

UPPER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
January 11, 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, January 11th, 2024. Chris Higgins called the meeting to order at 3:04 pm.

Directors Present

Miles Maseberg
Tom Johnson
John Kraye
Patrick Wright
Chris Higgins
Judy Ridenour
Richard Burnside
David Vinton
Max Fay

Directors Absent & Excused

Tony Ruhter

Directors Unexcused

Staff in Attendance

Anna Baum, General Manager
Jamie Green, Admin. Secretary

Guests

JuliAnna Hinton, NRCS Resource Conservationist
T.L. Meyer, Beef Systems Extension Educator
Mark Vinton

Call Regular Monthly Meeting to Order

Higgins called the regular meeting to order at 3:04 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 December Meeting

Higgins asked for additions and/or corrections to the December 14th, 2023 meeting minutes. Wright made a motion to accept the minutes of the December meeting as circulated and Johnson seconded the motion. Aye: Burnside, Fay, Higgins, Johnson, Kraye, Maseberg, Ridenour, and Wright. Abstain: Vinton. Motion carried. (RCV #1)

Public Forum

Higgins introduced Mark Vinton to the directors. Mark Vinton told the directors a little bit about himself and why he was interested in joining the board.

UNL Extension Report

T.L. Meyer let the directors know there will be upcoming pesticide trainings on 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

JuliAnna Hinton gave a report to the directors on current NRCS operations.

NARD Report

Ridenour let the directors know the Legislative Conference will be January 22nd – 24th in Lincoln. Anna has emailed the new bills to the directors to look over.

NRC – No Report

RC & D – No Report

District Staff Reports

Anna reported to the directors that every year DNR does their fully appropriated Basin analysis, and for 2023 none of the Basin is deemed fully appropriated, therefore, no measures need to be taken as far as restrictions.

Jamie reminded the directors who need to file, the filing deadline is February 15th for incumbents. If any assistance is needed let her know.

Anna let the directors know that Lexi finished newsletters and has been working on ACE camp.

Financial Report

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

NE Soil & Water Conservation Program

Anna presented two NSWCP Applications to the Directors for review. Wright made a motion to approve both applications as presented and Krave seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #3)

Wildlife – No Report

Water Sub-committee – No Report

Water Quantity

Anna reported to the directors, for 2024 we approved 7 applications for Expansion of Irrigated Acres, with 6 requiring new wells. There have been 3 well permits submitted to date. She is working on entering pumping stats, as our new database does not have the reports that we previously had with our old database.

Of the almost 600 flowmeters checked, there will be approximately 12 fix-it letters mailed to producers and 18 that had an unusual reading and will receive phone calls to check on usage.

Water Quality

Anna emailed the District Annual Report to the directors. In Sub-district 3, there were 99 wells tested for nitrates and manganese and all tested at 1.0 or below. Of the wells tested that were outside Sub-district 3, three wells tested out of Phase 1 limitations (0 -5.9) and were sent to an outside lab for verification and quality control. The landowners were contacted and given next-step instructions. The wells that tested high will be put on a yearly testing rotation instead of every 5 years.

Anna reminded the directors that we were approved for funding from NDEE to cover 2024 recycling labor costs.

Current NRD Projects – No Report

Grant Reports

Anna reported to the directors that the majority of the Hazard Mitigation Plan is complete. Brooke will be meeting with the fire districts and schools to go over new projects. The plan is not due until October of 2024, and we are on track to submit a draft this spring.

Coalition/Alliance

Anna attended a training in Lincoln on the LPS Coalition water use reporting database, and informed the directors a lot of information had to be resubmitted due to issues with the new spreadsheet they are working on.

Election of Offices and Representatives

Kraye made a motion for all previous officers to remain in their current position (Chris Higgins – Chairman, Patrick Wright – Vice-chairman, Tom Johnson – Treasurer, Judy Ridenour – Secretary) and Burnside seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #4)

Wright made a motion for Kraye to be the Sandhills RC&D representative and Vinton seconded the motion. Aye: Burnside, Fay, Higgins, Johnson, Maseberg, Ridenour, Vinton, and Wright. Abstain: Kraye. Motion carried. (RCV #5)

Johnson made a motion for Ridenour to be the NARD representative and Kraye seconded the motion. Aye: Burnside, Fay, Higgins, Johnson, Kraye, Maseberg, Vinton, and Wright. Abstain: Ridenour. Motion carried. (RCV #6)

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

Burnside made a motion to approve Ruhter as an excused absence and Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #8)

Adjournment

Higgins adjourned the meeting at 3:57 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, February 8th, 2024, at 3:00 pm.