

UPPER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Special Budget Hearing and regular meeting of the Upper Loup Natural Resources District Board of Directors were held at the District office in Thedford, NE on Thursday, September 11, 2008. Gary Schaeffer called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Directors Present

Steve Boyer
Byron Cox
Louis Jacobson
Judy Ridenour
Gary Schaeffer
Gordon Simonson
Eric Storer (joined at 7:07)
Wynn Wiens

Directors Absent & Excused

Wayne Eatinger
Ginger Fouse
Travis Hansen

Staff in Attendance

Jack Brummet, Resource Technician
Leslie Reiser, Admin. Secretary

Guests

Kevin Hood, NRCS

Public Budget Summary Hearing

Gary opened the Public Budget Summary Hearing at 7:03 pm for the Fiscal Year Budget 2008-2009. Hearing no comment not objections from the public, he closed the public hearing at 7:15 pm.

Notice of Open Meeting Law Posting

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

Call Regular Monthly Meeting to Order

Gary called the regular meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

Agenda Modification

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

Action on Minutes of August Meeting

Gary asked for additions and/or corrections to the August 14, 2008 meeting minutes. No additions or corrections. Minutes approved as circulated.

Financial Report

The July financial report was reviewed by staff and directors. Steve moved to accept the financial report and Gordon seconded the motion. Motion carried. (RCV#1)

Public Forum

Nothing to report.

Budget

After reviewing the budget and some clarification, Louis moved to accept the budget and Byron seconded the motion. Motion carried. (RCV#2)

Gordon made a motion to adopt the resolution to approve the additional 1% increase and Byron seconded the motion. Motion failed. (RCV#3)

Steve made a motion to adopt the resolution to set the property tax request and Wynn seconded the motion. Motion carried. (RCV#4)

Eric made a motion to adopt the resolution to set the levy for FY 2008-2009 and Judy seconded the motion. Motion carried. (RCV#5)

Agency Reports

NRCS Report

Kevin gave an oral report to directors. There was discussion about the carbon credits program.

Sandhills RC&D

A ballot was circulated for the Special Recognition Award. Directors discussed and recommended who they thought would be the best candidate.

Central Sandhills Area Extension

Nothing to report

District Staff Reports

No additions to reports sent in the board packets.

NE Soil & Water Conservation Program

Nothing to report

Wildlife

Nothing to report

Water Quantity

One new well permit was issued. We sent out 204 individualized water use reports asking producers to review well information, legal description, and crop type as well as water use amounts. This was done to get our records updated and accurate. Several of those reports have already come back.

Water Quality

We have sent out several applications for leafy spurge and have received one back thus far.

District Interlocal Cooperative Agreements

Most of the work that has been done has been in obtaining documents and communications from DNR that led to the determination of the fully appropriated status. Experts will then analyze the data and put forth an affidavit explaining why the analysis by DNR was not proper. The final hearing is set for November 7th, and Don Blankenau believes a decision will come in January 2009.

Kyle will be done with stream sampling for NDEQ Loup Basin work the end of October. He has logged 128.5 hours for them.

Grant Reports

We are 50% complete with the hazard mitigation project, and letters will be mailed out to participants in regards to the next round of public meetings which are scheduled for Tuesday October 14th at 7:00 pm MT in Mullen at the Village office and for Wednesday October 15th at 6:00 pm CT in Thedford here at the NRD office.

Due to the unanticipated depth needed to drill the initial test wells for the monitoring, we had to back off one well. The three wells that were drilled for this grant are located in Logan, McPherson and Thomas Counties. Jack described the process of drilling and the initial findings to the board. They will begin the drilling of the actual monitoring wells on October 6th, and will install the data recorders at that time.

Kyle has tested most of the domestic wells that have requested to be done throughout the district. To date over 100 domestic and 30 irrigation wells have been tested. He is in the process of testing in Blaine, Brown, and Thomas counties.

NARD Report

Judy brought to the boards attention a copy of a letter, regarding a map created by UNL and other participating groups showing various info such as depletion, nitrates, arsenic, water levels, etc., that she received from Dean Edson. It is the general consensus of the managers that the information on the map was inaccurate and that a letter be sent asking that the printing and distribution of this map be halted until new and correct information could be used to make the map more accurate.

Correspondence & Informational Items

Nothing to report

Adjournment

Gary adjourned the meeting at 8:35 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, October 9, 2008 7:00 pm CST at the District Office in Thedford, NE.