

MINUTES
Middle Republican Natural Resources District
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, January 12, 2010
Curtis, Nebraska

Board Members Present: Josh Friesen, Kevin Fornoff, Dan Nelsen, Marty Schurr, Joe Anderjaska, Brad Randel, Buck Haag, Benjie Loomis, Rick McConville, Rick Spencer

Board Members Absent: James Uerling

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

NRCS Staff: Doug Whisenhunt

Others: Traci Witthuhn, Raymond Durner, Tom Baker, Roger Goltl, Brad Johnson

Information E-mailed to Directors:

Option ltr from Smith, 12/17/09

E-mail from Smith re: LRNRD, 12/29/09

LJS article, 1/4/10

E-Notes for Dec. 22 and Jan. 7

LRNRD Letter to DNR, 12/30/09

Legislative Update, 1/8/10

Information Mailed to Directors:

Agenda

Financial Report

Civil Rights Resources

Surface Water Report

Board Meeting Minutes

Monthly Income & Expense

I & E Report

DNR Letter, 12/18/09

Information Distributed at Meeting:

Audit Report

Legislative Bill 862

Surface Water Report

MRNRD Draft Letter, 1/12/10

OWH Editorial, 1/6/10

Prescribed Burn Training

Rolling Average Spreadsheet

Website Activity

Proposed 2010 Legislation, Carlson

Permit to Construct Report

DNR Letter, 1/7/10

Water Matters, Vol. 1 and 2

Cost Share Report

Republican River Restoration Partners

RRBC Report

REGULAR MEETING

1. The regular monthly board meeting was called to order by Chairman Friesen at 1:31 pm.

- a. Verify Quorum.
- b. Excused Absences – None.

2. The agenda and roster were circulated to those present.

- a. Items added since mailing – 11.b.2. Washington, DC Trip, March
11.b.3. Voting Delegate
12.a.2. Tabled Transfer, Eichman to Seward

3. 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. Guests should also note the location of a current copy of the statutes dealing with public meetings and the booklet with the information provided to directors.

4. The Minutes for the December 16th Regular Board Meeting was mailed to Directors.

- ◆ A motion was made by Anderjaska and seconded by Schurr to approve the Minutes of the December 16th Regular Board Meeting.
Ayes- 10 Nays- 0 Motion Carried

5. Open Hearing for Variance Request. None.

6. Close Hearing. None.

7. CONSIDER VARIANCE REQUEST

None.

8. FINANCIAL ACTIONS

a. The December Financial Report and Monthly Income and Expense Report were presented by Smith. The County Treasurer's Balance was \$6,476.25.

- ◆ A motion was made by Anderjaska and seconded by Spencer to approve the December Financial Report and Monthly Income and Expense Report as presented.
Ayes- 10 Nays- 0 Motion Carried

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

b. Audit.

Smith briefly went over the audit which was handed out at the meeting. He encouraged the board to read over it and call with any questions. The Board will need to accept the audit at the February meeting. He also announced the need for a new audit firm as the current firm we use will be discontinuing doing governmental subdivision audits. If anyone has any firms in mind, please let Smith know.

9. LEGAL MATTERS

- a. Case Status – LB 701 – Declaratory Judgment – January 21.
Smith announced the trial is set for January 21 at 11:30 am in McCook.
- b. Occupation Tax Challenge – Lancaster District Court.
Nothing new.

10. OPEN FORUM

None.

11. REPORTS – AGENCIES, ASSOCIATIONS, OTHERS

A. NRCS REPORT.

1. District Cons. Report. Whisenhunt went over his report and answered questions.

B. NARD

1. Report – Anderjaska reported on Legislative Conference coming up January 25th through the 27th in Lincoln. Smith included some Legislative bills that would be discussed.

2. Washington, DC Trip, March 2010. Smith and Anderjaska would both be interested in attending and requested authorization from the Board.

- ◆ A motion was made by Fornoff and seconded by Loomis to authorize Smith and Anderjaska, and anyone else interested in attending, to attend the NARD Washington DC trip in March.

Ayes – 10 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

3. Voting Delegate and Alternate.

Friesen asked for volunteers and Randel agreed to be the Voting Delegate and Fornoff agreed to be the Alternate.

C. NNRC

1. Report – Nelsen reported that the next meeting would be January 27th in Lincoln, during the Legislative Conference.

D. INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

1. Reports.

Lawson went over his report and answered questions.

E. REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN COALITION

Witthuhn went over her report which was distributed at the meeting and answered questions.

F. NE REPUBLICAN RIVER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

Witthuhn announced next meeting will be held February 1st in Imperial.

G. OTHER AGENCIES OR ASSOCIATIONS.

1. RC&D. None.

H. LEGISLATION.

1. Legislative Conference January 25, 26 & 27.

Smith e-mailed NARD's report to Board Members. There was discussion on new legislation.

12. GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT AREA

A. GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT AREA

1. REPORTS

(a) WELL PERMITS

Report handed out.

(b) SURFACE WATER

Bureau's report handed out.

(c) METER PROGRAM

Smith reported that the Technicians were still reading meters but should be able to finish up this week and start going out to pick up readings on meters that had to be missed due to crops still in the field.

(d) AWEF.

Smith stated that we are still waiting for official notice of the second wave of funding.

2. TRANSFERS REQUESTS.

(a) INITIAL REVIEW LIST – None.

(b) FINAL REVIEW – Tabled Eichman - Seward.

Merrigan reported that Eichman and Seward have requested that their transfer which was tabled last fall, be addressed at the next meeting due to purchase contract currently in place.

- ◆ A motion was made by Randel and seconded by Fornoff to pull the Eichman to Seward transfer off the table for consideration at the next meeting.

Ayes – 8 Nays – Haag, McConville Motion Carried

3. ACREAGE REDUCTION PROGRAM.

Smith stated that nothing new for the ARP program until we have further confirmation on the AWEF program funding and applications.

4. GROUNDWATER COMMITTEE REPORT – Report on Option 4 progress.

Smith went over the groundwater committee meeting with DNR and the introduction of the rolling allocation theory to them. They agreed to take it back and work on running some scenarios in the model. They also agreed that with the programs we have offered to retire acres, we should be getting some kind of credit for those efforts. More will have to be discussed and thought out on how to actually do that.

Smith included a copy of the letter from DNR dated January 7th and a draft response for the Board's consideration.

- ◆ A motion was made by Anderjaska and seconded by Nelsen with regard to the response to the January 7th letter from Dunnigan, state that the proposed schedule for

adoption be delayed by at least 30 days.

Ayes – 10 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

Discussion was held relating to the possibility of a meeting with DNR during Legislative Conference while the majority of the Board would be in Lincoln.

- ◆ A motion was made by Anderjaska and seconded by McConville to try to set up a meeting with DNR on January 26th or 27th in Lincoln.

Ayes – 10 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

Smith provided two handout of a new publication called “Water Matters”.

B. GROUND WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA.

None.

C. OTHER GROUND WATER ACTIVITY

None.

13. PROGRAMS

A. CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT FUNDS.

1. Approve Applications. Smith went over Cost-Share.

- ◆ A motion was made by Fornoff and seconded by Loomis to approve the Cost Share applications.

Ayes – 10 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

B. WATERSHEDS.

Smith reported that DNR has approved permits for the structures with a minor change to 80A which was agreed upon by NRCS. BSB will have 10 days to get the bonds needed and then the contract will be awarded to them. At that time, notice to proceed and winter shutdown will be given that same day.

C. COMPLAINTS.

None.

D. CHEMIGATION.

None.

E. TREE PLANTING.

Merrigan reported that orders were coming in slowly but steady.

F. BUFFER STRIPS.

None.

G. LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL APPLICATIONS.

None.

14. GENERAL OPERATIONS.

A. PERSONNEL.

None.

B. SALES AND RENTAL EQUIPMENT.

None.

C. CANDIDATE FILING DATES.

Smith went over filing dates with Board Members.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

The next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, February 9, 2010 at 7:00 pm in Curtis, Nebraska at the Community Center at 201 Garlick Avenue.

Stacie M. Owens
Board Secretary