

**MINUTES**  
**Middle Republican Natural Resources District**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**July 10, 2007**  
**McCook, Nebraska**

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

**Board Members Absent:** None.

**NRD Staff:** Dan Smith, Bob Merrigan, Stacie Owens and Roger Lawson

**NRCS Staff:** Andy Havlicek

**Others:** Angus Garey, Ralph Scott, Tom Kiplinger, D. Felker, Dale Dueland, Larry Durner, Kurt Fritsch, Steve Fries, Raymond Durner, Claude Cappel, Dan Wallen, Marleen Garcia, Roger Wilson, Brad Edgerton, Clويد Clark, Merlin Brown, William Barger, Brad Johnson, Marv Swanda, Roger Stockton, Lorrie Sughroue, Mark Billinger

**Information Mailed to Directors:**

Agenda	June Minutes
Annual NARD Conference, 9/07	7/1/07-6/30/08 Draft Budget
June Financial Report	E-notes for June 12, 19 and 26, 2007
Information & Education Report	Healthy Water Healthy People Workshop
2007 Daily Website Hits	June 22, Follow-up Meeting, RRBP
Request for Temporary Transfer of H2O	Ground Water Management Area Plan revisions

**Information Distributed at Meeting:**

MRNRD 2007 Tree Sales  
7/10/07 Cost-Share Summary  
Republican River Basin Surface Water lease Program  
7/5/07 News Release from Office of the Governor re: Vegetation Task Force  
6/25/07 Letter from NE State Legislature  
Outline of Draft Proposal, Republican Basin NRDs Compact Compliance Assistance Plan  
Thank you from Laura Barger for Scholarship received  
Southwest Weed Management Area Letter dated 6/5/07

**REGULAR MEETING**

The regular monthly board meeting was called to order by Chairman Friesen at 7:33 PM. The agenda and roster were circulated to those present.

**Added Items:** Final 2007 Tree Sales Report

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 June 12, 2007 were mailed to Directors.

- ◆ A motion was made by Spencer and second by Nelsen to approve the minutes with corrections on Page 5 and 6.  
Ayes- 10      Nays- 0      Abstain-Anderjaska      Motion Carried

The meeting was recessed at 7:35 PM for the purpose of opening the variance hearing. The meeting was reconvened at 7:43 PM.

#### **CONSIDER VARIANCE REQUEST-**

Discussion was held regarding possible capping of one of the old wells and whether it was the best location.

- ◆ A motion was made by Fornoff and second by Moore to approve the request for variance from the rules and regulations on the Stays in the Drilling of New Wells for the Village of Palisade to drill a new well to provide better quality of water to the community.  
Ayes-11      Nays- 0      Motion Carried

#### **LEGAL MATTERS –**

Dan Smith reported that the Motion for Summary Judgment will be considered on September 11, 2007.

#### **FINANCIAL ACTIONS**

The financial report for June was presented. The County Treasurer's Balance was \$204,061.69. The monthly budget comparison was presented and reviewed.

- ◆ A motion was made by Fornoff and second by Loomis to approve the June financial report as presented.  
Ayes-11      Nays-0      Motion Carried

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

Smith reported that the auditors are here this week completing the yearly audit.

Smith represented the draft budget for 07-08 giving details to particular line items and their projections. The Board requested he do some refining and revisit the numbers at the next meeting. The Board will have to approve the budget for publication in August prior to September when the Budget Hearing will have to be held.

#### **OPEN FORUM**

Larry Durner asking about new water allocations.  
Dan Wallen concerned about CREP/EQIP taxing.  
Claude Cappel concerned about taxing.  
Bill Barger concerned about the buyout.

#### **NRCS REPORT**

Havlicek presented a letter from Rick Hedke, President, Southwest Weed Management Area, which was sent out to landowners along the Republican River regarding LB 701 which contains emergency funding for spraying and mechanical weed control within the river banks.

The letter contained locations and dates for informational meetings that will be held throughout the area, and a website where more information can be obtained.

He also reported that they are taking applications for the EQIP program for '08. Those interested should contact their NRCS Office to sign up.

Smith reported on additional funding for the McCook Tech agreement.

#### **NARD**

Anderjaska reported on issues discussed at June 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. The legislative conference will be held on February 5-6. Conference in September will be 23-25. They passed the State Association budget with only an approximate \$20,000 increase.

#### **NACD**

E-notes dated June 12, 19 and 26 were mailed to the Directors.

#### **NNRC**

None.

#### **INFORMATION AND EDUCATION**

Roger Lawson gave an update on grant and scholarship providing a letter of thank you from one of the scholarship recipients. He also discussed and provided folders of information on NeRain to the Board Members. Reported on what he learned at the Healthy Water, Healthy People training class he attended in Nebraska City and went over the abilities of the water testing kit he received.

#### **NRRMDA**

Next meeting will be August 20, 2007.

#### **RC&D**

Roger Stockton reported on LB701 grant proposal he submitted July 1st. The Southwest WMA should hear back by the 16<sup>th</sup> on funding. Republican was target area.

#### **LEGISLATION**

Smith reported on the invite to participate in interim study hearing to be held July 31<sup>st</sup> at the McDonald Belton campus on (1) coordination between NRD/State and State/Federal agencies, (2) ground water model and (3) flow meter data programs.

#### **GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT AREA**

##### **WELL PERMITS**

None.

#### **SURFACE WATER REPORTS**

Smith reported we have not received them from Bureau yet.

#### **METER PROGRAM**

None.

#### **INCENTIVE PROGRAMS**

Smith reported that waiting on last 3 EQIP easements but still moving forward.

## **TRANSFER REQUEST**

Bob Merrigan presented the Request for Temporary Transfer of Ground Water from Robert Stinson to Betty Rice, Revocable Living Trust. Mr. Stinson wants to move his water to the ground he rents.

- ◆ A motion was made by Anderjaska and second by Fornoff to approve Transfer Request a presented.  
Ayes –11      Nays –0      Motion Carried

## **RRB COALITION REPORT ACTIONS ON ORGANIZATION, BONDING PROCESS**

Smith discussed proposal. Also stated Board would need to take action on subject by August. June 22<sup>nd</sup> group meeting was discussed, next meeting scheduled for July 18<sup>th</sup>.

## **SUGGESTED CHANGES FOR IMP AND GWMA**

- ◆ A motion was made by Fornoff and second by Loomis to set ground water allocation at 60 inches for 5 years with ratcheting concept that would apply to non-water short years.  
Ayes –10      Nays – Haag      Motion Carried

Specific language to be further developed. Try to set up a hearing date for August 29<sup>th</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup> in McCook at City Auditorium. Ground Water Committee will meet prior to August board meeting to finalize rule proposals.

Discussion was held to consider Basin Coordinator Position. It was reported that both Upper and Lower Republican voted to move forward.

- ◆ A motion was made by Loomis and second by Fornoff to contribute to expenses for hiring a Basin Coordinator.  
Ayes –8      Nays –Haag, Randel, Spencer      Motion Carried

## **OTHER GROUND WATER ACTIVITY -**

None.

## **WILD -**

None.

## **BUFFERSTRIPS –**

None.

## **LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL –**

None.

## **CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT FUNDS**

Smith discussed Cost Share Report provided.

- ◆ A motion was made by Schurr and second by Loomis to approve Cost Share Report.  
Ayes –10      Nays –0      Abstain-Moore      Motion Carried

**WATERSHEDS –**

Smith reported we will need Federal monies.

**COMPLAINTS –**

None.

**CHEMIGATION –**

Merrigan reported process was on-going.

**TREE PLANTING –**

None.

**PERSONNEL**

Smith reported on the hiring of Stacie Owens to replace Christy Peterson. Owens will be on a 90-day probation period.

**SALES AND RENTAL EQUIPMENT –**

None.

**OFFICE REMODELING QUOTE**

Tabled until we know where we stand on the Basin Coordinator position.

**DEPOT SIDING QUOTE**

Smith revisited quote previously provided. It was found that some items were not included in that quote, however, Smith and Merrigan determined that 90% of the labor could be completed by us in order to save the District money.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 PM.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, August 21, 2007 in Curtis, Nebraska starting at 7:30 PM.

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Stacie M. Owens  
Board Secretary