

**LOWER NIOBRARA NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 6, 2020**

Chairman Baumeister called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the Butte Community Center located in Butte, Nebraska. An agenda of the minutes to be considered at such time, date, and place was kept continually current and was available for public inspection during normal business hours at the District Office in Butte. Chairman Baumeister called attention to the Open Meeting Law poster and stated notices of the meeting were also published in newspapers of general circulation throughout the District.

**APPROVAL OF JUNE 1, 2020 MEETING MINUTES**

Motion by Engelhaupt and second by Higgins to approve the June 1, 2020 meeting minutes as circulated to Directors. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Naprstek, Uhlir, Wendt, Baumeister, Connell, Engelhaupt, Higgins, Holtgrew, Janzing, Kaczor, Klawitter) Abstain: (Liewer) Absent: (Hoffman, Marcellus, Morrow, Pavlik, Randa). MOTION CARRIED.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

Manager Julesgard's report was mailed for Directors to review. Information on the Farm Journal/NRCS America's Conservation Ag Movement 2-year Plan for the Bazile GWMA was provided to the Directors. The Bazile GWMA Meeting Minutes, Coordinator & Extension Educator Reports were mailed. Copies of the power point presentation from the NRCS Technical Committee Meeting were available for whoever would like a copy. The Bazile GWMA now has their own Face Book page.

**WATER RESOURCES COORDINATOR REPORT**

Wade's report was mailed prior to the meeting. He mentioned he really pushed last week to get water samples to devote more time to irrigated acre applications when they come in. Approximately 50% of the water samples have been taken. There have been 12 individuals expressing interest in the irrigated acres, but so far, no applications have been received. He passed a copy of the information sheets he developed for the new irrigated acres and for the circle completion acres for Directors to review. (Morrow entered 7:08 P.M.)

**PROGRAMS ASSISTANT REPORT**

(Randa & Pavlik entered 7:10 P.M.) Connie's report was also mailed prior to the meeting. Connie mentioned she has worked on the Face Book page and has been adding information at least weekly. So far there are 158 followers. Husker Harvest Days have been cancelled. Work will be progressing on the SINREC Demonstration Project in Valentine.

**ASSOCIATION REPORT**

Liewer informed the Directors the meeting was held via Zoom. The Budget was approved along with the group insurance increase. Most of the discussion revolved around the riot causing damage to the office. The NARD is working with their insurance company since the damage occurred from water & smoke was a result of the riots. There is an insurance exclusion for riots. Manager Julesgard mentioned the NARD is looking outside the current parameter for locating new office space.

**AGENCY REPORTS**

NRCS—Jim Mathine mailed his report to the Directors. Jim informed the Directors the EQIP allocation received for their office has already been obligated and he has requested additional funds. He discussed and explained Wetlands with the Directors. He called attention to the personnel changes in the O'Neill, Spencer & Ainsworth Offices listed on his report.

Niobrara Council—A copy of the minutes were in the packets. Connell reported the Governor's appointment on the Council still has not been made. The NPS gave a river count at Smith Falls and discussed the Sparks road & the hog project in Brown County. He mentioned the NGPC discussion of elk tags and burrowing owl & quail survey. LB855 was discussed, but no action was taken.

NE RC&D—Pavlik reported there was no meeting in April or May and he did not receive information for the June meeting.

NC RC&D—Connell reported the June 10<sup>th</sup> meeting was held via conference call. The Electronics Collection has been rescheduled. Bids were sent out for the tire recycling grant application for tire collections in 2021. Valentine is working on a grant for composting. The next meeting is July 8<sup>th</sup>.

Friends of the Missouri—Manger Julesgard reported no meeting has been held. Also he mentioned the membership dues are down and they are working on how to improve and maintain their membership.

Missouri Sedimentation Action Coalition—Manager Julesgard reported no further information has been received.

#### **NSWCP ACTIVITIES**

A copy of the NSWCP Report was available on the reverse side of the agenda. Vivian reviewed the application, extension & the amendment request for additional funding. Motion by Holtgrew and second by Pavlik to approve the Application for Jerome Dopheide Trust-dam-\$7,000.00 and the Extensions for Shaun Higgins-2 & Redbird Valley LLC and the Amendment for Hagberg Feedlot for an additional \$265.50. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Liewer, Morrow, Naprstek, Pavlik, Randa, Uhlir, Wendt, Baumeister, Connell, Engelhaupt, Holtgrew, Janzing, Kaczor, Klawitter) Abstain: (Higgins) Absent: (Hoffman, Marcellus). MOTION CARRIED.

Manager Julesgard mentioned he and Jim Mathine discussed the possibility of raising the yearly limitations set previously on NSWCP planned grazing systems and cooperator yearly limitation. Jim Mathine mentioned that cooperators are not utilizing these funds but waiting for EQIP due to the dollar limitations. The District Operations Committee will meet with Jim on the 16<sup>th</sup> of this month at the office to review this. Vivian will send reminder notices

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

A copy of the Treasurer's Report was available in the packets. Motion by Higgins and second by Uhlir to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Liewer, Morrow, Naprstek, Pavlik, Randa, Uhlir, Wendt, Baumeister, Connell, Engelhaupt, Higgins, Holtgrew, Janzing, Kaczor, Klawitter) Absent: (Hoffman, Marcellus). MOTION CARRIED. (A copy of the Treasurer's Report is attached to the official copy of the minutes).

#### **SPENCER HYDRO FACILITY**

A copy of the map of the area the Parks Service has agreed to was made available to the Directors. Video Conferences among the agencies have been held. There is another meeting planned possibly for the end of this week to review the flows so awaiting the outcome of that meeting before any further action can be taken. The Transfer Application basically has been put together, but the hold up is not being able to meet face to face because of the COVID 19 regulations. Terry mentioned the application will look a lot like the instream flow application. Things have been allowed to progress due to some personnel retiring at the Park Service.

#### **OPEN COMMENTS**

#### **EXCUSE ABSENT DIRECTORS**

Marcellus informed Terry he is doing well after his transplant but is very susceptible to anything. Hoffman was in this morning and signed the checks and indicated she is leery of being in a crowd of people.

Chairman Baumeister declared the meeting adjourned at 7:57 P.M.

Due to the COVID 19 spacing regulations the next meeting will also be held at the Butte Community Center at 7:00 P.M. on August 3, 2020.

**MEETING ATTENDEES**

**Directors:** Larry Baumeister, Karl Connell, Jack Engelhaupt, Tom Higgins, Don Holtgrew, John Janzing, Brian Kaczor, Randy Klawitter, Marvin Liewer, Curt Morrow, Ray Naprstek, Kent Pavlik, Kevin Randa, Jeff Uhlir, Diana Wendt

**Staff:** Terry Julesgard, Vivian Frasch, Wade Ellwanger, Connie McCarthy

**Visitors:** Jim Mathine

I, the undersigned Secretary of the Lower Niobrara Natural Resources District hereby certify the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the proceedings had and done by the Board of Directors on July 6, 2020. That all subjects included in the foregoing proceedings were contained in the agenda for at least twenty-four hours prior to the meeting. The minutes of the Chairman and Board of Directors were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting of said body. All news media requesting notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting were notified.

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Brian Kaczor, Secretary