

LOWER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

August 22, 2019

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 22, 2019. Due to 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
Robert L. Bauer
John Coffey
N. Richard Hadenfeldt
Gary A. Kruse
Larry Mohrman
Chad J. Podolak
Dean G. Thede
Rick Vlach

Rollie D. Amsberry, Treasurer
Timothy E. Bartak
Beth Boesch
Jim Eschliman, Vice Chairman
Randy Kauk
Matt Lukasiewicz
Alan D. Petersen
Gerald Smith
Henry J. Thoene, Secretary

Director absent:

Joseph L. Citta, Chairman

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
Jane Klanecky, Receptionist
Brent D. Lakin, Water Resources Technician
Dell R. Harris, Water Resources Specialist

Tylr Naprstek, Assistant General Manager
Kim A. Lyons, Financial Secretary
Cheryl Hornickel, Programs Assistant
Richard L. Woollen, District Forester
Brian Kolar, Projects Technician
Jason Moudry, Water Programs Specialist
LeeAnn Smith, Water Programs Assistant

Guests in attendance

Bryce Bauer, Liaison DC, NRCS, Ord
Todd Nitsch, Boelus

Jim Nelson, Cairo

NOTICE OF OPEN MEETING LAW POSTING

Chairman Eschliman 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

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 newspapers, posted at the NRD Headquarters office in Ord, on the NRD web site, and in the eight field office locations.

ROLL CALL AND EXCUSED ABSENCES

Roll Call was conducted electronically. Directors present: Adams, Amsberry, Anderson, Bartak, Bauer, Boesch, Coffey, Eschliman, Hadenfeldt, Kauk, Kruse, Lukasiewicz, Mohrman, Petersen, Podolak, Smith, Thede, Thoene, and Vlach. Director absent: Citta.

Eschliman stated that Director Citta had asked to be excused.

Smith motioned, seconded by Kruse, to excuse absent director. Motion carried by electronic vote, all present voting yes.

MINUTES

Eschliman asked for corrections and/or additions to the July 25, 2019, Board meeting minutes. Changes to the minutes of the Programs/Projects Committee and regular Board meeting were discussed and will be corrected.

Bauer motioned, seconded by Boesch, to approve the changes to the minutes as discussed. Motion carried by electronic vote, all present voting yes.

Vlach motioned, seconded by Bauer, to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion carried by electronic vote, all present voting yes.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Russell Callan, General Manager, directed the Board's attention to the Supplemental Agenda and highlighted expenditures of \$33,110.06 to HDR Engineering for both retainage and seepage study on the Lillian Creek Project; \$20,700.00 to EA Engineering for the cover crop study; and \$4,500.00 to Plains Equipment Group for the probes for the Psota project. On the regular agenda, Callan highlighted \$10,000.00 to JEO for WFPO for Mud Creek and \$2,994.85 to Petska Backhoe & Plumbing for well repairs at Headquarters.

Kruse motioned, seconded by Thede, to approve the August 22, 2019, Treasurer's Report and pay all bills. Motion carried by electronic vote. Directors voting yes: Adams, Amsberry, Anderson, Bartak, Bauer, Boesch, Coffey, Eschliman, Kauk, Kruse, Lukasiewicz, Mohrman, Petersen, Podolak, Smith, Thede, Thoene, and Vlach. Director abstaining: Hadenfeldt. Director absent: Citta.

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

Eschliman asked for public comments. None were heard.

FORESTER'S REPORT

Richard Woollen, District Forester, reported that Lower Loup NRD recently hosted the 2019 NRD Forestry Workshop recently. He said that attendees toured the Aagaard Farm to view the pine trials. Due to weather conditions, live tours for the second day of the workshop were cancelled and the attendees met at the NRD to view projects via pictures and videos that Naprstek presented. Woollen stated that around 30 people attended the workshop.

Woollen reported that he had mailed letters to all producers with upcoming buffer strip expirations and had already received responses from several interested in renewing.

Thoene asked about cost-share for redcedar. Woollen stated that cedar trees were still allowed but said that an alternative belt consisting of black hills spruce, pine, hardwoods and shrubs was planted at Pibel Lake.

PUBLIC HEARING ON LLNRD FY 2020 BUDGET

Action to Adopt the FY 2020 Budget

Eschliman opened the public hearing on the Lower Loup NRD's FY 2020 Budget at 5:15 p.m.

Eschliman asked for public comments on the Lower Loup NRD's FY 2020 Budget. None were heard.

Eschliman asked for comments from the members of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District Board of Directors.

Boesch asked about the 19% increase. Callan stated that the increase wasn't known until the numbers were finalized and put together. Eschliman stated that there have been higher

increases in the past and that that budget fluctuates from year to year. Thoene stated that the average of the past ten years was 5%.

Smith stated that he looked back and thought this year was the highest tax asking the NRD has had in several years, since 1985. Smith stated that he thought it was a large increase.

Callan discussed the tentatively approved budget numbers and stated that he had taken \$400,000 out of the budget because the initial increase was over 20%. Smith stated he appreciated the cuts but felt the amount of funds being requested was still too high.

Lukasiewicz asked if the total budget included all the ongoing and upcoming projects the NRD was involved in. Callan replied that it did, as well as all grants and flood assistance dollars. He said that about half of the increase was in projects. Lukasiewicz stated that 19% was a big number but the NRD had obligations to help with flooding. Callan stated the totals also included Sub-Area 29 flowmeter cost-share and Area 28 cover crops. Callan said the 19% was after taking out the \$400,000.

Bartak stated he didn't support that much of an increase because he felt the NRD could control this aspect. He said his constituents were going to want an explanation for the large increase in one year. Callan said the budget goes up and down from year to year. Podolak stated it was important for the Board to understand so they could explain what the Board approved when asked. Callan stated that there was a 39% increase three years ago.

Adams stated he didn't understand why the Board wasn't informed of the percentage change before it went to the papers so they could comment on it. Callan responded that it was timing.

Callan reviewed a spreadsheet of past budget numbers. Amsberry questioned how Lower Loup levies compared to other Districts. Callan stated the CPNRD's budget went down this year because of completed projects and stated that others went up.

Anderson reviewed the county valuation sheet and noted that the valuations of most counties went down but there was some growth overall. He wondered how there could be growth when there was a deficit. Bartak explained that new growth was new buildings and construction and that the differences shows the total difference in that county for this year. Callan explained that even though the county valuations went down, they may show growth due to new construction added to the tax bracket.

Bauer asked about the \$54,819 of unused budget authority showing on the budget. Callan explained that the unused budget authority refers to our 2½% lid and said that we could go that much higher if we go to the maximum amount.

Adams asked about that 37% increase in previous years and asked if that was when the Columbus levee was paid off. Callan stated that it would have been close to when the project was completed.

Podolak asked what contributed to the increase this year and Callan stated that flood projects, flowmeter requirements in Sub-Area 29, cover crops in Area 28, and other small projects account for the total. Anderson asked how many million was in potential projects. Callan stated close to \$5.9M with grants. He said there was at least \$3.1M is in the Columbus Recharge Project, along with grant money. Anderson asked about the other \$2M to \$3M. Callan stated the remainder was general operating expenses including salaries, autos, buildings, utilities, and all other expenses incurred in day-to-day operations. He said some of the project money was already committed and will not ask for new dollars. Callan explained that all the money that comes from other places and goes through the NRD must be put in the budget even if it won't be spent.

Eschliman stated that only the budget is being considered and not the property tax request, which will be set at next month's meeting, due to a new state law.

With no further comments, Eschliman closed the hearing at 5:36 p.m.

Podolak asked what would happen if the Board didn't approve the budget. Callan replied that adjustments would be made and another hearing held before September 20th which is the deadline for submission of budget to the State Auditor.

Eschliman presented Resolution Number FY2020-002: Resolution to Adopt the Budget of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District for Fiscal year 2019-2020. The resolution follows.

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE BUDGET OF THE LOWER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020

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 2019-2020; 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 2019-2020; and

WHEREAS, said Board of Directors of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District recommends a budget expenditure of \$16,831,760.16 for Fiscal Year 2019-2020; 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; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District assembled on this 22nd day of August, 2019, adopt Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget as presented.

This Resolution was adopted at a regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District held on August 22, 2019, by electronic vote, on a motion by Director Hadenfeldt, seconded by Director Podolak.

Electronic Vote: 15-Yes 4-No 1-Absent

Hadenfeldt motioned, seconded by Podolak, to adopt Resolution FY2020-002: *Resolution to Adopt the Budget of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District for Fiscal Year 2019-2020.* Motion carried by electronic vote. Directors voting yes: Amsberry, Bauer, Boesch, Coffey, Eschliman, Hadenfeldt, Kauk, Kruse, Lukasiewicz, Mohrman, Petersen, Podolak, Thede, Thoene, Vlach. Directors voting no: Adams, Anderson, Bartak, and Smith. Director absent: Citta.

PUBLIC HEARING TO SET FINAL TAX REQUEST FOR FY 2020

Action to Adopt Resolution to Approve Additional One Percent Increase

Eschliman opened the public hearing to set the Lower Loup NRD's levy for FY 2020 at 5:42 p.m.

Eschliman asked for public comments. None were heard.

Eschliman asked for comments from the Lower Loup Natural Resources District Board of Directors.

Coffey asked for explanation of the additional 1%. Callan said that the State Auditor encouraged NRDs to approve the additional one percent increase in the event that the NRD would need extra money, but that Lower Loup had never used it. Smith stated that this is done because of the unused budget authority and without it, the unused budget authority stays the same. He said it amounts to another percentage of what total budget is. Callan stated it will not change the NRD's tax asking or budget, but it changes what we do in the future. Smith stated in case of a natural disaster, the additional funds could be used.

With no further comments, Eschliman closed the hearing at 5:46 p.m.

Eschliman introduced Resolution FY2020-003: Resolution to Approve Additional One Percent Increase. The resolution follows.

**RESOLUTION
TO
APPROVE ADDITIONAL ONE PERCENT INCREASE**

WHEREAS, the Lower Loup Natural Resources District has completed and approved their FY-2020 Budget; and

WHEREAS, a special public hearing was held on August 22, 2019, 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-2020 budget.

This Resolution was adopted at a regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District held on August 22, 2019, by electronic vote, on a motion by Director Kruse and seconded by Director Amsberry.

Electronic Vote: 16-Yes 3-No 1-Absent

Kruse motioned, seconded by Amsberry, to adopt Resolution FY2020-003: *Resolution to Approve Additional One Percent Increase*. Motion carried by electronic vote. Directors voting yes: Amsberry, Anderson, Bartak, Boesch, Coffey, Eschliman, Hadenfeldt, Kruse, Lukaszewicz, Mohrman, Petersen, Podolak, Smith, Thede, Thoene, and Vlach. Directors Voting No: Adams, Bauer, and Kauk. Director absent: Citta.

Callan stated that no action would be taken this month on the resolutions to set the property tax request and set the levy because of LB103 becoming law this year. Irene Kreifels, Administrative Assistant, noticed discrepancies and staff visited with the Dept. of Revenue and Dean Edson at NARD and got things straightened out. Callan said there will be two separate

hearings because the NRD didn't receive county valuations in time to set the tax asking. With LB103 changes, NRDs have to set their tax asking based on actual valuations. Since this must be submitted to the counties by October 13th, there is still time to act on the resolutions at the September meeting.

Kauk asked if it will be based on true valuations. Smith stated that the asking could change at county level, but it is out the NRD's hands.

NRCS REPORT

Bryce Bauer, NRCS, reported their fiscal year ends September 30th. He stated 147 EQIP/CSP contracts were written, up about 50 throughout the NRD. He said EQIP applications totaled about \$2M. He said the big increase was 50 preventative plant cover crop applications, with earlier application sites being planted to millet, and later sites planted to oats, turnips and radishes. Bauer reported that two of the three summer interns left to go back to school and that Abby Hill in Burwell would continue till the end of August, then NRCS would pick her up as a contract employee. Bauer said that cedar tree plantings would be allowed if the main goal was for livestock or headquarters protection, but not for wildlife plantings, using other evergreens whenever possible.

INFORMATION & EDUCATION REPORT

Nebraska State Fair

Larry Schultz, I&E Coordinator, stated the Nebraska State Fair starts tomorrow and run through Labor Day. He said the NRDs would have an educational display in the Nebraska Building.

Husker Harvest Days

Schultz reported that Husker Harvest Days would be September 10-12 and is looking for volunteers to work the NRD booth. He stated CPNRD would hold a native prairie grass seed outreach and said that Lower Loup has contributed to that.

NARD Annual Conference

Schultz reported that the Annual Conference would be held September 22-24 in Kearney at the Younes Conference Center and a block of rooms for the NRD is at the Fairfield Inn. Schultz passed around a sign-up sheet for those attending.

Callan asked about Schultz's award. Schultz reported that he was nominated for the Nebraska Forest Service Media Person of the Year award and he traveled to the Arborists Convention in Ashland to accept it. Eschliman congratulated Schultz on receiving the award.

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Davis Creek Update

Tylr Naprstek, Assistant General Manager, reported that the electric loop at Davis Creek is full through Labor Day and there are reservations into the fall. He reported that there is a camp host for the next two weekends. Naprstek reported that the new tent area is set up and looks good and that Boy Scouts have called to set up camping. Smith added that staff had worked hard at the rec area and have done a wonderful job.

Pibel Lake Update

Naprstek reported that the new road was poured August 5th and the lines and joints were sealed. He stated there were a few leaks in the joints at the top of the east and west risers and the contractor was looking at putting sealer on the rivets on the pipe; however, it shouldn't affect the recreational ability of the lake. He also reported that the contract for completion had been extended through the end of the month. Naprstek said the lake was filled and would be lowered again to fix the leaks. Naprstek showed before-and-after drone footage of the repairs.

Columbus Area Water Resources Assessment Study Update

No update currently.

Buffalo County – Aerial Electromagnetic Survey (AEM)

Naprstek reported that the NRD was waiting on AEM. It was estimated that they would be available in late September.

Boesch asked about the easements for the Columbus Project. Callan stated they were being drafted.

Cover Crop Study

Naprstek reported that there were two producers in Buffalo County who would allow soil moisture sensors to be installed to capture deep percolation below the root zone on cover crop and non-cover crop ground. He said tentative plans are to put the sensors in after current crops are harvested. He said easements have been signed.

VARIANCE COMMITTEE

Thoene reported on a variance request from Ken Woitaszewski from Rockville. He said Woitaszewski had a pivot that irrigates half groundwater and half surface water, and he wants to relinquish the surface water rights to groundwater. He said the irrigation district supports the transfer. Thoene said Woitaszewski is requesting the variance due to increased water levels in the area and is hoping this will draw the water down. This was his first presentation.

WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

E. coli Estimates

Naprstek reported that Dave Rus, USGS, was present at the Committee meeting and discussed the E. coli levels in the river at the St. Michael gage based on sediment loading and turbidity. It was discussed that E. coli levels were higher due to movement of sand and sediment. Callan reported that sunlight exposure would kill the E. coli.

LLNRD Livestock Rule (Rule 11)

Naprstek reported that there was discussion on Rule 11, which deals with lagoon water being applied to certified irrigated acres. The rule states that up to 3" of lagoon water can be put on non-irrigated ground in case of emergency, but the use of lagoon water to expand irrigated acres was not allowed. No changes were recommended.

Groundwater Management/Runoff and NRD Requirements

Naprstek reported that there was discussion held on the NRD's responsibility in runoff situations. He said that statute rules say that if a field is tiled in to a natural drainageway on a person's property, that is acceptable.

Area 28 Flowmeter Maintenance Program

Naprstek reported that the maintenance contract with Northern Ag for the flowmeter maintenance in Area 28 was up at the end of this year and that the contract will need to be re-bid for another three-year-term.

LLNRD Monitoring Well Program

Naprstek reported that he had given a presentation on the monitoring wells in Lower Loup. He said that 118 were installed for different purposes and programs across the District.

Other

Callan reported that the NRD had been waiting two years for a decision on the instream flow application that was submitted and hadn't gotten any feedback. As a result, he drafted and sent a letter stating that DNR hadn't contacted the NRD on its status. Callan said that on the same day of sending the letter, he received a denial of the application from DNR stating that the NRD had failed to meet the statutory requirements. Callan said that normally the NRD would ask for clarification but said the NRD's options within the next 30 days were to ask for a hearing or file with the court of appeals. Attorneys recommended the NRD request a hearing. Callan said it was the recommendation of the Committee that a hearing be requested.

Lukasiewicz stated he hadn't read the entire order but noted that DNR wanted more justification for what amounts of water were being requested. Lukasiewicz suggested that the

NRD approach DNR on their own without requesting a hearing. Callan stated he wasn't sure what was missing from the application and that the NRD had justification for not having adequate flows for peak seasons. Callan stated if the NRD reapplied, it would lose the last two years of time. Lukasiewicz stated he had visited with Jeff Fassett and was told that the report outlined what needed to be done and he suggested that the NRD revamp the application and resubmit. Callan stated that if another study was done, it could be a long time before anything is accomplished.

Smith asked if the NRD could request that DNR talk with the NRD during the hearing, so the NRD wouldn't have to start all over. Callan stated the NRD had asked DNR what the NRD needed to provide them with and had gotten no response. Callan suggested asking DNR to 'hold' the application pending submittal of further information.

Smith motioned, seconded by Adams, to request a hearing on the instream flow application submitted to DNR.

Boesch asked if staff anticipated anyone speaking against the application. Callan stated there was no opposition to the application at the previous hearing and that the NRD only had letters of support, so he didn't foresee anyone speaking in opposition at a future hearing.

Motion carried by electronic vote. Directors voting yes: Adams, Amsberry, Anderson, Bartak, Bauer, Boesch, Coffey, Eschliman, Hadenfeldt, Kauk, Kruse, Mohrman, Petersen, Podolak, Smith, Thede, Thoene, and Vlach. Director voting no: Lukasiewicz. Director absent: Citta.

Moudry reported on his attendance at a meeting in Broken Bow regarding their Drinking Water Protection Plan. He stated that representatives from JEO, NDEE, NRCS, and the County were present, as well as 12 stakeholders. He said the conversation moved toward implementing best management practices and cover crops.

PROGRAMS/PROJECTS COMMITTEE

North Loup Flooding

Kruse reported that Carrie Hansen, North Loup Village Clerk, was present to discuss issues caused from flooding in March and again in May and June. He said the village has been working with Miller & Associates to design a plan.

Callan reported that he would be meeting with North Loup and Sargent to see where the NRD could assist.

Callan said he had attended a meeting on Monday in Sargent, in which Governor Ricketts was also present. During the gathering there was a tour of the town and basements were viewed. He reported that there were several caved-in basements. He reported that FEMA/NEMA was present, also. He said there are mold growth concerns and that residents are pumping water

constantly. Callan said that he and Kolar would be setting up a meeting with Miller & Associates to discuss both towns and what the NRD could do to help.

Kevin Brown Hike-Bike Trail

Kruse reported that Sue McNeil of Taylor was present at the Committee meeting to ask the Board to renew its participation in the bike trail, a project that had stalled but is now being revisited. Kruse said the Board had approved participation of \$15,000 in 2016 and said that Board policy is that if the funds aren't used in two years, it expires. He said the Committee had made a recommendation to provide 5% not to exceed \$18,000 on the project.

Kruse motioned, seconded by Kauk, to provide funding of 5% not to exceed \$18,000 for the Kevin Brown Hike-Bike Trail in Taylor.

It was discussed that the normal participation amount is 10%; however, the trail that is planned is 8 feet wide, which is narrower than standard trails of 10 feet wide. Eschliman said that if Taylor came back with a revised plan for a 10-foot-wide trail, they'd probably get financial support from the NRD at 10%.

Motion carried by electronic vote. Directors voting yes: Adams, Amsberry, Anderson, Bartak, Bauer, Coffey, Eschliman, Hadenfeldt, Kauk, Kruse, Lukasiewicz, Mohrman, Petersen, Podolak, Thede, Thoene, and Vlach. Directors voting no: Boesch and Smith. Director absent: Citta.

Sargent Area Drainage Issues

Sargent East

Callan reported that the IPA information had been provided to residents and they would be working on putting together their petition, including a description of the IPA boundary. He said with the boundary they have chosen, at least 10 signatures are required to move forward.

Bowman Lake Trail Request

It was reported that Loup City residents were present to ask for participation in a hike and bike trail around Bowman Lake. This was their first presentation so more information will be available at the next Board meeting.

Duncan East IPA Project

Naprstek said the Duncan East information from FYRA was presented in the supplemental agenda. He said the NRD would be applying for both NRCS and FEMA funds that would account for 75% of the funding through federal sources but only one federal entity would be chosen. The NRD plans to complete the repairs. Kruse asked about the engineering costs and Callan stated that the District could supply engineering costs as part of their contribution and said that the NRD had already contributed \$18,000 in engineering costs. He said that could be

the NRD's total contribution to the project or it could be billed back to the Duncan East landowners. He said there was a 25% contingency on the \$69,176.25 cost estimate of the repair project.

Anderson motioned, seconded by Mohrman, to seek funding from NRCS and FEMA for repairs to the headwall on Duncan East IPA. Motion carried by electronic vote. All present voting yes.

District Cost-Share VRI/Cover Crops

Callan reported that, after reviewing the VRI cost-share program, it was determined that more criteria guidelines were needed. Included in the guidelines are: applicants first apply through EQIP; limit of two applications per landowner; \$2,000 limit per application; and higher priority be given for applications in Phase II & III water quality areas and/or within areas with a watershed water quality management plan; flowmeter installation and/or utilization of other irrigation monitoring equipment; and those who haven't received VRI cost-share in the past and/or applied through NRCS EQIP for VRI but did not receive funding due to low ranking. Smith asked about putting a total amount allowed for allocation and Callan responded that he had allocated \$100,000 for the general cost-share program and that \$60,000 would be available for VRI.

Smith motioned, seconded by Boesch, to approve the District cost-share for VRI with the presented guidelines, not to exceed \$60,000. Motion carried by electronic vote, all present voting yes.

Other

Callan said that a landowner in the Genoa area had reported that an irrigation well north of town, that the NRD had allowed to be drilled, may be causing problems for neighboring landowners. There were claims that the new well affects the pressure of the previously existing well. He reported that there may have to be an irrigation schedule for the area.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Litigation Update

No update

Subdistrict 3 Vacancy

Callan reported that there was a Subdistrict 3 vacancy due to Jim Nelson's resignation from the Board. He stated the Board had two options -- the position could be advertised or the position could be left open until the next election. If applications were taken, the Board could interview interested parties at the September meeting and an individual could be appointed in November. The new member would then have to run for reelection in November, 2021. It was the consensus of the Board that the position be advertised.

New Hires

Callan reported that Jim Thompson had been hired for the maintenance position at Davis Creek.

Callan reported on a request from Middle Niobrara NRD in Valentine for a letter of support for NET funds for an Education Center at their office.

Hadenfeldt motioned, seconded by Anderson, to draft a letter of support for the Environmental Trust grant application by the Middle Niobrara NRD for an Education Center. Motion carried by electronic vote, all present voting yes.

Non-action Reports

No non-action reports.

NARD REPORT

Eschliman encouraged everyone to stop by the Nebraska Building at the State Fair and also attend the NARD conference to be held in September in Kearney

NRC REPORT

Hadenfeldt reported that there hadn't been a meeting recently. He said that several Water Sustainability Fund applications had been received and would be sent to DNR for review. He said he hadn't been told he was on the steering committee. He said there would be a meeting in December.

RC&D REPORT

Thoene reported there was a meeting in Burwell and that the scrap tire collection would be held in Burwell on September 14th. He said that future tire collections would be held in different communities if grants were approved. He reported that the recycling in Broken Bow was going well. He said the Sandhills Weed Management was going to concentrate efforts in the Cherry County area. Thoene talked about drone footage of flooding conditions in North Loup, Sargent, and Belgrade.

Thoene reported that college grad Matthew Russell gave a presentation on the Cedar River. Russell said a study would be done on flooding from Ericson to Fullerton, saying they had a grant to measure deposits, sediment, clay, and the rate it travels. Russell talked about past flooding in 1966, 1993 and 2010 and comparing them to the most recent flooding. Thoene thought the final report from Russell would be interesting, but it wouldn't be complete for about a year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / FUTURE MEETING TOPICS

No announcements or future meeting topics were discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, Eschliman declared the meeting adjourned at 6:58 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 September 26, 2019, at 5:00 p.m., at the Headquarters Office in Ord, Nebraska.

Henry J. Thoene
Secretary