

UPPER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
July 8, 2021 @ 7:00 PM CT (6:00 PM MT)

Directors Present

Chris Higgins
Miles Maseberg
John Kraye
Eric Storer
Judy Ridnour
Richard Burnside
Tom Johnson
Eric Schipporeit
Patrick Wright

Directors Absent & Excused

Rebecca Connealy
Tony Ruhter

Directors Unexcused

Staff in Attendance

Anna Baum, General Manager
Jamie Green, Administrative Secretary

Guests

Kevin Hood, NRCS District Conservationist
Jill Coble, Producer

Call Regular Monthly Meeting to Order

Higgins called the regular meeting to order at 7:02 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. Anna moved the adoption of health insurance changes and salary recommendations to an executive session after item 15.

Action on Minutes of June Meeting

Higgins asked for additions and/or corrections to the June 10, 2021 meeting minutes. Wright made a motion to accept the minutes as circulated and Storer seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #1)

Public Forum

Jill Coble presented her concerns to the directors regarding approved well permits for the company Monolith located in the Lower Platte South NRD.

TL Meyer was unable to attend the meeting so Anna shared some important dates with the directors. There is a Beef Quality Assurance training in Thedford on July 13th, in Bassett on July 14th, and Valentine on July 14th. Also, Gudmundsen Sandhills Lab will have an Open House on August 25th. For more information contact the Extension office.

Agency Reports

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

District Staff Reports

Anna let the directors know she emailed a copy of the executive order from the Governor regarding the 30 by 30 program or EO 14008.

Anna reported to the directors that the technicians have been busy with water quality checks, chemigation checks, flowmeter checks on new wells, and drill delivery and pick up. The new drill still has not been delivered.

Jamie presented thank you notes from scholarship winners to the board for review.

Lexi got the newsletter completed and sent out, and is still recruiting judges for the Envirothon.

Financial Report

The July financial report was reviewed by staff and directors. Johnson 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

Anna presented three NSWCP applications to the directors for approval.

Wright made a motion to approve all NSWCP applications that met the qualifications and Burnside seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #3)

Wildlife – No Report

Water Sub-committee – No Report

Water Quantity

Anna let the directors know five or six phone calls have been received regarding expansion of irrigated acres, but no applications have been received to date.

Water Quality – No Report

Current NRD Projects

Anna reported to the directors that the RC & D skid steer has been sold. Anna stated that she was contacted by Andy Bishop with the Rainwater Basin Joint Management Venture, who had recently received a grant for two Prescribed Burn Units. The units will be housed at Middle Niobrara NRD and will be available to producers in our district. Discussion was held regarding becoming a partner and having our logo on the units, and it was decided to not go forward at this time.

Grant Reports

Anna informed the directors that the first Drought Stakeholders Group meeting will be held July 21st at 1:00 pm CT.

Coalition/Alliance

Anna advised the directors that there is a technical meeting of the Lower Platte Basin Coalition next month in Ord.

Budget

Anna went over the 2021-2022 ULNRD Budget with the directors.

NARD Report – No Report

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

Burnside made a motion to excuse Connealy and Ruhter absences and Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #4).

Executive Session

Burnside made a motion to go into executive session to discuss salary recommendations at 8:40 pm and Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #5)

Storer made a motion to come out of executive session at 9:00 pm and Schipporeit seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #6)

Kraye made a motion to go into regular session at 9:00 pm and Burnside seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #7)

Burnside made a motion and Storer seconded the motion to approve 3% increase for employees, 3.5% increase for manager, and health insurance changes. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #8)

Adjournment

Higgins adjourned the meeting at 9:03 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, 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 12, 2021 at 7:00 pm.