

UPPER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
March 11, 2021 @ 3:00 PM CT (2:00 PM MT)

Directors Present

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

Directors Absent & Excused

Miles Maseberg
Patrick Wright

Directors Unexcused

Staff in Attendance

Anna Baum, General Manager
Jamie Green, Administrative Secretary
Jake Ginkens, Resource Tech

Guests

Kevin Hood, NRCS District Conservationist
T.L. Meyer, Beef Systems Extension Educator

Call Regular Monthly Meeting to Order

Higgins called the regular meeting to order at 3:08 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 February Meeting

Higgins asked for additions and/or corrections to the February 11, 2021 meeting minutes. Ridenour advised Ruhter was not included in the list of Directors present. Kraye made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected and Schipporeit seconded the motion. Aye: Burnside, Connealy, Higgins, Johnson, Kraye, Ridenour, Ruhter, Schipporeit. Abstain: Storer. Motion carried. (RCV #1)

Public Forum

T.L. Meyer reported to the directors they have several events coming up. The Nebraska Ranch Practicum will be held starting in June at Gudmundsen Sandhills Laboratory. The Upper Loup NRD has scholarships available if anyone is interested. There is

Agency Reports

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

District Staff Reports

Anna reported to the director that we will be reviewing contract with Bessey Nursery this fall. Census comes out in September may need to assess sub district lines depending on census results. Each sub-district must be within 5% of each other. If we need to redraw lines Lower Loup NRD has offered to help us out.

Jamie reported to the directors that she looked into a board meeting system that managed documents but the price range was out of our budget.

Jake has put in a bid on a Crustbuster 15 ft drill and waiting for Sunflower to get back to him with a definite price. He will be starting monitor wells and static water levels.

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

Shane is looking for someone to help drive the tractor for tree planting season as the person who has been doing it previously can't do it this year.

Financial Report

The January 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 – No Report and No CS Applications

Wildlife – No Report

Water Sub-committee

Anna stated to the directors that she is in the process of meeting with several entities regarding logistics of the telemetry program for reading meters. She will give a report on her findings at the next meeting.

Water Quantity

Anna advised the directors she has emailed the latest groundwater level changes across the state. Since 2015, in our area we have had a continued rise of at least 1 foot of groundwater. Also, of the 7 approved applications for expansion of irrigated acres 5 needed to drill new wells. As of this week, 2 have not started. They have until September 30th to have the wells drilled, flowmeter installed and acres certified.

Water Quality

Anna let the directors know that the Memorial tree and Newborn tree cost share programs are not being used. She asked them if the cost share could be raised from \$15 to \$25. Directors decided to change to 50% cost share with a maximum of \$100.

Current NRD Projects

Anna reported to the directors that the RC & D has decided to sell or lease their skid steer to an entity to do cedar removal. There was discussion regarding possible interested candidates.

Grant Reports – No Report

Coalition/Alliance – No Report

NARD Report

Ridenour went to the NARD board meeting in Lincoln earlier this month and enjoyed seeing the new building. She was impressed with the logistics of financing the building and the work that the employees put in getting affordable fixtures for the building. She stated that Nebraska was the national poster winner for the 2nd year in a row. Land judging will be done in person this year and the Envirothon will be held virtually.

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

Johnson made a motion to approve Maseberg and Wright absence and Storer seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #3).

There was discussion regarding a letter that was received by the Kearney Whitewater Association wanting support regarding losing access points on rivers.

Also discussed, was the US executive order 14008 of the Biden Administration, also known as the 30 by 30 program, meeting held in Valentine that was attended by Higgins and Storer. The directors decided on voting on a resolution opposing this order in the next board meeting.

Adjournment

Higgins adjourned the meeting at 4:40 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, April 8, 2021 at 7:00 pm.