

UPPER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
May 13, 2021 @ 7:00 PM CT (6:00 PM MT)

Directors Present

Chris Higgins
John Kraye
Eric Storer
Judy Ridnour
Richard Burnside
Tom Johnson
Tony Ruhter
Eric Schipporeit
Patrick Wright

Directors Absent & Excused

Miles Maseberg
Rebecca Connealy

Directors Unexcused

Staff in Attendance

Anna Baum, General Manager
Jamie Green, Administrative Secretary

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 7:00 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 April Meeting

Higgins asked for additions and/or corrections to the April 8, 2021 meeting minutes. Burnside made a motion to accept the minutes as circulated and Kraye seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #1)

Public Forum

T.L. Meyer reminded the board of the upcoming events. Beef QA will be held June 18th at Gudmundsen at 10 am MT, in North Platte on June 16th, Ogallala June 17th, and in Valentine on July 1st. More information can be found at bqa.unl.edu or beef.unl.edu. On June 23rd there will be a Risk Management Meeting in Thedford, and on June 30th there will be a Stocker Yearling Presentation in Nenzel, NE followed by a tour at Ravenscroft Ranch.

Agency Reports

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

District Staff Reports

Lexi and Shane finished tree planting on May 13th.

Jake finished static water levels on May 12th. Anna will gather the water level information to present at the next board meeting.

Anna reported the Envirothon will be held on July 27th by zoom for participants, however the judges will gather in person at Lincoln. They are asking for a director and delegated employee from each NRD to participate as judges. The supper and training will be held on July 26th for the judges.

Financial Report

The May financial report was reviewed by staff and directors. Wright 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 2 NSWCP applications to the directors for approval. The NSWCP current practices and policies were sent to directors for review and it was discussed if any changes were to be made.

Wright made a motion to approve both NSWCP applications and Schipporeit seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #2)

The board decided there were no changes to be made to the NSWCP practices and policies at this time.

Wildlife – No Report

Water Sub-committee

Anna reported to the directors that it would cost approximately \$280,000 for the telemetry pilot program and there is grant funding available. The directors decided to wait a couple of years to see how technology develops.

Water Quantity – No Report

Water Quality – No Report

Current NRD Projects

Anna let the directors know the RC & D Bobcat and tree shear has been shown to several prospective buyers.

Grant Reports

The 20 foot Haybuster drill was sold to a local community member. The new drill and hitch have been ordered and will arrive the 1st part of June.

Coalition/Alliance

Anna informed the directors the Lower Platte Basin Coalition board of directors meeting was held, attending were Burnside, Higgins and Anna.

Anna reviewed the plan goals for the Lower Platte Basin Coalition with the directors.

NARD Report

Judy brought the Annual Report from the Nebraska Water Center for the directors to review. The Basin Tour is still scheduled for June 7th & 8th. Some of the highlights to be seen on the Basin Tour include 2019 flood impacts, flood control reservoirs, groundwater management projects, etc. There is a Modern Livestock Facility Tour at Osceola and Rising City on June 10th to learn more about the swine, poultry, and dairy industry.

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

Johnson made a motion to approve Maseberg and Connealy absences and Storer seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #4).

Anna let the Directors know there was a scholarship application for Nebraska Range Youth Camp. Johnson made a motion to approve the scholarship and Storer seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #5)

Anna asked the directors if they would consider approving all 6 scholarship applications for ACE Camp instead of 5 as per usual. Johnson made a motion to approve all 6 scholarship applications and Krave seconded the motion. Aye: Burnside, Higgins, Johnson, Krave, Ridenour, Ruhter, Schipporeit, and Storer. Abstain: Wright. Motion carried. (RCV #6)

Executive Session

Storer made a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of personnel discussions at 8:51 pm and Schipporeit seconded the motion. Aye: Burnside, Higgins, Johnson, Krave, Ruhter, Schipporeit, Storer, and Wright. Nay: Ridenour. (RCV #7)

Storer made a motion to come out of executive session at 9:12 pm and Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #8)

Adjournment

Higgins adjourned the meeting at 9:12 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, June 10, 2021 at 7:00 pm.