

**LOWER NIOBRARA NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 2, 2020**

Chairman Baumeister called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M. in the Lower Niobrara NRD Office located in Butte, Nebraska. He called attention to the Open Meeting Law poster on the wall in the meeting room and stated notices of the meeting were published in newspapers of general circulation throughout the District.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 3, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Uhlir and second by Klawitter to approve the February 3, 2020 meeting minutes as circulated to Directors. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Janzing, Klawitter, Morrow, Randa, Uhlir, Baumeister, Connell, Engelhaupt, Hoffman) Absent: (Higgins, Kaczor, Liewer, Marcellus, Naprstek, Pavlik, Wendt) Abstain: (Holtgrew). MOTION CARRIED. (Kaczor & Naprstek entered at 1:02 P.M.)

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Julesgard's report was mailed for Directors to review. (Wendt entered at 1:03 P.M.) Manager Julesgard mentioned the Nitrate Strategy Meeting Summary that was mailed. He attended the meeting regarding the Source Water Protection Grants with Creighton and Plainview in the Bazile Area. He drew attention to the copies of the Irrigation Leader Magazine available if Directors would like a copy of the article on the Bazile GWMA Area. (Marcellus entered at 1:08 P.M.)

WATER RESOURCES COORDINATOR REPORT

Wade's report was mailed prior to the meeting. He and Larry Kocian are attending the Water Programs Conference in Kearney today. A copy of the Cease & Desist Letters developed by Attorney Blankenau regarding non-compliance to the Phase II Crop Reporting Form and the Flow Meter requirements were available in the packets. Both letters have been used by other Districts and will be sent via Certified Mail to those cooperators not complying. Wendt questioned if there is any fee assessed to those individuals for the extra expenses incurred by their non-compliance. At this time there isn't anything written in the Plan. Checking will be done to see if that could possibly be added. Motion by Holtgrew and second by Engelhaupt to send the respective Cease & Desist Letters to those cooperators who have not submitted their Phase II Crop Reporting Forms or Flow Meter Reports. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Holtgrew, Janzing, Kaczor, Klawitter, Marcellus, Morrow, Naprstek, Randa, Uhlir, Wendt, Baumeister, Engelhaupt, Hoffman) Abstain: (Connell) Absent: (Higgins, Liewer, Pavlik). MOTION CARRIED.

PROGRAMS ASSISTANT

Connie's report was also mailed prior to the meeting. She mentioned if anyone is willing to assist with the Envirothon she can help them sign up for whichever day and how they would like to assist. She informed the Directors of the water meetings on March 10th, 17th & 19th. She has contacted the schools for classroom visitations. The grant for the Water Training Project at Middle Niobrara NRD has been approved.

ASSOCIATION REPORT

Manger Julesgard mentioned full day sessions on the bills that have been heard will begin tomorrow.

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS—Jim Mathine mailed his report to the Directors. Jim reported the CRP signup period ended on Friday. Rates for Boyd County are disappointing. March 12th there will be a Local Work Group meeting here at the NRD Office at 10:00 A.M. EQIP signup begins March 13th. There will be a lot of field work ahead of NRCS employees this spring. Jim also mentioned they are in the process of learning their new Conservation Desk Top Program.

Niobrara Council—Connell reported there hasn't been a meeting.

NE RC&D—Minutes were mailed.

NC RC&D—Connell mentioned the paper shredding along Highway 12 was held. They are planning on an Electronic Recycling collection next month and a Tire Recycling collection in September. Middle Niobrara NRD has agreed to work with the RC&D to find a site for the Tire Recycling collection.

Friends of the Missouri—Manager Julesgard reported no meeting has been held, but possibly one will be scheduled in the next couple of weeks.

Missouri Sedimentation Action Coalition—Manager Julesgard reported no meeting has been held.

CONNER BALDWIN REPORT ON GWMA

A copy of Conner's January Report along with Jeremy Milander's January Report and the Minutes of the February 4th Bazile GWMA Meeting were mailed to Directors. Conner reported he has been working on paying producers their cost share and meeting with them to sign up for EQIP. The Cover Crop Workshop held in Norfolk was well attended with 145 attendees. He has participated in the zoom meetings for the Communication Group which is trying to get Community involvement in reducing nitrates. There was a producer meeting in Creighton with 12 attending with another being planned in March. An application was submitted for the Bazile GWMA to become a member to the Groundwater Guardian Program. Two graduate students will be hired using the NET Grant. Plans are to hire a couple of students to help with summer field work.

NSWCP ACTIVITIES

A copy of the NSWCP Report was available. Motion by Marcellus and second by Engelhaupt to approve the following **Applications**: Trent Schaaf-trees, mulch-\$3,708.60; Brandon Peterson-trees, mulch-\$399.28; Mike Parks-trees, mulch-\$1,209.01; Debra Stevens-trees, mulch-\$1,207.50; DD Linse-trees, mulch-\$1,494.35; Trent Arens-trees, mulch-\$1,278.00; Kenneth Boettcher-pipeline-\$2,940.00; Karen Havranek-seeding-\$1,885.38; Jerome Fuchtmann-fence-\$2,345.25; Kirsten Wettlaufer-trees, mulch-\$2,224.67 and the **Amendment Reduction** for Karen Havranek in the amount of \$1,600.85. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Holtgrew, Janzing, Kaczor, Klawitter, Marcellus, Morrow, Naprstek, Randa, Uhlir, Wendt, Baumeister, Connell, Engelhaupt, Hoffman) Absent: (Higgins, Liewer, Pavlik). MOTION CARRIED.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Hoffman reviewed the expenditures prior to the meeting. Motion by Naprstek and second by Uhlir to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented excluding approval of Directors Expense Voucher payments, but approve the additions to the NRD Report of: Butte Gazette-\$5.00 and Springview Herald-\$3.35 for meeting notices and the addition of Grafted Tree & Engraving-\$96.00 for LNNRD decals on the 2020 Pickup to the Water Quality Report. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Holtgrew, Janzing, Kaczor, Klawitter, Marcellus, Morrow, Naprstek, Randa, Uhlir, Wendt, Baumeister, Connell, Engelhaupt, Hoffman) Absent: (Higgins, Liewer, Pavlik). MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Naprstek and second by Morrow to approve payment of Director Expense Vouchers for Baumeister, Engelhaupt and Hoffman as listed on the Treasurer's Report. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Holtgrew, Janzing, Kaczor, Klawitter, Marcellus, Morrow, Naprstek, Randa, Uhlir, Wendt) Nay: (Connell) Abstain: (Baumeister, Engelhaupt, Hoffman) Absent: (Higgins, Liewer, Pavlik). MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Naprstek and second by Hoffman to approve payment of Director Expense Vouchers for Janzing, Kaczor, Klawitter, Marcellus and Morrow as listed on the Treasurer's Report. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Holtgrew, Naprstek, Pavlik, Randa, Uhlir, Wendt, Baumeister, Engelhaupt, Hoffman) Abstain: (Janzing, Kaczor, Klawitter, Marcellus, Morrow) Nay: (Connell) Absent: (Higgins, Liewer, Pavlik). MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Klawitter and second by Kaczor to approve payment of Director Expense Vouchers for Naprstek, Pavlik, Randa, Uhlir and Wendt as listed on the Treasurer's Report. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Holtgrew, Janzing, Kaczor, Klawitter, Marcellus, Morrow, Baumeister, Engelhaupt, Hoffman) Abstain: (Naprstek, Randa, Uhlir, Wendt) Nay: (Connell) Absent: (Higgins, Liewer, Pavlik). MOTION CARRIED.

SPENCER HYDRO FACILITY

Manager Julesgard informed the Directors that Jeff Fassett has retired as the Director of the DNR. Jesse Bradley has been appointed as the Interim Director. A copy of information regarding the water rights was in the packets along with a copy of Elements of Long-Term State/Federal Agreement to Resolve Federal Reserved Water Right Issues. The only issue with an Interim Director is he cannot sign anything unless he is directed by the Governor. Tomorrow will meet to discuss getting the application submitted to DNR for the Water Rights.

OPEN COMMENTS

Marcellus suggested the Lower Niobrara hire an agronomist also as the Upper Elkhorn NRD has hired an individual to work on their Phase III areas. He indicated he felt we need to have good communications with the producers which could be accomplished with this type of individual on staff.

Conner Baldwin also mentioned the NWQI area has been expanded.

EXCUSE ABSENT DIRECTORS

Higgins is at his winter home. Liewer is spending the winter at his daughter's in Scottsbluff. Pavlik informed Klawitter he would not attend the meeting today.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 2:12 P.M. by Chairman Baumeister.

ATTENDANCE

Directors: Larry Baumeister, Karl Connell, Jack Engelhaupt, Linda Hoffman, Don Holtgrew, John Janzing, Brian Kaczor, Randy Klawitter, Dwain Marcellus, Curt Morrow, Ray Naprstek, Kevin Randa, Jeff Uhlir, Diana Wendt

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

Visitors: Jim Mathine, Conner Baldwin

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 March 2, 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