

**LOWER NIOBRARA NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MAY 6, 2019**

Chairman Baumeister called the meeting to order at 5:00 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 APRIL 1, 2019 MEETING MINUTES

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

MOTION CARRIED. (Engelhaupt, Wendt entered 5:02).

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Julesgard's report was mailed for Directors to review. Explanation of the In-Door/Out-Door Project was requested and given. FAC minutes were mailed. Letter was received from the NE Water Balance Alliance requesting funds. Contact was made to the office regarding purchase of a Defibrillator at a cost of \$1,800.00. It was mentioned there is one available at the Court House next door. The NACD Grant which allows us to hire Lauri Steinhauer to work for NRCS in Spencer was approved for \$40,127.00 with an NRD match of \$10,032.00. A conference call on lidar focused on the Niobrara River in the Nature Conservancy area at no cost to the NRD. A more in-depth study for our area of the Niobrara would cost approximately \$10,000. Information on the MSAC meeting was passed to the directors. Manager Julesgard mentioned a meeting with NPPD in Lincoln is scheduled for Wednesday. It was questioned if this would be an open meeting for Directors to attend, not at this time, just the agency individuals and NRD Managers.

WATER RESOURCES COORDINATOR REPORT

Wade's report was mailed prior to the meeting. Wade mentioned a copy of the letter of approval for the NET Grant was attached to his Report. He mentioned he and Terry attended the Meeting/Hearing on the NET Grants, which was very informative. He has been working on getting the static water levels so he can prepare information for the committee to review and make a recommendation regarding allowing/not allowing additional acres next month. Wade drew attention to the Historic Ground Water Level Data on Highway 11 South of Butte from 1934 to present attached to his report.

PROGRAMS ASSISTANT

Connie's report was also mailed prior to the meeting. Connie informed the Directors she has submitted two award nominations: Outstanding Soil Stewardship Conservation Award - Nick & Rose Keller and Outstanding Community Conservation Award - Niobrara High School Purple Loosestrife Program. She also reported she attended the I & E Group Meeting and Tour at Grand Island and assisted with the Envirothon at Ord. She has school presentations planned for Springview and Butte.

ASSOCIATION REPORT

Wendt reported the NARD has hired a new Public Relations Director Megan Grimes who is a native of Valentine. She reported on the passage of the Bonding Authority and Healthy Soil Task Force bills. She asked for an Envirothon Report and thanked the Manager, Programs Assistant and Klawitter for assisting with the Envirothon. A copy of information from the Envirothon was passed to Directors.

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS—Jim's report was mailed prior to the meeting. Jim informed the Directors he would need to leave early as he has been asked to attend the Town Hall Meeting at Lynch to discuss the Federal Emergency Programs he deals with. He explained the Emergency Watershed Protection Program, which NRCS administers, deadline for application is May 20th. He then explained the Emergency Conservation Program administered by FSA. There has been a lot of interest in this program and the application deadline is May 31st. He also reported on the Livestock Mortality Initiative - two contracts were completed. Jim mentioned the new program available for acres that are too wet to plant where cost share at a rate of \$33.97/acre is paid to establish a cover crop. These acres will be allowed to be grazed. Jim reported that 2/3^{rds} of his time has been spent on the above programs since mid-March.

Niobrara Council—A copy of the minutes was in the packets. Connell reported the agreement with Arganbright Law Firm was reviewed and approved. Goals, purpose, statutory requirements, etc. of the Council will be reviewed. Claims were reviewed. No action was taken on the Egelhoff tree thinning project. Lamb Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project was approved. The gauging station on Hwy 137 was discussed.

NE RC&D— A copy of the Minutes was in the packets.

North Central RC&D— A copy of the Minutes was in the packets.

Friends of the Missouri—no meeting. Next meeting is May 14th in Vermillion.

MSAC-information from the last meeting was passed to Directors earlier in the meeting.

VERDESIAN PRESENTATION

Mike Zwingman a representative of Verdesian presented a slide presentation on their polymere applied to fertilizer to attract ammonium, nickel, copper & iron (nitrogen inhibitor). Questions were asked and answered.

JUNE BASIN TOUR

The tour will be held in the Loup Basin beginning at Ord on June 10th & 11th. Those planning to attend are the Manager, Water Resources Coordinator, Liewer and possibly Klawitter.

2018-2019 AUDIT – DANA F COLE & CO LLP

The Audit Engagement Letter for the 2018-2019 Audit was received from Dana Cole. Vivian informed the Directors of the proposed costs for the NRD & RWS audits compared to the rates charged last year. Motion by Higgins and second by Hoffman to have Dana F Cole & Co. LLP perform the 2018-2019 Audit for the LNNRD & WKRWS. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Morrow, Naprstek, Randa, Wendt, Baumeister, Engelhaupt, Higgins, Hoffman, Kaczor, Klawitter, Liewer, Marcellus) Nay: (Connell) Absent During Vote: (Uhlir) Absent: (Holtgrew, Janzing, Pavlik). MOTION CARRIED.

NSWCP ACTIVITIES

A copy of the NSWCP Report was available. Vivian reviewed the applications, cancellation, extensions and amendment. Motion by Higgins and second by Naprstek to approve **applications:** Keith Hipke-seeding-\$4,732.69, K & W Farms-grade stabilization-\$3,573.68, Matt Keating-dam repair-\$6,995.80, Michael Beelaert-dam repair-\$6,995.80, Robert Fuelberth-well, tank, pumping plant-\$4,532.96, Janet Seegebarth-tank, pumping plant-\$3,281.89; **cancellation:** James B Reiman Farms; **extensions:** Nelson Farms Inc, Calvin Kilmurry; **amendment:** Debra Golter Revocable Trust-cross fence-additional \$1,475.00. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Morrow, Naprstek, Randa, Uhlir, Wendt, Baumeister, Connell, Engelhaupt, Higgins, Hoffman, Kaczor, Klawitter, Liewer, Marcellus) Absent: (Holtgrew, Janzing, Pavlik). MOTION CARRIED.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Hoffman and Randa reviewed the expenditures. One check needs to be added to the NRD report-Cobblestone Inn-\$94.00 and two additions to the Water Quality Fund are: Cobblestone Inn-94.00 and Blankenau Wilmoth Jarecke-\$20.50. Motion by Liewer and second by Engelhaupt to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented with the additions mentioned. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Morrow, Naprstek, Randa, Uhlir, Wendt, Baumeister, Connell, Engelhaupt, Higgins, Hoffman, Kaczor, Klawitter, Liewer, Marcellus) Absent: (Holtgrew, Janzing, Pavlik). MOTION CARRIED.

WEST KNOX RURAL WATER SYSTEM UPDATE & APPROVAL OF APRIL 12, 2019 SPECIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

A copy of the Special Meeting Minutes authorizing repair of the Bazile Creek and Verdigris Creek Crossings was mailed for Directors review. FEMA will be meeting with the WKRWS on Wednesday to apply for the 75% repair. Another area of exposed pipe under a dam was discovered today. A copy showing the exposure was passed around for Directors to see. Motion by Uhlir and second by Liewer to approve the April 12, 2019 Advisory Committee Special Meeting Minutes as presented. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Morrow, Naprstek, Randa, Uhlir, Wendt, Baumeister, Connell, Engelhaupt, Higgins, Hoffman, Kaczor, Klawitter, Liewer, Marcellus) Absent: (Holtgrew, Janzing, Pavlik). MOTION CARRIED.

OPEN COMMENTS – none

EXCUSE ABSENT DIRECTORS

Holtgrew and Janzing contacted the office and are planting today. Pavlik contacted the office and indicated he would not be able to attend the meeting.

NEXT MEETING TIME – 7:00 P.M. (normal time)

The Personnel Committee and Water Quality Committee will need to meet this month.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 6:50 P.M. by Chairman Baumeister.

ATTENDANCE

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

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

Visitors: Jim Mathine, Mike Zwingman

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 6, 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