

**LOWER NIOBRARA NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 5, 2019**

Chairman Baumeister called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 JULY 1, 2019 MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Engelhaupt and second by Marcellus to approve the minutes of the July 1, 2019 meeting as provided to the Directors. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Baumeister, Connell, Engelhaupt, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Janzing, Kaczor, Liewer, Marcellus, Pavlik, Randa) Absent: (Klawitter, Morrow, Naprstek, Uhlir, Wendt). MOTION CARRIED.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Julesgard's report was mailed for Directors to review. Considerable discussion was held on the status of the Spencer Dam purchase. (Klawitter & Uhlir entered at 7:07 P.M.) An Agenda for the Director Basin Meeting & Tour on August 19th & 20th was in the packets. A copy of the minutes of the last Bazile GWMA meeting was passed to directors. A copy of the sheet showing USGS 2019 Flooding relative to the Niobrara was mailed to the Directors. Quotes for new signs for the office were passed to Directors (agenda item in September).

Manager Julesgard drew attention to the cease & desist letter drafted by Attorney Blankenau to be mailed via certified mail and regular mail to Steve & Shelley Strobe with a copy to their renter. The NW S-19, T-29, R-7 is being irrigated and these acres have not been certified. Connie has made numerous attempts to contact the Strobes and has had no response. Motion by Marcellus and second by Klawitter to send the cease and desist letter drafted by Attorney Blankenau to Steve & Shelley Strobe along with a copy to their renter (both Strobes & renter) are to receive a copy via certified mail and regular mail. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Uhlir, Baumeister, Connell, Engelhaupt, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Janzing, Kaczor, Klawitter, Liewer, Marcellus, Pavlik, Randa) Absent: (Morrow, Naprstek, Wendt). MOTION CARRIED. The next steps to be taken in the event the Certified Letter is not accepted was discussed as was the fines per day for non-compliance.

Information regarding the educational grant proposal for the SINREC (Sandhills Interactive Natural Resource Education Complex) and a copy of the letter of support from the LNNRD to the Middle Niobrara NRD was also in the packets. Motion by Higgins and second by Klawitter to send the letter of support to the Middle Niobrara NRD regarding the SINREC project. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Uhlir, Baumeister, Connell, Engelhaupt, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Janzing, Kaczor, Klawitter, Liewer, Marcellus, Pavlik, Randa) Absent: (Morrow, Naprstek, Wendt). MOTION CARRIED.

Included in the packets was information regarding the NET Grant proposal for purchase of a Highboy Applicator for seeding cover crops in the Bazile GWMA. The Seed House in O'Neill was mentioned as a potential overseer of rental. Three demonstration sites have been established. Marcellus mentioned this is the ideal way to plant cover crops and it works best in pre-tassel corn, but not well in soybeans. He also indicated an operator would need to be hired. Also suggested was having a local seed distributor house the machine rather than the Seed House which is not locally owned. UNL will get the machine and the ET Grant will cover for 3 years after that. Cost to the LNNRD would be divided the same as other expenses are for the Bazile GWMA. Motion by Holtgrew and second by Hoffman to support the effort to get a Highboy Applicator through an Environmental Trust Grant for the Bazile GWMA. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Uhlir, Baumeister, Connell, Engelhaupt, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Janzing, Kaczor, Klawitter, Liewer, Marcellus, Randa) Abstain: (Pavlik) Absent: (Morrow, Naprstek, Wendt). MOTION CARRIED.

WATER RESOURCES COORDINATOR REPORT

Wade's report was mailed prior to the meeting. He reported the Conservation & Survey Division is planning to be in the area on the 19th of this month to begin drilling the monitoring wells. The sites are being GPS'd and sent to the Diggers Hotline to avoid any major issues. He has been busy taking water samples and did several flow checks on potato ground. The 1st quarterly ET Grant report has been submitted.

PROGRAMS ASSISTANT

Connie's report was also mailed prior to the meeting. She reviewed the items discussed at the I & E Committee Meeting in Wahoo. The new display was set up at the Boyd County Fair and indicated she would set it up at other Fairs if the directors wished. The site for the Land Judging Contest in October has been chosen. Directors are welcome to assist if they wish. She has been asked to serve on the FSA County Committee so her name will appear

on the ballot. She mentioned Lower Platte North NRDs offer to visit their Lake Wanhoo Recreation Area near Wahoo which is open to NRD staff or directors at no cost.

ASSOCIATION REPORT

Manager Julesgard explained one resolution has been submitted from the Upper Niobrara White NRD dealing with Commission Members needing to reside in Nebraska. A second resolution is expected to be submitted from the Lower Elkhorn NRD dealing with all NRDs being allowed to use the Bonding process for projects. He mentioned the NARD Conference is September 23 & 24, with travel down being on the 22nd. Indicating interest in attending were Engelhaupt and Liewer. Representative Wendt was absent from the meeting, but usually attends. Decision was Wendt should serve as the Voting Delegate and Engelhaupt will serve as the alternate.

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS—Jim Mathine’s report was mailed prior to the meeting. He reported the EQIP Special Initiative for Cover Crops due to disaster has consumed much time this month. The application deadline was July 19th. Those contracts will expire on December 31st with payments being made this fall. A lot of the areas have already been seeded with a variety of different types of seed. FSA is still accepting signups for the Emergency Conservation Program. He also mentioned there have been a lot of requests for wetland determinations and explained what wetland determinations are based on.

Niobrara Council—Connell and Higgins indicated the next meeting will be August 15th.

NE RC&D—Pavlik reported he was unable to attend the meeting on the 22nd of July.

North Central RC&D—Connell indicated the next meeting is August 14th.

Friends of the Missouri—Manager Julesgard stated the next meeting is this Thursday.

MSAC-Manager Julesgard mentioned the Planning Assistance Management Plan being developed.

JEREMY MILANDER – BAZILE GWMA

Manager Julesgard introduced Jeremy Milander the new Extension Employee for the Bazile GWMA. Jeremy gave a little background history and indicated he has been working with this project since mid-April. He has been working on locating fields for the demonstration sites for the NET Grant that have a full pivot approximately 10-15 years old or newer. One of the three sites will be checked for soil health, a second site for nitrogen inhibitors and the third site will utilize crop rotation. The producer will be paid and they can still harvest the crop. He answered questions directed regarding the project area.

APPROVAL OF BUDGET FOR SEPTEMBER 9, 2019 BUDGET HEARING AT 6:30 P.M. PRIOR TO THE BOARD MEETING

The Budget Committee met on July 22nd and their recommendation was mailed to the Directors. Manager Julesgard mentioned the Committee decided to not put any funding into either the Pickup or Building Sinking Fund this year. He explained the committee changes were off to the right-hand side of the sheets. In the packets was the final WKRWS recommended budget as the copy mailed had not been reviewed by the WKRWS Advisory Board. Due to new legislation the Budget Hearing must be held separately from the Board Meeting. Motion by Higgins and second by Marcellus to advertise the Budget Hearing for 6:30 P.M. on September 9, 2019 prior to the regular Board Meeting. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Uhlir, Baumeister, Connell, Engelhaupt, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Janzing, Kaczor, Klawitter, Liewer, Marcellus, Pavlik, Randa) Absent: (Morrow, Naprstek, Wendt). MOTION CARRIED.

2ND ANNUAL DIRECTORS BASIN MEETING & TOUR AUGUST 19TH & 20TH

The tour will be held on the 19th beginning with a noon meal at the Upper Elkhorn NRD in O’Neill. The agenda was in the packets. Manager Julesgard stated the office staff would travel back to Butte on the 19th and leave the next morning for Valentine. Directors were welcome to ride with them. Those indicating interest in attending were: (Marcellus - 20th) (Uhlir - 19th) (Morrow indicated to the Manager potentially both days) (Higgins – 20th and the NRBA meeting following that day’s activities). Directors wishing to attend need to notify the office ASAP.

VERDIGRE CREEK STREAM GAGE CONTRIBUTION

A copy of the request from USGS for assistance in maintaining a gage on the Verdigre Creek was mailed to the Directors. Cost per year is \$15,125 annually with USGS contributing \$6,355. The remaining \$8,770 is needed from a partner. Consideration was given and at this point the board wishes to remain uncommitted.

APPROVAL OF WEST KNOX RWS JULY 30, 2019 ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

A copy of the minutes was in the packets. Discussed at the meeting was a \$10.00 increase for the individual mowing, rate increase study, FEMA sites, budget, estimates for the 2 areas yet to be repaired due to flood and the audit. Motion by Pavlik and second by Liewer to approve the WKRWS July 30, 2019 Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Uhlir, Baumeister, Connell, Engelhaupt, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Janzing, Kaczor, Klawitter, Liewer, Marcellus, Pavlik, Randa) Absent: (Morrow, Naprstek, Wendt). MOTION CARRIED.

NSWCP ACTIVITIES

A copy of the NSWCP Report was available. Vivian reviewed the new allocation received, application, two extensions and the cancellation. Motion by Pavlik and second by Engelhaupt to approve the application for Greg Reiser-well-\$5,000.00, solar pump; the extensions for Larry Smith and Don Rech and the cancellation for Dustin Coburn. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Uhlir, Baumeister, Connell, Engelhaupt, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Janzing, Kaczor, Klawitter, Liewer, Marcellus, Pavlik, Randa) Absent: (Morrow, Naprstek, Wendt). MOTION CARRIED.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Hoffman reported she reviewed the expenditures and everything was in order. Motion by Higgins and second by Uhlir to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented and pay the standard pre-determined mileage for directors and also pay the mileage for Pavlik to attend the NE RC&D Meeting. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Uhlir, Baumeister, Connell, Engelhaupt, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Janzing, Kaczor, Klawitter, Liewer, Marcellus, Pavlik, Randa) Absent: (Morrow, Naprstek, Wendt). MOTION CARRIED. (A copy of the Treasurer's Report is attached to the Official Copy of the Minutes).

COMMENT PERIOD

Higgins commented on the request from the State Auditors Office. Manager Julesgard reported information was submitted to the office in response to their questions. Notification was received recently they saw no irregularities and therefore the complaint investigation was closed. Response was yes to the question raised, if the WKRWS had to abide by the same regulations as the NRD

EXCUSE ABSENT DIRECTORS

Naprstek was baling. Wendt was in the emergency room with her husband. Morrow indicated things weren't going well.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 9:03 P.M. by Chairman Baumeister.

ATTENDANCE

Directors: Larry Baumeister, Karl Connell, Jack Engelhaupt, Tom Higgins, Linda Hoffman, Don Holtgrew, John Janzing, Brian Kaczor, Randy Klawitter, Marvin Liewer, Dwain Marcellus, Kent Pavlik, Kevin Randa, Jeff Uhlir

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

Visitors: Jim Mathine, Jeremy Milander

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 August 5, 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