

MINUTES

LOWER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

September 28, 2017

Ord, Nebraska

The September 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 September 28, 2017. Chairman Citta called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Directors in attendance

James C. Adams
Timothy E. Bartak
Beth Boesch
Jim Eschliman, Vice Chairman
N. Richard Hadenfeldt
Matt Lukasiewicz
Alan D. Petersen
Gerald Smith
Henry J. Thoene, Secretary

Rollie D. Amsberry, Treasurer
Robert L. Bauer
Joseph L. Citta, Jr., Chairman
Virgil W. Gellermann
Randy Kauk
James C. Nelson
Chad J. Podolak
Dean G. Thede

Directors absent

Darwin B. Anderson

Gary A. Kruse

Staff in attendance

Leon "Butch" Koehlmoos, General Manager
Irene F. Kreifels, Administrative Assistant
Larry D. Schultz, I&E Coordinator
Ann Freeman, Water Programs Secretary
Dell Harris, Water Resources Specialist
Kim Lyons, Financial Secretary

Russell G. Callan, Assistant General Manager
Rita A. Goldfish, Administrative Assistant
Tylr D. Naprstek, Water Modeling Coordinator
Richard L. Woollen, District Forester
Jason Moudry, Water Programs Specialist

Guests in attendance

Bryce Bauer, LDC, NRCS, Ord
Bruce Lammers, Ord

Troy Ingram, UNL Extension, St. Paul
Linda Bauer, Columbus

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 AND ROLL CALL

Koehlmoos reported that Darwin Anderson and Gary Kruse had notified Headquarters and asked to be excused from the Board meeting.

Boesch motioned, seconded by Smith, to excuse Anderson and Kruse from the meeting. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.

Roll Call – Directors present: Adams, Amsberry, Bartak, Bauer, Boesch, Citta, Eschliman, Gellermann, Hadenfeldt, Kauk, Lukasiewicz, Nelson, Petersen, Podolak, Smith, Thede, and Thoene. Directors absent: Anderson and Kruse.

MINUTES

Chairman Citta asked for corrections and/or additions to the August 24, 2017, Board meeting minutes.

Koehlmoos said the Minutes were correct, in that it had been noted at the Board meeting that the Budget resolutions would be sent to the Platte County Clerk, when, in fact, they will be sent to the Custer County Clerk since that county has the largest valuation.

Bauer motioned, seconded by Petersen, to approve the August 24, 2017, Board meeting minutes. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.

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 expenditures for lawsuits in progress, instream flow application, Bowman Lake project, kiosk at Davis Creek, audit fee, infrared photography on irrigated acres, shop furnace, Rutjens for construction work at Davis Creek, and buffer strip payments.

Thoene motioned, seconded by Boesch, to approve the September, 2017, Treasurer's Report and pay all bills. Motion carried by roll call vote. Directors voting yes: Amsberry, Bartak, Bauer, Boesch, Citta, Eschliman, Gellermann, Hadenfeldt, Kauk, Lukasiewicz, Nelson, Petersen, Podolak, Smith, Thede, and Thoene. Director abstaining: Adams. Directors absent: Anderson and Kruse.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

FY-2017 AUDIT REPORT

Koehlmoos said that an electronic copy of the audit report had been emailed to all the Directors and that a paper copy was at each chair tonight.

Bruce Lammers of Severson, Lammers and Abel, CPAs, P.C., presented a brief summary of the Fiscal Year 2017 Audit Report. He said that District accounts looked good and thanked staff for their cooperation. There was discussion about internal control procedures. He said he had appreciated Rita Goldfish's help throughout the years.

Eschliman motioned, seconded by Bartak, to approve the FY 2017 Audit Report. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.

FORESTER'S REPORT

District Forester Rich Woollen reported that Clients Day would be held on October 11th in Halsey. He said that event is a chance for personnel working with the conservation tree program to visit the nursery and gain a better understanding of the seedling production process. He said he would be giving a presentation that day.

He reported that several windbreak renovation requests had been received. He said as windbreaks age and become less effective, management practices are applied to help improve and restore their function in the landscape.

Woollen said he had been working with NRCS on CRP tree practice reviews and reenrollments. He provided a publication on windbreak renovation and invited the Board to take a look at it.

NRCS REPORT

Bryce Bauer, Liaison DC in Ord, reported that staff is working on CSP enrollments and that tree plantings and native grass seedings have been popular. He said the estimated potential EQIP budget for 2018 is \$1.6 million for Lower Loup. Bauer mentioned that staff is finishing up year-end activities, as their fiscal year ends on September 29th. He said a lot of cover crop had been flown on recently and the timely rains would help establish the planting.

PROJECT SENSE UPDATE

Troy Ingram with UNL Extension gave an update on *Project SENSE* that Lower Loup NRD has been sponsoring the past three years. He said that *Project SENSE* sites are located in the five participating NRDs, and each are in a groundwater management area with high nitrate concentrations. He said Area 28 was designated in Lower Loup. He said some of the goals of the project are to try to increase the average nitrogen use efficiency, promote in-season and fertilization to help growers become more familiar with the use of canopy sensors, and to help provide data to refine the current algorithms that are used with the sensors. He reported on the fertilizer application procedure and the function of the sensors. He said this was the third and final year of the project.

Ingram said UNL has been pleased with the results of the project so far and wants to move forward with the project. He said they would like to add more producers across the state, go outside of Phase III areas, and work more with drones and fertigation. He said cost would be minimal since most everything is already in place.

Callan said staff would need to see a proposal from UNL outlining the project for future years before the NRD should commit to any funding.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS VACANCIES – SUBDISTRICTS 4 & 7

Citta mentioned that letters from interested persons seeking to fill the vacancies had been received at the Headquarters office and sent to Directors for review, and that the letters also appeared in the Supplemental Agenda.

Koehlmoos reported that three letters each had been received for both Subdistricts 4 and 7. He said he had visited with Citta and they felt that since the number of persons being considered is small, each would be invited to introduce themselves to the Board. He said there is no timetable for getting the positions filled.

Citta said he felt the process needed to get started by inviting the applicants to the October Board meeting, then decide after that when to make a selection.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION REPORT

Hazard Mitigation Plan

Information & Education Coordinator Larry Schultz reported that the Lower Loup NRD Hazard Mitigation Plan had been adopted by the majority of the communities and participants taking part in the plan. He said there were about 12 entities that needed to adopt their Hazard Mitigation Plan resolutions and that the North Loup River Public Power & Irrigation District had requested that NRD staff meet with them at their next Board meeting to explain the plan in more detail. He said the Hazard Mitigation Plan process has gone well.

Area IV Range Judging Contest

Schultz reported that the Area IV Range Judging Contest had been held at the Davis Creek Wildlife Management Area in Valley County on September 20th. He said 425 competitors attended and scoring was done at NRD Headquarters.

Schultz said the contest winners were:

Senior Individual: Payton Placke, St. Paul

Junior Individual: John Wetovick, Fullerton

Senior Team: Sargent-Corri Slagle, Justin Kemp, Joe Kruml, and Colten Brown

Junior Team: Ord-Amber Staab, Sam Lech, Quinton Ries, and Tye Bruha

Professional: Phil Simpson, Burwell

Schultz thanked Rita for her help at all the contests through the years.

ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT

Callan said that he had heard from legal counsel regarding the Prokop case, there were three things Prokop and his attorney were arguing, one of which was that the cease and desist process wasn't sufficient and that the rules and regulations didn't actually mention 'actual yield'.

He said the judge focused on the authority of the NRD to penalize and suspension of the rights. He said the judge would consider the matter and try to get a decision out as soon as possible.

WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Long-Range Implementation Plan – Water

Callan reported that staff would have a draft of the Long-Range Implementation Plan by the October Board meeting.

Ravenna Lake Project Proposal

Water Modeling Coordinator Tylr Naprstek reported that four qualified bids were received and ranked, with JEO & LGB scoring highest. He went through the different services and features of each proposal.

Smith motioned, seconded by Gellermann, to accept the bid from JEO/LGB for \$77,974.00 for the Ravenna Lake Project. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.

New Irrigated Acres

Naprstek said that 28 applications were received and ranked by staff. He said 12 applications were received for new irrigated acres the Beaver Creek sub-basin and 16 in the North Loup River sub-basin. He said not enough acres were received in the North Loup River area to facilitate the 1,250

acres that were allocated, but the Beaver Creek area received 956 acres for the 750 allocated. He said all sites were visited by NRD technicians.

He said the recommendation was a 225 point score minimum which would allow 785 new irrigated acres in the Beaver Creek Basin and 677 new irrigated acres in the North Loup River Basin.

Naprstek said that all approved applications are required to file a Conservation Plan through NRCS.

Adams motioned, seconded by Thoene, to approve 785 new irrigated acres in the Beaver Creek Basin and 677 new irrigated acres in the North Loup River Basin, with a minimum score in the ranking process of 225 points. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.

Lower Platte Basin Plan

Callan said that the Lower Platte Basin Plan was to the point that the Lower Loup NRD needed to start discussions with the Upper Loup NRD to determine the split of the available water with the Loup Basin. He said Upper Loup is planning on having representatives from their Board attend the Water Resources Committee meeting in October to discuss the numbers and how an interlocal agreement would look.

PROGRAMS/PROJECTS COMMITTEE REPORT

City of St. Paul Trail

Callan said the City of St. Paul was looking for some funding for trails.

Albion Trail

Callan reported that the City of Albion was looking for funding for trails.

Village of Anselmo – Playground Equipment

Callan said the Village of Anselmo is wanting to put some playground equipment in Library Park, and that the cost is estimated at \$10,400.00.

Eschliman motioned, seconded by Boesch, to approve funding of \$2,000.00 for new playground equipment for the Village of Anselmo. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.

Pibel Lake Historical Marker Update

Photos were shown of the historical marker and information panels that were placed at the entrance of the Pibel Lake Recreation Area last month.

Callan said he would like the NRD to do something similar at Davis Creek and include the Bureau of Reclamation and Twin Loups Irrigation District.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Litigation Update

Koehlmoos said litigation in the two cases was still in process. He said the Prokop case was reported on earlier in the meeting, and there had been no new developments in the Koch case.

New Hires

Koehlmoos reported that Kim Lyons of Greeley had been hired as the new Administrative Assistant, replacing Rita Goldfish who is retiring the end of September. He said Kim would be starting at the NRD office on October 16th.

Resolution to add Russell Callan to Bank Signatures

Koehlmoos directed the Board's attention to the resolution in the Supplemental Agenda to add Russ Callan's name to the signature cards at all banks used by the Lower Loup NRD.

Adams motioned, seconded by Hadenfeldt, to add Russell G. Callan to the list of authorized signers for the Lower Loup Natural Resources District. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.

Non-Action Reports

Koehlmoos said that Rita Goldfish would be retiring from the NRD at the end of the month, after 45 years of exemplary service. He read a resolution thanking her for her service.

Adams motioned, seconded by Amsberry, to approve the resolution thanking Rita Goldfish for her 45 years of service to the Lower Loup NRD and Loup River Basin. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.

Koehlmoos also presented Goldfish with a Terry Redlin print.

Citta mentioned that Goldfish had attended the NARD Annual Conference earlier in the week and was recognized for 45 years of service.

NARD REPORT

Director's Report

Eschliman reported that the conference was good and well-attended by Lower Loup NRD staff and Directors. He said over \$20,000.00 was raised for the NARD Foundation. He said the audit and

Foundation audit were approved at the NARD Board meeting, and lobbyists had been hired for the year.

Eschliman reported that the next NARD Board meeting would be held in Beatrice; the Legislative Conference would be held January 23-24, 2018, in Lincoln; and the Washington, DC, meeting would be held March 17-21, 2018.

Eschliman said that the NARD Risk Pool was ahead by about \$300,000 for the 2-month period.

Letter from Dean Rasmussen

Koehlmoos reported that the NRD had received a letter of thanks from Dean Rasmussen for being nominated by the District to the NARD Hall of Fame. He said Rasmussen was very honored to have been remembered and selected for the award.

NARD Annual Conference Report

Koehlmoos reported that the two resolutions considered at the conference passed -- the resolution with FEMA and payments to IPAs, and the resolution regarding the leasing of surface water for intentional recharge.

Lukasiewicz said he attended a session on crisis prevention and wondered if that would be something to consider for Lower Loup. He said Upper Big Blue NRD had recently completed their study and offered to assist others.

Citta complimented staff on their presentation at the Basin meeting of projects going on in the Lower Loup NRD.

NRC REPORT

Commissioner's Report

Hadenfeldt reported that the next meeting would be November 30th. He said the projects would be given out to score the last part of October.

RC&D REPORTS

Loup Basin RC&D

Thoene reported that the RC&D meeting was being held at the same time as the NRD meeting this month. He said RC&D staff is working on grants.

PrairieLand RC&D

Gellermann reported that Columbus had come up with funding for a tire collection.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Citta congratulated Goldfish on her retirement and wished her well.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, Chairman Citta declared the meeting adjourned at 7:10 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 Thursday, October 26, 2017, at 5:00 p.m., at the Headquarters Office in Ord, Nebraska.

Henry J. Thoene
Secretary