

UPPER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
November 10, 2022 @ 7:00 PM CT

The regular meeting of the Upper Loup Natural Resources District Board of Directors was held in Thedford, NE on Thursday, November 10th, 2022. Chris Higgins called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Directors Present

Miles Maseberg
Tony Ruhter
Tom Johnson
Richard Burnside
Judy Ridenour
Rebecca Connealy
Chris Higgins
John Krave
Patrick Wright

Directors Absent & Excused

Directors Unexcused

Eric Storer

Staff in Attendance

Anna Baum, General Manager
Jamie Green, Admin. Secretary

Guests

Chris Hobza, Lead Hydrologist, USGS
Max Fay

Call Regular Monthly Meeting to Order

Higgins called the regular meeting to order at 7:02 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 October Meeting

Higgins asked for additions and/or corrections to the October 13th, 2022 meeting minutes. Ridenour advised the following correction, instead of 75,000 trees it should have read \$75,000 from Executive Travel was gifted to the NRD's, with \$3,500 going to the ULNRD. Johnson made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected and Maseberg seconded the motion. Aye: Burnside, Krave, Higgins, Johnson, Maseberg, Ridenour, and Ruhter. Abstain: Wright. Motion carried. (RCV#1)

Public Forum – No Representation

Grant Update Presentation

Chris Hobza, Lead Hydrologist with USGS, gave an end of grant summary on the Drought Resiliency Project of the Upper South Loup River.

Agency Reports – No Report

District Staff Reports

Anna reminded the directors it is the caucus year for a position as Loup River Basin Representative that needs to be filled on the NARD Commission by January 13th. If any directors would like more information or is interested, please let Anna know.

Anna reported to the directors on the kaizen meeting involving the NDEE and the NRD's. There's been a lot of work towards increasing communication between the entities to strengthen the relationship. There were a lot of topics discussed that need work, and recommendations were given on how to resolve issues.

NDEE announced that due to the passing of LB 1014e Section 51, there will be \$1.2 million available in funding to help private owners put in reverse osmosis systems if they have high nitrates, or above 10 parts per million. Reverse osmosis funding will be available on a first come first serve basis, and only registered wells will be eligible for funding. There was discussion held regarding the 8 wells in the district that have high nitrates and assistance options.

NDEE will be holding a Walk to Unlock Nebraska, which is a program to increase physical activity and bring awareness to the environment. Discussion was held regarding the inclusion of the Arboretum in the program.

Technicians have been out starting to read flowmeters.

Anna and Lexi toured Kamp Kaleo as a possible ACE camp location. More information will be gathered and discussed at the next board meeting.

Financial Report

The November financial report was reviewed by staff and directors. Ruhter 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. Johnson made a motion to accept the application and Maseberg seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #3)

Wildlife – No Report

Water Sub-committee – No Report

Water Quantity

Anna presented a Request for Variance application to the directors. Burnside made a motion to accept the Request for Variance and Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #4)

Water Quality – No Report

Current NRD Projects

Anna emailed the directors the last draft of the Drought Mitigation Plan. Burnside made a motion to adopt the Drought Mitigation Plan and Kraye seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #5)

Grant Reports – No Report

Coalition/Alliance – No Report

NARD Report

Ridenour reported to the directors she attended the NARD Board of Directors meeting in Wahoo on November 7th. She shared that they met at the Education building, which was a very nice building on the east side of Lake Wanahoo. There are several campsites available to be reserved, including an island. They have 1 campsite for NRD directors and staff only to reserve. She updated the directors on the Risk Pool status. The NARD Foundation holds a fundraiser at Annual Conference every year and the money raised goes to mainly youth organizations. This year the NARD Foundation approved to give Nebraska FFA - \$5,000, The Ag Institute - \$3,000, and Women in Ag - \$1,000. The Envirothon will be held April 2023 at Lake McConaughy. The ULNRD will be receiving \$3500 from Executive Travel for trees. There was discussion held regarding the Flatwater Free Press articles on nitrates. Directors were emailed talking points in regards to the article. The Spring Basin Tour will be held at Central Platte NRD. They are planning to do the NARD Washington DC Conference in March. Legislative Conference is scheduled for January 24th - 25th.

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

Anna advised the directors that the ULNRD is in charge of district land judging next year. Anna asked the directors if anyone would be interested in allowing the use of their land and Wright volunteered.

Anna reminded the directors that next month the Christmas luncheon will be held at 1:00 pm followed by the board meeting at 2:00 pm.

Adjournment

Higgins adjourned the meeting at 8:59 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, Hooker County Tribune, Grant County News, ULNRD website, and the ULNRD newsletter. The next Board of Directors Meeting will be held at the Stapleton Community Center on Thursday December 8, 2022 at 2:00 pm.