

UPPER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
December 14, 2023 @ 3:00 PM CT

The regular meeting of the Upper Loup Natural Resources District Board of Directors was held in Thedford, NE on Thursday, December 14th, 2023. Chris Higgins called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

Directors Present

Miles Maseberg
Tony Ruhter
Tom Johnson
John Krave
Patrick Wright
Chris Higgins
Judy Ridenour
Richard Burnside

Directors Absent & Excused

David Vinton
Max Fay

Directors Unexcused

Staff in Attendance

Anna Baum, General Manager
Jamie Green, Admin. Secretary

Guests

Kortni Schaub, NRCS Soil Conservationist
Brooklyn Anderson, NRCS Rangeland Management Specialist

Call Regular Monthly Meeting to Order

Higgins called the regular meeting to order at 3:00 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. No modifications.

Action on Minutes of November Meeting

Higgins asked for additions and/or corrections to the November 9th, 2023 meeting minutes. Ridenour mentioned there was a grammatical error. Krave made a motion to accept the minutes of the November meeting as corrected and Wright seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #1)

Public Forum – No Representation

UNL Extension Report

T.L. Meyer was not able to attend the meeting, but Jamie let the directors know there will be upcoming pesticide trainings on the following dates and locations: January 5th in Hyannis, January 12th in Thedford, January 19th in Mullen, and January 23rd in Brewster. Please contact the Central Sandhills Area Extension Office for more information and to register.

NRCS Report

Kortni Schaub and Brooklyn Anderson were present to introduce themselves to the directors and give a report on current NRCS operations.

NARD Report – No Report

NRC – No Report

RC & D – No Report

District Staff Reports

Anna let the directors know our tree plans are down from last year and we are trying new things to get the word out. Justin made a board that went over our services, specifically tree-planting, and had a booth at Thedford's Annual Old Fashioned Christmas. Lexi and Kyon had a booth at the Mullen Walk-A-Bout. Justin will now be offering installation of dripline.

Justin went over plans for an efficient way to have dripline for tree lines out in pastures without a water source nearby. There was discussion held regarding input from the directors on this topic.

Jamie let the directors know the election filing deadline for incumbents is February 15th and non-incumbents is March 1st.

Anna reported to the directors that the technicians are 98% done on reading flowmeters, with the weather being the primary factor.

Financial Report

The December financial report was reviewed by staff and directors. Wright made a motion to accept the financial report and Johnson 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 – No Report

Water Quality – No Report

Current NRD Projects – No Report

Grant Reports

Anna let the directors know we got approval from NDEE for a grant to pay the labor for the Recycling Coordinator position. The 5-year review of the Hazard Mitigation Plan is on schedule. Brooke will meet with some of the villages that were looking at new projects.

Coalition/Alliance

Anna informed the directors there will be a technical meeting next week in Lincoln. The database is completed and will be reviewed to make sure it works well.

Personnel Policy Update

Anna went over changes to the Personnel Policy with the directors. Burnside made a motion to accept the Personnel Policy changes and Maseberg seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #3)

Retirement Contribution Increase

Anna went over the Retirement contribution increase with the directors and there was discussion held. Johnson made a motion to accept the financial report and Burnside seconded the motion. Aye: Burnside, Higgins, Kraye, Maseberg, Johnson, and Wright. Abstain: Ridenour and Ruhter. Motion carried. (RCV #4)

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

Wright made a motion to nominate Ridenour as the NARD Delegate and Higgins as the NARD Alternate and Kraye seconded the motion. Aye: Burnside, Higgins, Johnson, Kraye, Maseberg, Ruhter, and Wright. Abstain: Ridenour. Motion carried. (RCV #5)

Maseberg made a motion to approve Fay and Vinton as excused absences and Kraye seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #6)

Anna passed around letters of interest from Jais Connealy and Mark Vinton regarding the open director position in Sub-district 1.

Kraye made a motion to accept Mark Vinton as director and the motion failed due to lack of a second. There was discussion held regarding the applicants due to several directors not knowing the applicants. The decision was made to invite both interested parties to the next board meeting to introduce themselves and for the directors to get to know them before a decision is made.

Adjournment

Higgins adjourned the meeting at 3:58 pm.

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, January 11th, 2023, at 3:00 pm.