

MINUTES

LOWER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

September 27, 2018

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 27, 2018. Chairman Citta called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Directors in attendance

James C. Adams
Robert L. Bauer
Joseph L. Citta, Jr., Chairman
Virgil W. Gellermann
Randy Kauk
Matt Lukasiewicz
James C. Nelson
Gerald Smith
Henry J. Thoene, Secretary

Rollie D. Amsberry, Treasurer
Beth Boesch
Jim Eschliman, Vice Chairman
N. Richard Hadenfeldt
Gary A. Kruse
Larry Mohrman
Alan D. Petersen
Dean G. Thede
Rick Vlach

Directors absent

Darwin B. Anderson
Chad J. Podolak

Timothy E. Bartak

Staff in attendance

Russell G. Callan, General Manager
Irene F. Kreifels, Administrative Assistant
Larry D. Schultz, I&E Coordinator
V. Anne Freeman, Water Programs Secretary
Cam Conrad, Water Modeling Coordinator
Brent D. Lakin, Water Resources Tech
Brian Kolar, Projects Technician

Tylr Naprstek, Assistant General Manager
Kim A. Lyons, Financial Secretary
Cheryl Hornickel, Programs Assistant
Dell R. Harris, Water Resources Specialist
Richard L. Woollen, District Forester
LeeAnn Smith, Water Programs Assistant
Dan Ruterbories, Rangeland Resources Tech

Guests in attendance

Mark Sintek, RC Ord NRCS
Bruce Lammers, Severson, Lammers & Abel CPAs, Ord

Jerry & Diane Osentowski, Clarks

NOTICE OF OPEN MEETING LAW POSTING

Chairman Citta referred those in attendance to the open meeting law information posted in the Board room and that meeting material was available at the entrance to the Board room.

VERIFICATION OF MEETING NOTICE AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairman Citta asked for verification of the meeting notice. General Manager, Russ Callan, stated 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. He said the agenda was current.

EXCUSED ABSENCES AND ROLL CALL

Citta reported that Directors Anderson and Podolak would not be present at the meeting and had asked to be excused.

Boesch motioned, seconded by Kauk to approve the agenda and excuse absent directors. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.

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

MINUTES

Chairman Citta asked for corrections and/or additions to the August 23, 2018, Board meeting minutes. None were heard.

Kruse motioned, seconded by Thoene, to approve the August 23, 2018 Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Russ Callan, General Manager, highlighted expenditures JEO for drought mitigation and Ravenna lake project; HDR for Pibel lake tube design; and on the supplemental agenda, expenditures for an electronic voting system; USGS stream gauges; HDR for the Columbus recharge project; Bowman lake payment four of five, JEO for the building at Davis Creek; and Baird Holm for professional services.

Thoene motioned, seconded by Peterson to approve the September 27, 2018, Treasurer's Report and pay all bills. Motion carried by roll call vote. Directors voting yes: Amsberry, Bauer, Boesch, Citta, Eschliman, Gellermann, Hadenfeldt, Kauk, Kruse,

Lukasiewicz, Mohrman, Nelson, Petersen, Smith, Thede, Thoene, Vlach. Directors voting no: None. Directors Abstaining: Adams.

The Treasurer's Report Approval Policy states that the approved expenditures are to be published and each director who has per diem and/or reimbursement of expenses included in such financial reports, abstains from voting for the approval of his or her own per diem and/or expense reimbursement.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Citta asked for public comments. None were heard.

FY2018 Audit Report – Bruce Lammers

Bruce Lammers, Severson Lammers and Abel, stated he appreciates the work staff puts into compiling the information for the audit to be completed. He complimented the Board of Directors on their monthly review of expenditures. Bruce then explained the audit with the Directors page by page and answered any questions that were presented. Bruce stated the audit turned out good with no discrepancies. The full audit report can be viewed at the office of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District during regular business hours.

Eschliman motioned, seconded by Smith to approve the FY 2018 Audit as presented. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.

FORESTER'S REPORT

Richard Woollen, District Forester, reported on the field day held at Aagard Farm. He informed the Board about the forestry demonstration, as well as the discussion that was held on cover crops and different forest products. He also discussed the conservation tree plantings, NRCS plant material trials, ponderosa pine stock type trials, and living barn/windbreak demonstration planting as well as the sawmill demonstration that was held.

Woollen, also discussed the NRD Forestry Workshop held by the Central Platte NRD. He informed the Directors of the Nebraska Forest Service meeting that was held in North Platte. Woollen reported that he also attended Husker Harvest Days.

Discussion was held regarding the Emerald Ash Borer, Citta asked if we still offered green ash trees. Woollen stated they had been out of our program for about two to three years.

NRCS REPORT

Mark Sintek, NRCS, reported that field offices are working on conservation stewardship applications and that October 10th the land judging competition will be held at the NRD.

INFORMATION & EDUCATION REPORT

Area IV Range Judging Contest

Larry Schultz, Information and Education Coordinator, reported that the Central Platte NRD and NRCS hosted the 2018 Area IV Range Judging contest near Cairo on September 20th and that the 2018 State Range Judging Contest will be held in Chase County.

North Central Land Judging

Schultz reported that the North Central Land Judging Contest will be held October 10th in Valley County and that scoring will take place at the NRD Headquarters.

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Davis Creek – Phase II Update

Tylr Naprstek, Assistant General Manager, reported that the final Bureau of Reclamation work is completed and the final walk through on the project will take place next week. He informed the Directors that the next phase of work will be to begin on the new tent site location. Naprstek stated a request has been submitted to the County to determine the location for the repeater tower placement.

Pibel Lake Update

Naprstek reported that staff has been working on permitting so work can continue on the replacement pipes. He reported that everything will be weatherized soon.

Buffalo County, Ravenna Lake Report

Naprstek reported that sampling has been completed for this year. He stated he hopes to have information by committee meeting as to what will be presented to the County and City on the project.

Columbus Area Water Resources Assessment Study Update

Discussion will be held during committee portion on agenda.

ELM Update

Naprstek stated the report is out but we are waiting on the final official report.

WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Wheeler County Nitrates Update

Cam Conrad, Water Modeling Coordinator, presented a power point presentation on nitrate levels in Wheeler County. The 2017 Water Quality report showed several high nitrate samples in the county. The current Groundwater Management Rules were reviewed in comparison to the nitrate level test results. Conrad explained the different boring logs with high nitrate concentrations in comparison to other counties. Surrounding counties are not showing as high of levels in their testing. Wheeler has showed an increasing trend over time. Discussion was held on how other NRDs have handled higher levels of nitrates when the levels are not high county wide. It was discussed that other NRDs have used townships for water quality boundaries instead of county boundaries. Townships were discussed that were in phase two and three. Naprstek reviewed the phase two and three requirements and stated that it is similar to Area 28 and may need to investigate metering irrigation wells.

Smith stated that the committee recommended that township boundaries be used for groundwater quality work in Wheeler county or possibly for the entire district. Callan stated that we would still have the water quality area but would go by township boundaries for each individual case. He informed the directors that we would need to have a public hearing to have townships considered as water quality areas. Callan stated it would be beneficial to have flexibility to go by watery quality areas already in place or specify township boundaries.

Smith motioned, seconded by Gellermann to go through the process to change the rules to reflect township boundaries as water quality areas in Wheeler county.

Boesch questioned the benefits of changing the rules. Callan stated that the average of the whole county is bringing down the levels and that hot spots need to be addressed. Kauk asked if anything will be done to prevent further issues. Callan stated that there will still be a problem, but new well requirements will help with some issues

Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.

Callan stated Conrad will continue to review switching to township boundaries and benefits and will consider district wide changes to better control the issues. He stated the entire rule process will be followed to change the boundaries as staff sees fit.

Columbus Recharge Project

Naprstek reported that a letter was sent out to all parties impacted by the project and an open house will be held with all partners to answer any questions and address concerns.

New Irrigated Acres Allocation Update

LeeAnn Smith reported that all applications were scored and that 4,099 acres were applied for. By Monday staff is expecting to have applications broken down so techs can begin doing field inspections. Boesch asked what criteria goes into scoring. Smith stated that SDF, irrigated acre concentration, soil and application size are all factors. She stated that soil affects an application the most. Callan stated that the results will be brought to the water committee and will have a complete breakdown.

Long-Range Plan

It was reported that the long-range plan should be in sometime next week and will be brought in front of the committee next month.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jerry and Diane Osentowski asked to speak to the Board regarding a well application. Jerry addressed the Directors and informed them he owns a farm by Cedar Rapids and wanted to submit a well application. He will schedule to meet with Dell Harris, ?, and see what his options are.

PROGRAMS/PROJECTS COMMITTEE

Kruse reported that the committee is reviewing the information provided by HDR on Lillian Creek and will have more updates later.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Litigation Update

Callan stated the Prokop case will be in front of the Supreme Court sometime at the end of October or beginning of November, no specific date has been set at this time. Callan also reported that the Koch case is in the appellate court and the judge granted a continuance on the second case until the first case is finished. Callan also reported that the objection has been filed on the Platte Republican transfer.

New Hires

No new hires.

Non-Action Reports

No non-action reports.

NARD REPORT

Director's Report

Eschliman reported that \$1,000 has been approved for National Ag Day and the National League program. The budget process has been discussed. It was reported that NARD does a biannual budget. The NARD audit went well and the 20th Envirothon fund raising is doing well, they are over 2/3 of their goal. Eschliman reported that the Legislative Conference will be held the 29th and 30th of January and the Washington DC Conference is scheduled March 30th to April

3rd. Eschliman reported that the NARD meeting was in Ord during the basin tour. At the meeting the risk pool was discussed, and changes were addressed to various aspects of the program. The NARD conference in Kearney was discussed. It was reported that they made almost \$24,000 off the silent auction.

NRC REPORT

Commissioner's Report

Hadenfeldt reported that they held a meeting while in Kearney. Discussion was held on changing rules to make permits be required before funding can be obtained on projects. At this point it is unclear if any changes will be made there is still a lot of discussion to be held.

RC&D REPORTS

Loup Basin RC&D

Thoene reported the last meeting was held at the Ord fire hall, he was not in attendance, but Chairman Melia reported there was good attendance. The irrigation district, fire department and city personnel were present. Drone footage was shown.

Gellermann reported that Prairie Land is officially resolved so they will meet to sign off on the finalizing paperwork.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/FUTURE MEETING TOPICS

Citta reminded everyone that the November meeting will be held a week late and that there may not be any committee meetings in November. He also stated the December meeting will also fall back a week, the awards banquet is scheduled for the 27th of December.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, Citta declared the meeting adjourned at 6:53 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 October 25, 2018, at 5:00 p.m., at the Headquarters Office in Ord, Nebraska.

Henry J. Thoene

Secretary