

UPPER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
May 11, 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, May 11th, 2023. Chris Higgins called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Directors Present

Richard Burnside
Judy Ridenour
Rebecca Connealy - virtual
John Krave
David Vinton
Patrick Wright
Tom Johnson
Tony Ruhter
Max Fay
Miles Maseberg
Chris Higgins

Directors Absent & Excused

Directors Unexcused

Staff in Attendance

Anna Baum, General Manager
Jamie Green, Admin. Secretary

Guests

JuliAnna Hinton, Resource Conservationist
T.L. Meyer, Beef Systems Extension Educator

Call Regular Monthly Meeting to Order

Higgins called the regular meeting to order at 7:03 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 March Meeting

Higgins asked for additions and/or corrections to the April 13th, 2023 meeting minutes. Wright made a motion to accept the minutes as circulated and Krave seconded the motion. Aye: Burnside, Fay, Higgins, Johnson, Krave, Ridenour, Ruhter, Wright, and Vinton. Abstain: Maseberg. Motion carried. (RCV #1)

Public Forum – No Representation

NRCS Report

JuliAnna Hinton gave a report to the directors on current NRCS operations.

UNL Extension Report

T.L. Meyer let the directors know there are still spots in the Ranch Practicum that starts on June 6th, and the ULNRD has scholarships available. The Grazing Lands Coalition and UNL will hold a grazing school in Chadron from June 13th -15th. There will be a Stocker/ Yearling Tour in Harrison on June 29th. On Aug 23rd there will be an open house at Gudmundsen. A chemigation training will take place on May 25th at the ULNRD office. For more information on any of these events please contact (308) 645-2267.

NARD Report

Ridenour reminded the directors the Basin Tour and NARD board meeting will be held in June.

NRC – No Report

District Staff Reports

Anna reported to the directors that LB 281 is in general file so it looks like it will be approved. She informed the directors of a hearing regarding changes involving the NET where 13 individuals testified in opposition to the changes and none in support, and the Board still voted 8-0 to approve changes.

Anna proposed the idea of buying a riding lawnmower and the directors gave suggestions regarding reliable and affordable mowers.

The technicians will be doing a Safety Electrical Training at MNNRD in Valentine on May 17th.

Tree planting is halfway completed and will be finishing in the Stapleton area. The weather has been nice and cool.

We received a phone call informing us that there was a bag of rotting meat in the recycling trailer in Brownlee, so we will send out another press release letting the public know what is appropriate to recycle.

Jamie let the directors know postage is going up to sixty-six cents, due to our postage machine we will only pay sixty-three cents.

Financial Report

The May 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. Motion carried (RCV #2)

NE Soil & Water Conservation Program

Anna presented an NSWCP Application to the Directors for review. Ruhter made a motion to accept the application as presented and Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #3)

Review ULNRD NSWCP Practices/ Policies

Anna went over the ULNRD NSWCP practices and policies with the directors and no changes were made.

Wildlife – No Report

Water Sub-committee – No Report

Water Quantity – No Report

Water Quality

Anna reported to the directors due to the Sub-district lines changing, well information and maps for Sub-district 3 needed to be updated. Once tree season is finished, they will start domestic well testing in Sub-district 3. There are 103 domestic wells on the list to be tested this upcoming year.

Current NRD Projects

Anna is putting together a list for the drought monitoring committee. She would like to have at least one director from each Sub-district. Meetings will only take place when we are in a D2-D4 drought rating. The committee will act as a communication representative to the constituents in their respective area.

Sub-district 1 – Vinton
Sub-district 2 – Kraye
Sub-district 3 – Higgins
Sub-district 4 – Ruhter
Sub-district 5 – Johnson
Sub-district AL- Wright

Grant Reports

Anna informed the directors she has put in a grant application to the NRC for the purchase of a replacement recycling trailer. Applications are reviewed once a month and we will be notified in June. If approved, it will be fully funded with no match required.

Coalition/Alliance – No Report

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

Anna reminded the directors the Basin Tour is June 12th -13th, let us know if interested. Also, manager evaluations were distributed and those will be returned to Chris Higgins.

Adjournment

Higgins adjourned the meeting at 7:57 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, June 8, 2023, at 7:00 pm.

