

UPPER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
March 9, 2023 @ 3:00 PM CT

The regular meeting of the Upper Loup Natural Resources District Board of Directors was held in Thedford, NE and virtual on Thursday, March 9th, 2023. Chris Higgins called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm.

Directors Present

Miles Maseberg
Richard Burnside
Judy Ridenour - Virtual
Chris Higgins
Rebecca Connealy - Virtual
John Krave
David Vinton - Virtual
Max Fay - Virtual
Patrick Wright - Virtual

Directors Absent & Excused

Tom Johnson
Tony Ruhter

Directors Unexcused

Staff in Attendance

Anna Baum, General Manager
Jamie Green, Admin. Secretary

Guests

Leah Carson, District Conservationist - Virtual

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 9th, 2023 meeting minutes. Higgins mentioned the minutes stated that the LPSB meeting would be in Ord but it will be in Lincoln. Krave made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected and Burnside seconded the motion. Aye: Burnside, Connealy, Higgins, Krave, Maseberg, and Vinton. Abstain: Fay, Wright, and Ridenour. Motion carried. (RCV #1)

Public Forum – No Representation

Agency Reports

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

Jamie let the directors know the Nebraska Ranch Practicum Applications are open for 2023-2024. More information is available at nebraskaranchpracticum.unl.edu.

District Staff Reports

Anna reported to the directors that LB 281 is still in committee and there's no information at this time.

The resource technicians were at Water Conference in Kearney on Monday and Tuesday. Anna is happy to report that both new technicians passed their Groundwater Technician exam. Next step will be processing applications for licensure.

There is a Project Learning Tree training at the office on Friday, March 10th from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Financial Report

The March financial report was reviewed by staff and directors. Maseberg made a motion to accept the financial report and Krave seconded the motion. Aye: Burnside, Connealy, Fay, Higgins, Krave, Maseberg, Wright, and Vinton. Abstain: Ridenour. Motion carried (RCV #2)

NE Soil & Water Conservation Program – No Report

Wildlife – No Report

Water Sub-committee – No Report

Water Quantity – No Report

Water Quality

Anna reminded the directors about the grants available for putting in reverse osmosis systems in areas with high nitrates. One of the stipulations is it must be a registered well. There is a \$70 fee for registering non-registered wells. Anna asked the directors if we could provide a cost share to subsidize the \$70 fee for those interested in putting in reverse osmosis systems as part of the NDEE grant.

Burnside made a motion to provide cost share for the \$70 fee for registering wells, with the stipulation they must be applying for reverse osmosis system grant, and Krave seconded the motion. Aye: Burnside, Connealy, Fay, Higgins, Krave, Wright and Vinton. Nay: Maseberg. Abstain: Ridenour. Motion carried. (RCV #3)

Current NRD Projects – No Report

Grant Reports

Anna informed the directors that NEMA approved grant application for the 5-year update on Hazard Mitigation Plan. Our cost share is only 10% of the project cost. The total is approximately \$65,000 so our portion will only be approximately \$6,000. We are starting the project now and completion date is set for October of 2024. We will have a kick-off meeting for the communities and stakeholders at the office on Tuesday, June 20th at 6:30 pm.

Coalition/Alliance

Anna reminded the directors there is a LPSB Manager's meeting March 30th and Director's meeting will be April 12th in Lincoln.

NARD Report – No Report

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

Maseberg made a motion to approve Johnson and Ruhter as excused absences and Burnside seconded the motion. Aye: Burnside, Connealy, Fay, Higgins, Krave, Maseberg, Wright, and Vinton. Abstain: Ridenour. Motion carried (RCV #4)

Adjournment

Ridenour adjourned the meeting at 3:36 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, April 13, 2023, at 7:00 pm.