

**LOWER NIOBRARA NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 2, 2021**

Chairman Pavlik called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M. at 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 JULY 6, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Engelhaupt and second by Morrow to approve the July 6, 2021 Meeting Minutes as circulated to the Board. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Liewer, Morrow, Naprstek, Pavlik, Randa, Baumeister, Connell, Engelhaupt, Higgins, Holtgrew, Janzing) Abstain: (Klawitter, Uhlir) Absent: (Hoffman, Kaczor, Mahlendorf, Marcellus). 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 if the Personnel Policy was done and asked why an Attorney had written it. Manager Julesgard responded it was written and given to the Personnel Committee tonight. Most of the other NRD's have it written by an Attorney for legal reasons. Pavlik questioned if trees were guaranteed this year. Manager's response was trees aren't guaranteed and the only time they are replaced is if the nursery has an issue with some species. A copy of the Forester's Report is in the packets. Pavlik also questioned the status of the new program being developed. Manager's response was, we should be contacted in the near future for setting up a time for them to review it with us. Connell asked for an explanation of STAR WARS in the Manager's Report and it was explained. A meeting is being planned for August 25th to discuss this.

WATER RESOURCES COORDINATOR REPORT

Wade's report was mailed prior to the meeting for Directors to review. Wade stated he has spent time collecting water samples this past month. There are 3 official applications for new irrigated acres and he has a couple of meetings with individuals next week. Applications are taken until the end of August and the Committee will need to meet in September to review the applications for approval/denial at the October meeting. He explained the new Clearing House Data Map pertaining to nitrates on the reverse side of his report. No irrigation has taken place on Reg Green as he was by his fields today.

PROGRAMS ASSISTANT REPORT

Connie's report was also mailed to the Directors prior to the meeting. She reported the Envirothon went well. Boyd County is again on the Drought Monitor, but Knox County is not. She encouraged Directors to attend the Bazile GWMA Field Day on September 9th.

ASSOCIATION REPORT

Liewer mentioned the NARD was busy with the Envirothon and he did not receive any information from them. The Fall Conference is September 26th - 28th. Voting Delegate - Marvin Liewer Alternate - Jack Engelhaupt

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS—Jim Mathine mailed his report to the Directors. He mentioned their office has approved 25 EQIP contracts covering a variety of practices. The General CRP signup period ended. The Continuous CRP signup will end August 20th. CRP Status Reviews have been completed. Several requests have been received for emergency haying and grazing. Dams are being constructed despite pipe being hard to obtain. Effects of fire on grasses was discussed.

Niobrara Council—Connell reported there is a meeting upcoming.

NE RC&D—Uhlir reported the meeting was cancelled.

NC RC&D—Connell reported the next meeting is scheduled for August 10th.

Friends of the Missouri—A meeting was held at the Nebraska end of the Meridian Bridge. The NPS is working with the city of Yankton to develop a trail in this area. Yankton will donate the land to develop a picnic area with toilets with the trail beginning here. This development may fit the STAR WARS program.

Missouri Sedimentation Action Coalition—A save the date notice was received for August 16th.

APPROVAL OF BUDGET FOR BUDGET HEARING – SEPTEMBER 7, 2021 AT 2:00 P.M.

A copy of the draft budget was in the packets. The Budget Committee met Friday evening with all members present. There were very few changes from last year. The final valuations from the counties will determine the levy. The tax asking will be the same. Building Maintenance along with the Vehicle and Building Sinking Fund were questioned and discussed. Motion by Randa and second by Uhlir to approve the Budget for publication to hold the Budget Hearing on September 7, 2021 at 2:00 P.M. at the NRD Office. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Liewer, Morrow, Naprstek, Pavlik, Randa, Uhlir, Baumeister, Connell, Engelhaupt, Higgins, Holtgrew, Janzing, Klawitter) Absent: (Hoffman, Kaczor, Mahlendorf, Marcellus). MOTION CARRIED.

NSWCP ACTIVITIES

A copy of the NSWCP Report was available on the reverse side of the agenda. Vivian reviewed the new allocation received, the amount available from slippage and cancellations, the total of applications approved last month upon receipt of new allocation and the amount reserved for trees. Also an extension was received for Debra Ludwig after the report was printed. Motion by Holtgrew and second by Engelhaupt to approve the applications for: Trent Schaaf-well, pumping plant and tank-\$6,307.82, Kelly Reiser-dugout-\$2,704.92 and Joe Hostert-pipeline & tank-\$5,809.37 along with the extension for Debra Ludwig and the cancellation for Theresa Henderson Weaver. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Liewer, Morrow, Naprstek, Pavlik, Randa, Uhlir, Baumeister, Connell, Engelhaupt, Higgins, Holtgrew, Janzing, Klawitter) Absent: (Hoffman, Kaczor, Mahlendorf, Marcellus). MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

A copy of the Treasurer's Report was available in the packets. Vivian mentioned there are additions to the NRD report: Village of Butte-\$79.60 for water, sewer, trash; Holt County Independent-\$4.71 & Rock County Leader-\$5.24 for meeting notices; Verizon-\$205.57 for cell phones. Motion by Liewer and second by Holtgrew to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented with the additions mentioned. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Liewer, Morrow, Naprstek, Pavlik, Randa, Uhlir, Baumeister, Engelhaupt, Higgins, Holtgrew, Janzing, Klawitter) Nay: (Connell) Absent: (Hoffman, Kaczor, Mahlendorf, Marcellus). MOTION CARRIED.

COMMENT PERIOD

Klawitter raised the question of how the NRD can approve the WKRWS minutes before the advisory board does. This was explained and discussed.

EXCUSE ABSENT DIRECTORS

Mahlendorf contacted the office that his father-in-law was in the hospital and he was going with his wife to visit him. Marcellus contacted the office and indicated with the rise in COVID cases in the area he would not be attending the meeting. Hoffman contacted the office the next day and indicated she was not feeling well. Nothing was heard from Kaczor.

Chairman Pavlik declared the meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

MEETING ATTENDEES

Directors: Larry Baumeister, Karl Connell, Jack Engelhaupt, Shaun Higgins, Don Holtgrew, John Janzing, Randy Klawitter, Marvin Liewer, Curt Morrow, Ray Naprstek, Kent Pavlik, Kevin Randa, Jeff Uhlir

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 August 2, 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