

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, March 13, 2008. Chairman Gary Schaeffer called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Directors Present

Steve Boyer
Byron Cox
Ginger Fouse
Louis Jacobson
Judy Ridenour
Gary Schaeffer
Gordon Simonson
Eric Storer

Directors Absent & Excused

Wayne Eatinger
Travis Hansen
Wynn Wiens

Staff in Attendance

Anna Baum, General Manager
Leslie Reiser, Admin. Secretary
Jack Brummet, Res. Technician
Kyle Yrkoski, Res. Technician

Guests

Kevin Hood, NRCS

Notice of Open Meeting Law Posting

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

Agenda Modification

Gary asked if there were any modifications to the agenda. Anna noted that item 15, Senators Reception Legislative Conference, should be deleted from the agenda.

Action on Minutes of January Meeting

Gary asked for additions and/or corrections to the January 10, 2008 meeting minutes. No additions or corrections. Gary approved the minutes as circulated.

Financial Report

The January financial report was reviewed by staff and directors. Judy questioned the reimbursement to Anna, Kyle, Angie and Cleo for overpayment of insurance. Anna explained that amounts were wrong in the computer, resulting in an overpayment by employees. Anna made note of the past due account. A certified letter has been sent to that person giving them 10 days to contact the office or make payment before legal action is taken. Eric had a question regarding hazard mitigation community dollars. Anna explained that communities were asked to give pledges not actual dollars. Byron moved to accept the financial report and Eric seconded the motion. Motion carried. (RCV#1)

Public Forum

Nothing to report.

Agency Reports

NRCS Report

Kevin gave an oral report to directors. He reported that April 17th, Mullen will be hosting a cedar tree removal demonstration. He will be present at Mullen for cost share questions by the public. He also attended a meeting at Mullen for prescribed burns dealing with cedar removal. NRCS through EQIP funded close to 1000 acres of brush removal.

Sandhills RC&D

Steve brought Sandhills RC&D annual report.

North Central RC&D

Nothing to report

Central Sandhills Area Extension

Nothing to report

NE Soil & Water Conservation Program

Anna made note that a list of applications was printed on the back of the financial report. She brought to the director's attention that there is no policy that states that the board has to approve the cost share for shelter belts. It would expedite the process if Anna could approve the windbreaks. The board agreed that Anna could act as a representative for the NRD and sign the NSWCP applications for shelter belts. Anna presented a NSWCP information and shelter belt guideline sheet. This would outline the practices for cost share and tree planting. Judy made a motion to accept the policy as read and Steve seconded the motion. Motion carried. (RCV#2)

District Reports

Anna sent her report to directors in the mail. She reported work on spreadsheets for static water levels in the district. Several charts were presented for the board to look at. There was discussion of a mailbox on the highway as opposed to paying for a box at the post office. The only way the office would put one out here would be if the post office would hold Saturday's mail until Monday. Anna reported that the district is preliminarily approved for the Environmental Trust Grant for a district wide ground water monitoring network.

Jack and Kyle sent their report to directors in the mail. Kyle reported on workshops that he and Jack had attended. Kyle reported that he has 35 tree plans scheduled. Jack reported that chemigation permits had been sent out. Ted Ferguson is our mulch contractor.

Leslie sent her report to directors in the mail. She reported on reorganization of files, learning procedures and learning policy in general. Ginger made note that Eric and herself had not received the information on the IMP meeting in Valentine until it was over. In the future, time sensitive mail should be sent out as soon as possible so that they would receive it on time.

Sandy sent her report to directors in the mail. Newsletters were discussed; who will print them and how they will be circulated.

Groundwater Report

Anna presented a request for variance from Greg Wilke. She read the criteria to allow this variance. Anna asked for an approval for the variance. Judy moved to accept the variance and Byron seconded the motion. Motion carried. (RCV#3)

Anna listed the well permits that need to be approved. All permits were in compliance with state and district regulations. Eric made a motion to approve the well permits and Steve seconded the motion. Motion carried. (RCV#4)

College Scholarships

There was discussion on whether or not we want to sponsor college scholarships with the money we saved on not having a banquet every year. Gary mentioned that if there was to be a scholarship, there would have to be certain criteria. Ginger mentioned that there is more of a need for continuing education. Discussion was tabled until next meeting.

RC&D Membership

Dues to the various RC&D's range from \$50.00 to \$200.00. If we continue to pay membership, we need to utilize them more.

Niobrara Basin Update

Discussion on the petition dealing with the Niobrara basin and full appropriation. Ginger made a motion to go ahead with the petition and Eric seconded the motion. Motion carried. (RCV#5)

NARD Report

Director Judy Ridenour reported about the upcoming basin tour. She also gave a listing of new officers. Next district meeting is November 17, 2008 in Valentine.

Correspondence & Informational Items

Bow hunter safety course will be held March 20, 21 & 22 at the office with Dan Wadas being the instructor. The office has a couple of Richard Louv's cd to loan out.

Adjournment

Chairman Gary Schaeffer adjourned the meeting at 8:55 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, April 10, 2008 7:00 pm CST at the District Office in Thedford, NE.