

**LOWER NIOBRARA NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 9, 2020**

Chairman Baumeister called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the Community Center located in Butte, Nebraska. 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. Chairman Baumeister called attention to the Open Meeting Law poster on the table and stated notices of the meeting were also published in newspapers of general circulation throughout the District.

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 3, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Engelhaupt and second by Connell to approve the August 3, 2020 meeting minutes as circulated to Directors. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Naprstek, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Engelhaupt, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Janzing, Kaczor, Liewer, Morrow) Absent: (Higgins, Klawitter, Marcellus, Pavlik, Uhlir, Wendt). MOTION CARRIED.

BAZILE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA

Conner Baldwin was present and reviewed the EQIP contracts signed and applications will be taken beginning November 13th for next years funds. Caps have been put on some practices to allow more funding to be utilized by cooperators. The Demo Farm Field Day was held today. Presentations were given on Management, Economics behind cover crops, and no till. Senator Gragert was in attendance. Approximately 45 non-agency persons were in attendance with several being high school students. He explained the TAPS program which has been very successful in western Nebraska.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Julesgard's report was mailed for Directors to review. He also discussed and explained TAPS. The NRD has been asked to support this program in the manner of providing awards. A location for the plots needs to be found. Cooperators would have the opportunity to make the decision on how they want to handle those acres in their plot. Basically, it is a producer teaching producer exchange of ideas. A NET Grant has been applied for and this project would be located in the Bazile GWMA.

WATER RESOURCES COORDINATOR REPORT

Wade's report was mailed prior to the meeting. He has been working on flow checks for a variance. Three helper well applications have been received. He expects to receive one more and one more variance request. Four of the test holes were drilled last week. Today another test hole was drilled, and another will be drilled tomorrow. Sue Lackey indicated she would get to working on the well designs so the monitoring wells can be installed. Wade informed the directors he received 16 applications for additional irrigated acres totaling 855 acres. Due to the IMP Regulations the producers are to be notified by the end of October whether or not their application has been approved. Wade indicated he needs more time to rank these applications as the Board Meeting will be October 5th. After discussion, the Committee Meeting will be set up for the week of October 12th with the Special Meeting set for October 19th at 7:00 P.M.

PROGRAMS ASSISTANT REPORT

Connie's report was also mailed prior to the meeting. The Know Your Well Grant is written. SINREC pivots are being put up. The 17th she will attend the FSA COC meeting. She has been working with Hollman on setting up a new website that is nearly ready to be put online. She has been testing several water samples. Some of those samples were tested a while back and the current test results showed a reduction in nitrates. She asked to be dismissed early as her daughter is getting married Saturday and there is a lot of work to do.

ASSOCIATION REPORT

Liewer stated he did not have much to report. The Fall Conference has been cancelled, but the NARD business meeting will be held. A copy of the Resolution was available in the packets. Wendt is planning to attend the business meeting.

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS—Jim Mathine mailed his report to the Directors. Jim reviewed the EQIP contract obligations by county. He discussed the EWP which has the deadline of October 2nd for completion of projects. He indicated this is a good year for earth moving projects. Several have been completed with more planned.

Niobrara Council—Connell indicated he did not attend the meeting.

NE RC&D—A copy of the minutes was in the Directors Packets.

NC RC&D—A copy of the minutes was in the Directors Packets. Connell stated the meeting scheduled for today was cancelled.

Friends of the Missouri—No meeting has been held.

Missouri Sedimentation Action Coalition—No meeting has been held.

ADOPTION OF 2020-2021 BUDGET

The Budget Hearing was held today at 2:30 in the Office with no general public present. Connell, Klawitter, Pavlik, Uhlir, Manager Julesgard and Vivian Frasch were in attendance. Due to a change in the Keya Paha County valuation there is a different Budget in the packet tonight from the one that was mailed. Motion by Liewer and second by Holtgrew to adopt the 2020-2021 Budget as published in the papers. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Naprstek, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Engelhaupt, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Janzing, Kaczor, Liewer, Morrow) Absent: (Higgins, Klawitter, Marcellus, Pavlik, Uhlir, Wendt). MOTION CARRIED.

The Hearing to Set the Final Tax Request was held at 4:00 P.M. this afternoon with no general public present. Connell, Klawitter, Pavlik, Uhlir, Manager Julesgard and Vivian Frasch were in attendance. A copy of the Resolution Setting the Property Tax Request was in the packets. The tax rate will be \$0.014279 per \$100 of assessed value. The property tax request will be set at \$427,198.69. Motion by Engelhaupt and second by Liewer to approve the Resolution Setting the Property Tax Request as presented. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Naprstek, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Engelhaupt, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Janzing, Kaczor, Liewer, Morrow) Absent: (Higgins, Klawitter, Marcellus, Pavlik, Uhlir, Wendt). MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF WKRWS ADVISORY COMMITTEE AUGUST 14, 2020 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES & SEPTEMBER 2, 2020 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

A copy of each of the minutes was made available to the Directors. The special meeting Tom Christopherson presented proposals to lower the nitrates in well #2. The regular meeting a new rate study was discussed along with FEMA payment request information was sent to NEMA for the appeal process. A draft Well Head Protection Plan is now available. A new roof will be put on the WKRWS building. Motion by Holtgrew and second by Hoffman to approve the August 14, 2020 Special WKRWS Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes and the September 2, 2020 WKRWS Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Naprstek, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Engelhaupt, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Janzing, Kaczor, Liewer, Morrow) Absent: (Higgins, Klawitter, Marcellus, Pavlik, Uhlir, Wendt). MOTION CARRIED.

NSWCP ACTIVITIES

A copy of the NSWCP Report was available on the reverse side of the agenda. Vivian reviewed the one application presented for approval. Motion by Connell and second by Naprstek to approve the application for Wm. Hobbs-pipeline, tanks-\$6,939.62. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Naprstek, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Engelhaupt, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Janzing, Kaczor, Liewer, Morrow) Absent: (Higgins, Klawitter, Marcellus, Pavlik, Uhlir, Wendt). MOTION CARRIED.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A copy of the Treasurer's Report was available in the packets. Motion by Connell and second by Engelhaupt to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Naprstek, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Engelhaupt, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Janzing, Kaczor, Liewer, Morrow) Absent: (Higgins, Klawitter, Marcellus, Pavlik, Uhlir, Wendt). MOTION CARRIED. (copy attached to the official minutes)

OPEN COMMENTS – None

CHANGE DAYTIME MEETINGS

Morrow questioned if it would be possible to change the daytime meetings from 1:00 P.M. to 2:00 P.M. He has commitments and would not be able to attend many meetings if they were at 1:00. Discussion was held and this can be tried as some Directors wished to be home before dark in the winter. Morrow indicated he may just miss the first hour of the meetings if this does not work.

EXCUSE ABSENT DIRECTORS

Marcellus must still stay away from crowds. Klawitter, Uhlir, Pavlik are attending the Verdigre School Budget Hearing tonight. Higgins health did not allow him to attend tonight. Nothing was heard from Wendt (she did call the next day and indicated she had the meeting on her calendar for the 10th instead of the 9th).

Chairman Baumeister declared the meeting adjourned at 8:14 P.M.

MEETING ATTENDEES

Directors: Larry Baumeister, Karl Connell, Jack Engelhaupt, Linda Hoffman, Don Holtgrew, John Janzing, Brian Kaczor, Marvin Liewer, Curt Morrow, Ray Naprstek, Kevin Randa

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

Visitors: Jim Mathine

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 September 9, 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.

_____ Brian Kaczor, Secretary