

# LOWER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

July 23, 2015

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 23, 2015. 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  
Beth Boesch  
Virgil W. Gellermann  
Gary A. Kruse, Chairman  
James C. Nelson  
Dean J. Rasmussen

Rollie D. Amsberry, Treasurer  
Timothy E. Bartak  
Joseph L. Citta, Jr., Vice Chairman  
N. Richard Hadenfeldt  
Clifford P. Loseke  
Alan D. Petersen  
Dean G. Thede

### Directors absent

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

Michael P. Gutzmer  
Matt Lukasiewicz  
Gerald P. Smith

### Staff in attendance

Leon "Butch" Koehlmoos, General Manager  
Irene F. Kreifels, Financial Secretary  
Cheryl K. Hornickel, Programs Assistant  
Larry D. Schultz, I&E Coordinator  
Jason Moudry, Water Programs Specialist  
LeeAnn Smith, Water Programs Ass't.

Russell G. Callan, Assistant General Manager  
Rita A. Goldfish, Administrative Assistant  
Richard L. Woollen, District Forester  
Anne Freeman, Water Programs Secretary  
Tylr Naprstek, Water Modeling Coordinator  
Dell R. Harris, Water Resources Specialist

### Guests in attendance

Bryce Bauer, DC, NRCS, Ord  
Mark Koch, Sargent

Mike Placke, Olsson Associates

## 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 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. Koehlmoos said there were no modifications to the agenda.

**Adams motioned, seconded by Anderson, to approve the verification of the meeting notice, adopt the 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 25, 2015, Board meeting minutes. Koehlmoos commented that “Code 405 Auto & Trucks - \$75,000” should be added to the tentative approval of the budget for FY 2016. He said Code 405 had been discussed at the June meeting, but was inadvertently left out of the minutes.

**Citta motioned, seconded by Boesch, to approve the modified June 25, 2015, minutes as corrected. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.**

## TREASURER’S REPORT

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

Koehlmoos mentioned that the SENSE Field Days would be next week in Columbus and Fullerton. He said the Water Resources and Programs/Projects Committees would meet on August 18<sup>th</sup>.

Koehlmoos highlighted several bills including professional services (22-acre land purchase-escrow/litigation); newsletter expenses; insurance premium; flowmeter and water sample expenses; payments to USGS and JEO (South Loup) and Olsson Associates (Pibel); and hail damage repair on building at Aagaard Farm.

**Rasmussen motioned, seconded by Loseke, to approve the July, 2015, Treasurer’s Report and pay all bills. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.**

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

## FORESTER'S REPORT

Rich Woollen, District Forester, reported that woody biomass, a dense source of carbon, is being used in mortality composting of livestock and poultry. He said UNL continues to look for markets for woody biomass.

Woollen said that a contractor workshop was held and some of the topics presented included fuels management programs, chainsaw safety, OSHA regulations, landowner/contractor relationships, and insurance.

Woollen reported that a *Grazing for Wildlife* workshop was held near Burwell that focused on windbreaks and wildlife. He said he had an interview with KRVN regarding the workshop.

Woollen informed the Board that a Tree Board Training event was scheduled for August 4<sup>th</sup> in Columbus. He said it was an opportunity to learn how to identify and understand the purpose of tree boards and what their role might be in community planning, to evaluate a plan, and to grow and maintain a community forest. Woollen said he would be helping to conduct the training.

Citta commented that he attended a presentation on mortality composting and said the practice has been very successful.

## NRCS REPORT

Bryce Bauer, RC, NRCS in Ord, reported that Bailey McKay will fill the range conservationist position in Broken Bow, and Joyce Cox is the programs support specialist in Burwell. He said NRCS employees will be attending ToolKit training in Lincoln.

## REOPENED PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mark Koch, representing the Bredthauer Dam/Mira Creek project, presented parts of Nebraska Statutes 2-1575 and 2-1576 of the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Act.

## INFORMATION AND EDUCATION REPORT

### Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Information & Education Coordinator Larry Schultz said that the contracts with JEO Consulting Group have been signed and a Notice of Intent filed with NEMA. He said the pre-disaster funding request for the Hazard Mitigation Plan is moving forward. He said JEO will submit the packet of information to FEMA.

### Quarterly I&E Meeting

Schultz said the statewide I&E group met in Norfolk recently. He said the group toured recreation areas in the Lower Elkhorn NRD. He said there had been a lot of damage to the Maskenthine Lake Recreation Area due to the Stanton County tornado last year. He said the group is working at updating the Conservation Trees booklet and District Fact Sheets.

### Annual NARD Conference

Schultz said the NARD Conference would be held in Kearney September 27-29. He passed around a sign-up sheet for directors wanting to attend the conference. Schultz said he gave each director brochures on the NARD Foundation, sign-ups for the conference trap shooting and golf tournament activities, and Project SENSE Field Days.

### Husker Harvest Days

Schultz said that Husker Harvest Days will be held in Grand Island and Directors Loseke and Anderson will be volunteering to help give out tree seedlings in the NARD building on the Husker Harvest grounds.

## ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT

### Variance Committee

Assistant General Manager Russell Callan said that the Variance Committee did not meet because Roths hadn't collected all their information.

### Water Resources Committee

Callan said there were no recommendations from the Water Resources Committee.

He said there had been a tour of the Aagaard Farm on the 14<sup>th</sup>, in conjunction with the committee meetings held at the farm.

Callan said that 100 pheasant hens were recently released at the farm.

## PROGRAMS/PROJECTS COMMITTEE REPORT

### *Removal of Wetland Sediment*

Koehlmoos said the Committee discussed the request by Doug Rudat for assistance from the NRD to remove silt from his pond near the end of the Duncan East IPA project drainage ditches. He said the Committee recommended denial of the request. Koehlmoos said he had talked to Rudat about the Committee's recommendation.

**Loseke motioned, seconded by Petersen, to deny Doug Rudat's request for financial assistance. Motion carried by roll call vote. Directors voting yes: Adams, Amsberry, Anderson,**

**Bartak, Boesch, Gellermann, Hadenfeldt, Kruse, Loseke, Nelson, Petersen, Rasmussen, and Thede. Director voting no: Citta. Directors absent: Eschliman, Gutzmer, Kauk, Lukasiewicz, Sieh, Smith, and Thoene.**

*Lake Ericson Request for Funding*

Koehlmoos said that Lake Ericson Association is requesting financial assistance for four pods at the lake, extension of their geotube berm, and some bank stabilization work. He said this was a first-time request.

*Pibel Lake Update*

Koehlmoos said that Naprstek had gone over the different Pibel Lake projects. He said the NRD would advertise for contractors and construction would hopefully begin in October. He said the water levels in the lake are gradually being reduced.

*Duncan East Assessment Letters*

Koehlmoos said that the Duncan East assessment letters have been sent. He said that some of the tracts that were developed in the 90's had been subdivided.

*Columbus Area Water Study*

Koehlmoos said that a report was given to the Committee regarding the work being done with HDR in the Columbus area.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

Litigation Update

Koehlmoos said that the NRD had talked to Eugene Bredthauer, prior to Mark Koch's involvement. Koehlmoos said that NSWCP is a state-funded conservation program used for putting in small projects. He said applications averaged \$2,000 each. If the project is approved, the cost-share rate is 50%. Koehlmoos said that Bredthauer wasn't interested in paying half the cost. Koehlmoos said at the time Bredthauer came in, the NRD had put a "hold" on all applications due to the backlog.

Property Acquisition

Koehlmoos said that the Pibel property had been purchased.

New Hires

Koehlmoos said there were no new hires.

### Non-Action Reports

Koehlmoos said that a few slides of the work being done on the picnic shelters at Davis Creek would be shown after the meeting.

### FY-2016 BUDGET WORK SESSION #2

Koehlmoos directed the Board to the budget information in the agenda and said that **Code 438-Special Projects** included all the water quality/quantity projects of the district. He said a lot of data is collected throughout the year. He said that the South Loup River will be a big issue in the coming year and IR and LiDAR aerial photography is a high priority.

Callan said the Area 28 flowmeter program was successful, and \$464,000 was spent putting meters in Area 28. He said that the Sargent Irrigation Augmentation/Recharge Project and the Columbus GW/SW Assessment Project will be a couple of new programs implemented in FY 2016.

Koehlmoos said that \$26,500 needed to be added to the Code 438 budget for the Project SENSE program, for a total recommendation of \$1,227,700 for FY 2016.

Koehlmoos said the Water Quality Fund (Codes 473 & 301) includes monies received from registration and licensing. Koehlmoos said the money received from FY 2015 was put against the Area 28 flowmeter program. The recommended amount for FY 2016 is \$95,000.

Other items presented were Grant Funds - \$586,527; Scrap Tire Collection - \$27,000; Water Well Decommissioning Fund - \$55,000; Land Treatment - \$256,900; Project Construction - \$2,000,000; and Assessment Projects (Duncan East IPA-\$11,000 & Lost Creek IPA-\$2,000). He said some monies may need to be loaned to the Assessment Project funds to get the mowing payments made.

Koehlmoos also presented Hazard Mitigation Plan - \$140,000; Stock & Stock Purchases - \$160,000; and Machinery & Equipment - \$58,000. Koehlmoos reported that the rolling stock such as tractors, mowers and 4-wheelers would be moved to Code 167 – Auto, Trucks & Other Equipment. He said trailers, drills, tree grinders and a disk would stay in Machinery & Equipment.

Koehlmoos continued his presentation on the budget items for Community Forestry Program - \$35,000; Prescribed Burn Program - \$30,000; and Capital Improvements - \$0? Koehlmoos said that any structure, concrete work, any improvement at the farm that's fixed, the land purchase, and the picnic shelters go under Capital Improvements eventually. Koehlmoos said that the NRD received all the mineral and irrigation rights on the 22-acre Pibel land purchase.

Koehlmoos said the Budget Hearing would be held at the August 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Adams motioned, seconded by Bartak, to give tentative approval to the second half of the FY 2016 budget as presented and discussed. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.**

**Boesch motioned, seconded by Loseke, to set the Budget Hearing for August 27, 2015, at 5:15 p.m. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.**

Koehlmoos said, with the offset of grants, that there would be an increase in the budget next fiscal year of about one cent, from 2.49 to 3.49. He said the NRD is authorized 5½ cents.

## NARD REPORT

### Director's Report

Rasmussen reported that he's expecting to receive resolutions next month for the annual conference. Koehlmoos said Lower Loup NRD had hoped to have a resolution concerning lawsuits and fines. Koehlmoos also reported that there was a loss on our health insurance due to higher-than-average claims.

## NRC REPORT

### Commissioner's Report

Hadenfeldt reported that the Commission won't meet until September. He said the public hearing for the new rules will be in Lincoln on July 31<sup>st</sup>.

## RC&D REPORTS

### Loup Basin RC&D

Rasmussen reported that the RC&D met recently in Brewster. He said that 300 tons of tires were collected in Burwell. He said the trailer that collects aluminum cans and recyclables has been to a lot of fairs recently. Rasmussen said the Chalk Mine had had three busloads of visitors this week.

### PrairieLand RC&D

Gellermann had no report on RC&D activities.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Schultz announced that the Rulemaking Hearing will be held at 9:30 a.m. in the State Office Building in Lincoln.

Koehlmoos said he would be giving a report to the Water Resources Committee next month on water banking. It was discussed at the recent meeting of the Lower Platte River Basin Coalition Water Banking Workshop.

## ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, Chairman Kruse declared the meeting adjourned at 6:18 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 Thursday, August 27, 2015, at 5:00 p.m., at the Headquarters Office in Ord, Nebraska.

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Darwin B. Anderson  
Secretary