

UPPER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
June 10, 2021 @ 7:00 PM CT (6:00 PM MT)

Directors Present

Chris Higgins
Rebecca Connealy
John Kraye
Eric Storer
Judy Ridnour
Richard Burnside
Tom Johnson
Tony Ruhter
Eric Schipporeit
Patrick Wright

Directors Absent & Excused

Directors Unexcused

Miles Maseberg

Staff in Attendance

Anna Baum, General Manager
Jamie Green, Administrative Secretary

Guests

Kevin Hood, NRCS District Conservationist

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 Chris Hobza's presentation to after agency reports.

Action on Minutes of May Meeting

Higgins asked for additions and/or corrections to the May 13, 2021 meeting minutes. Storer made a motion to accept the minutes as circulated and Kraye seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #1)

Public Forum

T.L. Meyer was unable to make the meeting, but had left fliers to present to the board. Beef QA will be held June 18th at Gudmundsen at 10 am MT. More information can be found at bqa.unl.edu or beef.unl.edu. On June 30th there will be a Stocker Yearling Presentation in Nenzel, NE.

Agency Reports

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

Grant Update Presentation

Chris Hobza gave an update on assessing the drought resilience of the upper South Loup River grant.

District Staff Reports

Anna reported that a letter had been emailed to the directors regarding LR 23 and a questionnaire that was received from the Natural Resources Committee of the Legislature. Anna explained to the Directors how she was responding to the letter and the documents included (Master Plan, Long Range Plan, Water Budget Summary). Ridenour made a motion and Schipporeit seconded the motion to approve the documents that Anna is sending. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #2)

Anna stated that the Groundwater Management Plan needs updated as it is from 1994, according to legislation, plans should be based upon the best available information. She has contacted consulting firms for pricing.

Shane took a course and an intensive test and is now a certified Arborist. He has been working on chemigation checks.

Anna let the directors know that ACE Camp ended on June 9th. There was a total of 45 campers attending this year. Other than shortage of staff issues, camp went very well.

Lexi has been gathering and putting together photos and videos of ACE Camp.

Financial Report

The June 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 #3)

NE Soil & Water Conservation Program

Anna presented a NSWCP application to the directors for approval.

Storer made a motion to approve the NSWCP application and Burnside seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #4)

Wildlife – No Report

Water Sub-committee – No Report

Water Quantity

Anna stated she emailed static water level graphs to the directors. There was discussion regarding the findings, which indicated small upward trends in all Sub-districts.

Burnside made a motion to allow a total of 2500 irrigated acres at 500 acres per Sub-district and Wright seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #5)

Anna also went over the ranking criteria form with directors. No changes were made.

Water Quality – No Report

Current NRD Projects – No Report

Grant Reports

Anna asked the directors if there was any interest in being a stakeholder on the Drought Stakeholder Committee. Preparations are being made for a stakeholder meeting.

Coalition/Alliance – No Report

NARD Report

Ridenour advised the directors that she went to Omaha for a quarterly meeting of the Program Planning Committee. The committee is planning to rewrite the Conservation Tree Program, and the TSP Agreement in 2022. The Envirothon is still going to be held virtually, and judges are still needed. The Annual meeting will be held in Kearney in September. They would like topic ideas to be submitted. Overall statewide there were 541,000 trees planted. After the Program Planning Committee meeting, she chaired at the Native Vegetation and Forestry sub-committee meeting, where award applications were evaluated. The Tree Planter of the Year award went to Robert and Susan Jones of the Diamond Bar Ranch. The Grazing Conference will be held in Kearney August 9th – 11th and the NARD Board voted to be a sponsor. Resolutions are due August 20th and a resolution on the 30 by 30 is being worked on for a vote at the Annual conference. She let the directors know that 72 people went on Basin Tour, which was the most they ever had. She informed the directors what she learned and saw on the Basin Tour.

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

Anna stated that a Loup Basin RC&D representative was needed. It was decided the North Central RC&D representative would also be the Loup Basin RC&D representative, which is Eric Schipporeit.

Anna asked the directors if they preferred Bob Meyer be scheduled before or during meeting to answer budget questions. It was decided an hour before meeting would be preferential.

Johnson made a motion to excuse Maseberg's absence and Burnside seconded the motion. Motion did not pass by unanimous vote. (RCV #6).

Adjournment

Higgins adjourned the meeting at 9:18 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, July 8, 2021 at 7:00 pm.