

MINUTES
Middle Republican Natural Resources District
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, November 11, 2008
Curtis, Nebraska

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

Board Members Absent: None

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

NRCS Staff: None

Others: Traci Witthuhn, Rick McConville, Buck Haag, James Uerling

Information Mailed to Directors

Agenda	Minutes from Oct. 14 Regular Meeting
Minutes from Oct. 14 Public Hearing	Agenda for Public Hearing
Request for Variances 524 & 525	Permanent Transfer Request 20
October Financial Report	Monthly Income & Expense Report
Nebraska Bulletin No. 260-9-1	E-Notes for Oct. 21, 28 and Nov. 4
I & E Report	Website Activity Charts
NE Forecast Meeting Announcement	RC& D 2008 Southwest NE Annual Banquet
Joint Notice of Arbitration	Summary of Survey Responses
Van Bids worksheet	

Information Distributed at Meeting:

District Elections worksheet	Surface Water Report
Cost Share Report	RRBC November Report

REGULAR MEETING

The regular monthly board meeting was called to order by Chairman Friesen at 7:31 p.m. The agenda and roster were circulated to those present.

Added Items: None.

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. As a courtesy it was also provided to local radio stations.

The Minutes for the October 14, 2008 Regular Meeting and Variance Hearing were mailed to Directors.

- ◆ A motion was made by Fornoff and seconded by Anderjaska to approve the Minutes of the October 14, 2008 Regular Meeting as corrected and Variance Hearing.
Ayes- 10 Nays- 0 Motion Carried

Mustion arrived at 7:32 p.m.

The meeting was recessed at 7:33 p.m. for the purpose of opening the variance hearing. The meeting was reconvened at 7:55 p.m.

CONSIDER VARIANCE REQUEST AND TRANSFER REQUEST

Discussion was held.

- ◆ A motion was made by Nelsen and seconded by Fornoff to approve MR 524 and deny MR 525 and PT-20.
Ayes- 9 Nays- Haag, Spencer Motion Carried

LEGAL MATTERS

- a. Case Status – LB 701 – Nebraska Supreme.
Nothing new to report at this time.
- b. Occupation Tax Challenge – Lancaster District Court.
Nothing new to report at this time.

FINANCIAL ACTIONS

a. The financial report and Monthly Income & Expense Report for October was presented by Smith. The County Treasurer's Balance was \$417,455.22.

- ◆ A motion was made by Anderjaska and seconded by Moore to approve the October financial report as presented.
Ayes- 11 Nays- 0 Motion Carried

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

OPEN FORUM

None.

REPORTS

A. NRCS REPORT.

1. District Cons. Report. Civil rights handout was provided in board packet. Whisenhunt provided a report which was projected on the screen at the meeting. A copy of the report will be distributed to the Board Members at the next meeting.

B. NARD

1. Smith reported that the retirement program has been down due to the current economic crisis but that the insurance program was doing very well financially. We will also be looking at implementing some type of wellness program to help with reinsurance. There will be further program ideas to discuss and decide upon in the next couple of months.

C. NACD

1. E-notes dated October 21, 28 and November 4, 2008 were mailed to the Directors.

D. NNRC

1. January Basin Meetings.

Smith reported that no actual date has been set but it is required to be held within the first 10 days of the 1st of the year. All three republican NRD's will be there. He encouraged all the Directors attend this meeting.

E. INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

1. Reports.

Lawson went over his I&E Report and answered questions.

2. December Luncheon Plans.

Luncheon will be held at the Community Center on December 9th. Tom Hansen will cater. Invitations have been sent out with an RSVP request. Lawson encouraged the Board Members to return the cards if they have not already done so.

F. REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN COALITION

Traci Witthuhn handed out and went over her report as well as answered questions.

G. NE REPUBLICAN RIVER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION

1. November 19, Cambridge. Smith reported that the meeting will be held at 10 AM and an Agenda has been included in the packet. He will advertise a Special Meeting of the MRNRD Board for this date and time as well. DNR will plan on using this same date and location for their required forecast meeting. Smith encouraged all Board Members to attend.

2. January ?? McCook in conjunction with NNRC Basin Meeting. Discussed under item D. 1. Above.

H. OTHER AGENCIES OR ASSOCIATIONS

1. RC&D

Smith handed out agenda and signup for the RC&D's annual meeting which will be held on November 18, 2008 in McCook.

I. LEGISLATION

Smith briefly discussed resolutions that were being worked on.

J. ARBITRATION – REPORT ON NOTICE.

Smith went over the Joint Notice of Arbitration and the time frame designation included in the packets.

K. ELECTION REPORT.

Smith went over the spreadsheet with the election results.

GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT AREA

A. GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT AREA

1. REPORTS

(a) WELL PERMITS

No handout until next month. No new changes except what was approved here at this meeting.

- (b) **SURFACE WATER**
Bureau's report enclosed.

- (c) **METER PROGRAM**

Smith reported that during the cold spells, the technicians have been working more on repairs than on servicing. They also have been doing some readings in Lincoln County which has had better roads.

- 2. TRANSFERS – SURVEY RESULTS.**

Smith went over the results received back on the surveys so the Board could consider the responses. Ground Water Committee decided to set a meeting at the MRNRD offices on November 13th around 9:30 AM to go over these responses and work on redrafting the rules on transfers.

- 3. ACREAGE REDUCTION PROGRAM**

Smith reported that the upcoming Newsletter will contain the information on this program.

- 4. DNR FORECAST (46-715 (5)) MEETING IN CAMBRIDGE NOV. 19TH**

Discussed under Item G.1. above.

- 5. SPECIAL MEETING NOV. 19TH, CAMBRIDGE**

Discussed under Item G.1. above.

- B. GROUND WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA**

- 1. Water Quality Samples.

Smith reported that the samples have been taken and we will work on getting the full report out soon.

- C. OTHER GROUND WATER ACTIVITY**

None.

- PROGRAMS**

- A. CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT FUNDS**

Smith went over Cost-Share Report.

- ◆ A motion was made by Anderjaska and seconded by Nelsen to approve Cost Share Report.

Ayes – 11 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

- B. WATERSHEDS**

Nothing new to report at this time.

- C. COMPLAINTS**

- 1. Beverly Nutter's runoff complaint.

Nothing new to report at this time.

D. CHEMIGATION

None.

E. TREE PLANTING

Smith reported that we have started taking tree orders.

F. BUFFER STRIPS

None.

G. LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL APPLICATIONS

None.

GENERAL OPERATIONS

A. PERSONNEL.

None.

B. SALES AND RENTAL EQUIPMENT.

None.

C. VEHICLE QUOTES – REPLACEMENT OF DODGE VAN.

Merrigan provided a handout of the quotes on vehicles he has received and requested assistance from the Board as to what he should be considering. An SUV may be something more feasible than a van for taking out to read wells when necessary.

- ◆ A motion was made by Loomis and seconded by Schurr to allow the executive committee to approve the purchase of a vehicle.

Ayes- 11 Nays- 0 Motion Carried

D. ELECTION – AT LARGE OR SUBDISTRICTS

Smith briefly went over some of the different election scenarios available and the timeframes involved in such a change should that ever be desired.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 PM.

The next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, December 9, 2008 at 1:30 P.M. in Curtis, Nebraska at the Community Center at 201 Garlick Avenue.

Stacie M. Owens
Board Secretary