

UPPER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
April 14, 2022 @ 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 14, 2022. Chris Higgins called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

Directors Present

Chris Higgins
Richard Burnside
John Krave
Judy Ridenour
Patrick Wright
Miles Maseberg
Tony Ruhter
Eric Schipporeit
Rebecca Connealy

Directors Absent & Excused

Tom Johnson
Eric Storer

Directors Unexcused

Staff in Attendance

Anna Baum, General Manager
Jamie Green, Admin. Secretary

Guests

TL Meyer, Beef Systems Extension Educator
Kevin Hood, District Conservationist, NRCS

Call Regular Monthly Meeting to Order

Higgins called the regular meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

Open Meetings Act

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

Agenda Modifications

Higgins asked if there were any modifications to the agenda. No Modifications.

Action on Minutes of February Meeting

Higgins asked for additions and/or corrections to the March 10, 2022 meeting minutes. Ridenour stated the motion for the Operating Policy should have been, "to accept the Operating Policy after changes." Ridenour made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected and Wright seconded the motion. Aye: Burnside, Higgins, Krave, Maseberg, Ridenour, and Wright. Abstain: Connealy, Ruhter, and Schipporeit. Motion carried. (RCV #1)

Public Forum – No Representation

Agency Reports

Kevin Hood gave a report to the directors on current NRCS operations.

T.L. Meyer reported to the directors there is a Generational Transition workshop being put on by Grazing Lands Coalition on April 21st at Gudmundsen and April 22nd in Ainsworth. The Sandhills Cattle Association and NE Beef QA is putting on a Branding School and will be discussing beef quality issues on April 27th in Valentine. There will be a week-long Range Short Course in Chadron in June. More details to come. There will be a Ranch Practicum at Gudmundsen and applications are due by May 1st. Scholarships are available through the Upper Loup NRD. There will be a chemigation training on May 26th at the ULNRD office in Thedford. Contact the Extension for more information.

District Staff Reports

Anna updated the directors on the status of the open resource technician position. Lexi will finish static water levels. There was also discussion held on the status of drill delivery.

Jamie let the directors know she can help replace the old operating policy with the new policy in their iPads.

Anna reported there are 28 tree plans with 11,102 trees and shrubs to be planted, just about 1,000 fewer than last year, and 65,800 ft of mulch.

Lexi is working on the newsletter and ACE camp registrations.

Financial Report

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

NE Soil & Water Conservation Program – No Report

Wildlife – No Report

Water Sub-committee – No Report

Water Quantity

Anna went over the 2021 Statewide Groundwater Level Report that was emailed to the directors.

Water Quality

Anna reported to the directors there were 325 renewal chemigation permits sent out.

Current NRD Projects

Anna reminded the directors approximately a month ago she emailed a copy of the Groundwater Management Plan draft. The draft is also being reviewed by DNR and NDEE. After the draft is reviewed, there will be an opportunity to provide input and feedback. After input and feedback is taken and the plan is finalized, there will be a public hearing.

Grant Reports

Anna reported to the directors there is a press release in the newspapers regarding a survey for the Drought Mitigation Plan. The survey will be asking questions about drought and how it can affect you, how you hear about drought, etc. The link to the survey will be on our website, Facebook page, and in the

newspaper. The completion date for the surveys will be the end of May. Today she emailed the first draft of the drought mitigation plan. Another draft will not be completed until after the results of the survey are in, so the directors have until June to submit any questions, thoughts, or changes.

Coalition/Alliance

Anna reported to the directors that Higgins is planning on going to the Directors Coalition meeting will be in Lincoln on April 19th. They will be voting on the changes to the plan, the next 5-year increment of depletions, and the budget. There will be a new interlocal agreement to sign for the next 5 years.

NARD Report – No Report

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

Schipporeit made a motion to approve Johnson and Storer absences and Krave seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #3)

Anna reminded the directors that May is the month to review NSWCP practices that we provide cost share on. She will also have the updated safety policy and personnel policy for review.

Adjournment

Higgins adjourned the meeting at 8:01 pm.

Judy Ridenour, Secretary

Tally of votes cast on motions, Financial Reports and Manager's Report are on file with the official minutes of this meeting. The meeting was advertised in the Thomas County Herald, Stapleton Enterprise, McPherson County News, 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 12, 2022 at 7:00 pm.