

# LOWER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

November 17, 2016

Ord, Nebraska

The November 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 November 17, 2016. Chairman Citta called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

## CALL TO ORDER

### Directors in attendance

Rollie D. Amsberry, Treasurer  
 Timothy E. Bartak  
 Joseph L. Citta, Jr., Chairman  
 Virgil W. Gellermann  
 N. Richard Hadenfeldt  
 Clifford P. Loseke  
 James C. Nelson  
 Dean J. Rasmussen  
 Henry J. Thoene, Secretary

Darwin B. Anderson  
 Beth Boesch  
 James J. Eschliman, Vice Chairman  
 Michael P. Gutzmer  
 Gary A. Kruse  
 Matt Lukasiewicz  
 Alan D. Petersen  
 Dean G. Thede

### Directors absent

James C. Adams  
 Gerald P. Smith

Randy Kauk

### Staff in attendance

Leon "Butch" Koehlmoos, General Manager  
 Irene F. Kreifels, Financial Secretary  
 Larry D. Schultz, I&E Coordinator  
 Cheryl K. Hornickel, Programs Assistant  
 Tylr Naprstek, Water Modeling Coordinator  
 Richard Woollen, District Forester

Russell G. Callan, Assistant General Manager  
 Rita A. Goldfish, Administrative Assistant  
 Jason Moudry, Water Programs Specialist  
 Dell R. Harris, Water Resources Specialist  
 LeeAnn Smith, Water Programs Assistant

### Guests in attendance

Bryce Bauer, LDC, NRCS, Ord

## NOTICE OF OPEN MEETING LAW POSTING

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

## VERIFICATION OF MEETING NOTICE AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairman Citta asked for verification of the meeting notice. General Manager Leon “Butch” Koehlmoos verified that the meeting notices were properly published in all newspapers 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 there were no modifications to the agenda.

## EXCUSED ABSENCES

Koehlmoos stated that Directors Adams, Kauk, and Smith had requested to be excused from the meeting.

**These motioned, seconded by Gutzmer, to excuse all absent directors. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.**

## MINUTES

Chairman Citta asked for corrections and/or additions to the October 27, 2016, Board meeting minutes. None being heard, Chairman Citta ruled that the October 27, 2016, minutes would stand approved as submitted.

## TREASURER’S REPORT

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

Koehlmoos highlighted bills for consultant work on watershed plans, weed management area expenses (half of \$10,000 donation), and the drainage culverts for the Duncan East IPA.

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

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments. Koehlmoos reported that he had received a phone call from Brent Clark, City Administrator in Broken Bow, who had planned to come to the Board meeting to address the Board and thank the NRD for its sponsorships of several projects in the

Broken Bow area, specifically the trail project in Melham Park. Koehlmoos said Clark would probably address the Board in January.

## FORESTER'S REPORT

North Central District Forester Richard Woollen reported that Burwell had received a mini grant to replenish trees in the city park. He said a FireWise project had been completed in Burwell, and that funds were available for more FireWise projects. He said he spoke recently at the statewide RC&D meeting that was held in Burwell.

He said UNL was involved in a composting study in the Ainsworth area that mixes wood chips with manure as a soil amendment for some sandy spots around Ainsworth.

Woollen passed around a sample of biochar, which is wood chips burned in the absence of oxygen and produces a charcoal-like material. He said it is produced in Nebraska and used as a soil amendment to improve soil structure, moisture, and nutrient availability. He said more information was available on the International Biochar Initiative website.

Koehlmoos said that tree prices were increased at both Halsey and Lower Loup. He said tree planting is trending up and that applications are being handled online.

## NRCS REPORT

Bryce Bauer, Liaison DC, gave a powerpoint presentation on the NRCS/LLNRD cover crop/grazing project at the Aagaard Farm. He said that rye was planted at the farm in October, 2015, but, since there wasn't a very good stand, it was sprayed out. He said that on June 20<sup>th</sup>, a mix of sudan, sorghum, oats, radishes, turnips, soybeans, lentils, clover, peas, and flax was planted on nine acres; and in September, 17 bulls and 3 cow/calf pairs grazed for 28 days. He said the stand was good and the cattle grazed the area well. He said 100% mulch was achieved on the ground and the radishes were continuing to grow. Bauer said soil/biology tests have been done.

Koehlmoos said that the ground where the project was done wasn't an ideal piece of ground and had formerly been leased out for corn crop. He said the cover crop project was successful and it was the heaviest cover that had been on the nine acres since 1978. He said livestock had not been on the farm since the NRD took it over in March, 1975.

Bauer said that 20 head of cattle grazed for 28 days at a cost of \$2.00 per day and yielded a total return of \$1,120 on 9 acres, which is a return of about \$124 per acre. He said the costs of seed, drilling, herbicide and land yielded a total profit of \$17.00. Bauer said that additional returns could have yielded from \$240 to \$320 per acre if cattle could have grazed the rye and if calves could have been grazed instead of bulls and cows. He said the project results showed that the plantings could be a good consideration for dryland cropland.

Gutzmer suggested using camera surveillance at the Aagaard Farm to track wildlife for eco-asset and recreational value. Bauer said the area would provide good habitat and feeding ground for quail and pheasant.

Koehlmoos said he would like to see the NRD continue working with NRCS on evaluation plots at the Aagaard Farm.

Citta asked what programs might be available for CREP acres coming out of contract in the next couple years. Bauer responded that there will be limited opportunities to get acres back into a program due to the reduction of acres available because of budget cuts. He said there would be some options through EQIP if a landowner wanted to keep CRP acres in grass.

## INFORMATION AND EDUCATION REPORT

### Hazard Mitigation Plan

Information & Education Coordinator Larry Schultz reported that after the final second round meeting held in St. Paul on October 27<sup>th</sup>, JEO has been incorporating the information compiled from the meetings into the structure of each community/county/entity's portion of the plan. He said those will be reviewed before the plan is finalized and sent to NEMA and FEMA for their approval. The plan will then have to be approved at the local level by each participating entity. When that is completed, the plan will be good for five years.

### Annual Awards Dinner

Schultz reported that the Annual Awards Dinner would follow December's Board meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup>, with social time at 6:00 p.m. and dinner at 6:30 p.m.

**Eschliman motioned, seconded by Boesch, to start the December Board meeting at 4:30 p.m. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.**

### 2017 NARD Legislative Conference

Schultz reported that the 2017 NARD Legislative Conference would be held in Lincoln on January 24-25, 2017. Schultz passed around a sign-up sheet for Directors who wish to attend.

### Election Results

Schultz congratulated all Directors who were re-elected. A list of the election results was in the Supplemental Agenda, along with the legislative races.

### Gabe Brown Cover Crop and No-till Conference

Schultz passed around a registration sheet for the conference.

## ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT

### 2016 Long-Range Implementation Plan

Assistant Manager Russell Callan directed the Board's attention to the copy of the plan mailed with their packet. He said the numbers were reviewed in October and some verbiage has been updated. He said the NRD was required to submit an updated long-range implementation plan to DNR annually.

Boesch asked about the priorities listed on page 3 of the plan, and Callan said they were ranked and listed in order of importance as per the Board retreat nearly five years ago. Gutzmer asked how often the priorities are revisited, saying he felt some of them could be combined. Citta said the Board could discuss it and perhaps another retreat could be planned for 2017.

**Toene motioned, seconded by Loseke, to approve the Lower Loup NRD's 2016 Long-Range Implementation Plan and submit it to the Department of Natural Resources. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.**

Callan said the plan was available on the NRD's website.

Callan said that a few Buffalo County static water levels were reviewed and there has not been much of a decline.

Koehlmoos said that there will probably be committee meetings on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

## MANAGER'S REPORT

### Litigation Update

Koehlmoos said that Mark Koch and NRD's counsel, Tom Kruml, had appeared before a three judge panel of the Nebraska Court of Appeals on November 9<sup>th</sup> to argue for the decision of the Valley County District Court to dismiss the case. Koehlmoos said that that particular Committee meeting was the only one he had published a public meeting notice for because of the uncertainty of how many Directors might attend. He said the judge panel has 60-90 days to decide what to do. He said this process started in July, 2014.

### Non-action Reports

Koehlmoos reported that he, Callan, and Naprstek met with Steve Satra of the Game & Parks Commission regarding possible grant money for Phase II of the Davis Creek expansion project. He said the final walk-through was held a week ago. The pads and coin-operated shower house have been installed. He said staff had met with a vendor to set up a wireless network to power cameras to watch activities at the rec area. Koehlmoos said there will be more information next month.

## NARD REPORT

### Director's Report

Rasmussen reported that the health insurance has lost some money. He said that valuation sheets were passed out showing statewide NRD budget and property tax requests. He said the group went over programs for 2017.

## NRC REPORT

### Commissioner's Report

Hadenfeldt said the scoring committee members had received the list of projects for scoring. He said the committee would meet in Gothenburg on November 29<sup>th</sup> to December 1<sup>st</sup> to make final recommendations.

## RC&D REPORTS

### Loup Basin RC&D

Rasmussen reported that the Bowman Lake project is almost finished in Loup City. He said the next meeting would be December 13<sup>th</sup> with an open house at the Loup Basin RC&D office in Burwell.

### PrairieLand RC&D

Gellermann said there was no report.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Koehlmoos reminded the Board to be sure to take a look at the sign-up sheets for the Gabe Brown Conference and the Legislative Conference, and to be sure to RSVP for the Annual Awards Dinner.

Eschliman reported that Jerry Smith had dislocated his shoulder and would be having surgery the next day.

## ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, Chairman Citta declared the meeting adjourned at 6:00 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 December 15, 2016, at 4:30 p.m., at the Headquarters Office in Ord, Nebraska.

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Henry J. Thoene  
Secretary