

UPPER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
August 11, 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, August 11, 2022. Chris Higgins called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.

Directors Present

Chris Higgins  
Richard Burnside  
Tony Ruhter  
Judy Ridenour  
Eric Schipporeit  
Eric Storer  
Tom Johnson  
Rebecca Connealy – via teleconference

Directors Absent & Excused

Miles Maseberg  
John Kraye

Directors Unexcused

Patrick Wright

Staff in Attendance

Anna Baum, General Manager  
Jamie Green, Admin. Secretary  
Justin Sprague, Resources Technician

Guests

Chris Lousias, Interim District Conservationist, NRCS  
TL Meyer, Beef Systems Extension Educator

Call Regular Monthly Meeting to Order

Higgins called the regular meeting to order at 7:08 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 let the directors know that Chris Hobza will not be attending.

Action on Minutes of July Meeting

Higgins asked for additions and/or corrections to the July 14, 2022 meeting minutes. Burnside made a motion to accept the minutes as circulated and Schipporeit seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #1)

Public Forum – No Representation

Agency Reports

T.L. Meyer thanked all volunteers of local county fairs for their support. The Thedford office oversees 4 county fairs and they couldn't do it without all of the volunteers. There are 2 county fairs remaining. There is an Open House on August 24<sup>th</sup> at Gudmundsen Sandhills Laboratory. A Managing Cattle for Profit meeting will be held on August 31<sup>st</sup> in Valentine at The Peppermill. A Great Plains Fire Summit will be held in North Platte on August

23<sup>rd</sup>- 25<sup>th</sup>. Also, in Broken Bow on September 21<sup>st</sup> will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Herd that! Conference hosted by the Women in Ag program.

Chris Lousias introduced herself to the directors as the interim District Conservationist for the Thedford NRCS office. She gave a report to the directors on current NRCS operations.

#### District Staff Reports

Anna introduced the new Resource Technician, Justin Sprague, to the directors. The directors went around the room and introduced themselves as well as what subdistrict they represented.

Anna went over the Annual Activities Report with the directors.

She let the directors know of the passing of Lower Loup NRD employee Larry Schultz. He was instrumental in the founding of ACE Camp.

Shane has been working on chemigation inspections.

Lexi has been training our new part time I & E Coordinator, Shaylee Scranton, on the website, NeRain program, etc. She has also been doing domestic water testing.

#### Financial Report

The August financial report was reviewed by staff and directors. Ridenour 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 reported there has been only 1 application received, to date, for expansion of irrigated acres. The deadline is September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Water Quality – No Report

Current NRD Projects – No Report

Budget

Anna emailed a corrected copy of the budget to the directors that included the change in price for the computers. She asked the directors for changes and input regarding the proposed budget. No changes or input were given. The budget hearing will be before the board meeting on September 8<sup>th</sup>.

Grant Reports

Chris Hobza will be here in November to provide a summary on the 3-year grant of the South Loup Drought water aging study.

She submitted a grant to NDEE to help cover costs for the recycling coordinator position.

Anna met with JEO regarding questions about initial draft of drought mitigation plan. Corrections will be made and the plan should be finalized by the end of October and submitted to FEMA. There will be a stakeholders meeting the first part of October.

The Hazard Mitigation Plan is renewed every 5 years. Anna submitted a notice of interest last December for a grant to complete the next Hazard Mitigation Plan. It passed the first approval, now a sub application is due the end of this month. Results will not be known until 2023, with funds not being obligated until 2024. The Hazard Mitigation Plan needs to be updated in 2025.

#### Coalition/Alliance

Anna reported to the directors there is a technical meeting on August 24<sup>th</sup>, which coincides with the ULNRD Jr High Field Day, so she will attend by zoom.

#### NARD Report

Ridenour reported to the directors she attended the Grazing Conference in Kearney on August 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>. She thought it was a very good conference. She brought reading material from the first speaker regarding weed encroachment and passed it around to the directors. The next presentation was a panel of 4 men that had experienced fires that spoke about their experiences.

She thought the most interesting part was a presentation by Cheryl Dunn, with the Agronomy & Horticulture Department at UNL, on invasive and toxic plants. There are 17 toxic plants in Nebraska, one of them being poison hemlock. Ridenour mentioned she has poison hemlock on her land and found out 10 oz can kill a cow. She suggested bringing more awareness to these plants.

The next presentation, by Steve Kenyon from Alberta, Canada, was regarding natural predators. She learned in order to protect his herd from wolves and coyotes, he puts strips of bacon on electric fences.

She let the directors know Annual Conference will be September 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>.

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

Johnson made a motion to appoint Ridenour as NARD Delegate and Higgins as NARD Alternate and Storer seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #3)

Storer made a motion to approve Maseberg and Kraye absences and Burnside seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #4)

#### Adjournment

Higgins adjourned the meeting at 7:54 pm.

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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, September 8, 2022 at 7:00 pm.