

# Upper Republican NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

P.O. Box 1140 511 East 5<sup>th</sup> St. Imperial, NE 69033 Phone 888-883-9066

### Board of Directors Regular Meeting November 2, 2021 at 9:00 am 511 East 5<sup>th</sup> 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:** Dave Brown, Jason Kunkel, Dean Large, Jay Lee, Harry Merrihew, Terry Martin, Brock Stromberger, Tom Schroder, Janice Stroup, CJ Swanson and Tyler Turner.

Board Members Absent: None.

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

Others Present: Andy Keep (NRCS), Dan Hughes.

Information emailed to Directors:

Agenda

Variance Information

Minutes of October 5th Regular Board Meeting

Information distributed at Board meeting:

Agenda

Minutes of October 5th Regular Board Meeting

Financial reports

NRCS report

Well Connection request information

Variance Information

Report of District applications, contracts,

and agreements

Chairman Martin called the regular meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

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

#### MINUTES:

♣ Stromberger moved to approve the October 5, 2021 Regular Board meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Turner.

Roll call vote: 7-yes, 2-absent, 2-abstain. Motion carried.

Dean Large arrived at 9:02 a.m.

#### 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.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.** 

#### NRCS REPORT:

Andy Keep gave the NRCS report and reported reviewed the Nebraska Great Plains Grassland Initiative and how NRCS have funding opportunities to help address the spread of woody vegetation on rangeland. Landowners interested in funding need to apply before November 19<sup>th</sup>.

Janice Stroup arrived at 9:12 am.

## GROUNDWATER MANGEMENT/RULES AND REGULATIONS: No report.

Dan Hughes is requesting to connect the wells G-054360 and G-023989 that are in 30-8-40. Well G-023989 irrigates a half section wiper pivot and connecting G-054360 to it will assist in irrigating the wiper pivot. All of Section 30-8-40 is certified as one large tract with 4 wells and 3 pivots.

Turner moved to approve the request of Dan Hughes to connect wells G-054360 and G-023989 in 30-8-40. Seconded by Kunkel.

Roll call vote: 11-yes. Motion carried.

#### **VARIANCE COMMITTEE:**

Brock Stromberger gave the Variance Committee report:

L & J Partnership (Joan Krutsinger-Partner/Manager) and Blackshirt Feeders LLP (Dr. Eric Behlke-Managing Partner) are requesting a transfer of 100% of the available certified acres (199.3) from the N ½ 10-1-38 to 15-4-38. The two wells G-030854 and G-034290 will be retired on the former property and one or two new wells will be drilled on the latter property to develop about 200 new irrigated acres. Consistent with other wells in the immediate vicinity, the capacity of the well on the former property has dwindled. The request is being made to transfer water rights from the current area to an area with productive farm ground with a greater potential for a more consistent water supply. The N ½ 10-138 currently has 277.2 certified acres, based on historical use 199.3 certified acres are transferable and the remaining 77.9 certified acres will be decertified. The SDF for N ½ 10-1-38 is 26.1% and the SDF in 15-4-38 is 10% and 13%. The transfer is 16.8 miles.

The Board discussed the request. This request will be an agenda item for the December 8<sup>th</sup> Board meeting for Board decision.

## REPORT OF DISTRICT APPLICATIONS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS:

Large moved to approve the Report of District applications, contracts and agreements to include the NSWCP application and the expedited transfer application. Seconded by Stroup.

Roll call vote: 11-yes. Motion carried.

LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT: No report.

#### **MANAGERS REPORT:**

Jasper reported that he has visited with a couple County Commissioners concerning information they received at a meeting they attended. They were asked to fight the federal 30 x 30 proposal and discussed transfers of certified acres. They were told that even though the NRD transfers acres that they should still tax the acres from where they are being transferred from. Jasper visited with DNR about this. When we file the notice of transfer for certified acres, we are also required to file a form 521. Jasper discussed with the Board handling transfers differently. The Groundwater Committee will meet to review these issues.

**AUGMENTATION PROJECT:** No report

ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT: No report.

**INFORMATION & EDUCATION:** No report.

LEGISLATION:

STATE ASSOCIATION:

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** 

Chairman Martin adjourned the meeting at 9:46 a.m.

The next Regular Board meeting will be Tuesday, December 7, 2021, at 9:00 am.

Respectfully submitted.

CJ Swanson Secretary/Treasurer

Za/C

				6
	÷			