

MINUTES
Middle Republican Natural Resources District
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, August 10, 2021 at 7:00 PM
Curtis, Nebraska

Board Members Present: Joe Anderjaska, Travis Rousselle, Benjie Loomis, Tracy Zink, Dan Nelsen, Dan Estermann, Jay Schilling, Shane Rippen, Rick McConville, Jolene Messinger, Brad Randel, John Palic

Board Members Absent: None

NRD Staff: Jack Russell, Alex Boyce, Sylvia Johnson and Stacie Owens

NRCS Staff: Jason Kennedy

Others: William M. Barger

Information Posted to Directors I-Pads:

Agenda	Minutes – Regular Meeting
Minutes – Public Hearing	Minutes – Special Meeting
Financial Report	Draft IMP, 4/30/21
Midlands Voices, 7/21/21	30-by-30 Initiative, 7/13/21
Draft Tech Memo	Conserving and Restoring 2021
Ricketts' Order, 7/26/21	Budget

Information Distributed at Meeting:

Legal Summary	Findings and Conclusions of Hearing
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Information E-Mailed:

N-CORPE Mtg Reminder	Hearing & Meeting Agenda
Reminder Manager Review WS	Budget Reminder
Surface Water Report	

REGULAR MEETING

1. The regular monthly board meeting was called to order by Chairman Randel at 7:00 pm.
 - a. Verify Quorum.
 - b. Excused Absences.
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 July Regular Board Meeting, Hearing and Special Meeting were posted to the Directors IPads.

- ♦ Schilling moved to approve the minutes of the July Regular Board Meeting. Seconded by Zink.
Ayes – 9 Nays – 0 Abstain – Messinger, Palic, Randel Motion Carried
- ♦ Anderjaska moved to approve the minutes of the July Hearing with inclusion of the court reporter transcript. Seconded by Palic.
Ayes – 10 Nays – 0 Abstain – McConville, Randel Motion Carried
- ♦ Schilling moved to approve the minutes of the July Special Meeting. Seconded by Messinger.
Ayes – 10 Nays – 0 Abstain – McConville, Randel Motion Carried

5. FINANCIAL ACTIONS

A. The July Financial Report was presented by Russell. The taxes received were \$49,631.48.

- ♦ Nelsen moved to approve the July Financial Report. Seconded by Loomis.
Ayes - 12 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

A copy of this report is filed with the Minutes.

B. Budget – Approve Budget to go to Hearing. Russell went over the budget in detail.

- ♦ Loomis moved to approve the budget to go to hearing in September with increased mil levy and occupation tax set at \$10/acre. Seconded by Anderjaska.
Ayes - 12 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

6. OPEN FORUM

Rick Spencer, Culbertson. Express frustration regarding the dam project being so slow to get completed.

James Uerling, Indianola. Explained the situation they are having on the H&RW canal.

7. MANAGER'S REPORT

A. IMP/Technical Memo – Final Vote.

- ♦ Anderjaska moved to approve the Fifth Generation Integrated Management Plan, jointly developed by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources and the Middle Republican Natural Resources District. Seconded by Nelsen.
Ayes - 11 Nays – 0 Abstain - Estermann Motion Carried

- ♦ Anderjaska moved to adopt the *Monitoring & Studies Technical Memorandum for the URNRD, MRNRD, and LRNRD IMPs*, jointly developed by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources and the Upper Republican, Middle Republican, and Lower Republican NRD's, to take effect on the same date as the Fifth Generation Integrated Management Plan. Seconded by Zink.

Ayes - 11 Nays – 0 Abstain - Estermann Motion Carried

B. SW WEED MANAGEMENT

Russell stated that they are requesting a Letter of Support for an NET Grant and then a pledge from us for \$5,000 match if they do get the grant. The Board discussed and will not pursue at this time. Russell will inform them they can come address the Board if they wish to move forward with our help.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

9. NRCS

Kennedy working on late CSP contacts. All WaterSmart funds were obligated. There are 10 CREP renewals this year. Secured range judging location for this district. They will be starting up training sessions again.

10. NARD

A. 30-by-30. Information was posted to the IPads for Board to review.

B. 2021 NARD Annual Conference – 9/26-28/21. No further details have been posted.

11. N-CORPE

Loomis and Zink were in attendance at the meeting held here at the office. Loomis stated that the Game & Parks Agreement for a shared employee had changed a bit. Employee has already been hired. Next meeting will be in October.

12. LEGAL MATTERS

To be discussed in Executive Session.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Personnel.

- ♦ Zink moved to enter into executive session to discuss personnel with the Board. Seconded by Loomis.

Ayes – 12 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

Chairman Randel restated, for the record, the limitation of the subject matter of the closed session.

Entered at 8:15 pm.

- ♦ Palic moved to exit the executive session. Seconded by Loomis.
Ayes - 12 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

Exited at 8:47 pm.

Chairman Randel turned the meeting over the Vice Chairman Zink.

- ♦ Palic moved to enter into executive session to discuss legal matters with the following Board Members only: Zink, Anderjaska, Rousselle, Messinger, Loomis, Nelsen, Estermann, Schilling, Rippen and Palic; and, via phone, Don Blankenau for legal counsel if needed. Seconded by Schilling.
Ayes – 10 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

Vice Chairman Zink restated, for the record, the limitation of the subject matter of the closed session.

Entered at 8:51 pm.

- ♦ Palic moved to exit the executive session. Seconded by Anderjaska.
Ayes - 10 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

Exited at 9:24 pm.

Vice Chairman Zink offered findings and conclusions of hearing to be discussed.

- ♦ Schilling moved to adopt the findings and conclusions of the July hearing and authorize Zink to sign. Seconded by Loomis.
Ayes - 10 Nays – 0 Abstain – McConville, Randel Motion Carried

A copy of the official Findings and Conclusions of Hearing are filed with these minutes.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 7:00 pm at the Middle Republican NRD Office in Curtis, Nebraska.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Stacie M. Owens, Board Secretary