

**MINUTES**  
**Middle Republican Natural Resources District**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Tuesday, August 12, 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, Bill Hoyt**

**Board Members Absent:** Rick McConville

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

**NRCS Staff:** Jason Kennedy

**Others:** Jay Schilling, Dan Estermann, Brian Schafer, William M. Barger, Dan Smith, Shane Rippen, Marty Schurr

**Information E-mailed to Directors:**

eResources dated 7/8, 7/15, 8/5, 8/12	Governor's Weekly Column – Water Mgmt Progress
NARD News Clippings 7/24	Budget & Memo
Medicine Creek Basin Model	Special Meeting Agenda

**Information Mailed to Directors:**

Agenda	Regular Meeting Minutes
Adjudicatory Hearing Minutes	Financial Report
Civil Rights Handout	NARD Annual Conference Information
Surface Water Report	

**Information Distributed at Meeting:**

Draft Budget	Verified Petition
Public Notice from DNR	Cost Share Report

**REGULAR MEETING**

1. The regular monthly board meeting was called to order by Acting Chairman Palic at 7:37 pm.
  - a. Verify Quorum.
  - b. Excused Absences.

◆ Hoyt moved to excuse the absence of McConville. Seconded by Uerling.  
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 July Regular Board Meeting and Adjudicatory Hearing were mailed to Directors.

- ◆ Hoyt moved to approve the Minutes from the July Regular Board Meeting and Adjudicatory Hearing. Seconded by Loomis.  
Ayes - 9      Nays - 0      Motion Carried

5. Open Hearing for Variance Request. None.

6. Close Hearing.

## **7. CONSIDER VARIANCE REQUEST**

None.

## **8. FINANCIAL ACTIONS**

A. The July Financial Report and Profit and Loss Budget vs Actual were presented by Russell. The taxes received were \$38,306.36.

- ◆ Uerling moved to approve the June Financial Report as presented. Seconded by Hoyt.  
Ayes - 9      Nays - 0      Motion Carried

A copy of this report is filed with the Minutes.

*Acting Chairman moved Item 9 here.*

## **9. LEGAL MATTERS**

A. Update on Medicine Creek case – Schroeder went over the recent dismissal of the original lawsuit and the filing of a new lawsuit which occurred on Friday. He explained the process, his strategy and answered questions.

Haag arrived at 7:47 pm.

Palic turned the meeting over to the Chairman.

- B. Compact Issues.  
None.

- C. Other.

Merrigan reported that Koetter had been served and did respond with the appropriate documentation. Russell stated that in the future, we would be more proactive at keeping deadlines and standing firm.

## **8. FINANCIAL ACTIONS**

B. Approve Budget for Publication and Set Hearing Date.  
Russell went over the budget and stated that final valuation numbers would not be known until August 20th, and answered questions of the Board.

- ◆ Hoyt moved to approve the budget for publication, set hearing date for September 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm and authorize Russell to set mill levy based on final valuation numbers. Seconded by Anderjaska.  
Ayes - 10      Nays – 0      Motion Carried

**9. LEGAL MATTERS**

*Moved up on the agenda following Item 8.A.*

**10. OPEN FORUM**

None.

**11. REPORTS – AGENCIES, ASSOCIATIONS, OTHERS**

**A. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**

1. District Conservation Report – Kennedy went over their current work load and answered questions. He also answered some questions relating to the watershed assessments. Discussion held.

- ◆ Hoyt moved to approve hiring NRCS to do the watershed assessment and authorize Russell to sign the agreement with NRCS. Seconded by Uerling.  
Ayes - 10      Nays – 0      Motion Carried

Kennedy also went over the contact agreement we have had with NRCS which pays \$25,000 of each Ben Hardin and Robb Overton’s salaries.

- ◆ Palic moved to approve continuing the agreement with NRCS to pay \$25,000 of Ben Hardin’s salary and \$25,000 of Rob Overton’s salary, and authorize Russell to sign agreement. Seconded by Fornoff.  
Ayes - 10      Nays – 0      Motion Carried

Discussed helping NRCS fill the position in the Trenton office. Item will be added to the agenda for next month for further discussion.

**B. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD)**

1. Report – Anderjaska reported that the State Fair would be going soon and encouraged anyone going to stop by the new NARD building.

2. Annual Conference – Voting delegate. Fornoff will be the delegate and Anderjaska will be the alternate.

**C. Nebraska Natural Resources Commission (NNRC)**

1. Report – Fornoff stated that the next meeting will be August 13<sup>th</sup> in Kearney.

**D. INFORMATION AND EDUCATION.**

1. Update on Website. Johnson reported that the website is up and running.

2. Grant Application. Johnson stated that she has begun gathering information to write a grant for the groundwater modeling project.

**E. NE REPUBLICAN RIVER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION (NeRRMDA)**

1. Report – Hoyt/Fornoff.  
None.

**F. RRCA.**

None.

**G. LEGISLATION.**

1. 1098 – Basin Planning. Russell stated that we have published a notice for DNR on our website and in local papers. He went over some of the discussions they had related to who would be interested or helpful in participating in the project.

**H. N-CORPE.**

1. Status Report.

Randel stated they were working on figuring out what to do with the 85 pivots they still need to sell. Some of the seed didn't turn out as well as they had hoped so they were looking into possibly trying an aerial application of the seed. The accountant is working on the depreciation schedule and reviewing the books.

2. Other.

None.

**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**

None.

**(d) EQIP/ARP (2 applications tabled: John Miller/Gothenburg Livestock).**

None.

**(e) GROUND WATER COMMITTEE – pooling changes (currently tabled).**

None.

**2. RULES AND REGULATIONS.**

**(a) APPROVE CHANGES TO GO TO HEARING (currently tabled).**

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. Creation of Sub-Committee - FV. Russell stated that he has met with Don Felker to discuss some ideas that could be sought out to help both the NRD and the Frenchman Valley. He would like to create a sub-committee to meet and work with them. Discussion held. Volunteers for the committee are Hoyt, Palic, Uerling, Cappel and Stinson. Russell will set up a time to meet in McCook.

2. Modeling. Russell went over the meeting with Brown and Caldwell and discussed the difference between their proposal compared to that of USGS. Discussion held.

- ◆ Anderjaska moved to hire Brown and Caldwell and work out an agreement with regard to billing so the grant monies could be utilized more efficiently. Seconded by Stinson.  
Ayes - 9      Nays - 0      Abstain - Palic      Motion Carried

**13. PROGRAMS**

**A. COST-SHARE FUNDS – LCP/NSWCP.**

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

- ◆ Cappel moved to accept the August Cost Share Report as presented. Seconded by Palic.  
Ayes - 10      Nays - 0      Motion Carried

**B. WATERSHEDS.**

Discussed during the NRCS report.

**C. EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL ACT.**

None.

**D. COMPLAINTS – Reports on previous complaints.**

None.

**E. CHEMIGATION.**

On-going.

**F. TREE PLANTING.**

None.

**G. BUFFER STRIPS.**

None.

**H. LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL APPLICATIONS.**

None.

**14. GENERAL OPERATIONS.**

**A. PERSONNEL.**

**1.** Curtis Field Office Secretary. Russell reported that applications were being received and will continue to be received until the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**B. SALES AND RENTAL EQUIPMENT.**

None.

The next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, September 9, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. and the budget hearing at 7:00 pm at the Community Center, at 201 Garlick Avenue, Curtis, Nebraska.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.

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Stacie M. Owens  
Board Secretary