel, Dean Large, Jay Lee, Terry Martin, Harry Merrihew, Tom Schroder, Brock Stromberger, Janice Stroup, Tyler Turner and Tom Terryberry.

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

NRD Legal Counsel: Joel Burke.

Information mailed to Directors:

Agenda	Report of District contracts, agreements
Minutes of August 6 th Regular Board Meeting	and applications

Information distributed at Board meeting:

Agenda	NRCS report
Minutes of August 6 th Regular Board Meeting	Report of District contracts, agreements
Financial reports	and applications
FY 19-20 Budget	Retirement acres spreadsheet
Budget Resolutions	

Chairman Martin opened the FY 19-20 Budget and Levy Hearing at 9:08 am.

Nate reported to the Board that the Budget that was published in the papers was different from the draft budget discussed by the board in August. The occupation tax amount in the draft budget was \$10 and the amount in the version published was \$9 per acre. Joel Burke is the Hearing Examiner and presented the Exhibits for the hearing. Exhibit #1 was the FY 19-20 Budget and Exhibits 2 – 5 are the Publisher Affidavits from Benkelman Post, Imperial Republican, Grant Tribune and Wauneta Breeze.

Chairman Martin asked if there was anyone that wanted to testify for the Budget or Levy Hearing. There was no one and the Budget and Levy hearing will be kept open until later in the meeting.

Chairman Martin called the meeting to order at 9:08 am.

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

MINUTES:

- Terryberry moved to approve the August 6, 2019 Regular Board meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Bernhardt.

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

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Financial report was presented to the Board.

- Kunkel moved to accept the Treasurer's Report and pay the Accounts Payable. Seconded by Merrihew.

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

BUDGET:

Chairman Martin asked for any other testimony on the FY 19-20 FY Budget and Levy. Nate mentioned two other changes from the draft budget: Approximately \$125,000 less in property tax revenue than was anticipated in August because of a decrease in property valuations, and an additional \$15,220 in budgeted expenditures to finish construction of additional offices. There was no testimony. Chairman Martin closed the Budget and Levy hearing at 9:27 a.m.

- Bernhardt on behalf of the Budget Committee's recommendation moved to amend the FY 19-20 Budget to change the Occupation tax from \$9.00 to \$10.00 per irrigated acre.

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

- Bernhardt on behalf of the Budget Committee's recommendation moved to approve the FY 19-20 Budget as amended.

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

- Lee moved to adopt Resolution # UR-2019-09-10-01, the FY 2019-2020 Property Tax Request and Levy Resolution. Seconded by Bernhardt.

Roll call Vote; 10-yes, 1 absent. Motion carried.

- Bernhardt moved to adopt Resolution # UR-2019-09-10-02, the FY 2019-2020 Occupation Tax Resolution. Seconded by Stromberger.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: No comments.

NRCS REPORT:

Andy Keep gave the NRCS report and reviewed the Draft Memorandum of Agreement and the 1619 Acknowledgement between US Department of Agriculture, NRCS and URNRD.

- Terryberry moved to approve the NRCS Report of Planning Activity dated September 10, 2019 to include the Conservations Plans as signed for Chase, Dundy and Perkins County. Seconded by Lee.

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

UPPER REPUBLICAN NRD RULES AND REGULATIONS: None.

VARIANCE COMMITTEE: None.

REPORT OF DISTRICT APPLICATIONS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS:

- Terryberry moved to approve the URNRD Report of District Applications, Contracts, and Agreements dated September 10, 2019 to include the NSWCP applications and pooling contracts. Seconded by Stromberger.

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

LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT:

Joel discussed the resolution for timing between the Courts decision and the paying In Lieu of Taxes to Dundy County and does not feel that a resolution with the county is needed to ensure 2016 and 2017 payments to Dundy County are considered in-lieu of property tax payments to Dundy County for the Rock Creek project land. The Courts decision came in 2018 and the maximum amount of the tax that was owed or In Lieu of Taxes. The County Assessor does have the NRD as tax exempt.

Dean Large arrived at 9:45 a.m.

REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN MEETING AND COMPACT MEETING REPORT:

Nate reported that the State had given the NRD's a Compact accounting balance update.

AUGMENTATION PROJECTS:

Terry and Dean attended the NCORPE Board meeting last week.

Rock Creek has been busy with mowing and the grass is established pretty good.

The Natural Resources Committee will be holding an Interim study on September 19th to examine conditions under which the Board of Directors of NCORPE and the Rock Creek augmentation project may dispose of real property each owns related to their projects. This will start at 9:00 am CT and be held at the McCook Community College.

ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT:

Dean reported that the Groundwater Committee reviewed the irrigation retirement bids and took several things into consideration when ranking the bids. The Committee used the stream flow depletion factor and historical average use when calculating. Nate and the Board reviewed the spreadsheet for the Irrigation Retirement Program. Duane Dinnel addressed the Board with his concerns and the way the calculations were done.

- Large moved to accept bids number 1 through 14. Seconded by Bernhardt.

Roll call vote: 9-yes, 2-no. Motion carried. Voting yes: Bernhardt, Lee, Kunkel, Martin, Schroder, Terryberry, Stromberger, Merrihew and Turner. Voting no: Large and Stroup.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION REPORT: No report.

LEGISLATION: No report.

STATE ASSOCIATION:

NARD Annual Conference will be held September 23rd and 24th and the Board will need to elect a Voting Delegate.

- Bernhardt moved to elect Janice Stroup as voting delegate and Terry Martin as alternate voting delegate. Seconded by Stromberger.

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Deb asked about moving the October 1st meeting to October 8th so financial reports can be finished before the meeting. The Board was fine with this change.

Chairman Martin adjourned the meeting at 11:02 am. The next Regular Board meeting will be Tuesday, October 8, 2019 at 9:00 am.

Respectfully submitted

Tom Terryberry
Secretary/Treasurer