

UPPER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
June 11, 2020 @7:00 PM CT (6:00 PM MT)
Via teleconference

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 7:01 pm.

Directors Present

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

Directors Absent & Excused

Eric Schipporeit

Directors Unexcused

Staff in Attendance

Anna Baum, General Manager
Leslie Harvey, Admin. Secretary

Guests

Jamie Green

Call Regular Monthly Meeting to Order

Higgins called the regular meeting to order at 7:01 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 May Meeting

Higgins asked for additions and/or corrections to the May 14, 2020 meeting minutes. Wright made a motion to accept the minutes as circulated and Krave seconded the motion. Aye: Cox, Higgins, Johnson, Krave, Maseberg, Ridenour, Vinton, and Wright. Abstain: Burnside Motion carried. (RCV#1)

Public Forum – No Representation

Agency Reports

Kevin gave an oral report to the directors.

District Staff Reports

Anna reported to the directors that interviews were held for Administrative Secretary position. Jamie Green was introduced as the new Administrative Secretary.

Jake has been checking monitor wells.

1st phase of Arborteum has been planted.

Shane has started chemigation checks.

Lexi has started doing water quality checks and working on the newsletter and website.

Leslie announced to directors that she has accepted a position in Valentine and June 12th is her last day.

Financial Report

The May financial report was reviewed by staff and directors. Maseberg 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 – No Report

Wildlife – No Report

Water Sub-committee – No Report

Water Quantity

Wright made a motion to allow expansion of up to 500 irrigated acres per sub-district for 2021 and Maseberg seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV#3)

Water Quality

343 chemigation permits were sent out.

Purchasing new testing equipment to replace portable testing units. New machine will do many other tests in addition to nitrates.

Technicians have added manganese and iron to the tests they are performing on domestic wells.

We will be presenting Jack with a plaque prior to the July 9th board meeting at 6:00 pm. Anna encouraged directors to be there.

Budget

Anna sent out a budget worksheet for directors to review.

Directors agreed to have the floor in the office looked at by a professional to see what it would take to fix.

Current NRD Projects – No Report

Grant Reports

The 5 year Hazard Mitigation Plan renewal is closed out and under budget.

Arobortum planting has started with the 1st round completed June 4th. Pollinator plants and sidewalk will follow shortly. The 2nd phase of planting will begin this fall.

We have been approved for the Hazard Mitigation Drought planning grant. Anna asked if any directors wanted to be a part of the stakeholder group. If interested let Anna know.

Chris Hobza will attend the July meeting via Zoom to give an update on the Drought Resiliency Grant.

Coalition/Alliance

Higgins reported on the LPS coalition meeting that was held via Zoom. Yearly dues of \$10,000 were approved for the next 2 years to help pay for the data assessment and modeling needs for the next 5 year increment.

NARD Report

Ridenour reported on the burning of the NARD building in Lincoln. The contents of the building were only smoke damaged and may be able to be salvaged. They are deciding on relocation.

Nebraska is still planning on hosting the Envirothon which has been postponed to 2021.

Annual conference is still set for September 27-29.

Benefits committee will meet in Ord July 31st.

November 8th and 9th will be the NARD Board Meeting in Norfolk.

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

Burnside made a motion to approve Schipporeit absence and Krave seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV#4)

Burnside made a motion to approve The Ranch Practicum Scholarship and Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV#5)

Anna reported that the Burn School has been postponed and the Upper Loup NRD Jr High Field Day is cancelled.

They are updating the North Central Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

Adjournment

Higgins adjourned the meeting at 7:46 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 July 9, 2020 at 7:00pm CST.