

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, December 13, 2007. Chairman Gary Schaeffer called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Directors Present

Wayne Eatinger
Ginger Fouse
Travis Hansen
Louis Jacobson
Judy Ridenour
Gary Schaeffer
Eric Storer
Wynn Wiens

Directors Absent & Excused

Steve Boyer
Byron Cox
Gordon Simonson

Staff in Attendance

Anna Baum, General Manager
Angie Jensen, Admin. Secretary
Jack Brummet, Res. Technician
Sandy Booth, I/E Coordinator

Guests

Steve Fouse
Kevin Hood, NRCS
Al Davis
Greg Wilke

Notice of Open Meeting Law Posting

Chairman Schaeffer made note of the Open Meetings Act posted on the wall by the Board meeting table.

Agenda Modification

Chairman Schaeffer asked if there were any modifications to the agenda. There were none. The December agenda was copied and handed out to patrons.

Action on Minutes of November Meeting

Chairman Gary Schaeffer asked for additions and/or corrections to the November 8, 2007 minutes of the public question and answer, public hearing and regular minutes meeting. Director Eric Storer expressed some concerns he had received from constituents in attendance of the November meeting. Constituents in attendance thought the comments made during the question and answer period were considered testimony. Directors were reminded that testimony occurs during the public hearing. The only testimony provided when Chairman Schaeffer opened the public hearing was the written testimony provided by the Department of Natural Resources. Chairman Schaeffer did ask for any additional oral testimony, there was none. No changes were necessary and the concerns were acknowledged. Chairman Schaeffer approved the minutes as circulated.

Financial Report

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

Public Forum

Chairman Schaeffer asked the two patrons to address the board. Al Davis presented his concerns to the board regarding the proposed fully appropriated boundaries and CRP ground he owns in the proposed fully appropriated area in the Upper Loup NRD. Greg Wilke addressed the board regarding obtaining well permits in our district that happen to be located in the preliminarily proposed fully appropriated area.

2008 Election

Administrative Secretary Angie Jensen gave directors filing dates for the 2008 elections. Incumbents can file up to February 15, 2008 and non-incumbents March 3, 2008. Incumbents include Ginger Fouse, Judy Ridenour, Gary Schaeffer, Gordon Simonson and Louis Jacobson. Director Louis Jacobson moved to vote by sub-district and Director Wayne Eatinger seconded the motion. Motion carried. (RCV#2)

NRCS Report

District conservationist, Kevin Hood, gave an oral report to directors. He said they had forty-three EQIP contracts with the possibility of one more. There will be approximately 1,100 acres for cedar tree removal.

Sandhills RC&D-None

North Central RC&D-None

Central Sandhills Area Extension-None

NE Soil & Water Conservation Program

Administrative Secretary Angie Jensen reported there will be a pending file for planned grazing applications as excess funds become available. There is one application in the planned grazing pending file for January and she said there will also be some tree windbreak applications in January.

District Reports

General Manager Anna Baum sent her report to directors in the mail. She introduced Sandy Booth as our new Information and Education part-time employee. Anna updated directors on the progression of the 319 grant and Lower Platte Coalition.

Resources Technicians Jack Brummet and Kyle Yrkoski sent their report to directors in the mail. Jack reported on drill repair and the chemigation report sent to the state. The Logan County monitoring well was up .39 of a foot.

Administrative Secretary Angie Jensen sent her report to directors in the mail. She thanked the board for her time and experience she gained while working at Upper Loup NRD and her last day will be January 4, 2008 as she indicated in her resignation to the board.

Groundwater Report

GM Anna Baum reviewed options she had sent out to directors concerning certification of acres under the groundwater management area rules and regs. Director Ginger Fouse motioned that acres currently in a CRP contract and in the proposed fully appropriated area do not have to be listed as irrigated to maintain a future irrigated use status. Any acres coming out of a CRP contract to become certified there must be a proven irrigation history that dates back prior to the ground going into the CRP contract. Director Wayne Eatinger seconded the motion. Motion carried. (RCV#3)

Director Judy Ridenour motioned that when certifying irrigated acres producers can certify as many acres as they wish as long as those numbers of acres match the number on the county tax role and are being pumped from a legal well. Director Ginger Fouse seconded the motion. Motion carried. (RCV#4)

Director Wynn Wiens made a motion to start variance procedures on a well drilling permit on ground owned by Greg Wilke in the preliminarily fully appropriated area in Sections 1-2-3 in Township 28, Range 22 in Brown County. Director Eric Storer seconded the motion. Motion carried. (RCV#5)

The board chairman appointed a committee to prepare a testimony for the public hearings at Valentine and Gordon, December 20, 2008 and December 27, 2008 respectively. Director Eric Storer, Wayne Eatinger, Wynn Wiens, Ginger Fouse, Al Davis and Kevin Hood as advisor will meet and prepare a statement. Director Louis Jacobson moved to challenge DNR's determination of the preliminarily fully designated area within the ULNRD boundaries. Director Wayne Eatinger seconded the motion. (RCV#6)

NARD Report

Director Judy Ridenour reported she will be attending Legislative Conference in Lincoln February 5 & 6, 2008. She gave a short briefing of the request for funds to repair and remodel the Capitol Court Building.

Legislative Conference 2008

Director Judy Ridenour will be the delegate for Legislative Conference and Director Eric Storer will be the alternate. Registration and reservations will be made Friday for Judy and Eric and staff planning to attend.

Ranch Practicum Scholarships

Director Wayne Eathing moved to accept and pay the ranch practicum scholarships. Director Eric Storer seconded the motion. Motion carried. (RCV#7)

Correspondence & Informational Items

Interviews for the administrative secretarial position will be the first week of January. GM Anna Baum asked if any directors would like to be involved in the process. Directors Eric Storer, Wynn Wiens, Wayne Eathing and Gary Schaeffer all said they could help. Salary range will be between \$18,000-\$20,000 depending on education and experience.

The board discussed making the December meeting an afternoon meeting next year.

Attention was brought to the articles and information by the white board. Several articles from the Lincoln Star Journal were displayed regarding the editorials on appropriation of the South Platte.

Adjournment

Chairman Gary Schaeffer adjourned the meeting at 10:12 pm.

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, January 10, 2008 7:00 pm CST at the District Office in Thedford