

MINUTES
Middle Republican Natural Resources District
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, May 13, 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

Board Members Absent: Bill Hoyt

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

NRCS Staff: Jason Kennedy, Doris Burke

Others: Marty Schurr, William M. Barger, Jay Schilling, Brad Edgerton, Shane Rippen, Chelsea Erickson

Information E-mailed to Directors:

Bureau Harlan Supply	2014 Interim Study List
News Articles April 11	Legislative Update dated 4/14,
eResources dated 4/15, 4/22, 4/30, 5/6, 5/13	NARD Summary April 17 Sine Die Update
LB 1098 Final Reading	Russell work schedule
DNR letter to RRMDA	Meetings

Information Mailed to Directors:

Agenda	April Meeting & Hearing Minutes
Financial Report	Profit & Loss Budget vs Actual
Civil Rights Handout	Basin Tour Agenda & Registration
Well Permit Report	Pooling Agreement language - Draft
Personnel Policy changes - Draft	May 8 th letter re: Medicine Creek LLC

Information Distributed at Meeting:

MRNRD Focus Group Agenda	Cost Share Report
Computer Bids	

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.

♦ Uerling moved to excuse the absence of Hoyt due to illness. Seconded by Cappel.
Ayes - 9 Nays - 0 Motion Carried

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 April Regular Board Meeting and Public Hearing were mailed to Directors.

Stinson arrived at 7:36 pm.

- ♦ Fornoff moved to approve the Minutes from the April Regular Board Meeting, as amended, and Public Hearing. Seconded by Loomis.
Ayes - 10 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

5. Open Hearing for Variance Request. None.

6. Close Hearing.

7. CONSIDER VARIANCE REQUEST

None.

8. FINANCIAL ACTIONS

A. The April Financial Report and Profit and Loss Budget vs Actual were presented by Russell. The taxes received were \$159,344.34.

- ♦ Anderjaska moved to approve the April Financial Report and Profit and Loss Budget vs Actual as presented. Seconded by Loomis.
Ayes - 10 Nays - 0 Motion Carried

A copy of this report is filed with the Minutes.

- B. Review Draft Budget.
None.

9. LEGAL MATTERS

- A. Compliance Issues.
None.
- B. Barger and Others vs. MRNRD.
Oral arguments scheduled for June 10th in Stockville at 11 am.

10. OPEN FORUM

William M. Barger, Culbertson. Comments relating to proposed changes to the pooling agreement section of the Rules and Regulations.

11. REPORTS – AGENCIES, ASSOCIATIONS, OTHERS

A. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

1. District Conservation Report – Kennedy thanked Bob Merrigan and Bill Hoyt for their attendance at the local workgroup. He also provided an update on EQIP funds, drought EQIP funds available and other activities.

B. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD)

- 1. Report – Nothing new.

2. Basin Tour, June 9th & 10th.
Anderjaska encouraged Board Members to sign up.

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. Johnson reported that the website should be up and running around the first part of June. She also went over the bids received for the new server and computers.

- ♦ Anderjaska moved to accept the bid from Integrated Management. Seconded by Stinson.
Ayes - 10 Nays - 0 Motion Carried

2. Ace Scholarships. Johnson stated that there are four applicants.

- ♦ Anderjaska moved to approve applicants for the Ace Scholarships at \$190 per person. Seconded by Fornoff.
Ayes - 10 Nays - 0 Motion Carried

E. NE REPUBLICAN RIVER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION (NeRRMDA)

1. Report – Hoyt/Fornoff. Next meeting is May 21st at McCook Community College.

F. RRCA.

None.

G. LEGISLATION.

1. NE Water Funding Task Force Report – Fornoff. Nothing new.
2. 1098 – Basin Planning. Meeting will be held on May 20th in Holdrege.

H. N-CORPE.

1. Status Report. Loomis reported on the last meeting. Next meeting is scheduled for May 21st at 9 am in McCook.

2. Construction Progress. Merrigan stated that the heavy rains identified a few culverts that will need additional work. Loomis reported 27 wells are up and running, 3 are still having some issues but they anticipate them to be running very soon, doing some seeding and spraying to control weeds, Lincoln County voted to tax N-CORPE as grassland but N-CORPE will be taking the decision to TERK and sold Wallace potato facility for 1,350,000

3. Bond Payments. Russell updated for the Board on bond payments that will be coming due.

I. OTHERS.

USGS-Water Model. Russell reported on his meeting with USGS and a proposal they are currently drawing up. Russell will contact the executive committee to meet to review the proposal once it is received.

12. GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT AREA

A. GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT AREA

1. REPORTS

(a) WELL PERMITS

Merrigan went over his report.

(b) SURFACE WATER

Bureau's report included in packet.

(c) METER PROGRAM

None.

(d) EQIP/ARP.

None.

(e) GROUND WATER COMMITTEE – pooling changes.

Discussion held regarding suggested changes and other ideas were expressed. Will set up an additional meeting with NRCS and possibly FSA to get feedback from them as well.

2. RULES AND REGULATIONS.

None.

3. IMP – DNR DISCUSSION.

(a) COMPLIANCE OPTIONS.

Russell stated he had more research he would like to do before pushing forward with getting percentages changed. Discussion held.

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 May Cost Share Report as presented. Seconded by Uerling.

Ayes – 8 Nays – 0 Abstain – Fornoff, Stinson 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.

Completed.

G. BUFFER STRIPS.

None.

H. LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL APPLICATIONS.

None.

14. GENERAL OPERATIONS.

A. PERSONNEL.

Russell went over the MRNRD focus groups he, Merrigan and Johnson would be holding in McCook this Wednesday and next Thursday. He also went over a request from Amanda Schuler to work from home during maternity leave. Kennedy provided a copy of the agreement he put together between NRCS and Schuler.

- ♦ Uerling moved to approve Schuler's request to work from home pursuant to the terms of Kennedy's agreement. Seconded by Stinson.

Ayes – 10 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

B. SALES AND RENTAL EQUIPMENT.

None.

C. ELECTIONS.

Nothing new.

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

Russell went over the suggested changes to the Personnel Policy.

- ♦ Fornoff moved to approve the changes to the Personnel Policy as recommended by the Personnel and Operations Committee. Seconded by McConville.

Ayes – 10 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

The next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, June 10, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. at the Community Center, at 201 Garlick Avenue, Curtis, Nebraska.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm.

Stacie M. Owens
Board Secretary