

UPPER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
April 9, 2020 @7:00 PM CT (6:00 PM MT)
Via teleconference

The regular meeting of the Upper Loup Natural Resources District Board of Directors was held via teleconference in Thedford, NE on Thursday, April 9, 2020. Patrick Wright called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Directors Present

Richard Burnside
Connie Cox
Chris Higgins
Miles Maseberg
Tom Johnson
John Kraye
Judy Ridenour
Eric Schipporeit
Eric Storer
Chris Vinton
Patrick Wright

Directors Absent & Excused

Directors Unexcused

Staff in Attendance

Anna Baum, General Manager
Leslie Harvey, Admin. Secretary

Guests

Call Regular Monthly Meeting to Order

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

Open Meetings Act

Wright made note of the Open Meetings act that was sent to each director and has also been posted on the website.

Anna referenced Executive Order No 20-03 in which the Governor had stated that teleconferencing would be allowed as long as the public and media was informed and could join. The call-in number and conference code were posted on the agenda and also on the website.

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 12, 2020 meeting minutes. Ridenour made a motion to accept the minutes as circulated and Johnson seconded the motion. Aye: Burnside, Johnson, Kraye, Ridenour, Schipporeit, and Wright. Abstain: Storer. Motion carried. (RCV#1)

Public Forum – No Representation

Agency Reports – No presentation

District Staff Reports

Anna reported that the old tree planting tractor had sold.

Jake has been doing static water levels. He has been having problems accessing some sites due to water.

Lexi has been working on ACE Camp, the website and water quality checks.

Trees have been lifted at the Forest and Shane has gotten some in the cooler. He is looking to start planting around the 20th of April with about 5 weeks of planting ahead.

Financial Report

The March financial report was reviewed by staff and directors. Krave made a motion to accept the financial report and Schipporeit 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 reported that there were 30 meters that needed to be fixed and as of date, had heard back from 15 of those. In the remaining counties that need meters, Grant County has 6 wells that need meters, Hooker County has 9, Cherry County has 23, and Thomas County has 15.

Water Quality

Sub-district 5 will be tested this year with 101 domestic wells to be tested and 56 irrigations wells.

Anna relayed to directors that Jack has decided to retire. She has put out a job listing and is working on perhaps another option. She is researching contracting out with Western Resources Group from Ogallala and Keep Nebraska Beautiful.

Current NRD Projects

Anna reported that neither the cedar demo nor the Arboretum information meeting had been rescheduled as of yet.

Grant Reports

The HMP is complete with just some administrative paperwork to complete.

The application is in for the NEMA Drought Mitigation Plan. We are just waiting to hear back on approval.

Anna reported that we are waiting to hear back on the environmental tracer analysis. Chris Hobza is planning on providing directors an update on the project in June. We received approval for year 2 from NET. All NET grants are switching over to all online reporting which will not be ready until after May. Work can begin before then, but no reimbursements until that time.

The Arboretum public presentation has been put on hold. A powerpoint presentation going over the project has been put on our website. The village is putting in 2 hydrants. The NRD has been awarded a PIE grant to help pay for plant signage.

Coalition/Alliance

The LPSRB Board Meeting has been postponed until July or August.

NARD Report

Judy reported that the State and National Envirothon has been cancelled. The Basin tour is still being planned at this time.

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

Anna asked the directors to pre-approve 5 scholarships for ACE Camp as the deadline has been extended. Vinton made a motion to pre-approve all scholarships received from the district and Wright seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV#3)

Anna reported that the Middle Niobrara NRD has applied for WFPO funds to develop a watershed plan in which some of our acres fall into.

Adjournment

Higgins adjourned the meeting at 7:44 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 on Thursday May 14, 2020 at 7:00pm CST via teleconference.