

UPPER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
January 13, 2022 @ 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 13, 2022. Chris Higgins called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

Directors Present

Chris Higgins  
Richard Burnside  
John Krave  
Judy Ridenour  
Eric Schipporeit  
Tony Ruhter  
Eric Storer  
Tom Johnson  
Miles Maseberg  
Rebecca Connealy

Directors Absent & Excused

Patrick Wright

Directors Unexcused

Staff in Attendance

Anna Baum, General Manager  
Jamie Green, Admin. Secretary  
Jake Ginkens, Resource Technician  
Lexi Spurlin, Resource Technician/ I & E

Guests

Kevin Hood, NRCS District Conservationist  
John Engle, Water Resources Engineer, HDR  
Dick Hadenfeldt, Commission Representative and Lower Loup  
NRD Board Member

Call Regular Monthly Meeting to Order

Higgins called the regular meeting to order at 3:00 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 9, 2021 meeting minutes. Storer made a motion to accept the minutes as circulated and Krave seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #1)

Public Forum

John Engle, with HDR, gave a brief summary of the Lower Platte South River Basin Coalition and Plan, and provided a summary of the past 5 years and what we are looking at in the next 5-year plan increment.

### Agency Reports

Dick Hadenfeldt explained the Sustainability Fund to the directors and was available to answer questions.

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

T.L. Meyer was unable to attend but Anna let the directors know of upcoming events on her behalf. There will be a Unit Cost of Production workshop in Bassett on February 2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>. There are pesticide trainings that will be on January 25<sup>th</sup> in Brewster, February 7<sup>th</sup> in Hyannis, and February 9<sup>th</sup> in Thedford. There will be a chemigation training on May 26<sup>th</sup> at the ULNRD office in Thedford. Contact the Extension for more information.

### District Staff Reports

Anna reported to the directors the legislative session has started and she has emailed the directors bill summaries. There was a change in legislative procedures and written testimony is no longer accepted, testimony may only be given in person. In public hearings, public comments can only be done online through the portal if wanted to be a part of public hearing exhibits. We started our switch over on our data program from Beehive to Longitude. Anna apologized for not getting officer elections on agenda for this month, will be on the agenda for next month.

Lexi let the directors know she got the newsletters out and has been working on ACE Camp details. Also, the ULNRD is in charge of the District Range Competition, which will be September 20<sup>th</sup> in Hooker County.

Jake is working on getting a repair with the drill taken care of.

Jamie advised the directors there was a mileage reimbursement increase effective January 1<sup>st</sup>. The mileage reimbursement will be 58.5 cents up from 56 cents.

### Financial Report

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

NE Soil & Water Conservation Program – No Report

### Wildlife

Anna reported to the directors there is a new specialist handling the Corners for Wildlife. The payment policy has changed, now payments will occur in the first, second, and third year as opposed to the previous policy of skipping the first year. If the landowner is in violation, they will have to pay the money back.

Water Sub-committee – No Report

Water Quantity – No Report

Water Quality – No Report

### Current NRD Projects

Anna let the directors know in the Groundwater Management Plan review, they found the goals and objectives were hard to locate in the plan. That will be one of the changes made in the updated plan, and

the goals and objectives will be specifically stated. Anna emailed the directors a draft copy of the goals and objectives to look over and any questions or changes can be discussed at the February board meeting.

#### Grant Reports

Anna reported to the directors there was a Drought Mitigation Stakeholders meeting on January 10<sup>th</sup>. Discussion was held on drought monitoring and response, notification protocols, potential management actions, potential increase of real-time monitoring network, and possible assistance programs. DNR has a dashboard that can be put on our website, which shows current conditions, a drought map, drought conditions, weather, NRD drought plan link, etc.

#### Coalition/Alliance – No Report

#### NARD Report

Ridenour reported to the directors the March NRD Conference in Washington D.C. has been cancelled due to COVID restrictions. She let the directors know there was a nice article on the NRD'S 50-year anniversary in the *Nebraska Magazine* by the Nebraska Rural Electric Association.

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

Johnson made a motion to approve the Ranch Practicum scholarship and Schipporeit seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #3)

Ridenour made a motion to approve Wright absence and Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #4)

Anna reminded directors that they must file by February 15<sup>th</sup> if planning on running again.

#### Adjournment

Higgins adjourned the meeting at 4:29 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, McPherson County News, 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 10, 2021 at 3:00 pm.