

MINUTES
Middle Republican Natural Resources District
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, June 9, 2014 at 7:30 PM
Curtis, Nebraska

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

Board Members Absent: None.

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

NRCS Staff: Ben Hardin

Others: Luke Bortner, Brian Schafer, Dan Estermann, William M. Barger

Information E-mailed to Directors:

N-CORPE Arbitration – Final Order	eResources dated 5/20, 5/28, 6/3
Basin Tour	USGS
Presentation from last week’s mtg	GW Committee Copy of Pooling Changes

Information Mailed to Directors:

Agenda	May Meeting Minutes
Financial Report	Profit & Loss Budget vs Actual
Civil Rights Handout	ARP Application
Surface Water Report	

Information Distributed at Meeting:

Draft Budget	Expired CREP Acres
Cost Share Summary	Dunbar Peterson Insurance Quote
LARM Insurance Quote	ATV Bids
GM Employment Agreement	Ltr from Bureau of Reclamation

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 May Regular Board Meeting were mailed to Directors.

- ◆ Anderjaska moved to approve the Minutes from the May Regular Board Meeting. Seconded by Randel.
Ayes - 10 Nays – 0 Abstain - Hoyt Motion Carried

5. Open Hearing for Variance Request. None.

6. Close Hearing.

7. CONSIDER VARIANCE REQUEST

None.

8. FINANCIAL ACTIONS

A. The May Financial Report and Profit and Loss Budget vs Actual were presented by Russell. The taxes received were \$872,245.55.

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

A copy of this report is filed with the Minutes.

B. Review Draft Budget.

Russell went over new changes to the draft budget and answered questions of the Board.

9. LEGAL MATTERS

A. Compliance Issues.

Russell stated that all water purchased from H&RW has been delivered.

B. Others.

Russell reported on the Barger case. Still waiting on more information on the Medicine Creek case.

10. OPEN FORUM

William M. Barger, Culbertson. Expressed concerns about proposed pooling changes.

11. REPORTS – AGENCIES, ASSOCIATIONS, OTHERS

A. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

1. District Conservation Report – Hardin reported on current workload, program changes and funding.

B. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD)

1. Report – Anderjaska reported on the latest meeting and basin tour, insurance is going to be lower than last year by around 2.5%, state fair building is coming along very well and will be ready by State Fair and Fall Conference will be September 22-23.

C. Nebraska Natural Resources Commission (NNRC)

1. Report – Fornoff went over recent meeting held in Sidney last week. Next meeting will be in Chadron.

D. INFORMATION AND EDUCATION.

1. Report. Johnson reported that the website is coming along and hopefully it will be up and running within the next 10 days. She also reported on the business meetings that were held in McCook.

E. NE REPUBLICAN RIVER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION (NeRRMDA)

1. Report – Hoyt/Fornoff.

Hoyt reported that DNR turned down their invitation to attend the meeting and other items that were discussed at the meeting.

F. RRCA.

None.

G. LEGISLATION.

1. NE Water Funding Task Force Report – Fornoff.

None.

2. 1098 – Basin Planning.

Russell updated the Board on current status and answered questions.

H. N-CORPE.

1. Status Report.

Randel provided an update.

2. Construction Progress.

Russell stated that Ron Bourne had more flooding on his ground than expected and instead of wanting compensation, he requested he be given more allocation. Discussion held.

♦ Hoyt moved to deny Bourne’s request for more allocation. Seconded by Loomis.

Ayes – 10 Nays – 0 Abstain - Uerling Motion Carried

3. Bond Payments.

Russell reported that the payments have been made.

I. OTHERS.

USGS-Water Model.

Russell stated that a meeting would be set up for June 26th. He will email once all the details of the meeting are finalized.

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

None.

(d) EQIP/ARP.

(i) Gothenburg Livestock Inc.

Merrigan went over application. Discussion held.

- ◆ Hoyt moved to table the ARP application from Gothenburg Livestock Inc. Seconded by Uerling.

Ayes – 11 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

(e) GROUND WATER COMMITTEE – pooling changes.

Johnson went over changes made to the proposed pooling portion of the Rules and Regulations. Discussion held.

- ◆ Palic moved to table proposed revisions to the Rules and Regulations until we get more direction. Seconded by Anderjaska.

Ayes – 11 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

2. RULES AND REGULATIONS.

(a) APPROVE CHANGES TO GO TO HEARING.

None.

3. IMP – DNR DISCUSSION.

(a) COMPLIANCE OPTIONS.

None.

4. NOTICES OF NON-COMPLIANCE ISSUED.

None.

5. CEASE AND DESIST ORDER.

None.

B. GROUND WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA.

None.

C. OTHER GROUND WATER ACTIVITY

1. Variance Request Change (Initial/Final).

Russell went over the concept of changing the way Variance's are handled. Will have to talk to Schroeder to ensure we are following legal channels before any changes to the process are made.

13. PROGRAMS

A. COST-SHARE FUNDS – LCP/NSWCP.

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

- ◆ Anderjaska moved to accept the June Cost Share Report as presented. Seconded by Hoyt.

Ayes – 11 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

B. WATERSHEDS.

None.

C. EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL ACT.

Merrigan reported on an issue by Harry Strunk Lake. He is currently working with the land owner to look at putting in some terraces.

D. COMPLAINTS – Reports on previous complaints.

None.

E. CHEMIGATION.

Merrigan stated that the technicians would begin inspections tomorrow.

F. TREE PLANTING.

Completed.

G. BUFFER STRIPS.

None.

H. LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL APPLICATIONS.

None.

14. GENERAL OPERATIONS.

A. INSURANCE.

Russell went over the two proposals received from Dunbar Peterson and LARM, and his recommendation.

- ◆ Hoyt moved to accept the bid from Dunbar Peterson. Seconded by Stinson.

Ayes – 11 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

B. SALES AND RENTAL EQUIPMENT.

1. ATV Bids.

Merrigan went over the bids received from Deveny's and Lewis Motorsports, and his recommendation.

- ◆ Anderjaska moved to accept the bid from Lewis Motorsports for the 2014 Suzuki LT-A400F (automatic) for \$4,075. Seconded by Hoyt.
Ayes – 11 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

C. PERSONNEL & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE.

1. Report. Russell requested the Board to go into executive session to discuss salaries, job descriptions, staffing and personnel policy changes.

- ◆ Palic moved to enter into executive session to discuss a legal matter, salaries, job descriptions, staffing and personnel policy changes. Seconded by Uerling.
Ayes – 11 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

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

Entered into Executive Session at 9:51 pm.

- ◆ Palic moved to exit the executive session. Seconded by Fornoff.
Ayes – 11 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

Exited Executive Session at 10:28 pm.

D. WAGE/SALARY APPROVAL FOR FY 2014-2015.

E. STAFF/JOB DESCRIPTION CHANGES.

- ◆ Hoyt moved to accept Russell's contract, salaries, job descriptions, staffing and personnel policy changes. Seconded by Fornoff.
Ayes – 11 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

The next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, July 8, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. at the Community Center, at 201 Garlick Avenue, Curtis, Nebraska.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:33 pm.

Stacie M. Owens
Board Secretary