

UPPER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
August 12, 2021 @ 7:00 PM CT (6:00 PM MT)

Directors Present

Rebecca Connealy
Chris Higgins
Miles Maseberg
John Kraye
Judy Ridnour
Tony Ruhter
Richard Burnside
Tom Johnson
Eric Schipporeit
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
TL Meyer, Beef Systems Extension Educator

Call Regular Monthly Meeting to Order

Higgins called the regular meeting to order at 7:02 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 8, 2021 meeting minutes. Ridenour made a motion to accept the minutes as circulated and Burnside seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #1)

Public Forum

TL Meyer shared some important dates with the directors. Gudmundsen Sandhills Lab will have an Open House on August 25th. For more information contact the Extension office.

Agency Reports

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

District Staff Reports

Anna reminded directors of ULNRD Groundwater rules and regulations definitions in regards to “land owners” and well drilling applications.

Anna went over the Annual Activities Report that was emailed to the directors, noting that due to COVID some numbers are lower than previous years. Anna advised the directors that the deep soil testing program is not getting used and ideas were brainstormed on how to let more people know about the program.

Anna reminded directors prior to COVID the ULNRD was approached about being a partner with Game & Parks and local businesses in developing public river access sites. She was approached again and will be attending a meeting next week to learn more about what they are wanting from the NRD. She will update at next meeting.

Jake is working on the new Great Plains 15 foot drill and getting it ready for the field.

Shane has been working on chemigation checks.

Lexi is half way through domestic well water testing in Sub-district 1.

Jamie presented a thank you note for a donation to the Hooker County Fair to the board for review.

Anna reported to the directors the 8th grade field day is coming up on August 25th, and Chris Hobza from the USGS will do a water session at the river. We are expecting 47 8th grade students from our district.

Financial Report

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

NE Soil & Water Conservation Program

Anna presented two NSWCP applications to the directors for approval.

Schipporeit made a motion to approve one NSWCP application that met the qualifications and Krave seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #3)

Wildlife – No Report

Water Sub-committee – No Report

Water Quantity

Anna reported to the directors there have been 6 applications received for expansion of irrigated acres to date, with 1 from Hooker County and 5 from Logan County for a total of 338 acres.

Anna let the directors know the annual VIMP meeting with the Department of Natural Resources will be in Kearney during the Annual conference in September.

Water Quality

Lexi is half way done with domestic water testing in Sub-district 1, and a few hot spots have been found.

Anna told the directors she is applying for another grant to assist in the cost of the Recycling Coordinator position.

Current NRD Projects – No Report

Grant Reports

Anna advised the directors that the Drought Mitigation Stakeholder Committee meeting was held the end of July. Items discussed were possible drought indicators, drought impact, responses to drought, and end goals. Another meeting is planned in a few months but no date is set at this time. Anyone interested in attending the meetings are welcome to attend.

Coalition/Alliance

Anna stated to the directors that there is a technical meeting of the Lower Platte Basin Coalition on August 18th. There will be an update on the analysis work that has been done for the previous 5-year reporting period and an update on progress for the 2nd increment.

Budget

Anna asked the directors if there were any changes to the 2021-2022 ULNRD Budget. No changes were reported so the Budget Hearing was set for September 9th.

NARD Report

Judy informed the directors that she went to the Envirothon with Anna and Lexi, which was held July 26th-27th in Lincoln. There was a training held the night before for all of the judges. There were 42 teams total which included 35 states, 4 Canadian provinces and 3 from China. All teams had the same challenge, which was the Northeast Nebraska Bazile water management problem, they were given information and NARD maps and had to come up with their own solution. The teams that Judy judged were from Delaware, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, China, and Virginia.

She let the directors know that on August 10th and 11th she went to the Grazing Conference in Kearney. There were several good sessions on pollinators, managing wet levels, carbon credits, and managing risk.

Judy reminded the board that the Annual NARD meeting will be in Kearney on September 28th.

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

Johnson made a motion to excuse Storer absence and Schipporeit seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #4).

Anna reminded the group that Sub-district 4 is on the schedule for the October directors tour and to be thinking of a date.

Adjournment

Higgins adjourned the meeting at 7:59 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, September 9, 2021 at 7:00 pm.