

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

Motion by Uhlir and second by Holtgrew to approve the February 1, 2021 Meeting Minutes as circulated to the Board. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Engelhaupt, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Janzing, Kaczor, Liewer, Marcellus, Morrow, Naprstek, Pavlik, Randa, Uhlir, Baumeister, Connell) Abstain: (Klawitter) Absent: (Higgins, Mahlendorf).
MOTION CARRIED.

ATTORNEY BLANKENAU – DIRECTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Attorney Blankenau informed the Directors the presentation he was about to give was developed by Jim Doyle. He reviewed the areas of responsibilities which the legislature gave the responsibility for Natural Resources Districts to oversee. The presentation reviewed the Open Meeting Act, Executive Sessions, Clean Water Act, etc. Attorney Blankenau addressed questions asked by Directors and others present.

MANAGER'S REPORT

A copy of the Manager's Report was mailed to the Directors prior to the meeting for their review. A copy of the Mediation Memorandum of Understanding was available in the packets along with the monthly Foresters Report. Copies of the Legislative Updates and the water quality article prepared by Charlie Workman were passed to the Directors. If copies were desired they were to place their name on the item.

WATER RESOURCES COORDINATOR REPORT

Wade's report was mailed prior to the meeting for Directors to review. Wade reported his Nitrogen Certification Class was held on Friday in conjunction with the Chemigation Training and Pesticide Training with 11 individuals in attendance. Post cards were sent to individuals as a final notice to those who have not submitted their Crop Reporting Forms. Approximately 57 fields out of approximately 1700 have not been completed. Several of those not complying are absentee landowners who think their renters have filed the reports. An email was received from Downey Well Drilling and as soon as the supplies arrive they will be drilling the monitoring wells, which will take approximately 3 weeks to complete.

PROGRAMS ASSISTANT REPORT

Connie's report was also mailed to the Directors prior to the meeting. She gave the Website statistics for the month. Facebook now has 191 followers. The BGMA virtual meetings on the 19th had 54 individuals participating, the 26th 39 individuals participated. The final virtual meeting will be this Friday. Volunteers are being solicited for the Nebraska Envirothon that will be held on April 28th at Wahoo.

ASSOCIATION REPORT

Liewer reported he received the Legislative Updates. The next NARD Board Meeting will be held next Monday and he will participate via Zoom.

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS—Jim Mathine mailed his report to the Directors. Jim mentioned he has been assisting producers in getting another extension for the Emergency Conservation Program to repair dams damaged in the Bomb Cyclone. 20 dams still need to be repaired with hopes those applications submitted to the FSA National Office will be approved. Also mentioned were the revisions made to the Memorandum of Understanding that was approved by the Board. At the federal level a few changes were made to the tree plan and Federal Government Vehicles areas.

Niobrara Council—Connell reported the meeting was held on February 18th. Representatives on the Council are still open. By-Laws will be reviewed. Funding from the Legislature for the Council is being requested. Discussed was how to handle not having a quorum at Council Meetings. NPS is working on an in-stream flow. G&P burn permits were discussed as was a boundary change on a parcel of ground.

NE RC&D—Uhlir reported election of officers was held with the same officers remaining in office. The Farmers Market in Ponca was discussed. Household waste and tire recycling will be held after May 1st. Bi-Annual

Meeting was discussed. He passed information from the meeting to the Directors to see.

NC RC&D—Connell indicated the meeting was held via zoom so he did not participate. A copy of the minutes has not been received yet.

Friends of the Missouri—A handout from February 18th was available. The Superintendent of the MO Recreational River is moving. Meetings have not been held due to COVID. Goat Island primitive camping is still being explored with consideration of purchasing another piece of ground. Membership has really dropped off. They are hoping to have a planning session later this year. CORPS of Engineers was happy with the feedback the FOM provided.

Missouri Sedimentation Action Coalition—no information received.

NSWCP ACTIVITIES

A copy of the NSWCP Report was available on the reverse side of the agenda. Vivian called attention to the applications submitted for approval along with the extension and additional funding request.

Vivian also drew attention to the address listed following the NSWCP Report for the card shower the office had been made aware of for Tom Higgins's 75th Birthday. Tom is currently in Hospice Care at the Good Samaritan Center in Atkinson.

Motion by Uhlir and second by Kaczor to approve the applications for: Cynthia Nolan-standard fencer-\$2,250.00; Robert Murphy-trees, mulch-\$1,966.94; Curtis Williamson-pipeline, tank-\$7,000.00; Jeremy Fuchtmann-trees, mulch-\$1,478.40; Wm. Hobbs-pipeline, tank only eligible for \$1,610.97 due to previous payment of \$5,389.03 from the 20-21 allocation. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Engelhaupt, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Janzing, Kaczor, Klawitter, Liewer, Marcellus, Morrow, Naprstek, Pavlik, Randa, Uhlir, Baumeister, Connell) Absent: (Higgins, Mahlendorf).
MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

A copy of the Treasurer's Report was available in the packets. Vivian mentioned the additions needed for the NRD Account: NPPD-electricity-\$82.53, Verizon-cell phones-\$153.63; Springview Herald-\$5.85 and Rock County Leader-\$5.24 for meeting notices. Addition to the Water Quality Report was Carma James for \$1,553.50 for cost share on 2 home treatment systems. Connell questioned all the engineering expenses for the RWS, which were explained. Motion by Liewer and second by Holtgrew to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented with the above additions. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Engelhaupt, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Janzing, Kaczor, Klawitter, Liewer, Marcellus, Morrow, Naprstek, Pavlik, Randa, Uhlir, Baumeister, Connell) Absent: (Higgins, Mahlendorf).
MOTION CARRIED.

PERSONNEL/OFFICE - EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Klawitter and second by Uhlir to go into executive session at 4:00 P.M. to discuss personnel and office. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Engelhaupt, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Janzing, Kaczor, Klawitter, Liewer, Marcellus, Morrow, Naprstek, Pavlik, Randa, Uhlir, Baumeister, Connell) Absent: (Higgins, Mahlendorf). MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Randa and second by Morrow to come out of executive session at 4:25 P.M. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Engelhaupt, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Janzing, Kaczor, Klawitter, Liewer, Marcellus, Morrow, Naprstek, Pavlik, Randa, Uhlir, Baumeister, Connell) Absent: (Higgins, Mahlendorf). MOTION CARRIED.

Chairman Pavlik thanked everyone for moving forward.

OFFICE FURNITURE

Manager Julesgard explained two computer desks (Wade's & Vivian's) are needing to be replaced as they will probably fall to pieces if moved. The Association has made the office aware of a warehouse in Omaha where nice furniture can be purchased very economically. Motion by Naprstek and second by Holtgrew to authorize up to \$1,500 for office furniture, if additional dollars were needed the Office Building and Equipment Committee is to be notified. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Engelhaupt, Hoffman, Holtgrew, Janzing, Kaczor, Klawitter, Liewer, Marcellus, Morrow, Naprstek, Pavlik, Randa, Uhlir, Baumeister, Connell) Absent: (Higgins, Mahlendorf). MOTION CARRIED.

TOM HIGGINS RESIGNATION AND DISCUSSION ON REPLACEMENT

Chairman Pavlik stated Shaun Higgins had presented Tom's resignation letter to him prior to the meeting. Chairman Pavlik read the letter of resignation to the board in-which he indicated he would like his son Shaun to complete the remainder of his term. Discussion was held on advertising the vacancy for two weeks and have letters of interest and the individual/individuals be present at the April 5th Board Meeting when an appointment will be made.

COMMENT PERIOD

Shaun presented a bill for \$2,323.75 from Attorney Argenbright that was sent to his father. This will be an agenda item next month.

EXCUSE ABSENT DIRECTORS

Mahlendorf contacted the office indicating he works with crop insurance and the deadline is March 15th and he had several appointments today so would be unable to attend the meeting.

Chairman Pavlik declared the meeting adjourned at 4:47 P.M.

MEETING ATTENDEES

Directors: Larry Baumeister, Karl Connell, Jack Engelhaupt, Linda Hoffman, Don Holtgrew, John Janzing, Brian Kaczor, Randy Klawitter, Marvin Liewer, 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, Paul Allen, Lana Bell, Shaun Higgins, Bradley Mahon, Shirley Mahon, Dennis Schueths, Gene Kelly, Marv Fritz, Attorney Don Blankenau, (**ZOOM** - Chip Wittaker, Curt Gotschall, Michael Moser)

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 March 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