

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, June 12, 2008. Judy Ridenour called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Directors Present

Byron Cox
Ginger Fouse
Travis Hansen
Louis Jacobson
Judy Ridenour
Gordon Simonson
Eric Storer (joined at 7:22)

Directors Absent & Excused

Steve Boyer
Wayne Eatinger
Gary Schaeffer
Wynn Wiens

Staff in Attendance

Anna Baum, General Manager
Leslie Reiser, Admin. Secretary

Guests

Kevin Hood, NRCS

Notice of Open Meeting Law Posting

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

Agenda Modification

Judy asked if there were any modifications to the agenda. No modifications.

Action on Minutes of January Meeting

Judy asked for additions and/or corrections to the May 8, 2008 meeting minutes. No additions or corrections. Minutes approved as circulated.

Financial Report

The January financial report was reviewed by staff and directors. Ginger questioned why there were two checks to Ted Ferguson. Anna explained that we pay Ted as we get paid from the producers for trees and planting. Anna made mention that we won our small claims suit do to Respondent not appearing in court. Ginger moved to accept the financial report and Gordon 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 the NRCS had received some more Ground-surface money and walleye development money. Anna and Sandy attended and helped with the Range Judging on June 12, 2008.

Sandhills RC&D

No report

North Central RC&D

Nothing to report

Central Sandhills Area Extension

Nothing to report

NE Soil & Water Conservation Program

Anna presented the board with four different cost-share programs that producers had asked about. The first program was for seeding of blowouts. General discussion was that there was no one set way to heal blowouts, so they did not see a need for this practice. Eric made a motion to not have a cost-share program for seeding of blowouts, Travis seconded the motion. Motion carried. (RCV#2)

The second program was for seeding of cropland. It was the general consensus of the board that this would not be a practice they were interested in funding. Ginger made a motion to not have a cost-share program for seeding of cropland, Travis seconded the motion. Motion carried. (RCV#3)

The third program was for windmills. Discussion was held with several board members weighing the pros and cons of the program. Eric made a motion not to cost-share windmills, Ginger seconded. Motion carried. (RCV#4)

The fourth program was for windbreak renovation. The board discussed the high cost of this practice per acre. Louis made a motion to not have a cost-share program for windbreak renovation, Ginger seconded. Motion carried. (RCV#5)

District Reports

Anna sent her report to directors in the mail. She reported that we are getting close to being done with our acre certification. She also sent out a letter and drilling requirements to well drillers across the district asking them to put in a bid for them monitor well drilling. Closing date for the bids was June 1, 2008. We did not receive any replies.

Jack and Kyle sent their report to directors in the mail. Kyle has been busy doing testing of streams and lakes in our district. He has also been collecting samples for DEQ. Jack is busy doing chemigation inspections and doing delivery and pick ups of the drills.

Leslie sent her report to directors in the mail. Invoicing to customers is done for trees and work on NSWCP is in full swing. Most of the applications have been sent on to DNR for payment, still waiting on a few producers to send theirs back.

Sandy sent her report to directors in the mail

Groundwater Report

No variances and no new well permits

Budget

Anna passed around the proposed budget for board members to look over. She went over most of the differences from last year and explained the reason for either their increase or decrease.

Niobrara Basin Update

Discussion on whether or not to participate in a Niobrara Basin interlocal agreement with the board was held. Currently there is no advantage to doing so. The board did not sign on as a partner.

Range Camp Scholarships

Anna passed around the 5 applications for the range camp. All applicants are from Hyannis this year and all are returning participants. It was discussed on whether to pay half of the scholarship for all 5 as was done in the past. Eric made a motion to pay half of the five scholarships, Gordon seconded. Motion carried. (RCV#6)

NARD Report

Director Judy Ridenour reported about the upcoming basin tour. She will be going to Columbus to the meeting before the basin tour. Judy encouraged directors to meet with the tour group on Monday evening for dinner at the Schaeffer ranch.

Correspondence & Informational Items

Ginger had some questions about information she had received from JEO. Anna explained the protocol for disaster funds and if they would be available for communities not participating in the plan.

Adjournment

Judy adjourned the meeting at 8:39 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, July 10, 2008 7:00 pm CST at the District Office in Thedford, NE.