

MINUTES
Middle Republican Natural Resources District
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, April 8, 2014 at 7:30 PM
Curtis, Nebraska

Board Members Present: Kevin Fornoff, Joe Anderjaska, Buck Haag, James Uerling, Steve Cappel, Bill Hoyt, Benjie Loomis, Brad Randel, John Palic, Blaine Stinson, Rick McConville

Board Members Absent: None

NRD Staff: Jack Russell, Bob Merrigan, Stacie Owens, Sylvia Johnson

NRCS Staff: Ben Hardin

Others: Jay Schilling, Dan Estermann, William M. Barger, Rick Spencer, Brad Johnson, Steve Stroup, Chelsea Erickson, Marty Schurr

Information E-mailed to Directors:

Lathrop Interview	LB 1074
Legislative Update 3/14, 3/21, 3/28, 4/7	LB 1074 Testimony and associated responses
Governor on LB 1074	LB 1074 – first reported vote
eResource dated 4/1, 4/8	Carlson/Lathrop Compromise Amend. To LB 1098
Letter from DNR	AM to LB 1098 redo

Information Mailed to Directors:

Agenda	March Meeting Minutes
Public Hearing Agenda	Request for Variance and pertaining documents
Financial Report	Profit & Loss Budget vs Actual
Draft Budget	Civil Rights Handout
ARP Application	Surface Water Report

Information Distributed at Meeting:

Scholarship Recommendation	Cost Share Report
GW Monitoring Report	Articles by Russ Pankonin (2)

REGULAR MEETING

1. The regular monthly board meeting was called to order by Chairman Haag at 7:30 pm.
 - a. Verify Quorum.
 - b. Excused Absences – None.
2. The agenda and roster were circulated to those present.
 - a. Items added to the Agenda since mailing: None.
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 March Regular Board Meeting were mailed to Directors.

- ◆ Hoyt moved to approve the Minutes from the March Regular Board Meeting. Seconded by Fornoff.
Ayes - 11 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

MOVED AGENDA ITEMS 5, 6 AND 7 DOWN FOLLOWING FINANCIAL ACTIONS.

8. FINANCIAL ACTIONS

A. The March Financial Report and Profit and Loss Budget vs Actual were presented by Russell. The taxes received were \$80,599.99.

- ◆ Hoyt moved to approve the March Financial Report and Profit and Loss Budget vs Actual as presented. Seconded by Uerling.
Ayes - 11 Nays - 0 Motion Carried

A copy of this report is filed with the Minutes.

B. Review Draft Budget.

Russell went over some preliminary numbers and items he wanted to Board to consider over the next few months.

5. Open Hearing for Variance Request at 7:47 pm.

6. Close Hearing at 8:05 pm.

7. CONSIDER VARIANCE REQUEST

Discussion held.

- ◆ Uerling moved to deny Variance Request #11-FY2014. Seconded by Cappel.
Ayes - 10 Nays – Fornoff Motion Carried

9. LEGAL MATTERS

A. Compliance Issues.

Russell went over a letter from DNR handed out. Lengthy discussion held.

B. Barger and Others vs. MRNRD.

Russell stated that on June 10th at 11 AM in Stockville the Judge will hear oral arguments.

10. OPEN FORUM

None.

11. REPORTS – AGENCIES, ASSOCIATIONS, OTHERS

A. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

1. District Conservation Report – Hardin reported on current activities they are working on and other changes and holdups due to Farm Bill.

2. Local Work Group Meeting. May 7th at 9:30 am at the NRCS office in McCook they will be holding their annual Local Work Group. He encourage Board members to attend.

3. Watershed Rehabilitation. There are funds available for watershed rehab at a 35-65% split. Hardin wanted to know if we wanted to get on the list for the dam by Rick Spencer's place as it is in need of repair.

- ◆ Anderjaska moved to direct Russell to send a letter to get added to the list for watershed rehabilitation funding. Seconded by Fornoff.

Ayes - 11 Nays - 0 Motion Carried

B. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD)

1. Report – Anderjaska reported that a budget should be available at the next Board Meeting. Basin tour is scheduled June 9th and 10th to view augmentation projects.

C. Nebraska Natural Resources Commission (NNRC)

1. Report – Fornoff stated that the next meeting will be in June in Chadron.

D. INFORMATION AND EDUCATION.

1. Report. Russell reported that Sylvia will be taking over position for the next few months to determine whether she would like to stay in that position or return to her current one. Johnson went over the scholarship applicants and her recommendations.

- ◆ Uerling moved to approve the recommendations for two \$500 scholarships to be awarded to Cory Merrigan and Shelby Farr. Seconded by Palic.

Ayes - 11 Nays - 0 Motion Carried

Johnson also reported that the website has been disabled and we are looking for a company to rebuild it and also provide an app that can be utilized to get important information out to the producers. Currently getting quotes and it looks like cost will be around \$5,000-8,000. She and Russell will get in contact with the executive committee for approval once all quotes have been provided.

E. NE REPUBLICAN RIVER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION (NeRRMDA)

1. Report – Hoyt/Fornoff. Hoyt reported that the meeting had been postponed again and is now planned for May 21st. He is in the process of gathering more information he plans on discussing at the meeting.

F. RRCA.

None.

G. LEGISLATION.

1. NE Water Funding Task Force Report – Fornoff reported on some of the bills and their current status.

H. N-CORPE.

1. Status Report

Randel stated that they had purchased an excavator.

2. Construction Progress.

Randel went over some of the electronic issues that were being worked on and some culvert fixes on McDermott's that were being done. He also discussed the plans for the

potato sheds and grain bins and possibly renting ground to a wind energy company to generate additional income. Discussion was held on many other issues relating to taxes, management and ongoing concerns of the Board members.

I. OTHERS.

None.

12. GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT AREA

A. GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT AREA

1. REPORTS

(a) WELL PERMITS

None.

(b) SURFACE WATER

Bureau’s report included in packet.

(c) METER PROGRAM

Technicians are servicing Lincoln and Frontier counties now.

(d) EQIP/ARP.

Merrigan reported that Wolfe did accept the counteroffer made for \$1,750 per acre and will plan on taking 2 payments in January 2015 and January 2016. Merrigan went over ARP application from John Miller at a bid price of \$1,500 per acre for 100.5 acres. Discussion held regarding cost share that may be available through the State or through grant projects.

- ◆ Palic moved to table Miller’s ARP application until we can look into additional funding sources. Seconded by Hoyt.
Ayes - 11 Nays - 0 Motion Carried

(e) GROUND WATER COMMITTEE – pooling changes.

Russell went through some of the changes that the ground water committee discussed at their meeting. A revised draft will be completed for Board review at the May meeting.

2. RULES AND REGULATIONS.

None.

3. IMP – DNR DISCUSSION.

(a) COMPLIANCE OPTIONS.

- ◆ Fornoff moved to direct Palic to sign check to pay for surface water purchased from Frenchman Valley and H&RW. Seconded by Loomis.
Ayes – 10 Nays – 0 Abstain - Palic Motion Carried

Russell discussed some conversations he has had with regards to finding an engineer and some avenues he will be pursuing.

4. NOTICES OF NON-COMPLIANCE ISSUED.

None.

5. CEASE AND DESIST ORDER.

None.

6. TRANSFER REQUESTS:

- a. Initial Review – NONE.
- b. Final Review – NONE.

B. GROUND WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA.

None.

C. OTHER GROUND WATER ACTIVITY

None.

13. PROGRAMS

A. COST-SHARE FUNDS – LCP/NSWCP.

1. Approve Applications. Merrigan went over the cost share report.

- ◆ Cappel moved to approve the April Cost Share Report as presented. Seconded by Uerling.

Ayes – 11 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

B. WATERSHEDS.

None.

C. EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL ACT.

None.

D. COMPLAINTS – Reports on previous complaints.

None.

E. CHEMIGATION.

None.

F. TREE PLANTING.

Merrigan will be picking up trees from Halsey on Thursday, Colorado trees have already arrived and tree planting will begin next week.

G. BUFFER STRIPS.

None.

H. LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL APPLICATIONS.

None.

14. GENERAL OPERATIONS.

A. PERSONNEL.

None.

B. SALES AND RENTAL EQUIPMENT.

None.

C. ELECTIONS.

Incumbents: Stinson, Randel, Palic, Hoyt, Fornoff, Cappel

Non-Incumbents: Brian Schafer, William M. Barger, Shane Rippen, Jay Schilling,
Marty Schurr

D. PERSONNEL & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE: Stinson, Hoyt, Cappel. Report.

Russell reported on the process of performance reviews he is planning and will meet with the committee following those reviews to discuss salaries.

E. BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS BIDS.

Merrigan reported that no other bids were submitted. Construction will start soon.

The next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, May 13, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. at the Community Center, at 201 Garlick Avenue, Curtis, Nebraska.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:03 pm.

Stacie M. Owens
Board Secretary