

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
September 7, 2021 at 9:10 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: Dave Brown, Jason Kunkel, Dean Large, Jay Lee, Harry Merrihew, Terry Martin, Brock Stromberger, Janice Stroup, CJ Swanson and Tyler Turner.

Board Members Absent: Tom Schroder.

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

Others Present: Andy Keep (NRCS).

Information emailed to Directors:

Agenda

Variance Information

Minutes of August 3rd Regular Board Meeting

Information distributed at Board meeting:

Agenda

Minutes of August 3rd Regular Board Meeting

Variance Information

Financial reports

Final Integrated Management Plan

NRCS report

Final Monitoring/Studies Technical Memorandum


Report of District application, contract, agreement

Chairman Martin called the regular meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

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

Tom Schroder is excused from this month's meeting.


MINUTES:

-  Stromberger moved to approve the August 3, 2021, Regular Board meeting minutes as corrected. Seconded by Merrihew.

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

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

BUDGET:

The FY 21-22 Budget and Levy Hearing was held before the Board meeting. Jasper reviewed the FY 21-22 Budget and reviewed the new Property Tax resolution that was changed by State Statute and reviewed the Resolution for the Occupation tax.

🌈 Stroup moved to adopt the FY 21-22 Budget and the Resolution setting the Property Tax request, Resolution #2021-09-07-01. Seconded by Brown.

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

🌈 Stromberger moved to approve the FY 2021-2022 Occupation Tax Resolution, Resolution #2021-09-07-02. Seconded by Turner.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

NRCS REPORT:

Andy Keep gave the NRCS report and reported that he has worked with Jasper on the Unfunded Cooperative Agreement. He also discussed possible COVID regulations dealing with staff, visitors and contractors.

🌈 Lee moved to approve the NRCS Report of Planning Activity dated September 7, 2021, and to include the Conservations Plans as signed for Chase, Dundy and Perkins counties. Seconded by Turner.

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

GROUNDWATER MANGEMENT/RULES AND REGULATIONS:

Jasper discussed with the Board that the Variance Committee discussed reviewing transfers with low or no historical use and putting together a temporary plan to establish historical use. This would be something the Groundwater Committee could discuss, possibly using the last 5 years of historical use or other criteria.

VARIANCE COMMITTEE:

Brock Stromberger gave the Variance Committee report:

John Engbrecht currently waters three pivots with 181.2 certified acres in the E ½ 6-6-37. He would like to stop irrigating the track in SE 6-6-37 and transfer 36.7 certified acres of the 181.2 from SE 6-6-37 to the SW 31-7-3 with no reductions due to historical use of SDF increase.

There is also a pivot in SE 31-7-37 that has 200.0 certified acres with 179.0 certified acres enrolled in CREP and he would like to transfer the 21.0 certified acres not in CREP to SW 31-7-37 with no reduction due to historical use. With 57.7 certified acres he would like to develop a wiper pivot in SW 37-7-37 that will be irrigated by the well in SE 31-7-37. Mr. Engbrecht is also requesting to waive the 30-day waiting period.

Stromberger reported to the Board that the Variance Committee reviewed the information and the numbers. The Variance Committee's recommendation is not to waive the 30-day waiting period and present this request at the October Board meeting.

This Variance request will be an agenda item for the October 5, 2021, Regular Board meeting.

Jasper discussed a Variance request from 2018 with Delbert and Scott Bussell. They had requested to decommission a well on the NW ¼ 13-8-41 and to drill a new well on the NE ¼ 27-8-41. This Variance request was approved with stipulations attached to it and there was no timeline put on it. Jasper asked the Board how they would like to handle this due to having new Board members and drilling a new well. There have been no changes to Bussell's pooling contracts. The Board requested they come to the October 5, 2021, Regular Board meeting and discuss with the Board.

REPORT OF DISTRICT APPLICATIONS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS:

✚ Large moved to approve the Report of District applications, contracts, and agreements dated September 7, 2021, to include the pooling application. Seconded by Brown.
Roll call vote: 10-yes, 1-absent. Motion carried.

LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT:

Joel reported is still in the process of getting a judgement on the Dundy County property. Due to a judge retiring the courts must go through a judge in North Platte. Joel is also working on getting a title certificate to show ownership.

MANAGERS REPORT: Jasper attended the RRCA meeting in McCook and there was nothing new to report.

AUGMENTATION PROJECT: No report

ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT:

Jasper reported that the Order is being published for 3 weeks for the final Integrated Management Plan and the Monitoring & Studies Technical Memorandum for the URNRD, MRNRD, LRNRD IMPs.

INFORMATION & EDUCATION: No report.

LEGISLATION: No report.

STATE ASSOCIATION:

NARD Annual Conference will be held September 27th & 28th in Kearney.

✚ Turner moved to appoint Terry Martin as the voting delegate and Janice Stroup at alternate at NARD Annual Conference. Seconded by Kunkel.

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

Terry Martin is the recipient of the 2020 NRD Director of the Year award. Mr. Martin will be receiving his award during NARD Conference luncheon.

The late W. Eugene Haarberg is the recipient of the 2020 Hall of Fame (Board Member) award. Mr. Haarberg's wife and family will be attending the NARD Banquet to receive this award.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:


Jasper discussed an issue they are finding with the telemetry meters. Cooper has identified the issue and the technicians will be continuing to check the meters.

Chairman Martin adjourned the meeting at 10:14 a.m.

The next Regular Board meeting will be Tuesday, October 5, 2021, at 9:00 am.

Respectfully submitted.

CJ Swanson
Secretary/Treasurer

 10/5/21