

MINUTES

LOWER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

March 24, 2022

Ord, Nebraska

The March 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 March 24, 2022. Chairman Citta called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Directors in attendance:

James C. Adams
Darwin B. Anderson
Beth Boesch
John Coffey
Gary A. Kruse
Todd Nitsch
Chad J. Podolak
Rick Vlach

Rollie D. Amsberry, Treasurer
Robert L. Bauer
Joseph L. Citta, Chairman
Randy Kauk
Larry Mohrman
Alan D. Petersen
Gerald Smith

Director attending via teleconference (non-voting)

James Eschliman, Vice Chairman

Directors absent:

Timothy E. Bartak
Matt Lukasiewicz
Henry J. Thoene, Secretary

N. Richard Hadenfeldt
Dean G. Thede

Staff in attendance:

Russell G. Callan, General Manager
Irene F. Kreifels, Administrative Assistant
Larry D. Schultz, I&E Coordinator
Alan Bartels, Information Specialist
Dell Harris, Water Resources Specialist

Tylr Naprstek, Assistant General Manager
Kim A. Lyons, Financial Secretary
Cameron Conrad, Water Modeling Coord.
V. Anne Freeman, Water Programs Secretary
Richard L. Woollen, District Forester

Guest in attendance:

Bryce Bauer, LDC, NRCS, Ord

VERIFICATION OF MEETING NOTICE AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairman Citta 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 website, and in the eight field office locations.

ROLL CALL

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

EXCUSED ABSENCES

Citta stated that Directors Bartak, Eschliman, Hadenfeldt, Lukasiewicz, and Thoene had asked to be excused. Thede had not asked to be excused.

Boesch motioned, seconded by Smith, to excuse Directors Bartak, Eschliman, Hadenfeldt, Lukasiewicz, and Thoene. Motion carried by electronic vote, all present voting yes.

MINUTES

Chairman Citta asked for corrections and/or additions to the February 24, 2022, Board meeting minutes. None were heard.

Anderson motioned, seconded by Coffey, to approve the February 24, 2022, Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried by electronic vote, all present voting yes.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Russell Callan, General Manager, highlighted expenditures of \$17,991.00 to Yandas Pro Audio & Visual for audio system equipment for the new conference room; \$1,327.50 to Olsson for the application for the HMP Grant for the Sargent Flood project; and multiple payments made to producers participating in the Buffer Strip program. He also highlighted expenditures of \$6,170.69 to Big Red Printing for printing of the newsletter; \$87,292.74 to Chief Construction for work on the building addition/remodel; \$4,625.00 to Big Red Printing for postage for the newsletter; \$12,879.00 to JEO Consulting Group for work on the drought plan; and \$30,876.43 to JEO Consulting Group for work on the Mud Creek and Mira Creek WFPOs.

Nitsch motioned, seconded by Kauk, to approve the March 24, 2022, Treasurer's Report. Motion carried by electronic vote, all present voting yes.

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

No comments from the public were heard.

FORESTER'S REPORT

In the absence of Rich Woollen, Callan reported that the Nebraska Forest Service would be placing a Conservation Forester at the NRD office and that the position would be fully funded by the Forest Service. He also reported that the nursery would be lifting trees mid-April.

NRCS REPORT

Bryce Bauer reported that the local work group meeting for EQIP would be held at the NRD office at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday March 30th. He reviewed the funding projects for the program and explained the practices that qualify for each. EQIP funding projects are: Insufficient Water Applications (pivots); Livestock Production; Cropland; and Brush Management.

Bauer also reported that the offices were now fully open and that Chelsea Clark would begin as the new RC in the Albion office in April.

Rich Woollen, District Forester, arrived at 4:22 p.m.

INFORMATION & EDUCATION REPORT

Central Region Envirothon

Alan Bartels, Information Specialist, reported that the Central Region Envirothon was held March 1st at Central Platte NRD. He reported that six teams qualified for State Envirothon, to be held April 27th at Camp Comeca near Cozad, including teams from Burwell, Ord, and two teams from Loup City and St. Paul.

Newsletter Award Nomination

Bartels reported that the *In the Loup* newsletter has been nominated for the Association for Conservation Information's "External Newsletter" award. He reported that winners would be announced at the ACI Annual Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, in July.

Social Media / Photography Contest

Bartels announced that the NRD Facebook page had surpassed 1,000 followers and that he had received 306 photos from 33 photographers for the photo contest. He said the LLNRD's Twitter account had nearly 150 followers and the new Instagram account had 125 followers. Bartels said that he was experimenting with a Pinterest account.

Bartels announced that there were copies of the March issue of *Irrigation Leader* magazine for viewing and explained that the NRD had a featured article.

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Davis Creek

Tylr Naprstek, Assistant General Manager, reported that the original boat dock at Davis Creek had been deployed and that water had been added to the treatment lagoon to keep it at operational levels. He said that the fish cleaning station, shower house, and RV dump would be opening in the next two weeks. He also reported that the irrigation district was beginning to let water into Davis Creek in preparation for an early irrigation season.

Pibel Lake

Naprstek reported that staff was working with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission on the goose population issue.

Cover Crop Study

Naprstek reported that the Buffalo County Cover Crop Analysis Study was in its last year. He showed a map of the locations with cover crops that are involved in the study. He reported that Jason Moudry and Dan Ruterbories would be pulling equipment next week before planting season begins.

NET – Flowmeter Cost-Share

Naprstek reported that, thus far, the program had financed 51 new meters and 9 repairs. He said that additional applications were pending and funding was still available. A formal request had been made to NET asking for a one-year extension, which would extend the grant through June, 2023.

VARIANCE COMMITTEE

Naprstek reported that Jim Janda from the Board of Educational Lands & Funds had been present at the Committee meeting with a proposal from Sargent. They would be back in April for further discussion.

He also reported that Jon Abegglen appeared before the Committee for the second time requesting to transfer acres out of Area 28 across the river and upstream. He stated that there

were originally 119 acres, and, after stream depletion, there would be about 80 acres transferred. Citta added that the NRD would get to bank about 16 acres. Citta also stated that the transfer would also move the acres out of a groundwater management area.

Smith motioned, seconded by Adams, to approve the Abegglen variance request to transfer 80 acres that will be non-transferable and to put a restriction of 600 feet distance for any future wells of any capacity.

Coffey asked if this could cause problems in the future with well interference. Callan stated that was why the spacing restrictions were included.

Motion carried by electronic vote, all present voting yes.

HIGH-CAPACITY WELL RESTRICTIONS

Callan reported that, in the Petersburg area, the previous restrictions put in place did not include all high-capacity wells. He recommended that restrictions should be added to avoid future issues. Naprstek showed the drawdown for the area based on well registrations in the DNR database. A map was shown of the area being discussed and proposed boundaries for the restriction area was discussed. There was discussion about squaring off the area to avoid confusion.

Kauk motioned, seconded by Boesch, to implement high-capacity well restrictions and to expand the well interference location boundaries -- north past Raeville to the NRD boundary and south to Highway 91 in Boone County; and that well development and acre transfers in this area be restricted. Motion carried by electronic vote, all present voting yes.

CONTRACT WITH JEO FOR FEMA BUYOUT PROJECT

Citta announced that the JEO contract would be discussed after an Executive Session was held.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Litigation Update

No update. Callan stated he was still waiting on information on the instream flow application and the Platte Republican diversion.

New Hires

Callan reported there were no new hires; however, Tyler Collier had resigned at HQ and Ken Dawson would be filling his position. Callan reported that the NRD would be advertising for the Parks & Maintenance Technician position in Ord and for the Broken Bow Technician position. He also reported that Eleanor Berger had resigned her position as secretary in Spalding,

so that position would be advertised later. Kruse asked about the new position in Columbus and Callan stated that ads for it would be put out soon.

Non-action Reports

Callan reported that vehicle and equipment bids had been opened. The Board was provided with a list of high bid on each item.

NARD REPORT

Eschliman reported that this year's Basin Tour would be held the first week in June in the Panhandle. He also reported that the hundred millionth tree would be planted soon and a tree planting ceremony would be held at the State Capitol. He stated there would be more events to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of NRDs.

NRC REPORT

Citta reported that there would be a rules committee meeting on April 12th and a general meeting on April 13th. He said there was discussion about having WSF recipients come to the meeting to give progress reports on their projects.

LOUP BASIN RC&D REPORT

Adams reported that the RC&D was sponsoring a raffle for a shotgun. He said the framing for the new VFW building would hopefully begin this summer. He also reported that their meetings have not resumed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/FUTURE MEETING TOPICS

It was announced that the April meeting would begin at 5:00 p.m. Discussion was held.

It was announced that no candidate had filed for Boesch's Subdistrict 9 seat on the Board.

Committee meeting times were also discussed. Callan stated that, for now, he would schedule the Programs/Projects Committee meeting at 10:00 a.m. and the Water Committee at 1:00 p.m. until he is told otherwise. Citta stated that if anyone wanted to change committees, reassignments could be made.

Callan gave an update on the building remodel. He said they are moving dirt and getting the electrical work done and are hoping to get doors in next week.

Petersen motioned, seconded by Kruse, to enter into Executive Session at 5:25 p.m. to discuss the JEO contract for the FEMA buyout project. Motion carried by electronic vote, all present voting yes.

Adams motioned, seconded by Boesch, to exit Executive Session at 5:51 p.m. Motion carried by electronic vote, all present voting yes.

Kruse motioned, seconded by Podolak, to approve the JEO contract for the FEMA buyout project. Motion carried by electronic vote. Directors voting yes: Adams, Amsberry, Bauer, Boesch, Citta, Coffey, Kauk, Kruse, Mohrman, Nitsch, Petersen, Podolak, and Vlach. Directors abstaining: Adams and Smith. Directors absent: Bartak, Eschliman, Hadenfeldt, Lukasiewicz, Thede, and Thoene.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, Chairman Citta declared the meeting adjourned at 5:55 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 April 28, 2022, at 5:00 p.m., at the Headquarters Office in Ord, Nebraska.

Henry J. Thoene
Secretary