

**MINUTES**  
**Middle Republican Natural Resources District**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**October 14, 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:** James Uerling, William Barger, Raymond Durner, Buck Haag, Brad Johnson, Traci Witthuhn, Fred Farr

**Information Mailed to Directors**

Agenda	Minutes from Sept. 9 Regular Meeting
Minutes from Sept. 9 Public Hearing	Minutes from Sept. 9 Budget Hearing
Minutes from Sept. 9 Special Hearing	Agenda for Public Hearing
Request for Variances 523	Permanent Transfer Request 18
September Financial Reports	Dept of Labor, NDEAM article
NARD Letter dated Oct. 9	E-Notes for Sept. 16, 23 and 30
I & E Report	Website Activity Chart
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Conservation Craze Pamphlet	Republican River Riparian Project Fact Sheet
Transfers, Discussion Items Memo	Acreage Reduction Program draft

**Information Distributed at Meeting:**

Surface Water Report	Fall Measurements
Transfer Request T15, 16 and 17	Senator's Letter Back Home
Otters article dated Oct. 12	Cost Share Report
2008 Long Range Plan	Marty Schurr Memo Dated Oct. 13 RRBC
Report	

**REGULAR MEETING**

The regular monthly board meeting was called to order by Chairman Friesen at 7:30 p.m. The agenda and roster were circulated to those present.

**Added Items:** 12.a.2. Zysset Transfer T-15 through T-17

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 September 9, 2008 Regular Meeting, Budget Hearing, Special Budget Hearing and Variance Hearing were mailed to Directors.

- ◆ A motion was made by Anderjaska and seconded by Mustion to approve the Minutes of the September 9, 2008 Regular Meeting as corrected, Budget

Hearing, Special Budget Hearing and Variance Hearing.

Ayes- 11      Nays- 0      Motion Carried

The meeting was recessed at 7:33 p.m. for the purpose of opening the variance hearing. The meeting was reconvened at 7:45 p.m.

**CONSIDER VARIANCE REQUEST**

Discussion was held.

- ◆ A motion was made by Fornoff and seconded by Haag to deny the Request for Variance Number 523.

Ayes- 11      Nays- 0

**LEGAL MATTERS**

- a. Case Status – LB 701 – Nebraska Supreme. Smith reported that Briefs will be filed by the end of October by all parties
- b. Occupation Tax Challenge – Lancaster District Court. Smith reported that we were legally served around the end of September. Schurr read a letter to the Board clarifying his non-participation of his family’s lawsuit against the State and the NRD. Letter was provided to the Secretary and will be filed with the Minutes of this meeting.

**FINANCIAL ACTIONS**

- a. The financial report and Monthly Income & Expense Report for September was presented by Smith. The County Treasurer’s Balance was \$698,712.43

- ◆ A motion was made by Nelsen and seconded by Loomis to approve the September 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.

**B. NARD**

- 1. Anderjaska reported on the progress made on the insurance.
- 2. Conference Report. Anderjaska reported on the turnout for the fall conference. He thanked Marty Schurr for auctioneering. Resolutions that went forward are in the Board packets.

**C. NACD**

E-notes dated September 16, 23 and 30, 2008 were mailed to the Directors.

**D. NNRC**

1. Minutes. Smith will provide next meeting.

**E. DNR – ARBITRATION STATUS**

Smith reported that arbitration was moving forward and an arbitrator has been elected. We will know more in 2 weeks.

**F. 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. Tom Hansen will cater.

**G. REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN COALITION**

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

**H. NE REPUBLICAN RIVER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION**

Witthuhn reported on the invasive tree removal. Smith advised that there is an election of the Natural Resources Commission basin representative coming up in January. This will probably be done in conjunction with the January NERRMDA meeting. Anyone interested in being considered needs to fill out a nomination form. The position will be voted on in January.

**I. OTHER AGENCIES OR ASSOCIATIONS**

1. RC&D

None.

**J. LEGISLATION**

Smith reported that resolutions from the Fall Conference will soon be drafted into proposed legislation. Moore reported on his attendance to the Lead Group Directors Panel. Our District and the Lower Republican were both represented. No one showed up from the Upper Republican NRD.

**GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT AREA**

**A. GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT AREA**

**1. REPORTS**

**(a) WELL PERMITS**

None.

**(b) SURFACE WATER**

Bureau's report enclosed.

**(c) METER PROGRAM**

Smith reported that we have started reading meters in Red Willow and

Lincoln. Meter servicing will occur in Red Willow County this year.

**(d) CREP – New Rates.**

Smith reported that CREP rates will be increased from \$130 to \$160 per acre on pivots and \$120 to \$150 per acre on gravity.

**2. TRANSFER REQUESTS.**

Fred Farr who previously rented this property from Mervin Zysset gave a brief background of the situation and answered some questions.

- ◆ A motion was made by Anderjaska and seconded by Spencer to deny the Request for Transfer T15, T16 and T17 due to lack of landowner consent.

Ayes- 11      Nays- 0

**3. TRANSFER FORM – revisions.**

Smith introduced the new proposed Transfer Form requesting feedback from everyone on any other information that needs to be included. He advised that we will also need to look at some changes to the Rules & Regulations relating to Transfers.

**4. ACREAGE REDUCTION PROGRAM**

Smith went over the application for the Acreage Reduction Program. He has also had conversations with NRCS with regard to funds but has not received any answers as of yet. He requested feedback on any changes to the form the Board would like to have made. He also suggested putting it on the website and in the November newsletter.

**B. GROUND WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA**

1. Water Quality Samples.  
None.

**C. OTHER GROUND WATER ACTIVITY**

Smith included an article on Otter's and the Fall Measurements.

**PROGRAMS**

**A. CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT FUNDS**

Smith went over Cost-Share Report.

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

Ayes – 11      Nays – 0      Motion Carried

**B. WATERSHEDS**

Smith went over the repairs made to 3 of the structures and the backhoe rental for that purpose.

**C. COMPLAINTS**

Beverly Nutter's runoff complaint.

Merrigan reported that there is nothing new to report.

**D. CHEMIGATION**

None.

**E. TREE PLANTING**

Merrigan reported that there is a price increase for trees from .62 to .70 and that the trees are going to be much smaller this year than in the past.

**F. BUFFER STRIPS**

None.

**G. LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL APPLICATIONS**

None.

**GENERAL OPERATIONS**

**A. PERSONNEL.**

None.

**B. SALES AND RENTAL EQUIPMENT.**

None.

**C. LEGION HALL.**

Merrigan reported that the Legion Hall building may be coming up for sale and he was approached regarding any interest the MRNRD might have. No price was discussed. He will get further details and report back to the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 PM.

The next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, November 11, 2008 at 7:30 P.M. in Curtis, Nebraska at the Community Center at 201 Garlick Avenue. The office will be closed on Monday instead of Tuesday for Veteran's Day Holiday.

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Stacie M. Owens  
Board Secretary