

# LOWER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

July 26, 2012

Ord, Nebraska

The July 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 July 26, 2012. Chairman Kruse called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

## CALL TO ORDER

### Directors in attendance

James C. Adams  
Darwin B. Anderson, Secretary  
Craig E. Frenzen  
N. Richard Hadenfeldt  
Gary A. Kruse, Chairman  
Alan D. Petersen  
Bradley R. Staab

Rollie D. Amsberry, Treasurer  
Joseph L. Citta, Jr. Vice Chairman  
Virgil W. Gellermann  
Thomas Knutson  
James C. Nelson  
Dean J. Rasmussen  
Kim Walden

### Directors absent

Tim Bartak  
Michael P. Gutzmer  
Gerald P. Smith

James J. Eschliman  
Darwin R. Sieh  
Henry J. Thoene

### Staff in attendance

Leon "Butch" Koehlmoos, General Manager  
Dell Harris, Water Resources Specialist  
Irene Kreifels, Financial Secretary  
Tylr Naprstek, Water Modeling Coordinator  
Larry D. Schultz, I&E Coordinator

Russell Callan, Assistant Manager  
Rita Goldfish, Administrative Assistant  
Robert T. Mohler, District Engineer  
Dan Ray, Conservation Technician, Greeley  
Richard Woollen, N.C. District Forester

### Guests in attendance

Jason Buss, Columbus  
Judy Trautwein, Columbus

Bryce Bauer, DC, NRCS, Ord  
Art Spenner, Columbus

## NOTICE OF OPEN MEETING LAW POSTING

Chairman Kruse referred those in attendance to the open meeting law information posted in the Board room.

## APPROVAL OF VERIFICATION OF MEETING NOTICE, ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND EXCUSED ABSENCES

Chairman Kruse asked for verification of the meeting notice. General Manager Leon “Butch” Koehlmoos verified that the meeting notices were properly published in all newspapers. The meeting notice was also posted at the NRD Headquarters office in Ord, the NRD web site, and the eight field office locations. Koehlmoos told the Board that item 8b, “Howard County Road Structure,” had been added to the agenda, prior to the 24 hours notice required by law.

**Staab motioned, seconded by Knutson, to approve the verification of the meeting notice, adopt the modified agenda, and excuse all absent directors. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.**

## MINUTES

Chairman Kruse asked for corrections and/or additions to the June 28, 2012, Board meeting minutes and none were heard. Kruse ruled that the June 28, 2012, Board meeting minutes would stand approved as submitted.

## TREASURER’S REPORT

Chairman Kruse directed the Board’s attention to the Treasurer’s Report as published in the regular and supplemental agendas. Koehlmoos commented on various items including investments, USGS disbursements, and ELM Study expenses.

**Rasmussen motioned, seconded by Staab, to approve the July, 2012, Treasurer’s Report and pay all bills. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.**

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no public comment.

## FORESTER’S REPORT

North Central District Forester Richard Woollen referred the Board to his written report in the agenda and said that forest stand improvement was a practice to improve tree health and stocking. He said that the practice provides wildlife habitat, improved water quality, and the potential for income from wood products.

Woollen provided the Board with a power point presentation on invasive insect infestations in trees and the wildfires in the Niobrara River Valley in north central Nebraska.

## NRCS REPORT

District Conservationist Bryce Bauer told the Board that another \$2.5 million in EQIP funds had been received for use in the Lower Loup NRD. He said that 60 percent of the funds would go to range practices. Bauer said that his offices had completed a review by the Quality Review Board.

Koehlmoos said that the NRCS had extended the current agreement on technical service providers for six months and the current split of 80% NRCS/20% NRD would continue for those six months.

## ENGINEERING REPORT

### 8<sup>th</sup> Street Trail - Columbus

District Engineer Robert Mohler told the Board that Columbus Area Recreational Trails (CART) organization and Columbus Mayor Mike Moser had approached the NRD for financial assistance on the 8<sup>th</sup> Street Trail in Columbus. Mohler introduced Jason Buss of CART.

Buss told the Board that the trail was located on the south side of 8<sup>th</sup> Street on the edge of the Van Berg golf course. He said it would run from the West Pawnee Park Trail to Lake Shore Drive. Bikers, joggers, and walkers currently utilize the edge of 8<sup>th</sup> Street, which handles a large amount of traffic. He said construction on the trail would begin in August and had been bid at \$62,500.

**Citta motioned, seconded by Adams, to approve financial assistance of \$10,000 for the 8<sup>th</sup> Street Trail in Columbus, providing the trail be constructed at a width of ten feet. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.**

### Altered Road Structure, Howard County

Mohler told the Board that the District had received a letter from Howard County Attorney David Schroeder on the alterations made to a road structure on Kaiser Road in Howard County. Mohler said that Schroeder indicated that a 1975 agreement between the LLNRD and Howard County had not been “fully executed” as no land acquisitions or easements had been acquired for impoundment of water. Mohler said a copy of the grant of easement was included in the supplemental agenda. Following discussion, the Board consensus was to require Howard County to stand behind the project and to send a letter inviting county representatives to attend the August NRD Board of Directors meeting.

**Citta motioned, seconded by Frenzen, to have staff draft a letter to Howard County inviting representatives to attend the August 2012 Lower Loup NRD Board of Directors meeting to discuss the altered road structure on the Kaiser property. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.**

## INFORMATION AND EDUCATION REPORT

### Quarterly I&E Meeting

Information/Education Coordinator Larry Schultz told the Board that he had attended the quarterly meeting of information and education staff from across the state. The meeting was held at Papio-Missouri River NRD in Omaha. He said that group had discussed the NRD and Basin Fact Sheets and preparations for upcoming events. The Envirothon Committee had also met and discussed West Holt High School's participation in the Canon Envirothon. He said that only two members of the original five member qualifying team would be able to participate, and that did not meet national contest rules. He said that Nebraska rules might be modified to meet the national standards.

### Upcoming Events Volunteers

Schultz told the Board that volunteers were being sought to man booths at Husker Harvest Days and the Nebraska State Fair. He said that he and Rasmussen had volunteered to help at Husker Harvest Days.

### Annual NARD Conference

Schultz told the Board that a choice of hotel needed to be made for the NARD Annual Conference in Kearney. After discussion, the consensus was to seek rooms at the Hampton Inn.

Schultz passed to the Board an example of the NARD 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary shirt. He asked that Directors who were interested in a shirt to contact him following the meeting.

## ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT

### Variance Committee

Callan told the Board that the Variance Committee had met earlier in the day and heard two variance requests. He said Dave Cherry wished to certify as irrigated land that he had formerly rented and recently purchased. He said Cherry indicated that the field had been irrigated in the fall of 2005 and again in 2006. Callan said that satellite imagery did not show the irrigation because of the timing of the photography. He said it was the consensus of the Committee that no variance was required and the acres could be certified as irrigated. Callan told the Board that Darrel Buhl sought a supplemental well to ease the constraints of irrigating multiple fields with a single well. Callan said that such constraints were discussed when Buhl's last variance was granted. Callan said that because this was the first time the request had been presented, no action would be required until the following month.

### Groundwater Management Area Activities

#### Area 28 Activities

This summer's irrigation water sampling was almost complete. With the dry conditions, most irrigation wells were pumping, so collection of samples went well.

### 2012 Pumping Water Levels

Callan said staff had compiled data on the effects of the drought and irrigation on the groundwater resource at the request of Chairman Kruse. Naprstek provided the Board with a power point presentation showing groundwater levels and recent history from transducers placed in wells around the District as part of the NRD's Irrigation Monitoring Program.

### ELM Update

Callan reported that he had received the Task Order from DNR which granted the ELM Project the \$214,000 which was the Interrelated Water Management Plan/Program grant funding amount.

### FY-2013 BUDGET WORK SESSION #2

Koehlmoos directed the Board to the budget information included in the agenda.

Koehlmoos presented the budget items for Special Projects \$540,000; Water Quality Fund \$95,000; Water Well Decommissioning Fund \$55,000; Land Treatment \$185,000; Project Construction \$1,520,000; Assessment Projects \$10,000; FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan \$10,000; Stock and Stock Purchases \$74561.29; Machinery & Equipment \$58,000; Community Forestry Program \$30,000; Prescribed Burn Program \$30,000; and Capital Improvements \$184,000.

**Anderson motioned, seconded by Nelson, to give tentative approval to the second half of the FY 2013 Budget and to set the Budget Hearing for August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 p.m. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.**

He said that the budget hearing would be part of the August meeting. At that time the counties should have supplied valuations and final numbers on taxes required and the required levy will be in place.

### MANAGER'S REPORT

#### Burwell Property

General Manager Leon "Butch" Koehlmoos told the Board that the District had received an offer for the building in Burwell, but the property would need to be sold on a "sealed bid" basis. He said that he would like to sell the building and lot in Burwell, the 1979 pump plant van and test equipment, and the 1997 Ford "shop" pickup. He said the property would be advertised for sale by sealed bid in local papers and any or all bids could be rejected.

**Knutson motioned, seconded by Walden, to advertise for sale by sealed bid the NRD building and lot in Burwell, the 1979 pump plant van and testing equipment, and the 1997 Ford "shop" pickup. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.**

### Spalding Property

Koehlmoos told the Board that bids could be sought for the new storage building previously discussed for the District's Spalding location. He suggested that, with Board approval, specifications could be prepared so that bids could be accepted for the project.

**Rasmussen motioned, seconded by Anderson, to direct staff to prepare specifications for a metal storage building on the NRD's Spalding property. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.**

### New Hires

Koehlmoos said that there were no new hires.

## NARD REPORT

### Director's Report

Rasmussen said that the NARD Board had not met.

### Resolutions for NARD Annual Conference

Koehlmoos said that a couple resolutions are in the agenda.

### Resolutions for 414(h) Retirement Plan and 457 Annuity Plan

Koehlmoos explained the 414(h) Retirement Plan and 457 Annuity Plan resolutions needed to be adopted by the Lower Loup NRD Board.

**Knutson motioned, seconded by Petersen, to authorize the Chairman's signature on the resolutions. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.**

## NRC REPORT

Hadenfeldt and Knutson reported that the Commission had not met.

## RC&D REPORTS

### Loup Basin RC&D

Rasmussen told the Board that the RC&D had held a short meeting and was preparing to move to its new location in Burwell.

### PrairieLand RC&D

Gellermann reported that the RC&D met at the Jim Knopik farm near Fullerton on July 17th for a tour and barbecue. He reported that the group is discussing a tire collection and is considering a fee

for tires dropped off. He said that the Shell Creek Project continues and there are still grant funds available for use on the project.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

### ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, Chairman Kruse declared the meeting adjourned at 6:51 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 newspaper in each county within the District. The next Board of Directors meeting will be held Thursday, August 23, 2012, at 5:00 p.m., at the Headquarters Office in Ord, Nebraska.

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Darwin B. Anderson  
Secretary