

**LOWER NIOBRARA NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 7, 2020**

Chairman Baumeister called the meeting to order at 2:00 P.M. in the Community Center located in Butte, Nebraska. An agenda of the minutes to be considered at such time, date, and place is kept continually current and is 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. He stated notices of the meeting were published in newspapers of general circulation throughout the District.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 2, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Holtgrew and second by Uhlir to approve the November 2, 2020 Meeting Minutes as circulated to the Board. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Uhlir, Wendt, Baumeister, Connell, Engelhaupt, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Janzing, Kaczor, Klawitter, Liewer, Naprstek, Randa) Abstain: (Marcellus, Morrow, Pavlik) Absent: (none). MOTION CARRIED.

GREG WILKE-NIOBARARA BASIN REPRESENTATIVE ON NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Greg who was present via Zoom introduced himself to the Directors. He gave a brief update on Commission Activities and his reason for wanting to serve on the Commission Board. He plans to run again for the Commission Board representing the Niobrara Basin. Possibility of postponing the Basin Caucus due to the COVID Pandemic was discussed. Some Directors would need to attend the Caucus in Valentine if it were held.

MANAGER'S REPORT

A copy of the Manager's Report was mailed to the Directors prior to the meeting for their review. He mentioned there is a draft of the Application for Transfer of the Spencer Dam available. A copy of the election results was in the packets. There were two write-in candidate filings for Sub-District #3. Steve Mahlendorf received the most votes and will fill the vacancy created by Diana Wendt not filing.

Terry reported he had mailed out some recommendations to the Board on November 14th. Discussion was held regarding purchasing a bookkeeping program. It was also discussed this would not solve the issues with the computer being accessed. Motion by Higgins and second by Engelhaupt to purchase a laptop and printer under \$3,000.00 for the Assistant Manager that will not be connected to the internet or networked. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Uhlir, Wendt, Baumeister, Connell, Engelhaupt, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Kaczor, Klawitter, Liewer, Morrow, Naprstek, Pavlik, Randa) Nay: (Marcellus) Absent: (Janzing). MOTION CARRIED. Vivian asked Hoffman and Kaczor to assist with purchase of these items. Randa questioned if there would be a point the internet would need to be accessed. Vivian responded the present computer will be used for filing on-line reports and email.

WATER RESOURCES COORDINATOR REPORT

Wade's report was mailed prior to the meeting for Directors to review. He informed the Directors the Phase II Crop Reporting letters were mailed. Several phone calls have been received and filing response has been good. The request for flowmeter reading letters will be sent this month. Several well permits have been received including some for the approved acres and some of those wells already have been drilled. The Committee met prior to the meeting and gave approval of the Greg Bammerlin request for Historic Irrigated Acres.

PROGRAMS ASSISTANT REPORT

Connie's report was also mailed to the Directors prior to the meeting. She mentioned the new website is up and running. The District's Facebook page is also available from the website with 172 followers so far. The Community Action Meetings for the Bazile GWMA meeting are tomorrow she will be assisting with the one in Creighton in the afternoon. The Osmond meeting will be in the evening. Virtual connections for both meetings will be available. She mentioned the Calendars were in the packets. Wendt asked Connie what digital geo fence advertising was? This was something that they had mentioned at the NARD meeting she attended. Liewer questioned what SINREC was, which Connie explained as the Indoor-Outdoor Classroom being developed at the Middle Niobrara in Valentine.

IRRIGATION WELL SURVEY OF NUTRIENT CONCENTRATIONS AND WATER QUALITY PROPERTIES

Charles Wortman was to be present via zoom, but connection was unable to be made that allowed clearly hearing his presentation. This will be tried at a later date.

ASSOCIATION REPORT

Wendt attended the meeting. She reported on attending the Risk Pool meeting where lab fee problems were discussed pertaining to Hospital Labs and Independent labs. It was requested to have lab bills billed with the hospital bill. The NARD loan for the new office building was discussed with the probability of moving into the new office in December. A permit to change the address for that building had to be obtained which took some time. Salvageable office items will not be moved into the new building but will be sold. Diana reported on the Foundation Grants given. They are unsure if the National Envirothon can be held this year with the Pandemic situation still an issue. It may have to be held virtually. The State Envirothon will be held virtually on April 28th. There also is a possibility the Legislative Conference in January may not be held. She called attention to the copy of the Annual Report that was available in the Directors packets. This year is the 75th Anniversary of the NACD.

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS—Jim Mathine mailed his report to the Directors. Jim mentioned there will be 2 CRP signups next year. The General signup will be January 4th thru February 12th. The CRP Grassland signup will run from March 15th thru April 23rd. There were 60 dams approved for cost share through the Emergency Conservation Program with 26 being repaired so far. FSA is allowing ECP extensions. The Memorandum of Agreement and Cooperative Use Agreements are being updated.

Niobrara Council—Connell reported the next meeting will be the 17th.

NE RC&D—Pavlik reported the next meeting will be in January.

NC RC&D—Connell stated he is unsure of when the next meeting will be held.

Friends of the Missouri—Manager Julesgard indicated there will be a video conference on the 9th.

Missouri Sedimentation Action Coalition—Manager Julesgard mentioned they are moving into Phase II of their plan.

APPROVAL OF WKRWS DECEMBER 1, 2020 ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

A copy of the minutes was available in the packets. Klawitter reported since Manager Julesgard was unable to attend the meeting. FEMA 90-day appeal process is underway. The Well Head Protection Plan is being reviewed. He explained the situation with the west tank property boundary and action being taken. The nitrate results are not good, and the next phase would be extremely expensive, so will see what the future results are. The roof has been replaced and the employees are very satisfied. They plan to put the old metal up for sale. Pavlik mentioned a grant is being applied for to change the meters. He also said purchase of some of the Glaser property for future wells was discussed. Motion by Uhlir and second by Pavlik to approve the December 1, 2020 WKRWS Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Uhlir, Wendt, Baumeister, Connell, Engelhaupt, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Kaczor, Klawitter, Liewer, Naprstek, Pavlik, Randa) Connection was lost with: (Marcellus, Morrow) Absent: (Janzing). MOTION CARRIED.

NSWCP ACTIVITIES

A copy of the NSWCP Report was available on the reverse side of the agenda. Vivian reviewed the two applications. Motion by Pavlik and second by Holtgrew to approve the applications for: Leslie Graham-pipeline & tank-\$3,229.50 and Debra Ludwig-pipeline & tank-\$2,649.75. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Uhlir, Wendt, Baumeister, Connell, Engelhaupt, Higgins, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Kaczor, Klawitter, Liewer, Naprstek, Pavlik, Randa) Connection was lost with: (Marcellus, Morrow) Absent: (Janzing). MOTION CARRIED.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

OPEN COMMENTS – none.

EXCUSE ABSENT DIRECTORS

At one point all directors were present.

CHRISTMAS EVE (THURSDAY) HOLIDAY?? CHRISTMAS DAY FRIDAY

Directors indicated it would be fine for office staff to also have Christmas Eve as a holiday along with Christmas Day. This also will apply to New Years Eve as well as New Year's Day.

A clock was presented to Diana Wendt for her 27 years of dedicated service on the Lower Niobrara NRD Board of Directors. Diana also was very dedicated while serving as the LNNRD representative on the NARD Board.

Chairman Baumeister declared the meeting adjourned at 3:40 P.M.

MEETING ATTENDEES

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

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 December 7, 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