

MINUTES
Middle Republican Natural Resources District
Board of Directors Meeting
May 13, 2008
Curtis, Nebraska

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

Board Members Absent: Jerry Mustion, Rick Spencer

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

NRCS Staff: Doug Whisenhunt

Others: William Barger, Duane Dinnel, Brad Johnson, Larry Burke, Traci Witthuhn

Information Mailed to Directors

Agenda	Minutes from April 8
Public Hearing Agenda	Request for Variance
Financial Report from April	Monthly Income & Expense Report
Manager's Report	Draft Budget dated 5/7/08
Save a Life Stroke Awareness	NARD Budget Summary 5/27/08
NARD Committee Structure	E-mail from Glenn Johnson 4/9/08
E-Notes dated 4/22, 29 and 5/7	Press Release dated 4/11/08
OWH Article dated 4/12/08	Press Release dated 4/22/08
OWH Article dated 4/23/08	I & E Report
Thank you letter from Teresa Hayes	Request Letter from Teresa Hayes
'08 NE Envirothon Final Results	Water Contingency Cash Fund Usage Report
NARD Letters dated 4/11 & 17/08	Monthly Reservoir Report
RRBC Proposed Grant Projects Rpt	Letter from Bureau of Reclamation dated 4/4/08
Ground Water Management Needs	P & O Salary Spreadsheet (Original)
P & O Salary Spreadsheet (Revised)	Loup River Basin Tour Registration Form

Information Distributed at Meeting:

MRNRD Website Activity	MRNRD Conservation Awards Nomination Forms
SW NE RC&D Report	Request for Temporary Transfer T11-T12
Permanent Transfer Request PT8-10	Permit to Construct MR 511

REGULAR MEETING

The regular monthly board meeting was called to order by Chairman Friesen at 7:32 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 April 8, 2008 regular meeting were mailed to Directors.

- ◆ A motion was made by Anderjaska and seconded by Fornoff to approve the Minutes of the April 8, 2008 Regular Board Meeting.
Ayes- 9 Nays- 0 Motion Carried

The meeting was recessed at 7:34 p.m. for the purpose of opening the variance hearing. The meeting was reconvened at 7:47 p.m.

CONSIDER VARIANCE REQUEST

Discussion was held and concerns were brought up regarding possible future issues should this request be granted.

- ◆ A motion was made by Anderjaska to deny Larry Burke’s Request for Variance but died from lack of a second.

Smith recommended the Board provide Mr. Burke with some guidance. More discussion was held. The Board then provided some other alternatives for Mr. Burke to look into such as the permanent transfer of a Quick Response well and then return to the Board with a Request for Permanent Transfer and Permit to Construct a Well.

- ◆ A motion was made by Schurr and seconded by Moore to deny Larry Burke’s Request for Variance due to other options being available.
Ayes- 9 Nays- 0 Motion Carried

LEGAL MATTERS

- a. Case Status – LB 701 – Lancaster District Court.
Smith had nothing new to report. The Judge has still not made any decision.

FINANCIAL ACTIONS

- a. The financial report for April and Monthly Income and Expense Report were presented by Smith. The County Treasurer’s Balance was \$81,811.75.

- ◆ A motion was made by Nelson and seconded by Anderjaska to approve the April financial report and Monthly Income and Expense Report as presented.
Ayes- 9 Nays- 0 Motion Carried

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

- b. LB 701 Funds.
Smith went over items he put in his Manager’s Report pertaining to LB 701 Funds.
- c. Old Debts.
Smith discussed some outstanding debts that have not been collected. He has some further recommendations on which large debts to pursue collection on and the removal of some of the smaller debts at next audit. He is still reviewing the list and will have further recommendations possibly by the next meeting.
- d. Draft Budget.
Smith went over changes made based on comments from last meeting, other changes that will occur should LB 701 fall through and the further changes that will be

discussed later in the meeting regarding a new salary recommendation spreadsheet from the Personnel & Operations Committee which has not been incorporated into this draft of the budget.

OPEN FORUM

None.

REPORTS

A. NRCS REPORT

Doug Whisenhunt reported on staffing changes and announced that Juan Hernandez has been hired as the new ASTC/Field Operations West Manager. He announced that EQIP is on hold pending the approval of the new Farm Bill, CRP 38 signup is coming up May 19th, Loess Canyon burns are now done with approximately 70-80% kill putting it at the best burn they have had, field offices have been working on terraces but may have weather issues again this year and the livestock pipelines are going very good.

B. NARD

a. Report – Anderjaska brought up the Loup River Basin Tour on June 16-17, 2008 and encouraged attendance from our Board. Itinerary and registration forms were sent out in the Board packets.

b. Consider NARD budget.

Smith provided the NARD Summary Budget with hand written notes on the specific numbers relating to the MRNRD. Anderjaska answered questions from other Board members.

◆ A motion was made by Anderjaska and seconded by Schurr to approve increases in the NARD budget of up to 10%.

Ayes-8

Nays-Moore

Motion Carried

c. Heinz Award match Groundwater Foundation.

Anderjaska went over a request letter received from Glenn Johnson regarding a contribution to this matching fund. Discussion was held.

C. NACD

E-notes dated April 22, 29 and May 7, 2008 were mailed to the Directors.

D. NNRC

Smith announced that Wayne Madsen has passed away. He was a Governor appointee on the NNRC Board. Anyone interested in being considered for this open seat should get online and fill out a form.

E. DNR – ONGOING COMPACT ISSUES.

Smith went over Kansas' threatening a lawsuit and announced he will be attending the final discussions in Lincoln on May 15th and 16th.

F. INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

Roger Lawson went over the following:

(1) REPORTS.

Announced that the Spring issue of Sprinkles & Splashes is being prepared to be sent to the McCook Gazette. He went over the 2008 Nebraska Envirothon Final Results, a

thank you from Teresa Hayes of Wauneta-Palisade for partial funding for the registration fee and a request for partial funding for their team to go to Nationals in Flagstaff, Arizona.

◆ A motion was made by Nelsen and seconded by Schurr to give the Wauneta-Palisade Envirothon Team \$500.00 to help pay for their trip to the National Envirothon competition.

Ayes- 9

Nays- 0

Motion Carried

(2) CONSERVATION AWARDS.

Lawson provided copies of the nominations received for Outstanding Tree-planter Award, Honor Conservation Award and Outstanding Grassland Award. He also discussed the cost of the aerial farm photo customarily given to the winners. It would be approximately \$300.00 per photo. Lawson will be looking for sponsors to pay for half the cost. Anderjaska suggested looking into other photography alternatives.

◆ A motion was made by Randel and seconded by Moore to nominate Mark Heskett for the Outstanding Tree-planter Award.

Ayes- 8

Nays- 0

Abstain - Fornoff

Motion Carried

◆ A motion was made by Moore and seconded by Loomis to nominate Kent Weskamp for the Honor Conservation Award.

Ayes- 9

Nays- 0

Motion Carried

◆ A motion was made by Anderjaska and seconded by Fornoff to nominate Stan and Marilyn Pilcher for the Outstanding Grassland Award.

Ayes- 9

Nays- 0

Motion Carried

G. REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN COALITION

Traci Witthuhn went over the following:

(1) LB 1094 LOAN AND PAYMENTS.

All payments have been made to the irrigation districts with a confirmation that they received the payment.

(2) DNR AUDIT REPORT.

The Water Contingency Cash Fund Usage Report prepared for DNR was provided to the Board.

◆ A motion was made by Friesen and seconded by Fornoff to accept the Water Contingency Cash Fund Usage Report.

Ayes-8

Nays-Haag

Motion Carried

H. NE REPUBLICAN RIVER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION

Smith discussed some concerns that were brought up by the group relating to communication issues. These issues will continue to be addressed as concerns arise.

I. OTHER AGENCIES

(1) RC&D – Roger Stockton provided his report in the Board packet.

J. LEGISLATION

(1) NARD Reports.

Smith reported on the outcome of the bills. He included NARD updates in the Board packets for more details.

(2) Legislature Adjourned.

GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT AREA

A. GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT AREA

1. REPORTS

(a) WELL PERMITS

None.

(b) SURFACE WATER

Smith went over enclosed report.

(c) METER PROGRAM

None.

(d) INCENTIVE PROGRAM

None.

2. TRANSFER REQUEST

Merrigan presented the following Temporary Transfer request for 2008:

	FROM	TO
T-11	Robert J. Boner	Don Oppliger

- ◆ A motion was made by Fornoff and seconded by Schurr to approve Temporary Water Transfer Requests T11.

Ayes - 7 Nays – Haag, Anderjaska Motion Carried

	FROM	TO
T-12	Lyle E. Brown	Gary Matson

- ◆ A motion was made by Anderjaska and seconded by Loomis to approve Temporary Water Transfer Requests T12 which is unused water pooled together and a reversal of that pooling agreement.

Ayes - 9 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

Merrigan presented the following Permanent Transfer requests from Bill Barger on behalf of David & Delma Fischer to Don Oppliger and Duane Dinnel to A.M. Bishop Family Trust:

	FROM	TO
PT-8	SE 1/4, SE ¼ of 21-7-29, Frontier Co.	SW ¼ of 2-10-33, Lincoln Co.
PT-9	SW ¼, SE ¼ of 31-5-33, Hayes Co.	SW ¼ of 24-5-35, Hayes Co.

Items were tabled until proper paperwork can be completed and a variance hearing can be scheduled.

Smith presented the PT-10, PT-11 and Permit to Construct # MR511 request from Logan Otto.

- ◆ A motion was made by Fornoff and seconded by Schurr to approve PT-10, PT-11 and Permit to Construct MR511.

Ayes – 8 Nays – Anderjaska Motion Carried

3. REPORT ON GRANT PROJECTS

Smith recommended that the Board continue to pursue grants and budget accordingly for items further discussed in his Manager’s Report.

4. REPORT ON APRIL 11 MEETING IN KANSAS CITY

Smith had nothing further to report on the meeting in Kansas City but included some articles in the Board packets on discussions being held.

5. REPORT ON AUGMENTATION PROJECT

Smith recommended the Board prioritize all efforts to find funding for the augmentation which he put in more details in his Manager’s Report. He went over project ideas and that the project is underway. He needs to know right now if the Board is not in support of the augmentation project.

- ◆ A motion was made by Nelsen and seconded by Fornoff to support the augmentation project.

Ayes – 8 Nays – Haag Motion Carried

6. WATER SHORT YEAR – 122,800 AC FT PROJECTED TO BE IN HARLAN CO. ACCORDING TO THE MARCH 30 REPORT

Smith reported that the April 30 report projected 125,600 acre feet in Harlan County at the end of June.

7. NEED FOR WATER PURCHASE PROGRAM

Smith went over his ideas and included a handout of Program Needs for the Board’s review.

B. GROUND WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA

None.

C. OTHER GROUND WATER ACTIVITY

None.

PROGRAMS

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT FUNDS

Smith presented the Cost-Share Summary and request approval for applications.

- ◆ A motion was made by Moore and seconded by Fornoff to approve Cost Share Report.

Ayes – 9 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

WATERSHEDS

None.

COMPLAINTS

None.

CHEMIGATION

None.

TREE PLANTING

Smith reported that tree planters were done planting and were now finishing up the mulch and barriers.

BUFFER STRIPS

None.

LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL APPLICATIONS

None.

GENERAL OPERATIONS

a. PERSONNEL – CONSIDER COMMITTEE SALARY

RECOMMENDATIONS

Smith pointed out the original spreadsheet containing the salary recommendations and the revised spreadsheet proposed by the Operations and Personnel Committee based on feedback the Committee received at the previous meeting. He also included a recommendation for the Board to approve the Personnel and Operations Committee recommendations for salaries.

- ◆ A motion was made by Nelsen and seconded by Moore to accept the Personnel & Operations Committee revised salary recommendations.

Ayes-5	Nays-Haag, Loomis, Schurr, Anderjaska	Motion Carried
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b. SALES AND RENTAL EQUIPMENT

None.

c. CONSIDER RENEWAL OF DEPOT LEASE

Smith reported that we were still waiting on the lease renewal documents. It will need to be renewed before the 1st of July.

d. MEETING ROOM FURNITURE

Smith announced that the Community Center has already purchased the meeting room furniture but that they needed folding chairs.

- ◆ A motion was made by Loomis and seconded by Anderjaska to buy 50 folding chairs for approximately \$750.00 for the new Community Center in Curtis.

Ayes-6	Nays-Nelsen, Schurr, Haag	Motion Carried
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The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 PM.

The next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, June 10, 2008 at 7:30 P.M. in Curtis, Nebraska at the new Community Center at 201 Garlick Avenue.

Stacie M. Owens
Board Secretary