

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, August 10, 2006. Chairman Gary Schaeffer called the meeting to order at 1:20 pm.

Directors Present

Steve Boyer  
Byron Cox  
Wayne Eatinger  
Ginger Fouse  
Judy Ridenour  
Gary Schaeffer  
Eric Storer

Directors Absent & Excused

Travis Hansen  
Joan Marland  
Louis Jacobson

Directors Absent

Marvin Schmitz

Staff in Attendance

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

Guests Present

Bob Meyer, Robert J. Meyer, CPA  
Kevin Hood, NRCS  
Mike Siedschlag, HDR  
Twyla Witt, Western Nebraska Tourism Director

Agenda Modification

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

Action on Minutes of July Meeting

Chairman Gary Schaeffer asked for additions and/or corrections to the July 13, 2006 minutes of the Regular Board of Directors Meeting. There were none. Chairman Schaeffer approved the minutes as circulated.

HDR Update

Mike Siedschlag from HDR updated the board on the status of the feasibility study and where things were going. He offered his apologies to the board on the mathematical error HDR had made on the initial feasibility study on the benefit to cost ratio. He will be meeting with the Natural Resources Commissions in Lincoln prior to the next board meeting to go over the benefit to cost ratio. Mike informed the board and staff that someone will have to take on funding the feasibility study in order to move forward with the dam and lake project.

Financial Report

The August financial report was reviewed by staff and directors. Director Eric Storer moved to accept the financial report and Director Wayne Eatinger seconded the motion. Motion carried. (RCV#1)

Public Forum-None

NRCS Report

District Conservationist, Kevin Hood, gave an oral report to directors. He reported that most of their time has been spent doing inspections on completed practices.

Sandhills RC&D-None

Central Sandhills Area Extension-None

### District Reports

General Manager Anna Baum had sent her written report to directors in the mail. She reported that she has the new computer up and running along with the new digital camera. She has gone out with Resources Technician, Jack Brummet, to do a chemigation inspection. She also went with Leah Carson, NRCS Range Conservationist, to inspect a completed NSWCP practice.

Anna had the resources technicians and the administrative secretary submit their own written reports to directors in the board packets that were mailed out. She asked the board if the reports by the resources technicians could replace their presence at the actual board meetings unless there is a need for them to attend. The board felt this would be sufficient.

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

Resources Technician Jack Brummet had sent his report to directors in the mail. In addition, he reported on the work in progress to the berm spreaders and had picked up the drill the other day. It has about 7,000 acres on it. He said the Logan County monitoring well was down .56 of a foot.

Administrative Secretary Angie Jensen sent her report to directors in their board packet. She added that the transition of working with the new manager is moving along and several new projects have begun.

Discussion was held on the mowing of the NRD grounds. Director Byron Cox moved to have Kenneth White continue to mow at \$100/month. Director Ginger Fouse seconded. The motion carried. (RCV#2)

### NE Soil & Water Conservation Program

A discussion was held in regards to the wording of the NC-14 Planned Grazing policies. Anna offered to re-work the wording on the information sheets and present it to the board at the next meeting. Two NC-14 Planned Grazing applications had been completed and were presented for review. A motion was made by Director Eric Storer and seconded by Director Steve Boyer to approve the following cost share application Practice NC-14 Planned Grazing.

1091-Ch/Br	William A. Ganser III	Cherry/Brown County	\$5,000
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Motion carried. (RCV#3)

### Natural Resources Water Quality Funds

General Manager Anna Baum reported the amount to be received this year will be comparative to last year's allocation. She had sent the fall applications out with the approved cost share reductions for 2006 Leafy Spurge. She reported she had talked to Roger Broeker from Logan County Coop about soil testing and the changes in amounts cost shared. She also requested to have the results of the samples to be forwarded on to our office for future tracking purposes.

### Middle Loup River Dam and Lake Project

General Manager Anna Baum asked if the board would like to get a fund committee started. General thoughts were to get the original community members from Mullen contacted to see if there is still some interest in the project. We will invite them to get together at the October board meeting and see if any from that group would like to head a fund committee.

### ULNRD Safety Committee

The question was raised on whether or not there is a safety policy and safety committee in place at this time. The board was unsure and Anna offered to look into state requirements and previous Upper Loup NRD Safety Policies and implementation.

### Groundwater Plan

The General Manager asked the board what step they wanted to take next in relationship to the Groundwater Management Plan. After a brief discussion Anna offered to begin work on developing rules and regulations, along with the committee members, to be added to the plan.

### NARD Report

Director Judy Ridenour had information on the new article LB32 to vote for an increased per diem per year for board members. Director Judy Ridenour made a motion to approve LB32 and Director Steve Boyer seconded. Motion carried. (RCV#4)

Judy informed the staff of the upcoming insurance meeting in York on August 24 and thought someone should attend. Wayne Eatinger and Judy Ridenour both attended the Grazing Conference in Kearney August 7-8.

### Budget Work Session/First Draft Review

Bob Meyer went over the budget information with directors and staff for the upcoming fiscal year and tax asking. Bob advised the board to raise the levy which would go along with the increase in valuations. If we ask for \$30-40,000, based on valuations, this should be a minimal increase for each individual taxpayer the increase can be spread out evenly over a period of time instead of all at once when the money is needed. After August 20, Anna can send out the amount we will need to request at the budget hearing.

General Manager Anna Baum requested a few changes be made to the budget expenses. She asked for \$10,000 on Information and Education. A request for \$5,000 on the Special Projects for Quality Control. The ELM Project would need \$28,000 to fulfill obligations there. She asked for \$34,000 on Water Quality. Bob Meyer suggested removing the \$5,000 from Capitol Outlay since there were no plans to do any improvements to the buildings or grounds this next fiscal year.

Salaries were discussed and Anna asked directors to reconsider the cost of living increase for staff. Anna presented staff with comparative costs to hire new employees and other districts' salaries. Director Steve Boyer made a motion to give staff a cost of living increase of 3.5% per Anna Baum's request across the board on and beyond the benefit increase already approved and Director Wayne Eatinger seconded. Motion carried. (RCV#5)

### Correspondence & Informational Items

Chairman Gary Schaeffer signed the engagement letter with Robert J. Meyer, CPA. The board wants to have a 4pm meeting for the Special Budget Hearing and regular Board Meeting on September 14.

Director Ginger Fouse informed directors of the information she had gathered on state statutes and zoning and said there is a state statutes that have been in place for several years.

### Adjournment

Chairman Gary Schaeffer adjourned the meeting at 6:10 pm.

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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 Special Budget Hearing and the next Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 14, 2006 at 4:00 pm CST at the District Office in Thedford, NE.