

**LOWER NIOBRARA NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 4, 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 1:00 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: [lnnr.org](http://lnnr.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.

**APPROVAL OF APRIL 6, 2020 MEETING MINUTES**

Motion by Holtgrew and second by Uhlir to approve the April 6, 2020 meeting minutes as circulated to Directors. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Kaczor, Klawitter, Liewer, Naprstek, Pavlik, Randa, Uhlir, Baumeister, Engelhaupt, Higgins, Holtgrew) Abstain: (Morrow) Absent: (Connell, Hoffman, Janzing, Marcellus, Wendt). MOTION CARRIED.

**NSWCP ACTIVITIES**

A copy of the NSWCP Report was available on the reverse side of the agenda. The application request for Karen Havranek was explained by Jim Mathine. Flood sand was pushed off the property and she would like to put on a mulch blanket for erosion control. She has nearly reached the \$7,000/year maximum with other applications already approved. Most of this \$7,006.79 application is for the blanket, but the seeding request listed alone would get her to the Board \$7,000 per year maximum. Since funding was available Jim wondered if the Directors would consider a one-time change of policy. He stressed he was just bringing this for the Board to consider either approval or no approval would be fine with him. Several Directors indicated they did not wish to make any change to the policy set as this has worked for years. Motion by Uhlir and second by Holtgrew to approve the Cancellation of Trent Schaaf, the Amendment for an additional \$3,180.00 for Karen Havranek (total application \$4,640.91) and only approve the presented Application for Karen Havranek in the amount of \$324.29 for 3 acres of seeding. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Kaczor, Klawitter, Liewer, Morrow, Naprstek, Pavlik, Randa, Uhlir, Baumeister, Engelhaupt, Higgins, Holtgrew) Absent: (Connell, Hoffman, Janzing, Marcellus, Wendt). MOTION CARRIED.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Manager Julesgard informed the Directors that Hoffman had reviewed and signed the checks this morning. Motion by Higgins and second by Engelhaupt to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Kaczor, Klawitter, Liewer, Morrow, Naprstek, Pavlik, Randa, Uhlir, Baumeister, Engelhaupt, Higgins, Holtgrew) Absent: (Connell, Hoffman, Janzing, Marcellus, Wendt). MOTION CARRIED. A copy of this report is attached to the official minutes.

**NEBRASKA FOREST RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP FOR WINDBREAK RENOVATION & RESTORATION**

A copy of the information presented by the Nebraska Forest Service was mailed to the Directors for review. Manger Julesgard explained they are applying for a National Grant for which the Niobrara River would be a priority landscape for windbreak renovation & restoration. They are asking the LNNRD to be a partner as the more partners the better chance of getting funds. NSWCP Funds could be used along with funding from this grant to increase cost share to cooperators, which may encourage planting new windbreaks along with renovating older windbreaks. Their proposal would include \$8,000.00/year to the LNNRD over the next five years. Motion by Klawitter and second by Holtgrew to draft a letter of support for the Windbreak Restoration & Renovation Partnership with the Nebraska Forest Service. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Kaczor, Klawitter, Liewer, Morrow, Naprstek, Pavlik, Randa, Uhlir, Baumeister, Engelhaupt, Higgins, Holtgrew) Absent: (Connell, Hoffman, Janzing, Marcellus, Wendt). MOTION CARRIED.

### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

Manager Julesgard's report was mailed for Directors to review. He informed the Directors tree planting was completed on Friday. The remaining trees will be picked up from Upper Elkhorn tomorrow and we will fill the handplants requested after the trees were picked up from Halsey. He asked if there were any questions on the 5 Year DNR Review mailed. This will be posted on the website. Information was mailed on the MSAC Zoom Meeting tomorrow with Directors being encouraged to connect.

### **WATER RESOURCES COORDINATOR REPORT**

Wade's report was mailed prior to the meeting. Wade mentioned he finished taking the Static Levels last week and we are at an average of 4' above last year for an all-time high. Wade indicated he would be setting up a Groundwater Management Committee Meeting to discuss whether to allow additional irrigated acres prior to the June meeting.

### **PROGRAMS ASSISTANT REPORT**

Connie's report was also mailed prior to the meeting. Connie informed the Directors of the number of trees given by NRDs to different communities for Arbor Day plantings.

### **ASSOCIATION REPORT**

Liewer indicated he received no correspondence this month.

### **AGENCY REPORTS**

NRCS—Jim Mathine mailed his report to the Directors. He reported his office is operating under the same regulations as last month. Employees are going to the field and his office is busy with EQIP contracts.

Niobrara Council—Higgins reported there was a conference call and the necessary business such as paying bills was handled. He commented on the National Parks Personnel comments. Question was raised if canoeing the river would be allowed due the coronavirus. Higgins said this was being discussed, but it is unsure how it will be handled.

NE RC&D—Pavlik indicated the meeting was cancelled.

NC RC&D—No meeting.

Friends of the Missouri—Manager Julesgard reported he was unable to participate in the conference call as he was on another conference call.

Missouri Sedimentation Action Coalition—Information on the Zoom Meeting was mailed to Directors and they were encouraged to sign in.

### **SPENCER HYDRO FACILITY**

Since Director Fassett has retired it is apparent that Jesse Bradley wants to move forward with the transfer. Blankenau and the Attorney Generals Office met with Jesse Bradley a few days ago. They are trying to get in contact with the G&P Personnel, but with the coronavirus issue this has not been accomplished yet. Holtgrew questioned if the recent news articles will have any affect on the transfer. Liewer questioned if there were any specs on what must be done with the structure.

### **OPEN COMMENTS**

Liewer commented the wetland areas are wetter than ever, but the river bottom land was drier. Higgins commented his area is wetter again. Holtgrew commented areas unable to be planted last year could be planted this year.

The next meeting was discussed. Since we are still under the 10-person limit and 6' spacing we would be unable to abide by this regulation in our meeting room. It was indicated by Directors we should hold the June meeting as was done today since this seems to work well as does the time of 1:00 P.M.

### **EXCUSE ABSENT DIRECTORS**

Wendt indicated she was working with cattle issues so would be unable to participate today. Hoffman's husband had a doctor's appointment so would be unable to participate today. She did come to the office this morning to sign checks. Nothing was heard from Janzing, Marcellus or Connell.

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

Personnel Committee and Groundwater Management Committee Meetings will be set up before the June Meeting. These can be held in the office since attendance would be under the 10-person limitation and allow for the 6' spacing requirement.

Chairman Baumeister declared the meeting adjourned at 1:49 P.M.

**PARTICIPATION IN THE GO-TO MEETING**

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

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

**Visitors:** Jim Mathine, West Knox RWS

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 May 4, 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