

UPPER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
April 13, 2023 @ 7:00 PM CT

The regular meeting of the Upper Loup Natural Resources District Board of Directors was held in Thedford, NE on Thursday, April 13th, 2023. Patrick Wright called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Directors Present

Richard Burnside
Judy Ridenour
Rebecca Connealy
John Krave
David Vinton
Patrick Wright
Tom Johnson
Tony Ruhter

Directors Absent & Excused

Chris Higgins
Miles Maseberg
Max Fay

Directors Unexcused

Staff in Attendance

Anna Baum, General Manager
Jamie Green, Admin. Secretary

Guests

Leah Carson, District Conservationist - Virtual
T.L. Meyer, Beef Systems Extension Educator

Call Regular Monthly Meeting to Order

Wright called the regular meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Open Meetings Act

Wright made note of the Open Meetings act posted on the wall in the Learning center.

Agenda Modifications

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

Action on Minutes of March Meeting

Wright asked for additions and/or corrections to the March 9th, 2023 meeting minutes. Burnside made a motion to accept the minutes as circulated and Krave seconded the motion. Aye: Burnside, Connealy, Krave, Ridenour, Wright, and Vinton. Abstain: Johnson and Ruhter. Motion carried. (RCV #1)

Public Forum – No Representation

Agency Reports

Leah Carson gave a report to the directors on current NRCS operations.

T.L. Meyer let the directors know the Ranch Practicum applications are due May 3rd. The ULNRD offers a partial scholarship so contact the office if interested.

District Staff Reports

Anna reported to the directors LB 281 went to general file with amendments. She couldn't locate information on the amendments at this time but will let directors know when it's available.

Justin will be picking up trees from the forest on Friday. There are 23 tree plans for machine plant and 11,000 trees sold to date. They will start tree planting approximately April 20th. They will start around Thedford and go west, then north, then east, and end around Stapleton.

Lexi and Kyon are almost finished with static checks and should be done by next week. They will help with tree planting so there will be no need to hire seasonal help.

Lexi finished the newsletter, and it is up on the website, and has done several press releases.

Financial Report

The April financial report was reviewed by staff and directors. Johnson made a motion to accept the financial report and Connealy seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Motion carried (RCV #2)

NE Soil & Water Conservation Program

Anna reported to the directors there are funds leftover from tree planting so funds will be available for other projects. A press release will be sent out informing the public.

Wildlife – No Report

Water Sub-committee – No Report

Water Quantity – No Report

Water Quality

Anna let the directors know that she met with Lower Loup NRD and NDEE today for a partnership meeting. NDEE is trying to increase communication with the NRD's. They are trying to address manure management as well as high nitrate levels associated with CAFO's and certain farming practices. We are in a Phase 1 area, meaning our average nitrate level is under 3 parts per million, so there are currently no required management activities in our area.

NDEE has extended the reverse osmosis grant to September of 2024.

Current NRD Projects – No Report

Grant Reports

Anna informed the directors that she submitted the quarterly grant reports for the Hazard Mitigation and Recycling Coordinator position grants. She is preparing another grant to replace a recycling trailer through the Nebraska Recycling Coalition.

Coalition/Alliance

Anna and Basin representatives Higgins and Burnside attended the Directors meeting in Lincoln on April 12th. There was a presentation by Steve Owen on Lincoln's plans to tap the Missouri River for a 2nd water source. Jesse Bradley, from DNR, did a presentation on the Perkins Canal project and the other upcoming projects. The budget was passed including the continuation of \$10,000 annual dues. They have started the 2nd 5-year increment. She emailed a graph that showed stream depletion data for the NRD's and their consumptive use data.

NARD Report

Ridenour attended the NARD board meeting in Lincoln on March 6th. The board approved sponsoring the winnings for Envirothon. A new creation of the NARD is "Recreation Exploring of Nebraska", which is similar to the Beef Passport Program. This entails visiting any of the 80 NRD recreation areas in Nebraska and filling out an online form and including a picture, then at the end of the season there are prizes available. Any areas that don't have a recreation area can visit an outdoor classroom, the ULNRD Arboretum, and state trails to qualify.

Recommendations for grasslands or community service are due to state office by May 1st. There was a presentation on Longitude 103. There are 13 NRD's currently using this database, including the ULNRD. In the future, producers will have a portal to access their reports and track nitrogen management.

She passed around the Upper Big Blue NRD newsletter, which included a picture of former employee, Kyle Yrkoski. She passed around a copy of the DVD of the NET program on trees and roots, which is available if anyone would like to view. The Basin Tour is June 12th and registration is due by May 10th.

Approval of Director Absences, Correspondence, Scholarships, Informational Items & Complaints

Johnson made a motion to approve Fay, Higgins, and Maseberg as excused absences and Kraye seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Motion carried (RCV #3)

Adjournment

Wright adjourned the meeting at 7:41 pm.

Judy Ridenour, Secretary

Tally of votes cast on motions, Financial Reports and Manager's Reports are on file with the official minutes of this meeting. The meeting was advertised in the Thomas County Herald, Stapleton Enterprise, Hooker County Tribune, Grant County News, ULNRD website, and the ULNRD newsletter. The next Board of Directors Meeting will be held at the office on Thursday, May 11, 2023, at 7:00 pm.