

**LOWER NIOBRARA NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 1, 2019**

Chairman Baumeister called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M. 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 MARCH 4, 2019 MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Engelhaupt and second by Naprstek to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2019 meeting as provided to the Directors. (Kaczor entered at 3:01 P.M.) Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Marcellus, Morrow, Naprstek, Pavlik, Randa, Wendt, Engelhaupt, Hoffman, Kaczor, Klawitter, Liewer) Abstain: (Baumeister, Connell, Janzing) Absent: (Higgins, Holtgrew, Uhler). MOTION CARRIED.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Julesgard's report was mailed for Directors to review. He drew attention to the Directors Responsibilities information prepared by Don Blankenau. He attended Senator Gragert's meeting in Spencer on March 8th and discussed LB606. Conference call on lidar is scheduled for March 8th with David Russ (*note: has been postponed to a later date*). A copy of the Boyd County surface water permit that is being re-investigated is in the packets. Corp of Engineer streambank stabilization was discussed. A copy of the NRCS prepared information on the Bomb Cyclone was mailed previously. Manager Julesgard indicated he would prepare a power point presentation on the Spencer Dam flooding. A meeting was held last week with the Alliance and G&P: 1) want to keep the appropriation intact, 2) NPPD can't generate power, 3) email sent that we are still interested in the water appropriations and want to discuss, 4) Fascet indicated water rights need to be transferred as planned.

WATER RESOURCES COORDINATOR REPORT

Wade's report was mailed prior to the meeting. He reported the Bazile GWMA Winter meeting was held but cut short due to the flooding. Wade held the last Nitrogen Certification Class here in the office last Friday. A total of 80 individuals were recertified in the LNNRD from all the meetings. He attended the meeting with the Under Secretary for the Dept. of Agriculture held in Lynch. This past month he attended the Water Leaders Academy in Kearney.

PROGRAMS ASSISTANT

Connie's report was also mailed prior to the meeting. She was to give a presentation at the Niobrara School, which was cancelled due to the flooding. She was able to give a presentation using the Eco-Water Board borrowed from LCNRD at Lynch. She will be giving a presentation to the 3rd – 5th grade in Springview on April 9th and then K-2nd on May 7th. Connie asked if it would be possible to purchase a Lower Niobrara table cloth for approximately \$100 and a new display board is needed with an estimated cost of \$200-\$300 (approval given). She distributed information on the Women in Water Workshop in Lincoln on May 1st.

ASSOCIATION REPORT

Wendt reported she attended the Executive Session where the Budget was discussed. She has a copy if anyone wishes to see. Also discussed was the Envirothon, filling the Information & Education Position, the upcoming State Envirothon (encouraged any directors to assist), the ACE Camp now sponsored by the Upper Loup. June 10 & 11th is the Basin tour beginning in Ord-she is unable to go but encouraged other directors to attend. At the NARD Directors meeting the budget was discussed (salary amounts, entire budget amount, conference income, Washington DC trip, etc.), along with possibly changing the policy on trees by increasing the price from 3 cents to 4 cents, tree orders are lower than in the past. The TSP and Technical Assistance Grants were discussed with the LNNRD request ranking 2nd on the list. She also mentioned the NACD-NRCS Boot Camp, which Laurie Steinhauser was accepted to attend. Of special interest to Wendt was the tour of Robbers Cave Brewery.

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS—Jim's report was mailed prior to the meeting. Jim mentioned the new EQIP practice due to the loss of livestock in the blizzard and flood. Nebraska received a disaster declaration on March 21st due to the severe flooding. He explained the EWP and ECP disaster programs available. EWP requires a sponsor and 25% match. Jim has met with the county but they are waiting to see if FEMA would be a better option. ECP is administered by FSA who meet tomorrow, and they will be setting the parameters of the program. Jim indicated this will be a busy spring and summer.

Niobrara Council—No meeting was held.

NE RC&D—Pavlik reported on the new Coordinator who commutes twice weekly to the office. The Financial Secretary will be retiring. The office is moving to the Ponca City Hall for a cost of only \$50.00/month compared to the \$400/mo. rent, plus heat and electricity estimated at another \$200/month. Meetings will be held at different locations in the future. The Farmers Market will still be held in Plainview. A Beer/Wine Tour is planned along with selling local authors books on line as possible fund raisers.

North Central RC&D—Connell indicated he plans to attend the April 10th meeting at 1:30 as there was no meeting in March.

Friends of the Missouri—no meeting. The possible tour locations are now gone due to flooding.

MSAC-the 18th Annual Meeting will be held on April 23rd at the Ponca Tribal Headquarters in Niobrara.

DISEASTER DECLARATION

Manager Julesgard mentioned JEO suggested the NRDs have a state of emergency declaration approved in order to funnel funds through them. A copy was available in the packets. Motion by Pavlik and second by Engelhaupt the LNNRD directors declare a state of emergency authorized under NE Statute RRS 81-829.50 on behalf of the LNNRD. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Marcellus, Morrow, Naprstek, Pavlik, Randa, Wendt, Baumeister, Connell, Engelhaupt, Hoffman, Janzing, Kaczor, Klawitter, Liewer) Absent: (Higgins, Holtgrew, Uhlir). MOTION CARRIED.

NSWCP ACTIVITIES

A copy of the NSWCP Report was available. Motion by Pavlik and second by Liewer to approve the **applications** for: Chance Nielsen-trees, mulch-\$1,360.00; Jack Welch-trees, mulch-\$247.07; Vicki Whitehill-pasture seeding-\$836.98; David Pongratz-trees, mulch-\$648.83; Dustin Coburn-trees-\$881.30 and **cancellations**: Karen Havranek-\$1,246.00 & Dennis Hrbek-\$1,296.00 & \$5,000.00. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Marcellus, Morrow, Naprstek, Pavlik, Randa, Wendt, Baumeister, Connell, Engelhaupt, Hoffman, Janzing, Kaczor, Klawitter, Liewer) Absent: (Higgins, Holtgrew, Uhlir). MOTION CARRIED.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Hoffman and Pavlik reviewed the expenditures. Pavlik asked for an explanation of the Buffer Strip Payments and the state water quality payment received and check issued to the water quality funds for that same amount. Vivian indicated there are additions that need to be made to the Treasurer's Report. **NRD**: 1) Simple Solution-\$259.00 computer installation & AVG cloud, 2) Holt County Independent-\$2.75 for a meeting notice, 3) Northeast RC&D-\$500.00-dues. **WQF**: Simple Solutions-\$76.90 AVG cloud & website host. Motion by Liewer and second by Engelhaupt to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented with the additions mentioned and to pay the mileage for Wendt attending the NARD Legislative Conference. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Marcellus, Morrow, Naprstek, Pavlik, Randa, Wendt, Baumeister, Connell, Engelhaupt, Hoffman, Janzing, Kaczor, Klawitter, Liewer) Absent: (Higgins, Holtgrew, Uhlir). MOTION CARRIED. (Uhlir entered 4:15 P.M.-he was given the wrong directions for crossing the Niobrara River)

WEST KNOX RURAL WATER SYSTEM UPDATE & ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Time was given for Directors to read the Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes in the packets. Manager Julesgard explained P & E was called due to flooding and the emergency repair needed on the 8" line. He reported on the letter presented by P & E to be signed prior to their repairing the line, which was not signed as advised by the Attorney, and they left. Luckily Sonder Well was able to complete the emergency repair work. Manager Julesgard also explained the boring needing done on the Verdigris Creek crossing where the line is exposed due to the flooding. To save time on the installation of the new line under the Verdigris Creek Manager Julesgard requested the NRD Board give the Advisory Board the authority to move forward on repairs needed. Rutjens Construction has been contacted to do the boring and repair. Discussed was the new State recommendations indicating when boring under a river/creek 2 lines should be installed 100' from each other as a secondary water supply in case one line is damaged. This will be discussed with the contractor. The RWS has already submitted a request for FEMA funds. Motion by Marcellus and second by Hoffman to approve the March 26th WKRWS Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes as presented and to authorize the needed repair of the exposed line on the Verdigris Creek. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Marcellus, Morrow, Naprstek, Pavlik, Randa, Uhlir, Wendt, Baumeister, Connell, Engelhaupt, Hoffman, Janzing, Kaczor, Liewer) Abstain: (Klawitter) Absent: (Higgins, Holtgrew). MOTION CARRIED.

OPEN COMMENTS

Wendt informed the Directors of the NACD Northern Plains Regional Meeting to be held in Gothenburg June 12th - 14th.

Liewer mentioned a comment made by Arden Uhlir regarding the Spencer Dam. He indicated he did not want the responsibility for the liability of the Spencer Dam and he voted against the purchase. Manager Julesgard stated he was actually glad the Water Sustainability Application was denied.

Engelhaupt indicated he was able to walk in places he hasn't for years, it is solid, but muddy.

Discussion of the affect the Spencer Dam flooding will have on the wells in the area was held.

Morrow commented on the water standing at his place for 24 hours and felt the roads held the water back so it actually soaked into the ground.

Engelhaupt also said that while water was standing 4' deep the water in the dugout didn't rise, but since the frost has gone out of the ground the water in the dugout has risen.

Wendt commented water ran over the beaver dams, but they are still there.

Manager Julesgard explained the Take Em Fishing Campaign and suggested donating a \$50.00 gift card.

EXCUSE ABSENT DIRECTORS

Holtgrew contacted the office and he is on business in Wayne today. Higgins contacted the office and was just dismissed from the hospital.

FUTURE MEETING PLACE AND TIME

Marcellus suggested holding the meeting in Atkinson. Pavlik stated the location should be left the same as people are used to that. Discussion on time was held and decision was to hold the meetings at 5:00 P.M. in the NRD Office. Staff will pick up the Directors traveling to the Niobrara Bridge on Highway 11 as they did today and take them back.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 4:50 P.M. by Chairman Baumeister.

ATTENDANCE

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

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

Visitors: Jim Mathine, Roger Frickel

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 April 1, 2019. 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.

Marvin Liewer, Secretary