

**LOWER NIOBRARA NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 1, 2020**

Manager Julesgard encouraged the Directors when making a motion and seconding a motion to please state their name. He also indicated the agenda items needing approval will be handled first and if time allows the additional agenda items would be discussed.

Chairman Baumeister called the meeting to order at 1:01 P.M. in the Lower Niobrara NRD Office located in Butte, Nebraska. Due to the COVID-19 virus outbreak, the meeting was conducted via teleconference as provided for by the executive order issued by Governor Ricketts 20-03, issued on March 17, 2020. Members of the public were not allowed into the Board meeting room. This measure was being taken to protect the health and welfare of all Nebraskans. Details for public monitoring and participation in the Board meeting via teleconference could be found at the NRD's website: lnnrd.org or by calling: (402) 775-2343 for instructions prior to the meeting. 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. Individuals with disabilities were encouraged to request additional auxiliary aids and service necessary for participation, by contacting the Lower Niobrara NRD at the phone number listed above prior to the meeting. Chairman Baumeister called attention to the Open Meeting Law poster on the wall in the meeting room and stated notices of the meeting were also published in newspapers of general circulation throughout the District. (Hoffman entered at 1:02 P.M.)

APPROVAL OF MAY 4, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Engelhaupt and second by Liewer to approve the May 4, 2020 meeting minutes as circulated to Directors. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Klawitter, Liewer, Naprstek, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Engelhaupt, Higgins, Hoffman, Janzing, Kaczor) Absent: (Holtgrew, Marcellus, Morrow, Pavlik, Uhlir, Wendt). MOTION CARRIED. (Holtgrew entered at 1:13 P.M.)

NSWCP ACTIVITIES

A copy of the NSWCP Report was available on the reverse side of the agenda. Vivian indicated an application was received for Hagberg Feedlot LLC that needs to be considered for approval. Motion by Liewer and second by Naprstek to approve the application for Hagberg Feedlot LLC for a standard fence in the amount of \$3,717.00 and the cancellation for Eugene Holmberg. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Klawitter, Liewer, Naprstek, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Engelhaupt, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Janzing, Kaczor) Absent: (Marcellus, Morrow, Pavlik, Uhlir, Wendt). MOTION CARRIED.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Vivian indicated there were several bills received after the Report was mailed that need to be paid due to this month being the end of the fiscal year. (Uhlir entered at 1:17 P.M.) Additions to the NRD Report are: NARD-trees-\$11,514.89; Verizon-cell phone bill-\$216.57; Verdigre Eagle-\$16.83, Springview Herald-\$15.47 & Rock County Leader-\$11.64-meeting notices; Simple Solutions-\$11.90-AVG Antivirus; NPPD-electricity-\$124.88; Bob Belik-\$2,200.00, Brush Creek Ranch-\$3,480.00 & Hartland Farms-\$6,910.00 for Corners for Wildlife Payments. Additions to the Water Quality Report are: Verdigre Eagle-\$88.00, Rock County Leader-\$78.40 & Springview Herald-\$68.60 for chemigation ads; Simple Solutions-\$119.90-AVG Antivirus & website host; Reiman Welding-\$76.00-service Chevy pickup; QUILL-\$36.98-printer post cards. Motion by Higgins and second by Holtgrew to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented with the above listed additions. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Klawitter, Liewer, Naprstek, Randa, Uhlir, Baumeister, Connell, Engelhaupt, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Janzing, Kaczor) Absent: (Marcellus, Morrow, Pavlik, Wendt). MOTION CARRIED. (A copy of the Treasurer's Report is attached to the official copy of the minutes).

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – SALARY REVIEW

The Personnel Committee met and recommendations were in the minutes mailed out in the Directors packets. Motion by Engelhaupt and second by Higgins to approve the Committee recommendations of no salary increases as stated in the Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes (copy attached to official minutes). Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Klawitter, Liewer, Naprstek, Randa, Uhlir, Baumeister, Connell, Engelhaupt, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Janzing, Kaczor) Absent: (Marcellus, Morrow, Pavlik, Wendt). MOTION CARRIED.

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – YEARLY REVIEW TO ALLOW/NOT ALLOW ADDITIONAL IRRIGATED ACRES

A copy of the Committee Meeting Minutes was also mailed for Directors to review. Committee Chairman Holtgrew

informed the Board the Committee recommends allowing up to 1,000 new irrigated acres, but they must meet the guidelines already established. He indicated most of the discussion at the meeting revolved around how many acres would be applied for. The committee felt the only way to find out is to accept applications. Higgins stated he does not think we know if there would be enough water for a long period of time and will we regret allowing additional acres in the future. Manager Julesgard indicated past years availability of water was taken into consideration when making this recommendation. Acres allowed will be based on areas for good irrigation. Since only 40 acres of the 500 acres for completion of a system were used. The Committee recommends accepting applications for those type of acres until the 500-acre limit set has been reached. Kaczor mentioned by opening for acres we will see how many and if any acres want to be added. Engelhaupt indicated he felt this was a strange way to find out how many acres want to be irrigated by offering 1000 acres. Motion by Holtgrew and second by Kaczor to accept applications for new irrigated acres in the entire District during the months of July and August, of those applications only the top ranking 1,000 acres meeting the ranking criteria will be approved. The Committee also recommends accepting applications for completion of circles until the 500 acres are reached. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Klawitter, Liewer, Naprstek, Randa, Uhlir, Baumeister, Connell, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Janzing, Kaczor) Nay: (Engelhaupt, Higgins) Absent: (Marcellus, Morrow, Pavlik, Wendt). MOTION CARRIED.

SET FEE FOR NEW IRRIGATED ACRE APPLICATIONS

Manager Julesgard stated the non-refundable fee set when the 2500 acres were accepted was:

Under 60 Acres-\$500.00 Over 60 acres-\$1,000.00

Motion by Uhlir and second by Holtgrew the application fee for the 1,000 new irrigated acres be set at: under 60 acres -\$500.00 and over 60 acres-\$1,000.00. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Klawitter, Liewer, Randa, Uhlir, Baumeister, Connell, Engelhaupt, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Janzing, Kaczor) Nay: (Higgins, Naprstek) Absent: (Marcellus, Morrow, Pavlik, Wendt). MOTION CARRIED.

DANA F COLE AND CO LLP AUDIT 2019-2020

The audit confirmation letter for auditing the NRD & WKRWS books for fiscal year 2019-2020 was received. Vivian informed the Directors of the audit fee charged last year and the fee for fiscal year 2019-2020. Question was raised as to why the increase. Response was more regulations they probably need to abide by when completing audits. Motion by Higgins and second by Hoffman & Naprstek to authorize Dana F Cole and Co LLP to perform the LNNRD & WKRWS Audits for fiscal year 2019-2020. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Klawitter, Liewer, Naprstek, Randa, Uhlir, Baumeister, Connell, Engelhaupt, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Kaczor) Abstain: (Janzing) Absent: (Marcellus, Morrow, Pavlik, Wendt). MOTION CARRIED.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Julesgard's report was mailed for Directors to review. He informed the Directors due to the riots in Lincoln this past weekend the NARD Office incurred smoke and water damage. Currently they are looking for temporary office space. They have been in contact with the building owner and he does not intend to repair, but to tear down and rebuild similar to the building across the street. Attorney Blankenau's office also received damage. Liewer gave favorable comments on the Video Conference held on May 6th with the Farm Journal and NRCS on improving water quality. He indicated more publicity on what the NRD's are doing regarding water quality is needed.

WATER RESOURCES COORDINATOR REPORT

Wade's report was mailed prior to the meeting. A copy of information provided at the Groundwater Management Committee Meeting was mailed to Directors. Wade indicated this spring's water levels are the highest ever recorded. He reported on transducer data. He indicated he is getting ready to begin water sampling.

PROGRAMS ASSISTANT REPORT

Connie's report was also mailed prior to the meeting. Connie mentioned she assisted with putting the Bazile GWMA signs on the demonstration plots. She reported on the FSA County Board Meeting she participated in. Liewer mentioned since the NRD pays a lot of money to the NARD he would like to see them provide more public information and more nitrate articles.

ASSOCIATION REPORT

Liewer informed the Directors the insurance rates will increase due to several large claims submitted this past year.

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS—Jim Mathine mailed his report to the Directors. He was present for the Go-To Meeting but was having problems with his computer speaker.

Niobrara Council—Higgins reported there was a conference call. The river has opened with the new Coronavirus regulations in affect. The visitors center is open. No appointment has been made on the Council yet by the Governor.

NE RC&D—Pavlik was not participating in the Go-To Meeting.

NC RC&D—Connell indicated he did not participate in the meeting.

Friends of the Missouri—A copy of the minutes was included in the packet mailed to Directors.

Missouri Sedimentation Action Coalition—no further action has taken place.

SPENCER HYDRO FACILITY

A couple of conference calls were held last week. Jesse Bradley is continuing to work with the NPS and Fish & Wildlife. A map of the area with quantifications should be coming mid-month. Work also continued with NPPD & Game & Parks to get things finalized. Hopes are this week to get the application filed with the state. Final completion is hoped for in the next couple of months. Jesse Bradley is anxious to get things completed as are the NRDs while he is in this temporary position. The Director's position has been advertised.

OPEN COMMENTS

Uhlir questioned how the letter sent by Bob Pruden to the Directors was handled. Wade indicated he contacted Bob for an inspection, and he said he was not ready for one anyway and commented on himself for writing the letter.

Comment was made on the house fire Uhlir experienced recently.

EXCUSE ABSENT DIRECTORS

Marcellus informed the office he had a Dr. Appointment. Nothing was heard from Morrow, Pavlik or Wendt.

Directors thanked the office for setting up the meeting today. They felt it went well as had the others.

The next meeting will be held July 6th at the Butte Community Center at 7:00 P.M. due to the 25 person/6-foot spacing coronavirus regulations.

Chairman Baumeister declared the meeting adjourned at 1:59 P.M.

PARTICIPATION IN THE GO-TO MEETING

Directors: Larry Baumeister (office), Karl Connell (office), Jack Engelhaupt, Tom Higgins, Linda Hoffman (office) Don Holtgrew (office), John Janzing, Brian Kaczor, Randy Klawitter, Marvin Liewer, Ray Naprstek, Kevin Randa, Jeff Uhlir

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

Visitors: Jim Mathine, Brad Mahon

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 June 1, 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.

Brian Kaczor, Secretary