

UPPER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
January 12, 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, January 12th, 2023. Chris Higgins called the meeting to order at 3:07 pm.

Directors Present

Miles Maseberg  
Tony Ruhter  
Tom Johnson  
Richard Burnside  
Judy Ridenour  
Rebecca Connealy - virtual  
Chris Higgins  
John Krave  
Patrick Wright  
David Vinton  
Max Fay

Directors Absent & Excused

Directors Unexcused

Staff in Attendance

Anna Baum, General Manager  
Jamie Green, Admin. Secretary

Guests

Leah Carson, District Conservationist

Call Regular Monthly Meeting to Order

Higgins called the regular meeting to order at 3:07 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 10th, 2022 meeting minutes. Krave made a motion to accept the minutes as circulated and Wright seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Motion carried. (RCV#1)

Vote to Appoint New Director

Maseberg made a motion to approve Max Fay as director of Sub-District 4 and Burnside seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #2)

Swear in New and Re-elected Directors

Burnside, Fay Higgins, Krave, Ruhter, Vinton, and Wright took the oath of office.

### Elect Officers and RC&D 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 Ruhter seconded the motion. Aye: Burnside, Fay, Higgins, Johnson, Kraye, Maseberg, Ridenour, Ruhter, and Vinton. Abstain: Wright. Motion carried. (RCV #3)

Wright made a motion for Ridenour to be the NARD representative and Maseberg seconded the motion. Aye: Burnside, Higgins, Johnson, Kraye, Maseberg, Fay, Ruhter, Vinton, and Wright. Abstain: Ridenour. Motion carried. (RCV #4)

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

### Public Forum – No Representation

#### Agency Reports

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

#### District Staff Reports

Anna gave the directors a board calendar with monthly topics and meeting time changes.

Anna reported to the directors that the part-time employee, Kyon Neal, has been working out well and will be moved to full time in March if there is no objection. No objection by the board. He will be able to help out with tree planting and static water level measuring. We are expanding our static water network to approximately 130 wells.

Technicians have been working on checking flowmeters.

Justin has 8 tree planting plans underway so far through NSWCP, with 5 being EQIP. He will meet with approximately 8 more producers in the next month and a half to create tree plans.

Jamie let the directors know mileage went up from \$0.625 to \$0.655. She went over adding new folders to the iPads and will send out a how-to email.

Lexi has finished the quarterly newsletter and has sent articles to newspaper for press releases. Annual report will be printed and sent out in July or August.

#### Financial Report

The December financial report was reviewed by staff and directors. Maseberg made a motion to accept the financial report and Burnside seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #6)

The January financial report was reviewed by staff and directors. Kraye made a motion to accept the financial report and Ruhter seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #7)

## NE Soil & Water Conservation Program

Anna presented a video on Cedar trees to the Directors.

Wildlife – No Report

Water Sub-committee – No Report

Water Quantity – No Report

Water Quality

Anna went over current well decommissioning cost share practices with the directors. Due to rising supply costs, she asked them to consider raising the maximum cost share paid to \$400 up from \$150 on domestic and livestock wells, and to \$700 up from \$400 on irrigation wells.

Wright made a motion to raise the maximum cost share to \$400 for domestic and livestock wells and \$700 for irrigation wells, and Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #8)

Anna reported to the directors that she is still looking through the data on the wells in a 1 mile radius of the wells that tested higher in nitrate levels to compare levels. She will give update at next meeting.

Anna let the directors know that we were approved for the grant through NDEE for the salary for our Recycling Coordinator position.

She emailed graphs reflecting weights of recycled materials since middle of 2020 to the directors for review.

Current NRD Projects

Anna reported to the directors she will be working on action items associated with the drought management plan, such as committees, stakeholders, drought dashboard, and drought declaration protocol.

Grant Reports

Anna informed the directors the final report of the drought mitigation plan was sent to FEMA for review in December.

The application and NOI have been sent in for the 5-year renewal of the Hazard Mitigation plan, which is for 2025. Applications are being reviewed and will let us know by early spring.

Coalition/Alliance

Anna let the directors know there will be a LPRSB technical meeting in March. Annual Reports are due first of March, and once they are received, she will share with the group.

### State 4-H Camp

Anna advised the directors that LB 281 has been introduced to the legislature, which is funding for the re-building of the 4-H camp in Halsey and a rail park in Hershey. There was discussion held regarding writing a letter in support of the bill and the re-building of the camp.

### NARD Report

Ridenour reminded the directors that Legislative Conference will be held January 24<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup>.

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

Anna let the directors know there will be New Director Orientation at 2:00 pm prior to the next board meeting.

Burnside made a motion to nominate Ridenour as the NARD Representative and Higgins as the NARD Alternate and Maseberg seconded the motion. Aye: Burnside, Higgins, Johnson, Krave, Maseberg, Fay, Ruhter, Vinton, and Wright. Abstain: Ridenour. Motion carried. (RCV #9)

Anna informed the directors the Farm Bureau will be having an informational meeting at the Dismal River Club on Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>. Social hour is at 6 pm and the dinner starts at 7 pm.

### Adjournment

Higgins adjourned the meeting at 4:45 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 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 9, 2023, at 3:00 pm.