

UPPER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN PUBLIC HEARING FOLLOWED BY  
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
July 14, 2022 @ 7:00 PM CT

The Groundwater Management Plan Public Hearing and regular meeting of the Upper Loup Natural Resources District Board of Directors was held in Thedford, NE on Thursday, July 14, 2022. Chris Higgins called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

Directors Present

Chris Higgins  
Richard Burnside  
John Kraye  
Judy Ridenour  
Patrick Wright  
Eric Schipporeit  
Eric Storer  
Tom Johnson

Directors Absent & Excused

Miles Maseberg  
Rebecca Connealy  
Tony Ruhter

Directors Unexcused

Staff in Attendance

Anna Baum, General Manager  
Jamie Green, Admin. Secretary

Guests

Kevin Hood, District Conservationist, NRCS  
TL Meyer, Beef Systems Extension Educator

Groundwater Management Plan Public Hearing

Higgins called the Groundwater Management Plan public hearing to order at 7:04 pm.

Higgins made note of the Open Meetings Act posted on the wall.

No testimony provided.

Higgins adjourned the meeting at 7:04 pm.

Call Regular Monthly Meeting to Order

Higgins called the regular meeting to order at 7:05 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 June Meeting

Higgins asked for additions and/or corrections to the June 9, 2022 meeting minutes. Storer made a motion to accept the minutes as circulated and Burnside seconded the motion. Aye: Burnside, Higgins, Kraye, Ridenour, Schipporeit, Storer, and Wright. Abstain: Johnson. Motion carried. (RCV #1)

### Public Forum – No Representation

### Agency Reports

T.L. Meyer let the directors know they have been busy getting ready for the county fairs. There is an Open House on August 24<sup>th</sup> at Gudmundsen Sandhills Laboratory.

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

### District Staff Reports

Anna let the directors know interviews were held on Monday. Justin Sprague was offered the position of Resource Technician, and will be starting August 1<sup>st</sup>. Shane will stay on through the month of August for training. Instead of filling Jake's full-time position, we hired Shaylee Scranton part-time. She will take over some Information & Education duties, as well as various other duties including monitoring wells, NeRain, etc.

Several of the NRD's are partnering with the Nebraska Corn Board and UNL to develop a nitrogen efficiency dashboard. This tool will help diagnose, benchmark, and improve nitrogen use efficiency. There was a call out to the NRD's to see if that is something of interest to participate in, whether providing data or funds. There was discussion held on this issue, and it was decided to participate by providing data.

Shane has been working on chemigation inspections.

Lexi has been working on the newsletter, water testing, and getting ready for Jr High Field Day, which will be held the end of August.

Jamie let the directors know the mileage rates have increased. The IRS raised the rates from \$.0585 to \$.0625

### Financial Report

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

### NE Soil & Water Conservation Program

Anna presented a NSWCP Application to the Directors. Storer made a motion to accept the application and Wright seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #3)

### Wildlife – No Report

### Water Sub-committee – No Report

### Water Quantity

Anna reported there were 17 applications received for expansion of irrigated acres for 2022, of the 17 applications, 1 of those still hasn't applied for well permit. They have until September 30<sup>th</sup> to get all practices completed. No applications have been received for 2023 to date. The deadline is September 30<sup>th</sup>.

### Water Quality – No Report

### Current NRD Projects

Wright made a motion to adopt the revised Groundwater Management plan and Burnside seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #4)

### Budget

Anna went over the working copy of the budget for 2022-2023 that was emailed to the directors. There was discussion held regarding possible future projects. The budget hearing was set for September 8<sup>th</sup>.

### Grant Reports

Anna reported to the directors the next drought stakeholders meeting will be held August 19<sup>th</sup>. The draft plan will be given to the stakeholders and emailed to the directors as well.

Chris Hobza will be here next month to provide a summary on the 3-year grant of the South Loup Drought water aging study.

She's working on a grant to cover costs for the recycling coordinator position.

### Coalition/Alliance – No Report

### NARD Report

Ridenour let the directors know that Connealy welcomed a baby boy to their family. She brought newsletters from the Nemaha NRD and the Upper Big Blue NRD with interesting articles on how their water resources differ from ours. She passed around the newsletters for the directors to view.

She informed the directors there is a Grazing Conference in Kearney on August 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>. The NRD is now a sponsor along with UNL.

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

Storer made a motion to appoint Schipporeit as Loup Basin RC & D Representative and Burnside seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #5)

Storer made a motion to approve Connealy, Maseberg, and Ruhter absences and Kraye seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #6)

Burnside made a motion to approve proposed salary recommendations and health insurance changes and Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV#7)

Adjournment

Higgins adjourned the meeting at 8:14 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, August 11, 2022 at 7:00 pm.