

UPPER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
November 12, 2020 @7:00 PM CT (6:00 PM MT)

Directors Present

Chris Higgins
Miles Maseberg
John Kraye
Chris Vinton via phone conference
Patrick Wright
Judy Ridnour
Connie Cox via phone conference
Eric Storer via phone conference
Tom Johnson

Directors Absent & Excused

Eric Schipporeit
Richard Burnside

Directors Unexcused

Staff in Attendance

Anna Baum, General Manager

Guests

Call Regular Monthly Meeting to Order

Higgins called the regular meeting to order at 7:01 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 August Meeting

Higgins asked for additions and/or corrections to the September 10, 2020 meeting minutes. Wright made a motion to accept the minutes as circulated and Kraye seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV#1)

Public Forum – No Representation

Agency Reports – No Representation

District Staff Reports –

Shane completed survival checks for spring 2020 tree planting. Total survival percentage for all trees and shrubs 61%. Shane mentioned that the higher survivals came from those that were mulched.

Financial Report

The November financial report was reviewed by staff and directors. Maseberg 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 – No Report

Water Quantity

Anna reported that 6 applications for expansion of irrigated acres were approved for 2021. Three from Blaine County and three from McPherson County for a total of 593 acres / 81-acre feet depletions. This leaves our NRD well under our allotted first – five-year increment amount.

Water Quality

Sub-district 5 domestic water quality testing has been completed for the year. 91 wells were tested with the average nitrate level being 1.38 mg/L well under the EPA's safety level of 10 mg/L

Current NRD Projects – ERC emo has been rescheduled for Thursday December 3rd. Will begin with a presentation here at the ULNRD Learning Center at 9:00 a.m. CT and then move out to the demo site (east of Halsey) around 10:30 a.m.

Grant Reports

Anna submitted two final reports and reimbursement request for the Firehall Arboretum project. One to the Greener Towns Grant program, for the main project, and one to the Academy of Science for signage.

Coalition/Alliance – LPSB technical group held a meeting. They will be recommending to the manager's group that we start with the same accounting methods as the last increment but use more current data. Once the new models are complete and the proven science is available, we will adjust the accounting methods as needed. As of now it appears as though each District will have some reductions in allotted acre feet depletions for the second-five-year increment.

NARD Report

Judy provided a report to the directors. She announced as of now legislative conference was still going to happen but without the senator's reception. The re-scheduled National Envirothon is still scheduled but in the air if it will be in person or virtual

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

Johnson made a motion to approve Schipporeit and Burnside absences and Wright seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #3)

Director's reviewed local posters sent in for the National Association of Conservation Districts annual poster contest and picked Shelby Schukei's poster to move on to the national contest. This year's theme was "where would we BEE without our pollinators?"

Director's were reminded that next months meeting will be held early on Thursday December 3rd with lunch at 1:00 pm central and the meeting to start at 2:00 pm. central.

Adjournment

Higgins adjourned the meeting at 7:27 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 October 1, 2020 at 1:00 pm.