

LOWER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

May 26, 2016

Ord, Nebraska

The May 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 May 26, 2016. In the absence of Chairman Citta, Vice-Chairman Eschliman called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Directors in attendance

James C. Adams
Darwin B. Anderson
Beth Boesch
Virgil W. Gellermann
Gary A. Kruse
James C. Nelson
Dean J. Rasmussen
Henry J. Thoene, Secretary

Rollie D. Amsberry, Treasurer
Timothy E. Bartak
James J. Eschliman, Vice Chairman
N. Richard Hadenfeldt
Clifford P. Loseke
Alan D. Petersen
Gerald P. Smith

Directors absent

Joseph L. Citta, Jr., Chairman
Randy Kauk
Dean G. Thede

Michael P. Gutzmer
Matt Lukasiewicz

Staff in attendance

Leon "Butch" Koehlmoos, General Manager
Irene F. Kreifels, Financial Secretary
Larry D. Schultz, I&E Coordinator
Anne Freeman, Water Programs Secretary
Richard L. Woollen, North Cent. Dist. Forester
Jason Moudry, Water Programs Specialist

Russell G. Callan, Assistant General Manager
Rita A. Goldfish, Administrative Assistant
Tylr D. Naprstek, Water Modeling Coordinator
Cheryl K. Hornickel, Programs Assistant
Dell R. Harris, Water Resources Specialist
LeeAnn Smith, Water Programs Assistant

Guest in attendance

Bryce Bauer, LDC, NRCS, Ord

NOTICE OF OPEN MEETING LAW POSTING

Chairman Eschliman referred those in attendance to the open meeting law information posted in the Board room.

VERIFICATION OF MEETING NOTICE, ADOPTION OF AGENDA, AND ROLL CALL

Chairman Eschliman asked for verification of the meeting notice. General Manager Leon “Butch” Koehlmoos verified that the meeting notices were properly published in all newspapers except the Greeley Citizen, and that the meeting notice was also posted at the NRD Headquarters office in Ord, the NRD web site, and the eight field office locations. Koehlmoos said that item 10, “Davis Creek Recreation Area Improvement Bids” was added to the agenda.

Hadenfeldt motioned, seconded by Smith, to verify the meeting notice and adopt the modified agenda. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

Koehlmoos stated that Directors Citta, Kauk, Thede, and Lukasiewicz had requested to be excused from the meeting. Director Gutzmer was also absent.

Boesch motioned, seconded by Kruse, to approve the requested excused absences. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.

MINUTES

Chairman Eschliman asked for corrections and/or additions to the April 28, 2016, Board meeting minutes. None being heard, Chairman Eschliman ruled that the April 28, 2016, minutes would stand approved as submitted.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Chairman Eschliman directed the Board’s attention to the Treasurer’s Report as published in the regular and supplemental agendas.

Koehlmoos highlighted bills for survey equipment, drip irrigation supplies, contractor fees, repairs on the shed at Fullerton, and the aerial electromagnetic survey that Aqua Geo Frameworks will be starting in mid-July.

Rasmussen motioned, seconded by Loseke, to approve the May, 2016, Treasurer’s Report and pay all bills. Motion carried by roll call vote, all directors voting yes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

FORESTER’S REPORT

North Central District Forester Richard Woollen updated the Board on tree planting progress and said that the regular planting jobs were done and that drip irrigation jobs would soon be starting.

He said the soil moisture has been good for the new seedlings. He said that approximately 100,000 feet of drip irrigation pipe will be installed this spring.

NRCS REPORT

Bryce Bauer, Liaison DC, reported that 10% of the compliance reviews were done. He said that 16 CSP applications were approved for 500,000 acres. He said most of the monies for CRP renewal contracts went west and that there was only one renewal in Ord. Bauer reported that the new vehicles will be leased.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION REPORT

Hazard Mitigation Plan

Information & Education Coordinator Larry Schultz reported that an introductory workshop on the Hazard Mitigation Plan would be held on June 9th at the Loup Basin Technology Center on the fairgrounds in Ord. The workshop will help familiarize participants with the process to develop the plan.

Camps

Schultz said that the scholarship deadline for both the Range Youth Camp and Adventure Camp about the Environment (ACE) would be the following day, Friday, May 27th. He said that the \$100 scholarships are reimbursements once the camp is successfully completed.

Schultz said that the NARD Basin Tour was set for June 13th and 14th. He said that the tour had filled one bus and other transportation was being organized.

Schultz told the Board that both the "In The Loup" newsletter and the Area 28 newsletter "Water Matters" were being completed and would be sent out to constituents in the following week.

DAVIS CREEK RECREATION AREA IMPROVEMENT BIDS

Water Modeling Coordinator Tylr Naprstek reported on the May 24th bid opening for the Davis Creek Recreation Area Improvement. He said that four qualified bids were received and all were below the engineer's estimate. The low bid of \$740,805.00 was from Frahm Construction, Inc. out of North Loup.

Koehlmoos said that the improvements would include 42 new camp sites with electrical hookups, a shower house, and an additional vault toilet. He said that construction is scheduled to begin in mid to late July. He said that the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation will provide \$428,000.00 of the total costs. Koehlmoos said that Phase II improvements are planned to be bid later in the summer and will include another boat ramp, a fish cleaning station, dump station, and a new parking area.

Smith motioned, seconded by Amsberry, to accept Frahm Construction, Inc.'s bid of \$740,805.00 and to authorize the General Manager's signature on the contract. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.

ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT

Variance Committee

Assistant Manager Russell Callan reported that the Variance Committee met prior to the Board meeting. He said that Gary Rasmussen was no longer in violation of NRD rules regarding pumping lagoon water on to non-certified irrigated acres. He said Rasmussen had filed a schedule of compliance and was seeking a variance to pump the water. He said Rasmussen was informed that he would have to find irrigated acres to transfer to the field to allow the irrigation. Callan said that LiDAR photos are used to find violations.

Water Resources Committee

Callan reported that the Water Resources Committee met on May 17th and that the minutes of the meeting were included in the agenda.

Psota Variance Report

Callan said that Psota was participating in a deficit irrigation project and was granted a variance to transfer the consumptive use of 80 irrigated acres to spread over 130 acres. He said that Psota had not exceeded the water use he had been granted and had indicated he wanted to continue the project.

South Loup Water Quality Monitoring Program

Callan said that additional sampling would be conducted in the South Loup, and that the NRD would work with DEQ on water quality in the basin.

ELM Update

Naprstek reported that the LLNRD computers were running the last two modules of the ELM model and were due to finish any time. He said that the Phase III portion of the model should be finalized by September 30th.

Naprstek said the ELM data would be helpful regarding decisions on irrigated acres.

Pibel Lake Update

Naprstek reported that the final work is being done at Pibel Lake and showed pictures of the area. He said there will be a ribbon cutting at the July Committee meetings.

2016 Irrigated Acres Transfer Report

Callan reported on the 2016 irrigated acres transfer information contained in the agenda. He said there were 8 new wells drilled and that the LLNRD had banked about 9,000 acres.

Voluntary Integrated Management Plan

Callan said that the Voluntary IMP should be completed by June 8th.

PROGRAMS/PROJECTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Kruse mentioned that the minutes of the May 17th Programs/Projects Committee were in the agenda.

Village of Taylor - Creek Clearing and Renovation

Kruse reported that the Village of Taylor was seeking assistance with clearing a creek that serves as drainage for the town. He said the creek had not been maintained over the years and was overgrown and silted in.

Kruse motioned, seconded by Adams, that the Lower Loup NRD contribute 25% of the total project cost, not to exceed \$5,000.00, contingent upon Taylor signing a maintenance agreement with the LLNRD to keep the creek cleared in the future. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.

LiDAR Data Collection for Remaining Portion of LLNRD

Kruse reported that LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) data collection had already been done in portions of the LLNRD, but some areas remained to be mapped. Koehlmoos said that federal and state funding was available to complete LiDAR in the LLNRD and the other non-mapped portions of the state. He said that LLNRD's portion of the costs would be \$72,000.

Boesch motioned, seconded by Anderson, that the Lower Loup NRD approve \$72,000.00 toward an interlocal agreement to collect LiDAR data over the unmapped areas of the LLNRD and authorize the General Manager's signature on the agreement. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.

Duncan East Drainage IPA Maintenance

Kruse said that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers would need to be contacted because a permit is required to clean out silt in a portion of the Duncan East IPA project.

Anderson motioned, seconded by Petersen, to make application to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to clean out Ruby's Slough. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Group Accident Policy for LLNRD Directors

Koehlmoos told the Board that an insurance review showed potential coverage for Directors traveling on District business covering death and dismemberment. He said maximum benefits in a policy year would be up to \$2.5 million.

Adams motioned, seconded by Anderson, to approve group insurance coverage for Directors for death and dismemberment when traveling to and from NRD meetings and other NRD-related events, beginning in FY-2017. Motion carried by roll call vote. Directors voting

yes: Adams, Amsberry, Anderson, Bartak, Boesch, Eschliman, Gellermann, Kruse, Loseke, Nelson, Petersen, Rasmussen, Smith, and Thoene. Director voting no: Hadenfeldt. Directors absent: Citta, Gutzmer, Kauk, Lukasiewicz, and Thede.

Electronic Voting

Koehlmoos told the Board that staff was investigating options for an electronic voting system. The electronic voting is allowed under a bill passed by the Nebraska Legislature this year. He said that Schultz was looking at options and discussing potential systems with vendors. He said the systems have a wide range of prices.

Litigation Update

No report.

New Hires

Koehlmoos said that Trevor Fahrenholz, Brant Bechtold, Robbie Peterson, Reggie McKenney, and Kirby Sheets had been hired to help in the field and office during the summer.

Non-action Reports

Callan reported that three proposals had been received for an engineering and feasibility study of the Lillian Creek Dam Project. He said that the Programs/Projects Committee would review the proposals.

Callan reported the first phase of the Davis Creek Recreation Area Expansion would be complete by September. He said the next phase should be ready to go to bids at that point and the entire project would be complete by Summer, 2017.

NARD REPORT

Director's Report

Rasmussen reported that the NARD Board's June meeting would be in York.

NRC REPORT

Commissioner's Report

Hadenfeldt reported that there was \$17M left over in Water Sustainability Funds after the approval of projects, with \$6M more coming in. He said the next meeting will be in Kearney on June 13th. The group will clarify the rules and make a presentation to the Commission on June 28th. He reported that the second round of applications were due the end of July and would be reviewed in the winter.

RC&D REPORTS

Loup Basin RC&D

Rasmussen reported that the RC&D met recently in North Loup. He said they received a 3-year grant for \$157,000. He said there will be tire collections in Loup City and Ord the end of June.

PrairieLand RC&D

Gellermann said there was no report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board members were reminded of the following upcoming meetings:

- June 9th – Hazard Mitigation Plan Workshop at the Valley County Fairgrounds – 10:00 a.m.
- June 14th – NRD Committee meetings
- June 23rd – June Board meeting
- July 19th – NRD Committee meetings and Pibel Lake Dedication at Pibel Lake
- July 28th – July Board meeting

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, Chairman Eschliman declared the meeting adjourned at 6:25 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 a newspaper in each county within the District. The next Board of Directors meeting will be held June 23, 2016, at 5:00 p.m., at the Headquarters Office in Ord, Nebraska.

Henry J. Thoene
Secretary