

UPPER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
February 9, 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, February 9th, 2023. Judy Ridenour called the meeting to order at 3:07 pm.

Directors Present

Miles Maseberg
Tony Ruhter
Tom Johnson
Richard Burnside
Judy Ridenour
Rebecca Connealy
John Kraye
David Vinton
Max Fay

Directors Absent & Excused

Chris Higgins
Patrick Wright

Directors Unexcused

Staff in Attendance

Anna Baum, General Manager
Jamie Green, Admin. Secretary

Guests

Leah Carson, District Conservationist
T.L. Meyer, Beef Systems Extension Educator

Call Regular Monthly Meeting to Order

Ridenour called the regular meeting to order at 3:06 pm.

Open Meetings Act

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

Agenda Modifications

Ridenour asked if there were any modifications to the agenda. No modifications.

Action on Minutes of January Meeting

Ridenour asked for additions and/or corrections to the January 12th, 2023 meeting minutes. Kraye made a motion to accept the minutes as circulated and Burnside seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Motion carried. (RCV#1)

Public Forum – No Representation

Agency Reports

Leah Carson gave a report to the directors on current NRCS operations.

T.L. Meyer updated the directors on area trainings. There is a make up date set for the Mullen pesticide training on February 15th. Pesticide training can be done online as well. There is a Windbreak for Livestock meeting planned for February 16th. More information can be obtained by contacting the Extension office in Thedford.

District Staff Reports

Anna let the directors know the hearing date for LB 281 is scheduled for February 15th. She emailed a copy of the written testimony she provided. Several other NRD's have submitted testimony as well.

A few bills that we are following are LB 513, regarding notices in the newspaper, and LB 396, which deals with groundwater rights concerning augmentation projects. The hearing date for LB 513 is set for February 10th.

Technicians have still been working on checking flowmeters.

Justin has 20 tree planting plans underway so far, still busy meeting with producers and creating tree plans.

Jamie emailed an iPad tutorial to the directors, and she can send more topics as needed.

Lexi will be attending an I&E meeting in the next few weeks. She is working on Project Learning Tree, which is an educational opportunity that will be held here in March. It covers outdoor education training and activities for youth and will be open to other NRD's and teachers.

Financial Report

The February financial report was reviewed by staff and directors. Krave 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

Anna presented 2 NSWCP Applications to the Directors for review. Burnside made a motion to accept both applications as presented and Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #3)

Wildlife – No Report

Water Sub-committee – No Report

Water Quantity – No Report

Water Quality – No Report

Current NRD Projects – No Report

Grant Reports

Anna informed the directors we were accepted for the NDEE grant for the Recycling Coordinator position. There is an informational webinar on how the new program will run on February 15th.

Coalition/Alliance

Anna let the directors know there will be a LPRSB directors meeting on April 12th at 10:00 am in Ord. Anna emailed the directors a copy of the annual report that she submitted, and once the others are received, she will forward those on to the directors.

Virtual Meetings Discussion

Anna reminded the directors of the rules and regulations regarding virtual meetings.

NARD Report

Ridenour let the directors know she attended the Legislative Conference in Lincoln with Anna Baum. The legislative committee and the managers went over the legislative bills. In the business session, it was presented for a vote to change the stance on LB 205 and LB 394. LB 205 was changed from monitor to support, and the board voted yes; LB 394 was changed from opposition to support, and the board voted no.

Governor Pillen spoke to the attendees. Ridenour said it was good to hear he was concerned about the 12 organizations putting out media against agriculture. She went to a session about urban landscapes, which was trying to urge cities to replace gray cement with areas of green grass, in hopes of purifying the air, stopping pollution, and absorption of water to prevent flooding.

She attended a Native Vegetation session held by the NRCS. She was informed that 30% of the statewide staff will be new and the NRCS will be updating windbreak spacing.

She said Adam Smith from the Forestry Service mentioned it was important to be active at the community level to get the forest restored. He said it will take a lot of community support.

She brought Annual reports to pass out to the directors.

Ridenour went over changes to voting on NRD award applications.

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

Johnson made a motion to approve Higgins and Wright as excused absences and Maseberg seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #4)

Adjournment

Ridenour adjourned the meeting at 3:45 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, 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 9, 2023, at 3:00 pm.