

UPPER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The regular meeting of the Upper Loup Natural Resources District Board of Directors was held at the District office in Thedford, NE on Thursday, October 12, 2006. Chairman Gary Schaeffer called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Directors Present

Steve Boyer
Byron Cox
Wayne Eatinger
Ginger Fouse
Travis Hansen
Louis Jacobson
Judy Ridenour
Gary Schaeffer
Eric Storer

Directors Absent & Excused

Joan Marland

Guests Present

Kevin Hood, NRCS
Dan Diebler
Bob Broweleit, RC&D
John Cambridge, HDR
Kelle McIntosh
Marilyn Wright
Patrick Wright
Bill Vodehnal, NGPC
Bethany Johnston, CSA Ext. Educator

Staff in Attendance

Anna Baum, General Manager
Angie Jensen, Admin. Secretary
Jack Brummet, Resources Technician
Scott Hajek, Resources Technician

Agenda Modification

Chairman Schaeffer made note of the Open Meetings Act posted by the Board meeting table. He asked if there were any modifications to the agenda. There were none.

HDR Recreational Facility Update

The new general manager, Anna Baum, was introduced to the guests. John Cambridge gave an update to those representing the initial core group of interested residents from the Mullen area as well as the UL Board of Directors. The group indicated they would not be interested in the river enhancement plan. The group indicated to the board they would like someone to continue to pursue the original plan of the dam and lake. The group understands that funding for the project "as is" is not available due to the cost-benefits ratio. The group would like to see if Cliff Welsh, a retired Nebraska Natural Resources Commission member, would be willing to approach the commission about changing how the benefits are determined.

Public Forum-None

Teaming with Wildlife

Bill Vodehnal asked the board of directors to join Teaming with Wildlife. He gave the board an information packet that explained what the coalition does and the list of the organizations in support of it.

Action on Minutes of September Meeting

Chairman Gary Schaeffer asked for additions and/or corrections to the September 14, 2006 minutes of the Regular Board of Directors Meeting. Director Judy Ridenour moved to approve the 1% restricted fund authority increase. Director Ginger Fouse seconded the motion. Motion carried. (RCV#1) Chairman Schaeffer approved the minutes as circulated with the additional motion in October's minutes.

Financial Report

The September financial report was reviewed by staff and directors. Director Wayne Eatinger moved to accept the financial report and Director Bryon Cox seconded the motion. Motion carried. (RCV#2)

NebraskaLand Banking Resolution

Board of directors signed a new banking resolution to replace the resolution on file at NebraskaLand Bank in Mullen, NE.

NRCS Report

District Conservationist, Kevin Hood, reported to the board of directors he has been busy with telephone conferences and work in the field. NRCS is working on the activity/cost based reporting.

Sandhills RC&D

Director Steve Boyer reported for the Sandhills RC&D. The RC&D council signed off on the councils five year plan and is also in the process of hiring a RC&D secretary.

Central Sandhills Area Extension

Bethany Johnston gave the directors LAG program forms to fill out for the drought assistance program in Nebraska. She went over some of the upcoming sessions offered by the extension office and their dates.

District Reports

Resources Technician Scott Hajek sent his written report to directors in the mail.

Resources Technician Jack Brummet sent his report to directors in the mail. In addition, he reported on the USGS progress for the ELM study. The USGS team will continue to work in conjunction with the Upper Loup NRD along the Loup River to gather data for the study. He said the Logan County monitoring well was up .58' from last month.

General Manager Anna Baum sent her written report to directors in the mail. She reported on the articles she had recently submitted to the papers. She has done survival checks on the 2006 tree windbreaks with Scott and Rachel Allison and reported on the tree workshop here at the Upper Loup office Tuesday, October 10, 2006. She informed directors of the basic operating and tree program procedures she had prepared as well as the Safety Plan. She asked for a board member to be on the committee and Steve Boyer volunteered. All directors were invited to participate in the Project WET and Learning Tree workshop to be held at the office on October 24, 2006. Tree prices were set for 2007.

Administrative Secretary Angie Jensen sent her report to directors in their board packet. She added that our insurance agent, Inspro, will remain in place until the anniversary date of July 1, 2007 when we will switch to Arnold Insurance Agency. She also told directors the NRCS 4 wheeler bumped into the ULNRD Dodge pick-up in the garage when the 4 wheeler throttle stuck. The minimal damages to the pick-up will be easily repaired.

Employee Flex Benefits Plans

Director Louis Jacobson moved to adopt the NARD Flexible Benefits Plan Participation Agreement and resolution dated October 12, 2006. Director Steve Boyer seconded the motion. Motion carried. (RCV#3)

NE Soil & Water Conservation Program

One NC-14 Planned Grazing application had been completed and presented for review. Director Wayne Eatinger moved to accept the application and Director Byron Cox seconded the motion.

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Motion carried. (RCV#4)

Natural Resources Water Quality Funds

Anna Baum sent an article to the newspapers to let landowners know there are still funds available to spray for fall Leafy Spurge.

Action on Recreational Facility

The general feeling of the board was to let Cliff Welsh, Sandhills RC&D, and other interested residents continue pursuing the original interest of the dam and lake. The group did not have any interest in enhancing the river as HDR had indicated more funds would be made available from the Natural Resources Commission.

NARD Report

Director Judy Ridenour reported on the Annual Conference in Kearney. She pointed out some important issues regarding water appropriations and groundwater management rules that our NRD will need to work on in order to prepare for the upcoming years.

Correspondence & Informational Items

Director Byron Cox will remain the representative to the Loup Basin RC&D.

GM, Anna Baum, informed directors that Marvin Schmitz had received his letter indicating his termination as sub-district 4 board of director for the Upper Loup NRD. Notices had been in the Ainsworth Star Journal, Thomas County Herald and The Advertiser with no responses of letters of interest. She asked directors to encourage individuals to send in a letter of interest in order to appoint someone for the remainder of Marvin's term by the first of November.

Directors submitted their personal bios and goals and issues they see the Upper Loup NRD facing.

Per diem and expense sheets were reviewed and signed to keep on file.

Adjournment

Chairman Gary Schaeffer adjourned the meeting at 10:15pm.

Eric Storer, Secretary

Tally of votes cast on motions, Financial Reports, Manager's Report and Valentine NRCS Reports are on file with the official minutes of this meeting. Notice of this meeting was published in all eight county newspapers and broadcast on KRVN radio. The next Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 9, 2006 at 7:00 pm CST at the District Office in Thedford, NE.