

**MINUTES**  
**Middle Republican Natural Resources District**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**April 10, 2007**  
**Curtis, Nebraska**

**Board Members Present:** Joe Anderjaska, Kevin Fornoff, Josh Friesen, Gayle Haag, Benjie Loomis, Stan Moore, Jerry Mustion, Dan Nelsen, Brad Randel, Marty Schurr, Rick Spencer

**Board Members Absent:** None

**NRD Staff:** Bob Merrigan, Roger Lawson

**NRCS Staff:** Doug Whisenhunt

**Others:** Roger Stockton

**Information Mailed to Directors:**

Agenda	March Minutes
April Special Meeting Minutes	Operation & Personnel Minutes
March Financial Report	Budget Comparison
E-notes April 3, 2007	E-notes March 27, 2007
I & E Report	Scholarship Applicants
Scholarship Guidelines	Summer Camp Scholarship Letter
February Reservoir Report	Updated Director List
March 16 NARD Update	March 23 NARD Update
March 30 NARD Update	April 5 NARD Update
Oppliger Variance Request	Transfer Requests
LB 701 Amendment	Personnel & Operation Packet
Personnel & Operation Salary Recommendation	

**Information Distributed at Meeting:**

Cost Share Summary	Hearing Agenda
Transfer Request	“WaterClaim on 701”
April 5 NARD Update	Omaha World Herald Article
Lincoln Journal Star Article	Economic Impact Charts
MRNRD LCP Worksheet	March Reservoir Reports
Usage Report	LB 701
Directors List	

**REGULAR MEETING**

The regular monthly board meeting was called to order by Chairman Friesen at 7:02 PM. The agenda and roster were circulated to those present.

Notice of the regular monthly meeting was published in the **North Platte Telegraph** and the **McCook Daily Gazette** and was posted at the **MRNRD Office** and on the **District Website** at [www.mrnrd.org](http://www.mrnrd.org). As a courtesy it was also provided to local radio stations.

The minutes for the regular board meeting on March 13, 2007 were mailed to Directors. The minutes for the special meeting held on April 2 were also mailed.

- ◆ A motion was made by Fornoff and second by Spencer to approve the minutes for the March Regular board meeting and Special Meeting minutes as amended: Schurr, not Haag, made the motion to approve the excused absence of board member Mustion and Moore, not Haag, made the motion to approve the minutes for the February Regular board meeting, Special Meeting minutes and the Public Hearing minutes.

Ayes- 9                      Nays- 0                      Abstain- Moore & Schurr      Motion Carried

Meeting was recessed at 7:06 PM for the public hearing.

Meeting was reconvened at 7:10 PM

### **VARIANCE REQUEST**

- ◆ A motion was made by Fornoff and second by Schurr to approve the variance request submitted by Donald and Joi M. Oppliger to move a pivot from NE1/4 of 12-10-33 (136 certified acres) to NW1/4 of 11-10-33 (115 certified acres).

Ayes- 11      Nays- 0      Abstain-0      Motion Carried

### **LEGAL MATTERS -**

Bob Merrigan reported that the settlement papers have been forwarded onto Attorney McDermotts' Office, however, the MRNRD office has not yet received a reply.

### **FINANCIAL ACTIONS**

The financial report for March was presented and reviewed by Merrigan. The County Treasurer's Balance was reported at \$26,565.50. Robert Merrigan indicated that there was a correction to be made on the financial report for the BANK ACCT Balance : \$58,299.88 should be \$39,124.64.

- ◆ A motion was made by Anderjaska and seconded by Loomis to approve the March financial report as corrected.

Ayes- 11      Nays- 0                      Abstain- 0                      Motion carried

A copy of this report is on file with the minutes.

The monthly budget comparison was presented and reviewed.

### **OPEN FORUM**

There was discussion among several guests about the surface water purchase.

Phillip Johnson of the Lower Republican NRD recommended to the Board that they negotiate for surface water purchase price rather than spending 3.2 millions.

### **NRCS REPORT**

Whisenhunt reported that staffing changes will occur with the closing of Hayes Center Office. EQIP 2000 is mostly done. \$177,000.00 more money for surface waters. NRCS office staff have been willing to take on additional work loads each year to meet the needs of area farmers. 2007-2008 CRP burns taking place in Lincoln. Burn task force took place in March in McCook with the help of Chuck Bernstein. 2007 Budget looking very slim.

**NARD**

Anderjaska reported that many insurance plan changes for NRD employees were discussed at the NARD meeting.

**NACD**

E-notes were mailed to the Directors.

**NNRC – No report**

**INFORMATION AND EDUCATION**

Lawson provided a summary of I & E activities for March. He reviewed the college scholarship applications that were received by deadline and recommended to the Board that Kay M. Kaczor of Curtis and Katherine Friesen of Wallace should receive the scholarships.

- ◆ A motion was made by Anderjaska and second by Moore to award Kaczor and Friesen the MRNRD College Scholarships for 2007

Ayes- 10      Nays- 0      Abstain- Friesen      Motion Carried

**NRRMDA**

The next Association meeting is scheduled for April 20.

**RC&D**

Roger Stockton reported that site selection is in the process for tree removal project in Franklin County. The Southwest RC&D is sponsoring the Women’s Wilderness Weekend in Harlan County, August 10<sup>th</sup>.

**LEGISLATION**

NARD legislative updates were mailed to directors. LB 701 changes were discussed.

**GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT AREA**

No well reports. Reservoir reports for March were handed out to the Directors.

**METER PROGRAM**

A current usage report was circulated. 10.11 average inches applied. Robert Merrigan reported that meter repair is nearly done. He stated that there is a misconception among some farmers that they will loose any carry over from there 3 year allocation if they don’t use it. This isn’t true at all. Carryover can be a maximum of 13 inches.

**INCENTIVE PROGRAMS**

LB701 was discussed. Legislation is moving forward on funding.

**TRANSFER REQUEST**

Merrigan reviewed the transfer requests. Copies of the requests were circulated.

Donald L & Joi M. Oppliger of Farwell, TX request permanent transfer of ground water use from NE ¼ 12-10-33 in Lincoln County to NW ¼ 11-10-33 in Lincoln County.

Discussion:

- ◆ A motion was made by Fornoff and seconded by Spencer to approve the transfer request.  
Ayes-11      Nays- 0      Motion carried

Five B. Farms, Inc. transfer 2548 Acre inches to Jerry Mustion

- ◆ A motion was made by Fornoff and seconded by Loomis to approve the transfer request.  
Ayes-10      Nays- 0      Abstain- Mustion      Motion carried

Triple B. Farms of Culbertson to transfer 1363 Acre Inches to Roland Miller.

- ◆ A motion was made by Fornoff and seconded by Schurr to approve the transfer request.  
Ayes- 10      Nays- 0      Abstain- Randel      Motion carried

Olsen Livestock & Seed, Inc. of Haigler to transfer 1500 Acre inches to Frank Stehno Pool of Stratton.

- ◆ A motion was made by Anderjaska and seconded by Haag to table this item for lack of knowledge of irrigation history.  
Ayes- 11      Nays- 0      Abstain- 0      Motion carried

Bruce Hampton of McCook to requests to transfer 370 Acre Inches to Bryan Hauxwell of McCook.

- ◆ A motion was made by Moore and seconded by Anderjaska to deny this transfer request.  
Ayes- 11      Nays- 0      Abstain- 0      Motion carried

Triple B Farms of Culbertson requests transfer of 2600 Acre inches to Roger Gottl of McCook.

- ◆ A motion was made by Loomis and seconded by Anderjaska to approve this transfer request.  
Ayes- 11      Nays- 0      Abstain- 0      Motion carried

**ECONOMIC STUDY PROPOSAL – No Report**

**BASIN FUNDING – No Report**

**SURFACE WATER BUYOUTS – No Report**

**FUNDING OPTIONS AND ALTERNATIVES – No Report**

## **REPORT ON DNR MEETINGS**

Anne Bleed of Nebraska DNR has agreed to rerun the water usage model using different variables including using average rainfall.

Merrigan reported that he thought the DNR meeting in Lincoln went well.

## **GROUND WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA**

At the request of the Nebraska DEQ, the MRNRD will be conducting weekly sampling of 6 sites along the Republican River between Wellfleet and Strunk Lake every Monday May through September. The DEQ will provide the necessary equipment for water testing and will reimburse the district for mileage and staff hours.

The water will be tested for toxic algae, bacteria and toxins.

◆ A motion was made by Anderjaska and seconded by Fornoff to cooperate with the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and conduct the water monitoring project.

Ayes – 11      Nays – 0      Motion carried.

## **OTHER GROUND WATER ACTIVITY- No Report**

### **WILD – No Report**

### **BUFFERSTRIPS – No Report**

### **LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL – No Report**

## **SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT FUNDS**

Merrigan reviewed the cost-share summary report.

◆ Fornoff moved and Loomis second to accept the report and to approve the applications as presented.

Ayes – 11      Nays – 0      Abstain- 0      Motion carried

### **WATERSHEDS – No Report**

### **COMPLAINTS - No Report**

### **CHEMIGATION –**

Merrigan reported that permits have been coming into the office regularly.

### **TREE PLANTING –**

Merrigan reported that trees have been bundled and delivered to the field offices.

**PERSONNEL - No Report**

**PERSONNEL AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

The minutes for the Personnel & Operations Committee meeting was mailed to directors. A recommendation on salaries was also mailed.

Discussion:

Board members discussed the concerns raised by staff of this year's difficulties in getting meter readings completed earlier. Members also discussed employee's benefits, particularly insurance coverage and co-payments. They also discussed modifying employee raises to keep pace with inflation.

- ◆ A motion was made by Anderjaska and seconded by Spencer to table the acceptance of the committee's recommendations

Ayes-11      Nays-0      Abstain- 0      Motion carried

**SALES AND RENTAL EQUIPMENT – No Report**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:13 PM

The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 8, 2007 at MPCC in McCook, Nebraska starting at 7:00 PM.

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Roger Lawson  
Recorder