

UPPER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
December 9, 2021 @ 2:00 PM CT

The regular meeting of the Upper Loup Natural Resources District Board of Directors was held in Thedford, NE on Thursday, December 9, 2021. Chris Higgins called the meeting to order at 2:01 pm.

Directors Present

Chris Higgins
Richard Burnside
John Kraye
Judy Ridenour
Patrick Wright
Eric Schipporeit
Tony Ruhter
Eric Storer
Tom Johnson
Miles Maseberg

Directors Absent & Excused

Rebecca Connealy

Directors Unexcused

Staff in Attendance

Anna Baum, General Manager
Jamie Green, Admin. Secretary
Shane Young, Resource Technician
Jake Ginkens, Resource Technician
Lexi Spurlin, Resource Technician/ I & E Coordinator

Guests

Kevin Hood, NRCS District Conservationist

Call Regular Monthly Meeting to Order

Higgins called the regular meeting to order at 2:01 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 4, 2021 meeting minutes. Wright made a motion to accept the minutes as circulated and Kraye seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #1)

Public Forum – No Representation

Agency Reports

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

T.L. Meyer was unable to attend but Anna let the directors know of upcoming events on her behalf. There will be a Generational Transitions Conference at Gudmundsen on January 6th. There are pesticide trainings that will be on January 4th in Mullen, January 5th in Thedford, January 11th in Hyannis, and January 25th in Brewster. Contact the Extension for more information.

District Staff Reports

Anna reported to the directors there was a hearing held last week regarding LR 23, which is an interim study to measure the progress of the NRD's in fulfilling their originally intended purposes. What came out of the hearing is the NRD's need to better educate all senators.

Jake has been working on checking flowmeters.

Shane has been working on checking flowmeters and will start tree plans soon.

Lexi has been working on checking flowmeters and a nitrate awareness campaign.

Financial Report

The December financial report was reviewed by staff and directors. Storer 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

Anna let the directors know she emailed a copy of the District Annual Water Quality Report. This year in Sub-district 1 there were 55 registered domestic well samples tested and 39 non-registered domestic well samples tested. Nitrate and manganese levels were mostly low. A couple of the wells that tested higher for nitrates already have reverse osmosis systems in place.

Current NRD Projects

Anna reported to the directors that she met with Jon Mohr regarding the Groundwater Management Plan. Goals are being reviewed and changes are being discussed for the update.

Grant Reports

Anna advised the directors that she received an email from FEMA regarding extra available COVID funds. She is planning on sending a notice of intent to apply for funds for the 2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan 5-year update.

Coalition/Alliance

Anna reported to the directors John Engle, HDR consultant, will be attending the January board meeting to go over why plan created, past 5-year report, and changes for the upcoming 5-year plan increment.

30 x 30 Program Resolution

Storer made a motion to approve the 30 x 30 Program Resolution and Maseberg seconded the motion. Aye: Burnside, Higgins, Johnson, Krave, Maseberg, Ruhter, Schipporeit, Storer, and Wright. Nay: Ridenour. Motion carried. (RCV #3)

NARD Report

Ridenour reported to the directors that she went to the Board Meeting in Chadron on November 8th. She learned the Executive Travel Partnership is giving \$50,000.00 to Nebraska for planting trees. The money is divided up on a percentage basis amongst the NRD's according to previous year's planting numbers.

Anna advised the directors the amount of trees the Upper Loup NRD will receive credit for is approximately 2,000. The trees will be first offered to schools, churches, ag societies, non-profit organizations, etc.

Ridenour let the directors know there will be a water technician meeting in Kearney on March 1st. There will possibly be a water steward award added to the awards given to the public by the NARD. There will be a committee developed for further input on this idea.

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

Storer made a motion to approve Connealy absence and Wright seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #4)

Wright made a motion to designate Ridenour as the voting delegate and Storer as the possible alternate for Legislative Conference and Johnson seconded the motion. Aye: Burnside, Higgins, Johnson, Krave, Maseberg, Ruhter, Schipporeit, Wright. Abstain: Ridenour & Storer. Motion carried. (RCV#5)

Anna reminded the directors if they would like to add to the apparel order for the 50th Anniversary of the NARD, it is due on December 10th.

Adjournment

Higgins adjourned the meeting at 2:44 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 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, January 13, 2021 at 3:00 pm.

