

UPPER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
March 10, 2022 @ 3:00 PM CT

The regular meeting of the Upper Loup Natural Resources District Board of Directors was held in Thedford, NE on Thursday, March 10, 2022. Chris Higgins called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm.

Directors Present

Chris Higgins
Richard Burnside
John Kraye
Judy Ridenour
Tom Johnson
Patrick Wright
Eric Storer

Directors Absent & Excused

Tony Ruhter
Eric Schipporeit
Rebecca Connealy

Directors Unexcused

Miles Maseberg

Staff in Attendance

Anna Baum, General Manager
Jamie Green, Admin. Secretary
Jake Ginkens, Resource Technician

Guests

TL Meyer, Beef Systems Extension Educator
Kevin Hood, District Conservationist, NRCS
Mary Reece, Area Conservationist, NRCS

Call Regular Monthly Meeting to Order

Higgins called the regular meeting to order at 3:03 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 February Meeting

Higgins asked for additions and/or corrections to the February 10, 2022 meeting minutes. Kraye made a motion to accept the minutes as circulated and Burnside seconded the motion. Aye: Burnside, Higgins, Kraye, Ridenour, and Wright. Abstain: Johnson and Storer. Motion carried. (RCV #1)

Public Forum – No Representation

Agency Reports

Mary Reece introduced herself to the directors and gave a report on current NRCS operations.

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

T.L. Meyer reported to the directors there is a Generational Transition workshop being put on by Grazing Lands Coalition on April 21st at Gudmundsen and April 22nd in Ainsworth. The Sandhills Cattle Association and NE Beef QA is putting on a Branding School and will be discussing beef quality issues on April 27th in Valentine.

There will be a Ranch Practicum at Gudmundsen and applications are due by May 1st. Scholarships are available through the Upper Loup NRD. There will be a chemigation training on May 26th at the ULNRD office in Thedford. Contact the Extension for more information.

District Staff Reports

Anna reported to the directors the Loup Basin RC & D has been changed to Keep Loup Basin Beautiful, and she has had trouble getting into contact with them. We will put our membership on hold until we can get in touch with them and figure out who they are and how we can help one another. Due to the rising gas prices there have been some changes made to the drill program. Producers will now have the option to pick up the 10' drill only and the 15' will be delivered and delivery price will go up \$5.00.

Anna let the directors know that Jake Ginkens submitted a letter of resignation. An advertisement for the position will be in the paper. The due date for applications is March 28th.

Jake received the warranty parts for the 15' drill and has done the necessary repairs. He is working on getting the 10' drill ready to go as it is going to a producer soon. Will start static water levels soon as well. The directors congratulated him on his next endeavor.

Lexi has been working on ACE camp preparations and the newsletter.

Jamie let the directors know we had received a letter of appreciation from Senator Bostelman in reference to LR 286 recognizing the NRD'S 50th anniversary. She passed it around for the directors to read.

Financial Report

The March 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. Burnside made a motion to accept the application and Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #3)

Wildlife – No Report

Water Sub-committee – No Report

Water Quantity

Anna went over the 2021 Water Use Summary Report that was emailed to the directors.

Water Quality – No Report

Current NRD Projects – No Report

Grant Reports

Anna let the directors know they're working on getting a draft plan for the Drought Mitigation Plan ready. They are also working on a drought survey they would like to send to the general public. A list of

questions to gauge how the public views drought, possible conservation measures, etc is being put together. Anna will forward the list to the board as it becomes available.

Coalition/Alliance

Anna reported to the directors there was a LPSB manager's meeting held and they went over the draft of the amended 5-year plan. Anna went over changes that were made to the plan. She informed the directors of the upcoming director's meeting in Lincoln and possible meeting topics.

NARD Report

Ridenour reported to the directors she went to Lincoln for the quarterly report. She let the directors know the ULNRD is receiving a donation from the NARD Foundation for ACE Camp. The 50th Anniversary knives are \$75 if anyone is interested. They will be reviewing bylaws at the meeting next month. Ridenour shared with the directors current updates regarding the new building that was purchased by the NARD Foundation. She also informed the directors that officers were elected and who they were. Health premiums will need to increase due to high healthcare costs of members. Ridenour also passed around newsletters, information booklets, and calendars.

Review ULNRD Operating Policies

Anna went over the updated Operating Policy and asked for any additional changes. Storer made a motion to accept the Operating Policy as written and Kraye seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #4)

Pickup Bids

Anna reported to the directors there was only 1 bid received. Burnside made a motion to approve the received bid and Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #5)

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

Kraye made a motion to approve 3 excused absences and 1 unexcused absence and Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #6)

Anna mentioned that the Loup Basin Commission Representative, Dick Hadenfeldt, will be retiring from the position in January 2023 and will be looking for interested directors to replace him.

Adjournment

Higgins adjourned the meeting at 4:26 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, April 14, 2021 at 7:00 pm.