

MINUTES

LOWER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

June 28, 2018

Ord, Nebraska

The June 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 June 28, 2018. Chairman Citta called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Directors in attendance

James C. Adams
Darwin B. Anderson
Robert Bauer
Joseph L. Citta, Chairman
Virgil W. Gellermann
Randy Kauk
Larry Mohrman
Alan D. Petersen
Gerald P. Smith
Rick Vlach

Rollie D. Amsberry, Treasurer
Tim Bartak
Beth Boesch
James J. Eschliman, Vice Chairman
N. Richard Hadenfeldt
Gary A. Kruse
James C. Nelson
Chad Podolak
Henry J. Thoene, Secretary

Directors absent

Matt Lukasiewicz

Dean G. Thede

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
Jason Moudry, Water Programs Specialist
Cam Conrad, Water Modeling Coordinator
Jane Klanecky, Receptionist

Tylr Naprstek, Assistant General Manager
Kim A. Lyons, Financial Secretary
Brian Kolar, Projects Technician
Dell R. Harris, Water Resources Specialist
Dan Ruterbories, Rangeland Resources Tech
Richard Woollen, District Forester

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 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 with the addition of the Variance Committee meeting.

EXCUSED ABSENCES AND ROLL CALL

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

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

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

MINUTES

Chairman Citta asked for corrections and/or additions to the May 24, 2018, Board meeting minutes. None were heard.

Smith motioned, seconded by Boesch, to approve the May 24, 2018, Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.

Chairman Citta asked for further discussion on the motion from last month regarding the increase in the General Manager's salary. The original motion was stated for the increase to be effective January of 2019 and the current salary program runs from July through June. Citta asked if the Board intended for it to run with the regular salary increases. Boesch stated she would rescind her original motion so it could be changed to a July increase.

Boesch motioned, seconded by Smith, to approve the General Manager's salary increase effective July 1, 2018. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.

Bartak arrived at 4:57 p.m.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

Callan highlighted the expenses listed for the Prokop case, tree stock and supplies, as well as expenses to EA Engineering for the cover crop study grant. Callan also mentioned \$474,000 for the Columbus levee and expenses for the inlet vault toilet at Davis Creek. On the supplemental agenda, he highlighted expenses for the tractor and ATVs and JEO for \$12,488 for the last part of the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Kruse motioned, seconded by Petersen, to approve the June 28, 2018, Treasurer's Report and pay all bills. Motion carried by roll call vote. Directors voting yes: Adams, Amsberry, Anderson, Bartak, Bauer, Boesch, Citta, Eschliman, Gellermann, Hadenfeldt, Kruse, Mohrman, Nelson, Petersen, Podolak, Thede, and Vlach. Directors abstaining: Smith and Thoene. Directors absent: Lukasiewicz and Thede.

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

There were no public comments.

FORESTER'S REPORT

Rich Woollen, District Forester, reported that the NRD's arboretum would be an affiliate site for the 40th anniversary celebration promoting arboretums. He reported that an "Arboretum Adventure" had been organized for interested persons to explore arboretums across the state, offering clues to find a plaque and make a rubbing of it.

Woollen reported that the first meeting of the Central Sandhills Community Wildfire Protection Plan group was held at Region 26. He said the steering committee consists of fire chiefs, emergency management personnel, NRCS, NRD, USFS, and himself. He provided a copy of the plan, minutes and agenda.

There was discussion on the emerald ash borer. Woollen stated he had several brochures that offered information about the insect. He said that the NRD Forestry Workshop would be held in July at Central Platte NRD. He also showed the Board a video of contractors planting trees in the burned areas of the Niobrara Valley.

NRCS REPORT

Bryce Bauer, NRCS, reported that a few new people had been hired in various offices. He reported that all compliance checks had been completed and that two locations were out of compliance in this area. Bauer explained the process for compliance corrections. He also reported that NRCS was expecting another round of hiring soon. Bauer reported that 10-year CRP contracts would be allowed a one-year extension. He said there was talk at the DC meeting about when and where people could plant cedar trees through the EQIP program.

INFORMATION & EDUCATION REPORT

Hazard Mitigation Plan

Larry Schultz, Information & Education Coordinator, reported that the Hazard Mitigation Plan was complete and all participants had signed off. He said the plan was good for five years.

Adventure Camp about the Environment (ACE)

Schultz reported that 44 campers attended the ACE camp and 17 were involved in Range Camp recently. He said the camp provided various hands-on activities to teach kids about water quality.

Media Campaign Update

Schultz presented the Board with numbers that Red Thread had computed on success of the media campaigns the NRD has run. He reported that the next phase on Conservation Trees is underway and the video is being edited. He said that after completion of the conservation video, Red Thread would begin work on a recreation area video.

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Davis Creek – Phase II Update

Tylr Naprstek, Assistant General Manager, reported that work was continuing at Davis Creek. He stated that the restroom was delivered the week of the Committee meetings and has been installed with solar panels that continually run a vent and solar light inside. He reported the toilet was on Nebraska Game and Parks land and a dumpster had also been placed on location next to the toilet. Naprstek reported that the concrete was being poured for the building and that the playground equipment had been delayed.

Pibel Lake Update

Brian Kolar, Projects Technician, reported that HDR had sent evaluations on the spillway rehab. Their recommendation was to do a full replacement of the pipes. HDR doesn't feel that the seepage can be repaired with lining and would also be extended with the replacement. Construction is set to begin after harvest and was expected to take two months.

Buffalo County, Ravenna Lake Report

Naprstek reported that samples were still being taken for next year and said that there were four samples left to be taken this year. He said JEO would have their feasibility study prepared for review shortly.

Columbus Area Water Resources Assessment Study Update

Naprstek reported that the City of Columbus had accepted the proposal for participation in the Columbus Recharge Project and that all four entities have signed the interlocal agreements. He said staff was currently working on contacting landowners, acquiring easements, mapping wells, and would be installing a transducer at the bridge to monitor levels.

ELM Update

No report.

WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

South Loup River Isotope Study

Naprstek reported that thermal imaging data from November, 2016, was posted in the meeting room. He said USGS would like to conduct an age dated isotope study to see how old the water is. He said the older water would be more likely to last through a drought than newer water would. USGS is partnering with the Upper Loup NRD and wants Lower Loup NRD to participate. Cost would be \$40,000 over three years. Naprstek said that Upper Loup would sponsor the grants, and if grants are not accepted, Lower Loup would reevaluate their participation.

Smith motioned, seconded by Adams, to participate with USGS and Upper Loup NRD in the South Loup Isotope Study, with Lower Loup's portion totaling \$40,000 over three years and to apply for the grants pertaining to the study. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.

New Irrigated Acres

Smith reported that the Committee had discussed new irrigated acres and motioned not to allow any new acres for this term; however, producers could still apply through variance. He said the fee for a new acres application would be \$500 and the variance fee is \$300. Presentation was given of several locations across the District that could allow or disallow new acres due to water levels.

Smith motioned, seconded by Adams not to allow any new irrigated acres this year. Motion failed by roll call vote. Directors voting yes: Adams, Anderson, Boesch, Kauk, and Smith. Directors voting no: Amsberry, Bartak, Bauer, Citta, Eschliman, Gellermann,

Hadenfeldt, Kruse, Mohrman, Petersen, Podolak, Thoene, and Vlach. Director abstaining: Nelson. Directors absent: Lukasiewicz and Thede.

Drought Management Study – Consultant Selection

Smith reported that the Committee had discussed the Drought Management Study and said the cost would be \$92,000.

Smith motioned, seconded by Kauk, to approve \$92,000 to conduct a Drought Management Study. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.

LLNRD Industrial/Commercial/Livestock High Capacity Wells

It was reported that the Committee discussed applying for an Environmental Trust Grant for high capacity flowmeters.

Smith motioned, seconded by Gellermann, to apply for an Environmental Trust Grant for a three-year flowmeter cost-share program for high capacity wells. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.

Funding for Anti-Reverse Bearing on Area 28 Flowmeters

Smith reported that the Committee had reviewed funding on the anti-reverse bearing for Area 28 flowmeters. He reported costs of approximately \$18,000 for current repairs and there would be another round of repairs. Overrun bearings were also discussed but not addressed.

Smith motioned, seconded by Boesch, to approve funding and pay the costs of the anti-reverse bearings to be installed on the Area 28 flowmeters covered in this year's repairs. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.

Eschliman expressed that he felt something needed to be decided on irrigated acres, and if a decision couldn't be made tonight, it should be sent back to the Water Resources Committee for further discussion. It was the consensus of the Board to have the Committee review irrigated acres and report back at the July meeting.

PROGRAMS/PROJECTS COMMITTEE

Parks & Recreation Financial Assistance Program

Kruse reported that a Parks & Recreation Financial Assistance Program was discussed that would allow NRD staff to approve small projects without taking the matter to the full Committee and Board for approval.

Kruse motioned, seconded by Gellermann, to establish and implement a Parks & Recreation Financial Assistance Program for projects of \$3,000 or less, with a total budget of \$12,000 for the next fiscal year. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.

Funding for Planned Grazing Systems Cost-Share

Callan explained that the NRD had budgeted \$45,000 for cost-share. He said that although most of the planned grazing applications go through EQIP, some don't make it through the ranking, and staff is continually seeing applications ready for processing. Callan suggested adding an additional \$55,000 to the budget, for a total of \$100,000 for the program.

Kruse motioned, seconded by Adams, to approve budgeting \$100,000 for Planned Grazing System cost-share grazing. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Litigation Update

Callan reported he is still waiting to be updated on the ongoing Koch and Prokop cases.

New Hires

Callan reported that Cam Conrad had started his new position as the Water Modeling Coordinator.

Director Insurance

Callan went over the coverage the NRD carries for directors for meeting travel and out-of-town stays, as well as the management liability for errors and omissions.

Excess Equipment Bids

Callan reported on the equipment bids received on the four-wheelers, tractor, and shredder.

Non-action Reports

None.

FY 2019 BUDGET WORK SESSION #2

Callan reviewed the following various budget items and the recommended budgeted amount:

- Code 475 – Buffer Strip Program - \$172,000
- Code 462 – Arboretum Budget - \$10,000
- Code 438 – Special Projects - \$1,190,000
- Code 473 & 301 – Water Quality Fund - \$105,000
- Code 301 & 303 – State and Federal Grant Funds (Income) - \$2,900,000
- Code 422 – Scrap Tire Collection - \$0
- Code 471 – Water Well Decommissioning Fund - \$30,000

Code 470 & 440 – Land Treatment - \$339,000
Code 441 – Project Construction - \$4,579,000
Code 443 – Project Land Rights - \$500,000
Code 445 – Project Legal Costs - \$60,000
Code 447– Assessment Projects - \$2,124.22 (Duncan East IPA)
Code 448 – Assessment Projects - \$1,335.24 (Lost Creek IPA)
Code 466 – FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan - \$0
Code 449 & 309 – Stock and Stock Purchases - \$160,000
Code 165 – Machinery & Equipment - \$58,000
Code 476 – Community Forestry Program - \$35,000
Code 477 – Prescribed Burn Program - \$30,000
Code 441.01 – Parks and Rec. Financial Assistance Program - \$12,000
Code 163 & 161 – Capital Improvements & Land - \$380,000 (with flexibility to add \$250,000, depending on final budget figures)

Amsberry motioned, seconded by Anderson, to tentatively approve the second portion of the budget as presented. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.

DUNCAN EAST IPA ASSESSMENT

Callan informed the Board that the Duncan East IPA assessment needs to be renewed to cover costs of maintenance of the area and presented the board with a resolution to renew in the amount of \$11,000.

Anderson motioned, seconded by Gellermann, to adopt Resolution FY2018-009 for the Duncan East IPA Assessment in the amount of \$11,000. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.

Thoene reported variance application to transfer irrigated acres submitted by N. Richard Hadenfeldt was discussed for the second time at the Committee meeting. It was reported that there was a recommendation of approval from the Committee.

Thoene motioned, seconded by Smith, to approve the variance to transfer irrigated acres submitted by N. Richard Hadenfeldt with the updated legal description. Motion carried by roll call vote. Directors voting yes: Adams, Amsberry, Anderson, Bartak, Bauer, Boesch, Citta Eschliman, Gellermann, Kauk, Kruse, Mohrman, Nelson, Petersen, Podolak, Smith, Thoene, and Vlach. Director abstaining: Hadenfeldt. Directors absent: Lukasiewicz and Thede.

NARD REPORT

Director's Report

Eschliman reported that the programming and planning committee met and reviewed Envirothon. He presented brochures showing money contributed. He reported that the Ron Bishop Memorial Gold Tournament would be held on September 23rd and the NARD Annual

Conference would be September 23-25. He said the Legislative Conference would be held January 29-30, and the Washington DC Conference would be March 30-April 3.

Directors who attended the Basin Tour highly recommended it to others. They reported on the niobium mine, different terrains, dams maintained by various NRDs, and various water projects. Eschliman said the Lower Loup NRD would be sponsoring next year's tour.

Legislation

No report.

NRC REPORT

Commissioner's Report

Hadenfeldt reported there was a committee meeting set for July 18th, but it had been rescheduled for August 15th. He also reported that Governor Ricketts had signed off on modifications to the Water Sustainability Fund rules.

RC&D REPORTS

Loup Basin RC&D

Thoene reported that the RC&D met at Koelling sunflower plant in North Loup. He said that the Friday Night Business Ventures had been going well. He said the RC&D would be completing an addition to the building, which included another bathroom.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/FUTURE MEETING TOPICS

No announcements made.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, Citta declared the meeting adjourned at 7:54 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 July 26, 2018, at 5:00 p.m., at the Headquarters Office in Ord, Nebraska.

Henry J. Thoene
Secretary