

UPPER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
February 11, 2021 @ 3:00 PM CT (2:00 PM MT)

Directors Present

Chris Higgins  
John Kraye (via Zoom)  
Patrick Wright  
Judy Ridnour  
Rebecca Connealy  
Richard Burnside  
Miles Maseberg  
Tom Johnson  
Eric Schipporeit

Directors Absent & Excused

Eric Storer

Directors Unexcused

Staff in Attendance

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

Guests

Kevin Hood, NRCS District Conservationist  
T.L. Meyer, Beef Systems Extension Educator

Call Regular Monthly Meeting to Order

Higgins called the regular meeting to order at 3:03 pm.

Open Meetings Act

Higgins made note of the Open Meetings act posted on the wall in the Learning center.

Swear in New Board Members

Johnson, Maseberg and Ruhter took the oath of office.

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 14, 2021 meeting minutes. Wright made a motion to accept the minutes as circulated and Burnside seconded the motion. Aye: Burnside, Connealy, Higgins, Maseberg, Ridenour, Wright. Abstain: Johnson, Ruhter, Schipporeit. Motion carried. (RCV #1)

Public Forum

T.L. Meyer introduced herself as the new Beef Extension Educator for the UNL Extension office located in Thedford. She advised the directors that she is available to the public for questions.

Agency Reports

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

## District Staff Reports

Anna asked the directors if there were any Legislative bills that anyone on the board would like to discuss or take a stand on to let her know. Also, hearing protocols have changed. A “position” letter can be submitted by mail or email, but written testimony must be presented in person. Bills can be looked up at <https://www.nebraskalegislature.gov>.

Jake advised the directors that he had a meeting with Johnson and Burnside regarding drill options and pricing.

Lexi reported to the directors that she has done a complete overhaul of the website and it should be up and running by March. Also, she had a meeting with the ACE committee and they are optimistic about being able to have camps this year. Arbor/Earth Day presentations are being planned with local schools for this spring.

## Financial Report

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

## NE Soil & Water Conservation Program – No Report and No CS Applications

### Wildlife – No Report

### Water Sub-committee

The Water Sub-committee met today to review a feasibility study on collecting pumping information remotely. Anna will contact another company to find out more information on cost-effectiveness, functionality, etc.

### Water Quantity

Anna discussed the water use graph that was emailed to directors. Water use had increased in all counties over the previous year.

### Water Quality –

Anna reported that 45 hefty bags have been distributed to the community from the coupon in the newsletter.

## Current NRD Projects

Anna met with Twila Phillips regarding the status of using the Bobcat for tree removal. They are still looking for someone to run the equipment. If they can't find anyone, they discussed looking for someone to rent or lease it, preferably for cedar removal business.

## Grant Reports

Anna advised the directors that there have only been 9 people reply to be stakeholders for the Drought Mitigation Plan stakeholder committee. Since they have until July 2022 to complete plan, they are going to hold off to early summer for stakeholder meeting to try to get some more interest for stakeholders.

## Coalition/Alliance

Anna sent the Lower Platte South Basin Annual Report and a copy was emailed to group. She will have all NRD reports by 1<sup>st</sup> of March. She had a management meeting on February 3<sup>rd</sup> and is needing to budget funds to complete the 2<sup>nd</sup> analysis of the past 5 years. She advised they are moving forward with 2<sup>nd</sup> increment work, and hoping to have it completed by April 2022.

### NARD Report

Ridenour reported to the directors that there was a NARD board meeting on January 26<sup>th</sup>. They are still hoping to do Envirothon in July. The next board meeting will be on March 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> and the basin tour is planned for June 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. The Washington DC trip in March has been cancelled.

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

Johnson made a motion to approve Storer absence and Wright seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #3).

Anna let the directors know the New Director Orientation will take place in March and all are welcome to attend.

### Adjournment

Higgins adjourned the meeting at 4:25 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 next Board of Directors Meeting will be held at the office on Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 3:00 pm.