

UPPER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
June 8, 2023 @ 7:00 PM CT

The regular meeting of the Upper Loup Natural Resources District Board of Directors was held in Thedford, NE on Thursday, June 8th, 2023. Chris Higgins called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.

Directors Present

Judy Ridenour
Rebecca Connealy
John Kraye
David Vinton
Patrick Wright
Max Fay
Chris Higgins

Directors Absent & Excused

Richard Burnside
Tom Johnson
Miles Maseberg
Tony Ruhter

Directors Unexcused

Staff in Attendance

Anna Baum, General Manager
Jamie Green, Admin. Secretary

Guests

Leah Carson, District Conservationist
T.L. Meyer, Beef Systems Extension Educator

Call Regular Monthly Meeting to Order

Higgins called the regular meeting to order at 7:08 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 May Meeting

Higgins asked for additions and/or corrections to the May 11th, 2023 meeting minutes. Wright made a motion to accept the minutes as circulated and Kraye seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #1)

Public Forum – No Representation

NRCS Report

Leah Carson gave a report to the directors on current NRCS operations.

UNL Extension Report

T.L. Meyer let the directors know the Ranch Practicum started this week. There will be Stockmanship and Stewardship clinics in McCook and Norfolk. There will be a Stocker/ Yearling Tour in Harrison on June 29th. On Aug 23rd there will be an open house at Gudmundsen.

NARD Report – No Report

NRC – No Report

RC & D – No Report

District Staff Reports

Anna reported to the directors that tree planting is done for the season. There were 9,765 trees machine planted, down from 10,994 last year. There were 6,145 hand plants sold, down from 10,994 last year. There were 15,910 total trees sold, which was less than the 20,252 sold last year. They laid 32,087 ft of mulch this year as opposed to 56,082 ft last year. The biggest difference in the change in mulch was several thicket and shrub plantings for CSP projects.

Justin will be starting on chemigation inspections. There were 348 chemigation permit applications sent out with approximately 100 getting inspected.

Lexi and Kyon will be starting domestic well water testing in Sub-district 3. They will also be replacing 14 monitoring well recorders with new real-time data logging units that we recently purchased.

Financial Report

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

NE Soil & Water Conservation Program

Anna presented three NSWCP Applications to the Directors for review. Wright made a motion to approve 2 applications as presented and deny the 3rd that doesn't follow the NSWCP rules and regulations and Krave seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #3)

Wildlife

Anna let the directors know the habitat and survey requirements have changed for the long-eared bat. The river bottoms are now considered habitat from April 1st through November 1st. It will not be permissible to cut down any trees bigger than six inches without a biological assessment of bat habitat done first.

Water Sub-committee

Anna passed out static water level graphs to the directors and went over the results.

Water Quantity

Krave made a motion to allot up to a total of 2500 irrigated acres at 500 acres per Sub-district and Vinton seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #4)

Water Quality

Anna reported to the directors that Sub-district 3 received letters for well testing. There will also be a press release in the newspapers for anyone who would like their well tested but didn't receive a letter. She let the directors know there has been issues with items in recycling that shouldn't be and bags next to trailers when they are empty. We will increase signage and put another article in newspapers.

Current NRD Projects

Anna told the directors we are starting on the drought mitigation projects. She visited with DNR who will be assisting us in putting the Drought Dashboard on the website. Justin will be the designated weekly monitor and will be tracking percentages of drought in each county and the current drought level. He will also be reporting on impacts such as physical changes and different economic decisions being made as reported by the public.

Grant Reports

Anna reminded the directors the Hazard Mitigation Kickoff BBQ will be held June 15th at 6:30 pm. There will be food provided and everyone is invited.

Coalition/Alliance

Anna let the directors know there will be a zoom meeting with the LPSB group on the progress of the data entry program they are working on.

Adoption of Health Care Changes and Salary Recommendations

Anna reported to the directors there was no increase this year in health insurance premiums.

Wright made a motion to go into executive session at 8:45 pm to discuss personnel and Vinton seconded the motion. Anna requested to stay and was approved. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #7)

Wright made a motion to come out of executive session at 9:30 pm and Higgins seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #8)

Higgins made a motion to go into regular session at 9:30 pm and to increase the salaries of personnel by 7% and Krave seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #9)

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

Wright made a motion to approve Burnside, Johnson, Maseberg, and Ruhter absences and Vinton seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #5)

Wright made a motion to approve Range Camp Scholarship and Connealy seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #6)

Adjournment

Higgins adjourned the meeting at 9:37 pm.

Judy Ridenour, Secretary

Tally of votes cast on motions, Financial Reports and Manager's Reports are on file with the official minutes of this meeting. The meeting was advertised in the Thomas County Herald, Stapleton Enterprise, 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 13, 2023, at 7:00 pm.