

UPPER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The public hearing and regular meeting of the Upper Loup Natural Resources District Board of Directors was held at the District office in Thedford, NE on Thursday, August 11, 2011. Gary Schaeffer called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Directors Present

Byron Cox
Darwin Frey
Tom Johnson
Judy Ridenour
Gary Schaeffer
Gordon Simonson
Chris Vinton
Patrick Wright

Directors Absent & Excused

Chris Higgins
Eric Storer
Wynn Wiens

Directors Unexcused

Staff in Attendance

Anna Baum, General Manager
Leslie Harvey, Admin. Secretary

Guests

Kevin Hood, NRCS

Call Public Hearing to Order

Gary called the public hearing to order at 7:00 pm.

Notice of Open Meeting Law Posting

Gary made note of the Open Meetings Act posted on the wall by the Board meeting table.

He read a letter from Brian Dunnigan giving testimony of DNR's support of revised Rule 19.

Gary adjourned the public hearing at 7:08 pm.

Call Regular Monthly Meeting to Order

Gary called the regular meeting to order at 7:09 pm.

Notice of Open Meeting Law Posting

Gary made note of the Open Meetings Act posted on the wall by the Board meeting table.

Agenda Modification

Gary asked if there were any modifications to the agenda. No Modifications

Public Forum – No Report

Action on Minutes of June Meeting

Gary asked for additions and/or corrections to the July 14, 2011 meeting minutes. Minutes approved as circulated.

Agency Reports

NRCS Report

Kevin gave an oral report to the directors.

District Staff Reports

Anna passed out a report on district wide water use for the directors to review as well as an NRD annual activities report.

Financial Report

Directors discussed the current percentage rate being charged for unpaid balances due to the district. Byron made a motion to change the current percentage rate to 1.5% per month after 60 days and Gordon seconded the motion. Motion carried. (RCV#1)

Directors further discussed the percentage rate and upon further review, decided to revert back to the previous percentage rate on unpaid balances due to the district. Tom moved to revert to the previous percentage rate and Byron seconded the motion. Motion carried. (RCV#2)

The July financial report was reviewed by staff and directors. Chris moved to accept the financial report and Gordon seconded the motion. Motion carried. (RCV#3)

NE Soil & Water Conservation Program

Five applications for planned grazing were presented to directors for review and approval. Tom moved to approve all five applications and Patrick seconded the motion. Motion carried. (RCV#4)

Wildlife – No Report

Water Quantity

Anna passed out a map from a producer in the formerly fully appropriated area that wanted to expand his irrigated acres. If granted his expansion, it would take all but a small amount of the allotted acres for the 4 year period. Directors decided to stick with the 174 acres per year in that area.

Anna asked directors what their opinion was about going forward with legal action on a producer that was in noncompliance concerning a flowmeter.

Anna asked directors to think about how they want to handle any excess irrigated acres not applied for. There is the potential of almost four thousand acres that could go up in an additional sign up period for 2012.

Water Quality – No Report

Grant Reports

The two new recycling trailers will be arriving on Monday August 15.

Groundwater Rules & Regulations

Anna passed out Rule 20 for the directors to review.

Vote on Rule 19 Amendment

Darwin moved to accept the amendment to Rule 19 to include LB 483 regulations for the geographic area affected by the Niobrara Fully Appropriated River Basin reversal. Byron seconded the motion. Motion carried (RCV#5)

Budget

We are waiting on the county valuations which will help in setting the levy rate. The asking budget is the same as last year even with the loss of our state aid.

The budget hearing will need to be scheduled in September.

NARD Report

Annual conference will be held September 26th and 27th in Kearney.

Correspondence & Informational Items - No Report

Adjournment

Gary adjourned the meeting at 9:25pm.

Chris Higgins, Secretary

Tally of votes cast on motions, Financial Reports, Manager's Report and Valentine NRCS Reports are on file with the official minutes of this meeting. Notice of this meeting was published in all eight county newspapers and broadcast on KRVN radio. The next Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 8, 2011 at 7:00 pm CST at the District Office in Thedford, NE.