

UPPER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
February 8, 2024 @ 3:00 PM CT

The regular meeting of the Upper Loup Natural Resources District Board of Directors was held in Thedford, NE on Thursday, February 8th, 2024. Chris Higgins called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm.

Directors Present

Tom Johnson
John Kraye
Patrick Wright
Chris Higgins
Judy Ridenour
Richard Burnside
David Vinton
Tony Ruhter

Directors Absent & Excused

Miles Maseberg
Max Fay

Directors Unexcused

Staff in Attendance

Anna Baum, General Manager
Jamie Green, Admin. Secretary

Guests

Kortni Schaub, NRCS Soil Conservationist
Jais Connealy

Call Regular Monthly Meeting to Order

Higgins called the regular meeting to order at 3:05 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 January Meeting

Higgins asked for additions and/or corrections to the January 11, 2024 meeting minutes. Wright made a motion to accept the minutes of the January meeting as circulated and Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #1)

Public Forum

Higgins introduced Jais Connealy to the directors. Jais Connealy told the directors a little bit about herself and why she was interested in joining the board.

UNL Extension Report – No Report

NRCS Report

Kortni Schaub gave a report to the directors on current NRCS operations.

NARD Report

Ridenour attended the NARD Legislative Conference in Lincoln on January 23rd and 24th. She attended a Native Vegetation committee meeting and was pleased that 15 people had attended. She gave an update on NARD Board of Director officer elections. There are extra tickets available for the LEAD Banquet on March 15th, sponsored by the NARD. She thought there seemed to be more in attendance this year with 363 registrations. She passed around an Annual Report from Nebraska Water Center. Higgins attended as well and commented that he thought the breakout sessions were good.

NRC – No Report

RC & D

Kraye reported to the directors that he attended the Annual Business Meeting. Ridenour attended as well and there was discussion held regarding administrative grants given.

District Staff Reports

Anna reported to the directors there are 8 NSWCP tree plans and 16 NRCS plans with potentially 4 or 5 more NRCS plans.

Jamie reminded the directors who need to file, the filing deadline is February 15th for Incumbents and March 1st for Non-Incumbents. If any assistance is needed let her know. She also circulated the Board of Educational Lands and Funds lease agreements for directors to sign.

Anna told the directors Lexi has been working on ACE camp and school presentations.

Financial Report

The February financial report was reviewed by staff and directors. Wright made a motion to accept the financial report and Vinton 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 emailed the directors the averages of pumping information for 2023. She went over the pumping information with the directors.

Water Quality – No Report

Current NRD Projects – No Report

Grant Reports

Anna reported to the directors regarding the Hazard Mitigation Plan there are 2 school meetings planned this month, and then updating the individual community and school plans will be complete. The plan will

be online for public review in March and submitted in April. In April local adoptions will be started. In June/ July hope to have the plan approved or work on revisions taking place.

Coalition/Alliance

Anna let the directors know the next technical meeting will be in March. Anna emailed the 2023 ULNRD Basin Annual Report to the directors, and as the other Annual Reports are received, she will forward on to the directors. The Annual Report is submitted to the other 6 NRD's in the Basin and covers new wells, new acres, depletion amounts, municipality data, ag uses, commercial uses, etc.

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

Johnson made a motion to approve Fay and Maseberg as excused absences and Kraye seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #3)

Wright made a motion to go into Executive Session at 4:05 pm and Kraye seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #4)

Kraye made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 4:13 pm and Wright seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV#5)

Burnside made a motion to appoint Jais Connealy as Sub-district 1 director and Wright seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #6)

Adjournment

Higgins adjourned the meeting at 4:14pm.

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, March 14th, 2024, at 3:00 pm.