

UPPER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
August 10, 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, August 10th, 2023. Chris Higgins called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Directors Present

Miles Maseberg  
Rebecca Connealy  
Tom Johnson  
John Krave  
David Vinton  
Patrick Wright  
Chris Higgins  
Judy Ridenour  
Max Fay

Directors Absent & Excused

Richard Burnside  
Tony Ruhter

Directors Unexcused

Staff in Attendance

Anna Baum, General Manager  
Jamie Green, Admin. Secretary

Guests

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

Call Regular Monthly Meeting to Order

Higgins called the regular meeting to order at 7:05 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 July Meeting

Higgins asked for additions and/or corrections to the July 13th, 2023 meeting minutes. Krave made a motion to accept the minutes of the July meeting as circulated and Maseberg seconded the motion. Aye: Fay, Higgins, Krave, Maseberg, Vinton, and Wright. Abstain: Connealy, Johnson, and Ridenour. Motion carried. (RCV #1)

Public Forum – No Representation

NRCS Report

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

### UNL Extension Report

T.L. Meyer let the directors know there will be a Herd That! conference in Kearney on December 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. On Aug 23<sup>rd</sup> there will be an open house at Gudmundsen Sandhills Laboratory.

### NARD Report

Ridenour shared with the directors that she went to the grazing conference in Kearney on August 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. She said there were great speakers, with the opening speaker being a local, Sherry Vinton. She thought the session on virtual fencing was interesting and explained virtual fencing to the directors.

The Leopold Conservation Award winners were discussing challenges they have faced including finding employees.

She reminded the directors that Annual Conference is September 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> in Kearney.

Wright made a motion to appoint Ridenour as the NARD Delegate and Higgins as the Alternate and Johnson seconded the motion. Aye: Connealy, Fay, Johnson, Krave, Maseberg, Vinton, and Wright. Abstain: Higgins and Ridenour. Motion carried. (RCV #2)

### NRC – No Report

### RC & D – No Report

### District Staff Reports

Anna let the directors know we held a Forestry workshop yesterday with 30+ people in attendance. They toured the Arboretum and Bovee Fire scar. Richard Gilbert from the forest was in attendance and advised the seedling prices will go up 8 cents. Anna reviewed pricing on bait and determined the price also went up, as a result, prices were raised.

She attended the Sandhills Discovery meeting, which was very informative. Nebraska Community Foundation will be the lead on this project with several partners including UNL Extension, Forest Service, Nebraska Game and Parks. They are currently working on a feasibility study with completion set for 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2024, which will determine moving forward with the project.

Anna went over Annual Activities Summary that was emailed to directors. There was discussion held regarding how to increase awareness of the deep soil testing cost share.

Anna reported to the directors we will be holding Jr High Field Day on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. There will be 47 8<sup>th</sup> graders attending from five local schools. There will be sessions on wildlife, forestry, water, range, geology, and soils.

### Financial Report

The August financial report was reviewed by staff and directors. Krave made a motion to accept the financial report and Connealy seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #3)

### NE Soil & Water Conservation Program

Anna presented two NSWCP Applications to the Directors for review. Johnson made a motion to approve one application as presented and deny the application that did not meet the requirements and Wright seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #4)

### Wildlife – No Report

### Water Sub-committee – No Report

### Water Quantity

Anna let the directors know we have not received any more applications for Expansion of Irrigated Acres. We have received three to date with only two being approved, for a total of 145 acres.

### Water Quality

Anna reported to the directors that we received approval for a grant for a new recycling trailer. She also submitted a grant to the NDEE to pay for the Recycling Coordinator position.

### Current NRD Projects – No Reports

### Grant Reports

Anna let the directors know in regard to the FEMA grant, there are 8 meetings set up for the 1<sup>st</sup> week of October with several of the villages and counties to go over old Hazard Mitigation plans for changes and/or additions.

### Coalition/Alliance – No Report

### Budget

Anna asked the directors for changes and/or thoughts on the budget. She went over information regarding cash reserves. There was discussion held regarding keeping the levy the same, and an agreement was made to keep it the same.

### Vote on Vehicle Bids

Anna presented a bid to the directors on a Chevy Traverse from Pony Express.

Wright made a motion to table vote on bids until we had a firm number on trade in and Vinton seconded the motion. Aye: Fay, Vinton, and Wright. Nay: Connealy, Higgins, Johnson, Kraye, Maseberg, and Ridenour. Motion fails. (RCV #5)

Kraye made a motion to accept the new vehicle bid from Pony Express and Johnson seconded the motion. Aye: Connealy, Higgins, Johnson, Kraye, Maseberg, Ridenour, Vinton, and Wright. Abstain: Fay. Motion carries. (RCV #6)

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

Anna switched the safety meeting from this month to the December meeting. She asked for a volunteer to be on the safety committee and Maseberg volunteered.

Anna went over information regarding the Nebraska CLASS, a professionally managed investment program for Nebraska public agencies, that was emailed to directors. The directors did not want to investigate this group at this time, and it was decided to review interest rates at local banks instead.

She reminded the directors there will be a director's tour in October. It will be held in Sub-district 4 since it was skipped last year on October 12<sup>th</sup>.

Johnson made a motion to approve Ruhter and Burnside absences and Maseberg seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #7)

### Adjournment

Higgins adjourned the meeting at 8:36 pm.

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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, September 14, 2023, at 7:00 pm.