

**LOWER NIOBRARA NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 5, 2018**

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 OCTOBER 1, 2018 MEETING MINUTES**

Motion by Liewer and second by Higgins to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2018 meeting. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Higgins, Holtgrew, Janzing, Kaczor, Liewer, Marcellus, Morrow, Wendt, Baumeister, Bell, Connell) Absent: (Mahon, Naprstek) Abstain: (Klawitter, Pavlik) Absent During Vote: (Engelhaupt), Arriving During Vote: (Schultz). MOTION CARRIED. (Naprstek & Mahon entered at 7:03 P.M.)

**2017-2018 AUDIT**

Donita Pokorny with Dana F Cole & Co LLP informed the Directors their firm has a clean opinion on the audit. She reviewed the pages of the audit and answered Directors questions. Motion by Higgins and second by Engelhaupt to approve the 2017-2018 Audit as presented. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Engelhaupt, Higgins, Holtgrew, Janzing, Kaczor, Klawitter, Liewer, Mahon, Marcellus, Morrow, Naprstek, Schultz, Wendt, Baumeister, Connell). Nay: (Bell, Pavlik) MOTION CARRIED.

**USGS DISCUSSION OF STREAM GAUGE FOR VERDIGRE CREEK**

Jason Lambrecht, USGS distributed information regarding the gauge on the Verdigre Creek near Verdigre. He explained DEQ is no longer funding this gauge due to their limited funding. DNR has been contacted and they do not wish to fund for the same reason. USGS is looking for a partner to contribute \$8,820 towards the \$15,125 estimated cost for maintaining the 2019 gauging station. Wendt questioned what the value for keeping this gauging station would be. Manager Julesgard responded for potential information on sediment into the Missouri River and for irrigation. Motion by Marcellus to match what the Village of Verdigre will contribute towards the stream gauging station on the Verdigre Creek near Verdigre, seconded by Higgins. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Engelhaupt, Higgins, Holtgrew, Janzing, Kaczor, Klawitter, Mahon, Marcellus, Naprstek, Pavlik, Schultz, Wendt, Baumeister, Connell) Nay: (Bell, Liewer, Morrow). MOTION CARRIED.

**AGENCY REPORTS**

NRCS—Chairman Baumeister moved this item up as Jim Mathine needs to leave the meeting early. Jim's report was mailed prior to the meeting. November 16<sup>th</sup> is the cutoff date for EQIP signups. He reported there have been several requests for conservation practices this month. Tessa Combs the Soil Conservationist in his office has accepted a position in Iowa and will be leaving later this month and will be greatly missed. Pavlik asked who conducts prescribed burns in the area. Jim responded most individuals do their own. Mahon mentioned there is a group, Niobrara River Burn Association made up of locals who if you assist with their burns, they will assist you.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

Manager Julesgard's report was mailed for Directors to review. Manager Julesgard passed around information on the GMDA Annual Conference. A copy of DNR's letter regarding denial of the application for Water Sustainability Funds was mailed. DNR indicated in the letter their agency is willing to assist with the dialogue, planning and other aspects of the application for submission next year. Attention was called to the NPS letter regarding the viewing of their film featuring the Missouri National Recreational River to be shown at four different locations in our area. Also mailed was minutes of the Bazile GWMA October 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. Knox County FAC meeting highlights were reported. Manager Julesgard reported on October 24-26 he, Wade and Connie attended the Water Resources of the US Great Plains Region Seminar in Lincoln. He sat in on a WRAP session where the Bazile GWMA ranks high on their priority list. Pavlik questioned where we go from here on the purchase of the Spencer Dam since the Sustainability Application was denied. It was explained the application will be resubmitted next September. He also questioned even if the application were good is there a guarantee it will be approved. Response was the letter seems favorable with DNR willing to assist with the items needing additional information. It appears from the letter more details were needed which can be addressed.

**WATER RESOURCES COORDINATOR REPORT**

Wade's report was mailed prior to the meeting. Wade explained the results of this summers nitrate sampling. A letter was written to the cooperater with the nitrate level of 79.1. He mentioned items of interest to him from the Water Symposium. Wade explained the corn ears on the reverse side of his report showing the more nutritional value in dry no dent ear corn.

### **PROGRAMS ASSISTANT**

Connie's report was also mailed prior to the meeting. Connie explained the sessions during Eighth Grade Conservation Day which was a success and she passed around pictures of the day's activities. She also attended the Water Symposium and participated in the I & E meeting via a conference call.

### **ASSOCIATION REPORT**

Wendt reported the information received from the Association the past month was just general information. She will have a report after next Monday's meeting at Holdrege.

### **AGENCY REPORTS**

Niobrara Council—A copy of the minutes was in the packets. Connell mentioned member Thede discussed trash floating down the river and recycling. Also discussed was choosing signs and placement of them at entry points to the river on access roads. G & P signed an additional 25-year lease for Smith Falls. Kelly Corman will be the new biologist for the G & P in Bassett. It was reported that Brad Arrowsmith has hired a person to manage Rocky Ford. No word has been received on the Governor's appointment.

NE RC&D—A copy of the minutes was available in the packets. Pavlik reported discussion was held on a replacement for Jan Jorgensen who will be retiring. A grant for household hazardous waste has been applied for. Response to the Farmers Market sponsored by the RC&D is quite good.

Friends of the Missouri—No meeting has been held.

### **WATER LEADERS ACADEMY**

A brochure was available in the packets for the Directors to review. Wade informed the Directors he would like to attend the six 1 & ½ day sessions over the next year. Locations of sessions are throughout the state. Tuition cost is \$2,000.00. Motel and meals are covered in the tuition. Motion by Higgins and second by Engelhaupt to authorize Wade Ellwanger to attend the Water Leaders Academy. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Engelhaupt, Higgins, Holtgrew, Janzing, Kaczor, Klawitter, Liewer, Mahon, Marcellus, Morrow, Naprstek, Pavlik, Schultz, Wendt, Baumeister, Bell, Connell). MOTION CARRIED.

### **WEST KNOX RURAL WATER SYSTEM**

Manager Julesgard had available a copy of the Safety Data Sheet on the chemical(s) put through the line. The list of things that needed taken care of by P & E have been completed. Final inspection by DHHS was conducted to assure everything is there. They are needing some things yet to finalize the inspection. The line has been cleared by the state to put it into operation. Water tests taken on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> both resulted in 0 readings. Bernard will take another sample after the weather has cleared. The Advisory Board will meet on the 27<sup>th</sup> and the decision of where to go from here will be made.

### **NSWCP ACTIVITIES**

A copy of the NSWCP Report was available. Motion by Pavlik and second by Engelhaupt to approve the APPLICATIONS: Debra Golter Revocable Trust-cross fence-\$2,504.00; Larry Smith-dam-\$7,000.00; Neil Reiman-trees, mulch-\$781.37 and the EXTENSION: Vivian Frasch. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Engelhaupt, Higgins, Holtgrew, Janzing, Kaczor, Klawitter, Liewer, Marcellus, Morrow, Naprstek, Pavlik, Schultz, Wendt, Baumeister, Bell, Connell) Abstain: (Mahon). MOTION CARRIED.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Engelhaupt reviewed the expenditure receipts prior to the meeting. Motion by Engelhaupt and second by Higgins to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented along with paying the standard predetermined mileage for directors also the mileage to the Niobrara Council Meeting for Higgins and mileage to the NARD Conference for Wendt and Bell. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Engelhaupt, Higgins, Holtgrew, Janzing, Kaczor, Klawitter, Liewer, Mahon, Marcellus, Morrow, Naprstek, Pavlik, Schultz, Wendt, Baumeister, Bell, Connell). MOTION CARRIED.

### **OPEN COMMENTS**

Directors were asked to contribute funds to replenish the funeral flower fund. The recording sheet for the NARD Conference was available for attendees to sign. Bell commended Engelhaupt and Wendt for their 25 years of service on the NRD Board.

**EXCUSE ABSENT DIRECTORS**

All directors were in attendance.

Chairman Baumeister reminded Directors the December meeting will begin at 1:00 P.M. He then declared the meeting adjourned at 9:14 P.M.

**ATTENDANCE**

**Directors:** Larry Baumeister, Lana Bell, Karl Connell, Jack Engelhaupt, Tom Higgins, Don Holtgrew, John Janzing, Brian Kaczor, Randy Klawitter, Marvin Liewer, Brad Mahon, Dwain Marcellus, Curt Morrow, Ray Naprstek, Kent Pavlik, Sterling Schultz, Diana Wendt

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

**Visitors:** Jim Mathine, Donita Pokorny, Jason Lambrecht, Paul Allen,

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 November 5, 2018. 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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Marvin Liewer, Secretary