

UPPER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
November 9, 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, November 9th, 2023. Chris Higgins called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Directors Present

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

Directors Absent & Excused

Rebecca Connealy

Directors Unexcused

Staff in Attendance

Anna Baum, General Manager
Jamie Green, Admin. Secretary

Guests

Leah Carson, District Conservationist
T.L. Meyer, Beef Systems Extension Educator

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 September Meeting

Higgins asked for additions and/or corrections to the September 14th, 2023 meeting minutes. Wright made a motion to accept the minutes of the September meeting as circulated and Krave seconded the motion. Aye: Burnside, Fay, Higgins, Krave, Maseberg, Ridenour, Ruhter, Vinton, and Wright. Abstain: Johnson. Motion carried. (RCV #1)

Public Forum – No Representation

UNL Extension Report

T.L. Meyer let the directors know there will be a Beef Cow Symposium in Loveland, CO on December 13th and 14th. There will be upcoming pesticide trainings with dates to be determined. The price will increase on licenses starting January 1st.

NRCS Report

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

NARD Report

Ridenour attended the quarterly Board meeting and sub-committee meeting. She reported to the directors there was some directors advocating for raising the retirement withholding rates by 1%. There will be a vote regarding this topic in January at Legislative Conference, so she needs to know how the ULNRD board of directors want to vote on this issue. She let them know there was a lot of discussion on the Epic Consumption tax. The NARD foundation will donate \$5,000 to FFA, \$3,000 to the Ag Institute, and \$350 to Women in Ag. The Basin Tour in 2024 will be held at the Republican Basin. She let the directors know the Envirothon is coming up but there are no schools in our district involved this year.

NRC – No Report

RC & D

Ruhter informed the directors that Kim Burge, long-term director of the North Central RC & D is leaving the position.

District Staff Reports

Anna emailed a memo from the NARD benefits committee outlining the proposed changes to the Retirement plan. She went over the information with the directors.

Anna told the directors the Farm Bureau is no longer supportive of the state taking over the NRD's, after several NRD representatives gave them reasons as to why that would not be a good idea.

Anna reported to the directors that the technicians have been checking flowmeters. Due to the good weather, they have been making good progress.

Jamie let the directors know postage will be increasing twice a year.

Lexi mailed out the newsletter with the Annual Report.

Financial Report

The October and November financial report was reviewed by staff and directors. Burnside made a motion to accept the financial report and Wright seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #2)

NE Soil & Water Conservation Program

Anna presented three NSWCP Applications to the Directors for review. Johnson made a motion to approve all applications as presented and Vinton seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #3)

Wildlife – No Report

Water Sub-committee – No Report

Water Quantity

Anna let the directors know we received 7 applications for Expansion of Irrigated Acres for 2024, with 6 needing new wells. We have received 2 well permits, to date. She met with DNR to go over the VIMP, and there are no changes expected at this time. The pumping info will go to DNR in the Spring. They have agreed to help with presentations at Jr High Field Day. They were also looking at helping us create a Drought Dashboard, but due to costs and the amount of effort involved, they have suggested to do a Basin Drought Dashboard instead.

Water Quality

Anna reported to the directors that we are working with Longitude to get Water Quality data reports and hope to have the reports by the next meeting. All water quality tests that were done are in Phase 1.

Current NRD Projects – No Reports

Grant Reports

Anna let the directors know she met with the counties and villages, that are involved with the Hazard Mitigation Plan, during the first part of October. JEO has the data collected and will be creating individual plans.

Coalition/Alliance – No Report

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

Johnson made a motion to regretfully approve Connealy resignation and Ridenour seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #4)

Anna asked the directors if they wanted to reschedule the Directors Tour or move it to a different time of year.

Adjournment

Higgins adjourned the meeting at 8:01 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, December 14th, 2023, at 2:00 pm.