

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 May 8, 2008. Chairman Gary Schaeffer called the meeting to order at 7:17 pm.

Directors Present

Steve Boyer
Byron Cox
Wayne Eatinger
Ginger Fouse
Judy Ridenour
Gary Schaeffer
Eric Storer (*joined at 7:30*)
Wynn Wiens

Directors Absent & Excused

Travis Hansen
Louis Jacobson
Gordon Simonson

Staff in Attendance

Anna Baum, General Manager
Sandy Both, Information/Education Coordinator

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. None were given.

Action on Minutes of March Meeting

Gary asked for additions and/or corrections to the March 13, 2008 meeting minutes. No additions or corrections. Gary approved the minutes as circulated.

Financial Report

The March financial report was reviewed and discussed by staff and directors. Wayne moved to accept the financial report and Byron seconded the motion. Motion carried (RCV#1)

Public Forum

Nothing to report.

Agency Reports

NRCS Report

Kevin gave an oral report to directors. The new supervisor, Juan Hernandez is touring to meet the managers. They've been busy with work on Gordon Creek. The first easement has been filed on a wetland. It is 205 acres on the JL Neiman trust ground. Fish and Wild Life may stop the project because of the endangered species, a Topeka Skinner Minnow being found.

RC&Ds

Anna reported we have received \$2500 from Pioneer Sales from the drill grant that was cycled through the Sandhill RC&D as our conduit 501c(3).

Extension

Anna and Sue participated in the Gudmenson Youth Day. There were 100 more students this year, for a total of 227. They also toured all the schools for Arbor Day. Sue and Beth brought nearly 30 kids to the Sandhills Leadership program.

NE Soil & Water Conservation Program

There are no applications to bring forward. There are a couple of potential cost share opportunities that Anna would like the board to think about. #1 is windmills, it has not been done in the past but is included in the EQIP committee designations. They will give a little less than half for the pumping apparatuses. The program includes submersible, solar or wind. #2 is seeding cropland. #3 is seeding blowouts. Anna asked the board to think about cost-sharing these programs as well as any written policies regarding qualification; they will be included in the June agenda for vote.

District Reports

Manager

Anna sent her report to the directors in the mail. She reported that certified acres in some counties are complete and as of May 8th, 47,702 irrigated acres have been certified throughout the district. Loup Power District is putting a call on the river to maintain their rights on all Loup Rivers. The monitoring well locations have been tentatively chosen, we are in the process of making landowner contact. The board agreed to have local well drillers as well as the USGS recommended well driller be sent bids for the monitoring well drilling. The comment was made that there are very strict regulations the drillers must abide by so therefore Anna believed that not many of the locals will be set up for such drilling. Bids will be sent out and to be back by July 1st.

Resource Technicians

Jack and Kyle sent their report to directors in the mail. Kyle reported the trees planting is done. Jack is happy with the contract mulcher and he is also leasing the districts tractor.

Administrative Secretary

Leslie sent her report to the directors in the mail.

I & E Report

Sandy sent her report to the directors in the mail. She had attended the Envirothon, I&E quarterly meeting.

Groundwater Report

No variances or permits to report.

Budget

Fiscal year 2008-2009 budget work will begin next month. Discussion on Jack's pickup was brought up. The District agreed to put off the purchase of a replacement vehicle set for 07-08 to 08-09 due to the purchase of the drill. Unfortunately the transmission went out of the 1996 Chevy prior to the 08-09 fiscal year. Since the district has been putting away money the last couple of years for the replacement there is enough money to purchase a pick up now. Anna put out bids for the pickup and the lowest one back was Bill Summers. Gary called for a roll call vote to put in the order for a new pick up from Bill Summers. Motion carried. (RCV#2)

Posting for Storm Date and Cancellations

Wynn made a motion that when we put in a meeting notice that a storm meeting date or cancellation meeting date also be included for the week following regularly scheduled meeting. Byron seconded the motion. (RCV#3) Motion carried.

Hazard Mitigation

Ginger had some questions in regards as to who is included in the HMP.

NARD Report

Judy reported the NE grazing conference will be August 12-13 in Kearney. The Farm Bill is still up in the air. Monsanto in Gothenburg is building a water utilization learning center. The June meeting will be at the Lied. The NARD Loup Basin tour, June 16-17 will include Columbus chalk mines, Bessey nursery, and the Calamus. Directors are asked to go to at least part of the tour.

Correspondence & Informational Items

There is a workshop on open meeting laws in North Platte June 18th. The Groundwater Foundation that was created by Suzan Seacrest is asking for a donation. The consensus is that this district doesn't need to contribute at this time. There will be a dinner to honor her in Lincoln June 19th.

Adjournment

Chairman Gary Schaeffer adjourned the meeting at 9:47 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 the 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 June 12, 2008 7:00 pm CST at the District Office in Thedford, NE.