

UPPER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
BUDGET HEARING FOLLOWED BY  
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
September 14, 2023 @7:00 PM CT

The budget hearing followed by the regular meeting of the Upper Loup Natural Resources District Board of Directors was held in Thedford, NE on Thursday, September 14, 2023. Chris Higgins called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Directors Present

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

Directors Absent & Excused

Tom Johnson  
Rebecca Connealy

Directors Unexcused

Staff in Attendance

Jamie Green, Admin. Secretary

Guests

Leah Carson, District Conservationist  
TL Meyer, Beef Systems Extension Educator

Call Budget Hearing to Order – Open Meeting Law – Adjourn

Higgins called the Budget Hearing to order at 7:00 pm.

Higgins made note of the Open Meetings Act posted in the Learning Center.

No public comment or testimony provided.

Hearing adjourned at 7:14 pm.

Call Regular Monthly Meeting to Order

Higgins called the regular meeting to order at 7:14 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 August 10, 2023 meeting minutes. Wright made a motion to accept the minutes as circulated and Kraye seconded the motion. Aye: Fay, Higgins, Kraye, Maseberg, Ridenour, Vinton, and Wright. Abstain: Burnside and Ruhter. Motion carried. (RCV#1)

### Public Forum – No Representation

### NRCS Report

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

### UNL Extension Report

TL Meyer shared some important dates with the directors. She thanked those who went to the GSL Open House and let them know the presentations are now online. A Women in Ag event in Broken Bow will be held on September 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>. There will be a Youth Science Day held at GSL on September 27<sup>th</sup> for Thedford, Hyannis, Cody-Kilgore, and Mullen High School students. An online grazing class is in the works that will be held in late October. There will be 6 sessions and more information will be provided at a later date.

### NARD Report

Ridenour reminded the directors Annual Conference is September 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>. She passed around the Annual Water Report and newsletter from Upper Big Blue NRD.

### NRC – No Report

### RC & D – No Report

### District Staff Reports

Jamie reported to the directors that Anna had emailed a Farm Bureau 2023 Policy Guide to the directors. She is questioning why they believe the NRD's should be taken over by the state. Anna has reached out to Bree DeNaeyer, with the Farm Bureau, and will receive more information after their meeting in September. The directors were asked if they knew why this was brought about and the end goal. There was discussion held regarding this topic.

Lexi is working on the Annual Report that will go into the ULNRD newsletter to be mailed out in October.

### Financial Report

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

### NE Soil & Water Conservation Program – No Report

### Wildlife – No Report

### Water Sub-committee – No Report

### Water Quantity

Jamie let the directors know of the 8 applications for expansion of irrigated acres received for 2023, only 5 will be completing the process as 3 decided not to expand due to costs. Therefore, of the 755 acres applied for there were only 433 acres that will be added for 2023.

There have been 6 applications for irrigated acres received for 2024, for a total of 668 acres. There are 4 applications in Logan County, 1 in Blaine County, and 1 in Hooker County, with 1 not meeting the criteria.

Anna has an Annual VIMP meeting with DNR at the end of September at the Annual Conference.

### Water Quality

Lexi is currently 97% complete with water testing in Sub-district 3.

### Current NRD Projects

Jamie reported to the directors that Anna is currently working on the dashboard with DNR for the Drought Mitigation plan.

### Grant Reports

Jamie gave the directors a Hazard Mitigation plan update. There are 14 meetings scheduled for the first week in October with communities. She asked the directors to take the Hazard Mitigation Plan online survey.

### Coalition/Alliance – No Report

### Action to Adopt FY 2023-2024 Budget

Ridenour made a motion to approve the budget for fiscal year 2023-2024 and Burnside seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #3)

### Action to Adopt Resolution to Approve Additional 1% Increase

Maseberg made a motion to approve the additional 1% increase and Wright seconded the motion. Aye: Burnside, Higgins, and Ridenour. Nay: Fay, Krave, Maseberg, Ruhter, Vinton, and Wright. Motion failed. (RCV #4)

### Action to Adopt Resolution to Set Property Tax Request

Maseberg made a motion to approve the property tax request set at \$392,373.89 and Ridenour seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #5)

### Action to Adopt Resolution to Set Levy for FY 2023-2024

Burnside made a motion to set the levy for fiscal year 2023-2024 at \$0.012792 per \$100.00 of valuation and Wright seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #6)

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

Wright made a motion to approve Connealy and Johnson as excused absences and Maseberg seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. (RCV #7)

The Director's Tour at the properties of Ruhter and Fay have been set for October 12th with regular board meeting to follow. Times and meeting location will be sent to directors and published in newspapers at a later date.

Adjournment

Higgins adjourned the meeting at 7:52 pm.

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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 office unless otherwise posted on Thursday October 12, 2023 at 1:00 pm.