

UPPER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
April 8, 2021 @ 7:00 PM CT (6:00 PM MT)

Directors Present

Chris Higgins
John Kraye
Judy Ridnour
Rebecca Connealy
Richard Burnside
Tom Johnson
Tony Ruhter
Eric Schipporeit
Miles Maseberg
Patrick Wright

Directors Absent & Excused

Eric Storer

Directors Unexcused

Staff in Attendance

Anna Baum, General Manager
Jamie Green, Administrative Secretary

Guests

Kevin Hood, NRCS District Conservationist
T.L. Meyer, Beef Systems Extension Educator
Brenda Masek, President Elect, Nebraska Cattlemen
Dave Masek
Shelly Kelly, Executive Director, Sandhills Task Force

Call Regular Monthly Meeting to Order

Higgins called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 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. Anna moved the 30 by 30 discussion to after public forum.

Action on Minutes of March Meeting

Higgins asked for additions and/or corrections to the March 11, 2021 meeting minutes. Kraye made a motion to accept the minutes as circulated and Johnson seconded the motion. Aye: Burnside, Connealy, Higgins, Johnson, Kraye, Ridenour, Ruhter, Schipporeit. Abstain: Maseberg, Wright. Motion carried. (RCV #1)

Public Forum

Brenda Masek discussed her concerns regarding the newsletter with the board.

Shelly Kelly also discussed her concerns regarding the newsletter with the board and gave information regarding the 30 by 30 Program or EO 14008.

T.L. Meyer reminded the board of the upcoming events. The Nebraska Ranch Practicum will be held starting in June at Gudmundsen Sandhills Laboratory and applications are due by Monday May 3rd. The Upper Loup NRD has scholarships available if anyone is interested. Beef QA will be held June 18th at Gudmundsen at 10 am MT. More information can be found at bqa.unl.edu or beef.unl.edu. The Nebraska Range Short Course will be held at Chadron State College June 21st -24th.

Agency Reports

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

District Staff Reports

Anna let the directors know the new floor has been finished in the office by Masek Construction. Also, there were unused NSWCP funds of \$1887 redistributed to all NRD's.

Shane is starting tree planting on April 14th. There are 33 tree plans with approximately 12,000 trees to be planted and approximately 100,000 feet of mulch. Last year, there were 18,000 trees planted and 124,000 feet of mulch installed.

Lexi is getting ready to help with tree planting and ACE camp this summer.

Financial Report

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

NE Soil & Water Conservation Program

Anna reported to the directors that the state of Nebraska has increased our allotment for NSWCP to go towards and practices we haven't been able to fulfill.

Wildlife – No Report

Water Sub-committee

Anna stated to the directors that she has spoken to managers of other NRD'S and 3 different telemetry providers. The result is there is not 1 type of system that works for everybody, so we need to decide what is most important to the district.

Water Quantity – No Report

Water Quality

Anna let the directors know that Shane has sent out 341 renewal chemigation permits.

Current NRD Projects – No Report

Grant Reports

Chris Hobza will be here on June 10th to provide an update on drought resilience study on the South Loup River. The new 15 foot Great Plains no till drill has been ordered. The 20 foot Haybuster drill will be put out for bids to purchase.

Coalition/Alliance

Anna advised the directors that she emailed them a spreadsheet regarding to date coalition depletion levels. None of the NRD's went over their allotted amounts. Analysis on the past 5 years amounts is currently being done to ensure we are on the right path moving forward.

NARD Report

Judy reported to the directors that the Basin Tour will be held June 7th & 8th. She recommends going on a Basin Tour because it allows the opportunity to look at other NRD's including challenges and programs offered. She also passed

around a newsletter from Nemaha NRD and let the directors know Bob Hilske, a previous manager at Middle Niobrara NRD, is retiring.

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

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

Discussion was held on what steps were being taken and what steps will be done in the future to avoid the newsletter article oversight.

Adjournment

Higgins adjourned the meeting at 8:42 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 next Board of Directors Meeting will be held at the office on Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 7:00 pm.