

**LOWER NIOBRARA NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
FERUARY 1, 2021**

Chairman Pavlik 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 Pavlik 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 JANUARY 7, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Engelhaupt and second by Hoffman and Uhlir to approve the January 7, 2021 Meeting Minutes as circulated to the Board. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Connell, Engelhaupt, Hoffman, Janzing, Kaczor, Liewer, Mahlendorf, Morrow, Naprstek, Pavlik, Randa, Uhlir, Baumeister) Abstain: (Holtgrew, Marcellus) Absent: (Higgins, Klawitter). MOTION CARRIED.

MANAGER'S REPORT

A copy of the Manager's Report was mailed to the Directors prior to the meeting for their review. Connell questioned the chlorination system mentioned for the Rural Water System. The mediation group will be in the office for a group session on the 10th with individual sessions prior to that. A copy of the Forester Update was in the packets. Governor regulations allow for virtual meetings until April 30th. A copy of the letter to the Corps of Engineers from the Friends of the MO was mentioned. Legislative Updates were passed and if anyone is interested the NARD could add their name to their email listing. Pavlik questioned when the router will be installed. Terry responded on Wednesday. Pavlik also questioned if anything was heard from the Professional Computer Solutions Group working on the program. Terry responded nothing has been heard at this time.

AMY TIMMERMAN-EXTENSION EDUCATOR

Amy informed Directors there is a chemigation training scheduled for Butte on February 26 and trainings in O'Neill on February 16 & March 10. The O'Neill sessions require pre-registration due to COVID. She has been working with the Bazile GWMA demonstration sites and is also assisting with the GWMA Virtual Winter Meetings.

WATER RESOURCES COORDINATOR REPORT

Wade's report was mailed prior to the meeting for Directors to review. He updated the Directors on the Crop Reporting Form filings. Cards were sent to those who had not responded and they were given until February 19th to submit reports. Wade mentioned at this point more reports have been received than ever before. The bids for the NET Grant monitoring wells were awarded to Downey Drilling. Hopes are they will have the wells installed the first part of April. The bill from UNL for \$26,000.00 is on the Water Quality Treasurer's Report. Liewer expressed concern that cooperators not submitting reports be contacted personally before going ahead with issuing a Cease & Desist Order. Marcellus commented the map needs to be improved.

PROGRAMS ASSISTANT REPORT

Connie's report was also mailed to the Directors prior to the meeting. She called attention to the Bazile GWMA Virtual Winter Meeting flyer in the packets. She reported 1,369 views were reported on the website with the most visited pages being the Home and Forms. There are now 186 followers on the NRD Face Book page.

ASSOCIATION REPORT

Liewer reported he participated in the Legislative Conference Virtually. There were 45 bills the NARD felt were of interest to NRDs. Most of the bills introduced this year are relating to taxes. He participated in the NARD Board Meeting as well as the Insurance Meeting. There is a Basin Tour this summer being planned in the Omaha Area. Both he and Morrow expressed they liked Virtual Meetings due to the distance having to travel from our area for the short length of some of the meetings.

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS—Jim Mathine mailed his report to the Directors. Jim mentioned the EQIP ranking process is going well with hopes of having the contracts ranked early this spring. His office has worked with 10 producers on windbreaks, 8 of which have been turned into the NRD. Their office is also working with cooperators on grass seedings. The General CRP sign-up runs through February 12th with the CRP Grassland sign-up from March 15-April 23. The Local Work Group Meeting will be held virtually on February 9th. The connecting information was listed on Jim's report. Terry will be sending the link via email to those Directors having email.

Niobrara Council—Connell reported the meeting was held on January 21st. Reorganization took place. Sources of funding are being explored through the legislature. A burn and tree removal project on the south side of the river was looked at.

NE RC&D—Uhlir indicated he was unable to attend the meeting as he did not know when it was to be held. Vivian reported he should be receiving information as she had notified them of his name and contact information.

NC RC&D—Connell indicated he went to the location only to find out it was a virtual meeting. A copy of the minutes was in the packets. He reported there is a new treasurer. Discussed at the meeting was scheduling electronics collection, tire recycling and paper shredding projects.

Friends of the Missouri—Naprstek mentioned the FOM and MSAC seem to go hand in hand. There seems to be no solution for the sedimentation problem. He also discussed invasive species.

Missouri Sedimentation Action Coalition—covered above.

NSWCP ACTIVITIES

A copy of the NSWCP Report was available on the reverse side of the agenda. Vivian mentioned the two windbreak applications submitted for approval. Motion by Holtgrew and second by Hoffman to approve the tree applications for Tony Drueke-\$1635.61 and Shaun Higgins-\$1632.00. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Connell, Engelhaupt, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Janzing, Kaczor, Liewer, Mahlendorf, Marcellus, Morrow, Naprstek, Pavlik, Randa, Uhlir, Baumeister) Absent: (Higgins, Klawitter). MOTION CARRIED.

PERSONNEL-EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Engelhaupt and second by Hoffman to go into executive session at 2:32 P.M. to discuss personnel. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Connell, Engelhaupt, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Kaczor, Mahlendorf, Marcellus, Naprstek, Pavlik, Uhlir) Nay: (Janzing, Liewer, Morrow, Randa, Baumeister) Absent: (Higgins, Klawitter). MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Engelhaupt and second by Uhlir and Hoffman to come out of executive session at 3:15 P.M. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Connell, Engelhaupt, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Janzing, Kaczor, Liewer, Mahlendorf, Marcellus, Morrow, Naprstek, Pavlik, Randa, Uhlir, Baumeister) Absent: (Higgins, Klawitter). MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Kaczor and second by Connell to hire a different IT person to go through the office computers. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Connell, Engelhaupt, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Janzing, Kaczor, Liewer, Mahlendorf, Naprstek, Pavlik, Uhlir, Baumeister) Nay: (Marcellus, Morrow, Randa) Absent: (Higgins, Klawitter). MOTION CARRIED.

TOM HIGGINS RESIDENCY

Pavlik stated he was the one that requested this be placed on the agenda. He asked if any indication was given to the office of whether or not Higgins had resigned. Engelhaupt stated he was unable to attend the meeting today due to his health situation. Engelhaupt also mentioned Higgins has served on this board for 30 years. Normally there is a verbal or written resignation given and neither has been given. Several comments indicated this is a delicate situation and to just wait before any action is taken.

OFFICE BUILDING AND EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE

The Committee met prior to the meeting to discuss partitioning the office and meeting room into office cubicles for individual offices for the employees. A sketch showing the changes discussed was made available to the entire board. Portable panels can be purchased from Office Max for approximately \$2,640. These would allow for changes if something different were desired later. Staff can do the work themselves. NNTC will need to do some phone line work along with internet work. Motion by Holtgrew and second by Liewer to purchase the materials from Office Max for the current office and the meeting room to be made into individual offices for the employees. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Connell, Engelhaupt, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Janzing, Kaczor, Liewer, Mahlendorf, Marcellus, Morrow, Naprstek, Pavlik, Randa, Uhlir, Baumeister) Absent: (Higgins, Klawitter). MOTION CARRIED.

Comments were made the WIFI works well the Village installed in the Community Center.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A copy of the Treasurer's Report was available in the packets. Hoffman reviewed the expenditures and indicated

everything was in order. Motion by Uhlir and second by Randa to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Connell, Engelhaupt, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Janzing, Kaczor, Liewer, Mahlendorf, Marcellus, Morrow, Naprstek, Pavlik, Randa, Uhlir, Baumeister) Absent: (Higgins, Klawitter). MOTION CARRIED.

COMMENT PERIOD

Paul Allen questioned the \$900,000 for the NARD building purchase and the amount the NRD was contributing towards that purchase from the minutes last month. Manager Julesgard explained the process being taken by the NARD to purchase the building for their office which was destroyed during the riots in Lincoln.

Cathy Dobias thanked Vivian for her service to the District as her daughter had worked with Vivian in the past and wanted to show her support for her.

Marcellus thanked the Board for being understanding and working with him through his health issues.

EXCUSE ABSENT DIRECTORS

Klawitter had contacted the office that he would not be able to attend today. Higgins is having health issues and is unable to attend.

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

MEETING ATTENDEES

Directors: Larry Baumeister, Karl Connell, Jack Engelhaupt, Linda Hoffman, Don Holtgrew, John Janzing, Brian Kaczor, Marvin Liewer, Steve Mahlendorf, Dwain Marcellus (**Virtual**), Curt Morrow, Ray Naprstek, Kent Pavlik, Kevin Randa, Jeff Uhlir

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

Visitors: Jim Mathine, Calvin Dobias, Cathy Dobias, Paul Allen, Lana Bell, Shaun Higgins

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 February 1, 2021. 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