

MINUTES

LOWER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

August 31, 2023

Ord, Nebraska

The August meeting of the Board of Directors of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District was held at the Headquarters Office, 2620 Airport Drive, Ord, Nebraska, on August 31, 2023. Chairman Eschliman called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Directors in attendance:

James C. Adams
Darwin B. Anderson
Robert L. Bauer
James Eschliman, Chairman
Randy Kauk
Gary A. Kruse
Larry Mohrman
Alan Petersen
Alexander L. Vlach

Rollie D. Amsberry, Treasurer
Timothy E. Bartak
John R. Coffey, Secretary
N. Richard Hadenfeldt
Thomas L. Knutson
Matt Lukasiewicz
Todd Nitsch
Gerald Smith
Rick Vlach

Directors absent:

Chad J. Podolak

Henry J. Thoene, Vice Chairman

Staff in attendance:

Russell G. Callan, General Manager
Irene F. Kreifels, Administrative Assistant
Alan Bartels, I & E Coordinator
Dell R. Harris, Water Resources Specialist
Kevin Gustafson, District Engineer
Brian Kolar, Projects Specialist
Aron Lewis, Conservation Forester

Tylr Naprstek, Assistant General Manager
Kim A. Lyons, Financial Secretary
Brant Bechtold, I & E Specialist
V. Anne Freeman, Water Programs Secretary
Cacey Wilken, Water Modeling Coordinator
Jason Moudry, Water Programs Specialist
Richard L. Woollen, District Forester

Also attending:

Rodney Verhoeff, EA Engineering, Lincoln
Naisi Dave, EA Engineering, Lincoln
Dennis Lyon, San Diego, CA

Dave Griffith, EA Engineering, Lincoln
Bryce Bauer, NRCS, Ord

VERIFICATION OF MEETING NOTICE AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairman Eschliman asked for verification of the meeting notice. General Manager Russell Callan stated that the agenda was current, and that the meeting notices were properly published in all required newspapers, posted at the NRD Headquarters office in Ord, on the NRD website, and in the eight field office locations.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

Eschliman stated Director Mohrman would be late and that Directors Podolak and Thoene had asked to be excused.

Smith motioned, seconded by Knutson, to excuse absent directors. Motion carried by electronic vote. Directors voting yes: Adams, Amsberry, Anderson, Bartak, Bauer, Coffey, Eschliman, Hadenfeldt, Kauk, Knutson, Kruse, Lukasiewicz, Nitsch, Petersen, Smith, A. Vlach, R. Vlach. Directors absent: Mohrman, Podolak, Thoene.

MINUTES

Eschliman asked for corrections and/or additions to the July 27, 2023, Board meeting minutes. None were heard.

Mohrman arrived at 1:02 p.m.

Knutson motioned, seconded by R. Vlach, to approve the July 27, 2023, Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried by electronic vote, all present voting yes.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Russell Callan, General Manager, highlighted expenditures of \$3,700.00 to UNANIMOUS Inc. for website redesign and \$546.00 to Ward Laboratories Inc. for water and soil samples. He also noted expenditures of \$38,266.50 to Grosch Irrigation Co. for replacement of a well an NRD tape got stuck in.

Kruse motioned, seconded by Petersen, to approve the August 31, 2023, Treasurer's Report. Motion carried by electronic vote, all present voting yes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Eschliman asked for comments from the public.

Dennis Lyon, San Diego, CA, introduced himself and had comments relating to his land near Anselmo and his recent request for certified irrigated acres transfers that was denied by the Variance Committee. He stated he had information to give to the Directors. Mr. Lyon stated that he sees that there are unclaimed acres in his area and that there were varying circumstances regarding a closed well and gravity acres. He stated his request was to add 20 acres to be able to

use a swing arm on his pivot. Lyon also requested cost-share for a flowmeter on the property, and justification for the requirement.

PUBLIC HEARING ON LOWER LOUP NRD FY 2024 BUDGET

At 1:08 p.m. Eschliman announced that the regular Board Meeting would be suspended until after the budget proceedings.

James Eschliman: I am James J. Eschliman, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District.

Our purpose for meeting here this evening is to hear public comments on the proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Budget of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District. Notice of this public hearing has been published according to law in The Grand Island Independent and The Columbus Telegram.

The time is 1:09 p.m. I will formally open the Budget Hearing. I will ask for comments from the public concerning the proposed budget. I will ask that you give your name, legal residence, and whom you represent.

None heard

James Eschliman: Seeing none, I will now ask for comments from the Directors of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District.

None heard

James Eschliman: Seeing none, if there are no other comments, I will close this hearing at 1:10 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING TO SET FINAL TAX REQUEST FOR FY 2024

James Eschliman: I am James J. Eschliman, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District.

Our purpose for meeting here this evening is to take testimony relating to the governing Board's decision to set the levy at a different amount than the Platte County Clerk's preliminary property tax rate as established pursuant to Nebraska Revised Statute 77-1601.02.

Notice of this public hearing has been published according to law in The Grand Island Independent and The Columbus Telegram.

The time is 1:11 p.m. I will formally open the Hearing. I will ask for comments from the public. I will ask that you give your name, legal residence, and whom you represent.

None heard

James Eschliman: Seeing none, I will now ask for comments from the Directors of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District.

Tom Knutson: Mr. Chairman?

James Eschliman: Yes.

Tom Knutson: Yes, I uh. First of all, I think that, in regard to our growth, which is wonderful, as far as tax needs. I am happy with what the staff has done, as far as being able to keep the property tax request down, because of growth in general, but I want to say thank you. This is always a concern, all taxpayers want to know that their tax statement, and I know that back in the St Paul area, where I live, somebody will come and ask me “Well what’s this even buy” because they don’t really understand a whole lot about NRDs nor do they understand sometimes about irrigation districts, which I used to manage for years. So, it’s important that we attempt to make sure that we’re not reaching out there where we shouldn’t be. So, good job.

James Eschliman: Thanks Tom. Anybody else?

None heard

James Eschliman: If there are no other comments, I will close the hearing at 1:13 p.m. Now we will proceed with the regular agenda. All those in attendance are welcome to remain. We will need a motion to resume the regular meeting.

Adams motioned, seconded by Knutson, to resume the regular meeting. Motion carried by electronic vote, all present voting yes.

LLNRD FY 2024 BUDGET

Eschliman introduced Resolution Number FY2024-002:

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE BUDGET OF THE LOWER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024

WHEREAS, the Lower Loup Natural Resources District, a political subdivision organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, said Board of Directors of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District has held two (2) Budget Work sessions to hear suggestions as to what reoccurring expenses and new projects the District will incur in the coming Fiscal Year 2023-2024; and

WHEREAS, said Board of Directors of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District has compiled a list of proposed funding sources to help cover those expenses and projects planned for Fiscal Year 2023-2024; and

WHEREAS, said Board of Directors of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District recommends a budget expenditure of \$20,886,527.01 for Fiscal Year 2023-2024; and

WHEREAS, said Board of Directors of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District has held a public hearing in compliance with the provisions of State Statute Sections 13-501 to 13-513, for the purpose to hear support, opposition, criticism, suggestions, or observations from the general public and the Board of Directors of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District relating to their proposed budget and no dissenting comments were heard;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District assembled on this 31st day of August, 2023, adopt Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget as presented.

Kruse motioned, seconded by Smith, to adopt Resolution FY2024-002 Resolution to Adopt the Budget of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. Motion carried by electronic vote. Directors voting yes: Adams, Amsberry, Bartak, Bauer, Coffey, Eschliman, Hadenfeldt, Kauk, Knutson, Kruse, Lukasiewicz, Mohrman, Nitsch, Petersen, Smith, A. Vlach, R. Vlach. Director abstaining: Anderson. Directors absent: Podolak, Thoene.

Eschliman introduced Resolution Number FY2024-003:

**RESOLUTION
TO
APPROVE ADDITIONAL ONE PERCENT INCREASE**

WHEREAS, the Lower Loup Natural Resources District has completed and approved their FY-2024 Budget; and

WHEREAS, a special public hearing was held on August 31, 2023, as required by law, to hear and consider comments concerning the property tax request; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska Revised Statute 13-519 provides a governmental unit may exceed the limit provided in subsection (1) of this section for a fiscal year by up to an additional one percent upon the affirmative vote of at least seventy-five percent of the members of the governing body constituting a quorum authorized to conduct business; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District has determined the one percent allowable increase is necessary for the financing of proposed District programs and projects;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District approves the adoption of the additional one percent increase allowed to their FY-2024 budget.

Smith motioned, seconded by Bartak, to adopt Resolution *FY2024-003: Resolution to Approve Additional One Percent Increase*. Motion carried by electronic vote. Directors voting yes: Adams, Amsberry, Anderson, Bartak, Bauer, Coffey, Eschliman, Hadenfeldt, Kauk, Knutson, Kruse, Lukasiewicz, Mohrman, Nitsch, Petersen, Smith, R. Vlach. Director abstaining: A. Vlach. Directors absent: Podolak, Thoene.

Eschliman introduced Resolution Number 2024-004:

***RESOLUTION
TO
SET THE PROPERTY TAX REQUEST***

WHEREAS, Nebraska Revised Statute 77-1601.02 provides that the property tax request for the prior year shall be the property tax request for the current year for purposes of the levy set by the County Board of Equalization unless the Governing Body of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District passes by a majority vote a resolution setting the tax request at a different amount; and

WHEREAS, a special public hearing was held as required by law to hear and consider comments concerning the property tax request; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District that the property tax request for the current year be a different amount than the property tax request for the prior year;

WHEREAS, the total assessed value of property differs from last year's total assessed value by 6 percent;

WHEREAS, the tax rate which would levy the same amount of property taxes as last year, when multiplied by the new total assessed value of property, would be \$0.034515 per \$100 of assessed value;

WHEREAS, the Lower Loup Natural Resources District proposes to adopt a property tax request that will cause its tax rate to be \$0.036169 per \$100 of assessed value;

WHEREAS, based on the proposed property tax request and changes in other revenue, the total operating budget of Lower Loup Natural Resources District will change from last year's by -1 percent;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Governing Body of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District, by a majority vote, resolves that:

- 1. The 2023-2024 property tax request be set at \$6,534,725.30.*
- 2. A copy of this resolution be certified and forwarded to the Platte County Clerk on or before October 15, 2023.*
- 3. Any levy which is not in compliance with this section and section 77-1601 shall be construed as an unauthorized levy under section 77-1606.*

Mohrman motioned, seconded by Knutson, to adopt *Resolution FY2024-004: Resolution to Set the Property Tax Request*. Motion carried by electronic vote. Directors voting yes: Adams, Amsberry, Bartak, Bauer, Coffey, Eschliman, Hadenfeldt, Kauk, Knutson, Kruse, Lukasiwicz, Mohrman, Nitsch, Petersen, Smith, R. Vlach. Directors abstaining: Anderson, A. Vlach. Directors absent: Podolak, Thoene.

FORESTER'S REPORT

Aron Lewis, Conservation Forester, reported that he has been working on windbreak renovations and forestry improvement projects. He also stated he has been to a conservation practitioners meeting, an NRD tree meeting, and the Western Nebraska Field Day. Lewis reported that the new conservation tree booklets would be coming with new information on species. Windbreak spacing guidelines, among other topics, were discussed at the NRD tree meeting.

Lewis also reported that he has attended meetings at Halsey, and they are obtaining bids for timber removal. He was also present at the State Fair to judge forestry projects. Callan asked what the burnt lumber from Hasley would be used for. Lewis stated that some could be sold as salvaged lumber and some could be made into pet bedding, mulch, etc.

NRCS REPORT

Bryce Bauer, NRCS, reported that a Resource Conservationist had been hired in Albion that will start within the next six weeks and that a Natural Resource Specialist had been hired for Albion as well.

Bauer stated he had a meeting with Rob Lawson to discuss possibly being able to utilize the *ACT Now* portion of EQIP, which would allow producers to sign up and get contracts for certain EQIP programs without having to wait for the November sign-up deadline. Bauer stated that there would probably be a ballpark increase of 10% to cost-share. Also, he said the burn policy will be changed as well to, once again, allow NRCS employees to help with planned burns as an educational tool to show staff how to do burns and to understand how fire acts.

He also reported that Childrens Conservation Day was coming up for 4th and 5th graders in Ord and Fullerton.

COVER CROP STUDY REPORT – EA ENGINEERING

Rodney Verhoeff, EA Engineering, stated he was standing in for Dan Bigbee, who had another commitment. He stated that Dave Griffith and Naisi Dave were also present. Verhoeff reviewed the project objective and explained that the goal was to increase the general understanding of how cover crops affected soil moisture and potential groundwater recharge, as well as movement of nitrates through the root zone.

Verhoeff reviewed the project funding, which includes a partnership between CPNRD and LLNRD, and funding from the Water Sustainability Fund. He stated that from August, 2019, to June, 2023, data was collected from 12 sites, across 3 fields, with half of each field planted with cover crops and half without. Soil moisture sensors were placed at the root zone and the vadose zone. Soil samples to measure nitrate movement were taken down to 15 feet at 3-foot increments. Rainfall was also tracked.

Dave Griffith explained the 3 fields and equipment layouts. He explained that each site had nodes that recorded samples every 30 minutes, 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. The node's data was transferred to a base unit on each site and then uploaded to a website for processing. Graphs of the data collected were shown.

Naisi Dave explained potential groundwater recharge results and stated that on "Jeremy's Place" site and the "NW of House" site, the study showed no statistical differences in the cover crop sides to the no-cover crop sides, either by seasonal, annual or overall recordings. In contrast, the results for the "Dryland Pivot" field, which is actually an irrigated field, showed a statistical difference of potentially more groundwater recharge in the cover crop side of the field, and with more consistency than the other two sites.

Also, potentially, less overall groundwater recharge activity was going on in the "Dryland Pivot" site than on other sites. While data from years 1 through 3 showed very little differences from year to year in results on "Jeremy's Place" and the "NW of House", year 2 for the "Dryland Pivot" field showed significantly higher groundwater recharge potential than years 1 and 3.

Combination of data from all three years showed that the "Dryland Pivot" field stood out as different than the other two fields, as having significantly lower potential groundwater recharge on that site. One possible reason is that there was significantly less precipitation on that field than the other two. When potential groundwater data from all three fields and all three years are combined, overall, the study shows that there is no significant difference between cover crop and no-cover crop fields.

Naisi Dave reported that there are two ways to look at nitrate levels – one, by comparing cover crop vs. no-cover crop data; and two, by looking at nitrate levels at various soil depths. In 2020, on "Jeremy's Place", there was a significant difference in nitrate levels on cover crop vs. no-cover crop data. On "Dryland Pivot" site, in 2019, the cover crop data showed significantly higher levels of nitrates than the no-cover crop data. In 2022, the 0' to 3' soil sample depths showed higher nitrates than the deeper depths. On the "NW of House" site, data showed that in 2019, the 0' to 6' soil depths showed lower nitrate levels than the deeper depths.

It was mentioned that there are many variables that were hard to address that affected the data results during this 3-year study, and that the only way to get more accurate averages is to have more years of data.

Further discussion was held on the results of the testing.

Adams motioned, seconded by Knutson, to accept EA Engineering's report on the Cover Crop Study. Motion carried by electronic vote. Directors voting yes: Adams, Amsberry, Bartak, Bauer, Coffey, Eschliman, Hadenfeldt, Kauk, Knutson, Kruse, Lukasiewicz, Mohrman, Nitsch, Petersen, Smith, A. Vlach, R. Vlach. Director not present for vote: Anderson. Directors absent: Podolak, Thoene.

INFORMATION & EDUCATION REPORT

Educational Events

Alan Bartels, I&E Coordinator, reported that MUDFEST will be held September 29th in the Arboretum and that September 6th, there will be the Conservation Celebration at Auble's Pond. He said Envirothon Field Day will be held October 5th at Aagaard Farm and that LLNRD will be hosting the State Land Judging Contest on October 25th in Custer County.

Quarterly Newsletter

Bartels reported that the quarterly newsletter was mailed on August 15th.

NARD Annual Conference

Bartels stated that the Annual Conference registrations and reservations have been made.

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Recreation Areas

Tylr Naprstek, Assistant General Manager, reported that water levels at Davis Creek were dropping quickly to get the lake to winter elevation and staff is moving the docks every other day. He also reported that Labor Day weekend reservations were full as well as the third week of September for Junk Jaunt.

Smith asked when road work would start. Naprstek stated the recreation area will be closed October 1st and until construction is complete.

Naprstek stated that Pibel Lake is close to being on Beach Watch. He noticed a little algae formation caused from the heat.

Drought Meeting Report

Naprstek stated there was very little change to the drought report. He reported that a Drought Stakeholders meeting was held August 23rd. Naprstek showed the current drought status map and reviewed the regional drought status, showing very little change from previous reports. While previous drought outlooks predicted that the drought continues, but were hopeful that conditions would improve, the current outlook is that the drought will persist.

Naprstek also discussed the Genoa area and that they are no longer operating the south well. Restrictions are being implemented to cut down on water usage. Naprstek also showed the regional drought status and stated there would be more discussion during the Water Resources Committee report.

Chemigation

Naprstek stated that chemigation inspections were almost complete. He said the staff has had 44 failures with 9 that are still waiting to be fixed. In total the NRD issued 3,457 permits this year.

Water Sampling

Naprstek reported that staff is trying to sample all the systems they can and are working on sampling irrigation wells while they are out doing chemigation inspections.

Infrareads

Naprstek reported that Cornerstone Mapping flyovers started on August 10th on the east end of the District and finished on the 22nd in the northwest part of the District. Data is collected at a height of 18,000 feet.

PROGRAMS/PROJECTS COMMITTEE

Davis Creek Road Project

Kruse reported that the final design with Flatwater Group for the Davis Creek Road Project was going out for bids, which will be due September 27th, with the award to be announced at the September meeting.

Mud Creek

Kruse reported that the survey was being completed by business groups and compiled information was submitted to NRCS on August 23rd.

Mira Creek

Kruse stated that the project was moving forward, and information will be submitted to NRCS.

Sargent Flood Project

Kruse reported that NEMA has responded and the grant is still under review. He added that FEMA funds were getting spread out due to all the natural disasters occurring.

Pibel Lake Expansion

Naprstek explained that the project would entail a ten-foot-wide trail on the north, east, and south sides of the lake. He added that a loop would be added off Pibel Lake Road with a shower house and 12-15 camping sites. He stated that funding could be applied for next year through the Land and Water Conservation Fund and Recreation Trails Program.

Kruse motioned, seconded by Smith, to seek proposals for the Pibel Lake camping and trail improvements design and to seek funding options. Motion carried by electronic vote, all present voting yes.

Information/Education Report

Bartels gave an update on informational outreach activities to the public since the public hearing, mostly pertaining to nitrates. "In The Loup" newsletters, published four times per year, are sent to 33,626 addresses. "Water Matters" now goes out to everyone in the District two times per year. Other media outlets include social media, newspapers, radio, TV, and the LLNRD website.

WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Drought Management Plan/Drought Meeting

Naprstek discussed the drought meeting that was held on August 23rd. Attending were not only people who helped in the development of the drought plan, but also people who would be influenced by it. He reviewed some of the information that was showcased during the meeting, including how the drought has been ongoing. A lot of time was spent talking about drought triggers and how there must be two mechanisms or instances taking place to trigger an area as a drought area. Triggers considered include static water level, ongoing drought, localized reporting of situations such as wells going dry or well interference, streamflow and the regional drought forecast. If two mechanisms are triggered, management actions are recommended to the Board to proceed forward. Naprstek also showed a map of well locations highlighting the ones that were at the lowest level that they had ever been.

Naprstek reviewed the regional drought status and showed the status of drought throughout the District. He also showed the flow meter status and discussed irrigated acres and allocations. In addition, he went over a series of static water levels, showing reading of wells and discussed the decrease near Pleasanton and Ravenna.

Trends in Areas 18 and 20 were discussed as being cause for concern. ArcGIS information was graphed and reviewed showing declines with some slight increases.

Lukasiewicz left at 2:42 p.m.

Kruse stated that he felt that people appreciated the meetings that have been held and that he feels that there is less confusion. R. Vlach added that the more information that is out there,

the easier it is to get things done. Smith added that it was helpful to have people from the original task force present for discussions.

Callan stated that there will be more meetings held and information will be passed on to interested parties.

Further discussion was held on water levels in Areas 17 and 18 as well.

Smith motioned, seconded by Adams, to disallow transfers into Drought Areas 18 and 20 and that all supplemental wells in those areas must go through the Variance Committee to be approved.

Kruse asked about doing an annual review. Adams stated that they will have meters installed in two years if it passes. Bartak asked about supplemental wells being included. Callan stated this is for supplemental wells, so they are in addition to the original well, and would need to go to the Variance Committee before approval. Smith asked about amending the motion to include annual review.

Smith retracted the original motion.

Smith motioned, seconded by Adams, to disallow transfers into Drought Areas 18 and 20 and that all supplemental wells in the area must go through the Variance Committee for approval with review every year when new acres are discussed. Motion carried by electronic vote, all present voting yes.

Petersburg Monitoring Well Construction

Naprstek reported that a USGS grant for up to \$53,485 was awarded for construction of three monitoring wells and real-time pressure transducers in two of the three desired locations. Staff recommends that two additional wells be constructed on an additional site in that area. He stated that well-depth recommendations have been made. Cost was discussed and it was stated that staff recommendation is to complete all five of the wells within the three sites.

Smith motioned, seconded by R. Vlach, to construct all five monitoring wells. Motion carried by electronic vote, all present voting yes.

Columbus Recharge Project

Callan stated that the project was almost complete, there are only a few things left to finalize.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Healthy Watersheds, Healthy Communities Act

Kevin Gustafson, District Engineer, reported on the Healthy Watersheds, Healthy Communities Act bill that was introduced. He stated that it basically streamlines the WFPO Program. He highlighted various things. He added that they are looking for drought resilience as the purpose of the WFPO project. He said that current watershed limits are set at 250,000 acres and included is defining irrigation efficiency. He added that right now, irrigation districts are not eligible sponsors. He said the changes will give State Conservationists and NRCS more authority to review the process and will also require public notification on projects that have more than one public benefit.

Mud Creek Plan

Gustafson reported that JEO has completed the plan and it has been submitted to NRCS, then to the NRCS Chief for final review.

Mira Creek Plan

Gustafson reported that JEO is hoping to get comments into the NWMC in Little Rock by tomorrow.

Davis Creek Road

Gustafson reported that Flatwater is scheduled to have final deliverables to us by the end of the business day today and that ads should run next week.

VARIANCE COMMITTEE

Smith reported that this was the first meeting on the variance request, and they will be back next month with more information and a recommendation will be made at that time.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Resolution: Richard Woollen

Eschliman introduced Resolution FY2023-005:

*Adopted by the Board of Directors
Lower Loup Natural Resources District
August 31, 2023*

WHEREAS, the Lower Loup Natural Resources District has provided long-standing service in the conservation of natural resources to the residents of the Loup River Basin,

WHEREAS, Richard Woollen provided 30 years of exemplary service and valuable advice to the District as the District Forester in Ord, and

WHEREAS, Richard Woollen served the citizens of the District with forestry knowledge while contributing to a successful conservation tree program that planted millions of trees,

BE IT RESOLVED, by unanimous vote, the Board of Directors of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District extends recognition and commendation to Richard Woollen.

Smith motioned, seconded by Hadenfeldt, to adopt Resolution FY2023-005: Recognition for Richard Woollen for 30 Years of Service. Motion carried by electronic vote, all present voting yes.

Woollen was presented with a plaque with the resolution engraved on it.

Litigation Update

Callan reported that the arguments on the Platte Republican diversion have been heard; however, he has not been in touch with the attorneys for more information.

New Hires

No new hires.

Non-Action Reports

Callan provided the Directors with a copy of Farm Bureau's Policy Guides that can also be viewed on their website. He stated that it talks about NRD responsibilities and powers granted for taxing authorities. He stated it is something that we need to keep an eye on as it will take away from local authority. Callan added that when the NRD acts, such as limiting nitrogen, these kinds of things start to pop up. Callan added that Farm Bureau staff suggests it originated from the Governor's office. However, the Governor's office denies it. Callan said all he knew was that it's on Farm Bureau's website.

Petersen stated that he is on the Farm Bureau Advisory Board and that they have always been adamant that they are at the local level but there are suggestions that come down from others that could influence articles such as this.

Knutson asked about Mr. Lyon's comments to the Board. He was informed that the Variance Committee had reviewed the request before it was denied.

NARD REPORT

Eschliman stated there was no update.

NRC REPORT

Amsberry stated there hasn't been a meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / FUTURE MEETING TOPICS

No announcements were made.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, Chairman Eschliman declared the meeting adjourned at 3:21 p.m.

Roster for attendance of this meeting and tally of votes cast on motions at this meeting are being filed with the official minutes of this meeting at the Lower Loup Natural Resources District's Headquarters Office, 2620 Airport Drive, Ord, Nebraska. Publication notification of this meeting was made via required newspapers. The next Board of Directors meeting will be held September 28, 2023, at 5:00 p.m., at the Headquarters Office in Ord, Nebraska.

John R. Coffey
Secretary