

UPPER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
July 9, 2020 @7:00 PM CT (6:00 PM MT)

The regular meeting of the Upper Loup Natural Resources District Board of Directors was held via teleconference in Thedford, NE on Thursday, June 11, 2020. Chris Higgins called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Directors Present

Chris Higgins
Miles Maseberg
Tom Johnson
John Krave
Judy Ridenour
Eric Storer (Joined at 7:15 pm)
Chris Vinton
Patrick Wright
Richard Burnside
Eric Schipporeit

Directors Absent & Excused

Connie Cox

Directors Unexcused

Staff in Attendance

Anna Baum, General Manager
Jamie Green, Admin. Secretary
Lexi Hingtgen, I & E/ Resource Tech.

Guests

Kevin Hood, Dist. Conservationist, NRCS

Call Regular Monthly Meeting to Order

Higgins called the regular meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Open Meetings Act

Higgins made note of the Open Meetings act that was sent to each director and has also been posted on the website and is 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 11, 2020 meeting minutes. Ridenour made a motion to accept the minutes as circulated and Wright seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV#1)

Public Forum – No Representation

Chris Hobza- USGS- NET Grant Update

Hobza gave an update on the NET Grant. Anna will email a copy of the presentation to all Directors.

Agency Reports

Kevin gave an oral report to the directors.

District Staff Reports

Anna reported to the directors that in approximately two weeks the restart of the legislative session begins. They have 17 days left in the session. She went over the Annual Activities Report that was provided to the Directors. As of now the Fall Conference is still on and will update the Directors accordingly.

Lexi reported to the directors that she has revamped the water quality testing program. Accuracy has increased due to the purchase of the new water quality equipment. She has also been helping to collect data for the NE Bumblebee Atlas Project. Furthermore, she is assisting with a Manganese Study by sending water quality samples for research.

Financial Report

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

NE Soil & Water Conservation Program

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

Wildlife – No Report

Water Sub-committee – No Report

Water Quantity

Anna advised there have been a few phone calls about acre expansion but no applications have been received yet.

Water Quality

Shane has started annual chemigation checks. Lexi has started with Sub-District 5 water quality testing. Nitrate levels can be tested from outside hydrants, while Manganese and Copper levels must be tested from indoors while the home owner is present. Anna provided a handout on Manganese to the Directors to review. The Recycling Program has expanded and is currently accepting glass, electronics, and lick tubs.

Current NRD Projects – No Report

Grant Reports

An update on the NET Drought Resiliency Plan was given earlier by Chris Hobza of the USGS.

The FEMA Drought Mitigation Plan is waiting to have the kick-off meeting which has been delayed due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Cement work has started at the Arboretum, pads and portion of the sidewalk have been poured and is expected to be completed by Monday. The 2nd phase of reseeding and fall plantings are scheduled for September/ October.

Coalition/Alliance

Anna reported the next LPS coalition technical meeting is scheduled in August. It will be a kick-off meeting with the Flatwater group to review the scope of work to be done in this 2nd incremental data collection.

Budget

Anna went over changes in the Budget with the Directors. There was some discussion on a few of the line items and Anna will research the proposed changes and present options to the Directors at the August meeting.

NARD Report

Ridenour reported the NARD is still operating out of their temporary location or from home.

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

Anna advised the Annual Niobrara Director's Retreat is scheduled for August 17th and 18th. If anyone is interested in attending let us know by Friday July 10,2020.

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

Executive Session

Vinton made a motion to go into executive session at 9:03 pm and Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #5)

Johnson made a motion to come out of executive session at 9:26 pm and Wright seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #6)

Vinton made a motion and Krave seconded the motion to give employees a 2% raise. Aye: Maseberg, Wright, Burnside, Krave, Vinton, Storer, Johnson, Schipporeit, and Higgins. Nay: Ridenour. Motion carried. (RCV #5)

Adjournment

Higgins adjourned the meeting at 9:31 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 next Board of Directors Meeting will be held at the office on Thursday August 13, 2020 at 7:00pm CST.