

MINUTES
Middle Republican Natural Resources District
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at 1:30 PM
Curtis, Nebraska

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

Board Members Absent: None

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

NRCS Staff: Jason Kennedy, Kathryn Barger, Ron Thompson, Shirley Ferguson, Kort Kemp

Others: Tessa Stinson, Stan Moore, Brad Johnson, Shane Rippen, Scott Moore, Dan Hughes, Jay Schilling, Dan Estermann

Information Mailed to Directors:

Regular Meeting Agenda	Minutes
Public Hearing Agenda	Var 2 – FY2-15
Var 3 – FY2015	Depletions, Development, Static Level, Water Use
Financial Report	Profit & Loss Budget vs Actual
Civil Rights Handout	Legislative Conference Tentative Agenda
Brown & Caldwell Statement	R & R proposed changes
Draft Letter to DNR	Water Management in NE

Information Distributed at Meeting:

Schroeder & Schroeder bill breakdown	Resolution by the RRCA
Cost Share Report	NE Revised Statute 2
IMP Pumping Standards WS	

Information E-mailed

FVID Committee Mtg	GW Committee Mtg
Medicine Creek Variance	Medicine Creek Variance & Interrogatories
NDNR News Release	Final Message from Brian
Groundwater Committee	

REGULAR MEETING

1. The regular monthly board meeting was called to order by Chairman Haag at 1:33 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 November Regular Board Meeting were mailed to Directors.

- ◆ Uerling moved to approve the Minutes from the November Regular Board Meeting. Seconded by Cappel.
Ayes - 11 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

5. Open Hearing for Variance Request at 1:35 p.m.

6. Close Hearing at 2:12 p.m.

7. CONSIDER VARIANCE REQUEST

Discussion held.

- ◆ Uerling moved to deny Variance requests 2 & 3-FY2015. Seconded by Cappel.
Ayes - 7 Nays – Fornoff, Loomis, Randel, Anderjaska Motion Carried

8. FINANCIAL ACTIONS

A. The November Financial Report and Profit and Loss Budget vs Actual were presented by Russell. The taxes received were \$94,528.52.

- ◆ Anderjaska moved to approve the November Financial Report and Profit and Loss Budget vs Actual. Seconded by Loomis.
Ayes - 11 Nays - 0 Motion Carried

A copy of this report is filed with the Minutes.

9. LEGAL MATTERS

A. Barger Case. Nothing new.

B. Medicine Creek Case. Schroeder provided an update at the banquet.

C. John Walters.

Explained we were named in the lawsuit due to having an easement on the area of ground that was named in the dispute.

D. Compact Issues.
None.

E. Other. None.

10. OPEN FORUM

Jay Schilling, McCook. Schilling handed out some documents related to surface water and went over issues relating to the FCID water supply. He also stated that the FCID Manager had composed a letter on behalf of FCID which was sent to the Bureau and DNR. He further requested that the MRNRD Board send a letter to the Bureau and DNR.

Dan Estermann, Wellfleet. Concerns regarding N-CORPE and some statements he had heard relating to compact compliance. Haag addressed some of those questions.

11. REPORTS – AGENCIES, ASSOCIATIONS, OTHERS

A. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

1. District Conservation Report – Kennedy went over his report and stated that the Baker project has now been completed. They will be finalizing the billing over the next couple of weeks.

B. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD)

1. Report – Anderjaska. Reported on preparations for Legislative Conference.

2. Legislative Conference January 27th & 28th.

Owens will need to know who is interested in going by the end of December.

3. Voting Delegates.

Decide at January meeting.

C. Nebraska Natural Resources Commission (NNRC)

1. Report – Fornoff reported on their November meeting. Next meeting will be to discuss rules which will be held in Lincoln during Legislative Conference.

D. INFORMATION AND EDUCATION.

1. Year in Review. Russell went over during the banquet.

E. NE REPUBLICAN RIVER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION (NeRRMDA)

1. Report – Hoyt/Fornoff.

Hoyt reported that they were supposed to have a meeting after the basin report came out but nobody set one up.

F. RRCA.

None.

G. LEGISLATION.

1. 1098 – Basin Planning.

None.

H. N-CORPE.

1. Status Report. Randel provided an update on possible options for hunting on the ground with some funding by Game & Parks to hire someone to monitor the hunters. Further discussions will be held on this as they learn more about how it would work. Discussed the interviewing process and the non-acceptance of the position from the guy they wanted to hire. They will reopen the position and look for more applicants.

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

None.

(c) METER PROGRAM

Technicians reading.

(d) GROUND WATER COMMITTEE – Critical Management Area.

Uerling reported on discussions held at the ground water committee meeting. Looking at developing a critical township area identifying anything over 30% development, 20 foot declines and loss of over 10% saturated thickness. Will need to add additional monitoring wells so we can develop more complete data.

(e) FRENCHMAN VALLEY COMMITTEE

Russell set up a meeting for December 10th in McCook.

(f) MODELING – BROWN & CALDWELL

Activities completed report included. Russell went over some of the discussions they had on the monthly teleconference.

2. RULES AND REGULATIONS.

(a) Draft of Changes.

Went over the changes which mainly related to the prices. These adjustments will help cover our costs associated with Chemigation.

(b) Set Hearing Date.

- ◆ Palic moved to take the proposed changes to hearing at the January 13th meeting. Seconded by Fornoff.

Ayes - 11 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

3. IMP – DNR DISCUSSION.

(a) Draft of Hoyt Ltr to DNR.

Hoyt provided a draft copy of his proposed letter to DNR and instructed the Board to make adjustments as they saw fit. Discussion held.

- ◆ Hoyt moved to direct Russell to move forward in pursuit of correcting the percentages between the districts to 25.8% for LRNRD, 30.8% for MRNRD and 43.4% for the URNRD. Seconded by Palic.

Ayes - 11 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

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) FCID Report – Uerling reported on the recent meeting with FCID and further discussed items brought up by Schilling in open forum.

- ◆ Hoyt moved to draft a letter to the Bureau and DNR asking for water to be held upstream as long as possible. Seconded by Uerling.

Ayes - 11 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

13. PROGRAMS

A. COST-SHARE FUNDS – LCP/NSWCP.

1. Approve Applications.

- ◆ Cappel moved to accept the 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.

None.

G. BUFFER STRIPS.

None.

H. LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL APPLICATIONS.

None.

14. GENERAL OPERATIONS.

A. PERSONNEL

Russell stated that the Feds were rumored to be closing their offices on both December 25th and 26th so our office will do the same as we usually mirror their schedule when it comes to holidays.

B. SALES AND RENTAL EQUIPMENT.

None.

C. REPLACE PICKUP – Spencer’s.

Merrigan reported that the new Ford purchased this spring caught fire while Spencer was reading meters. The insurance company will be paying for a new one and we will pick it up on Thursday.

The next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, January 13, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. at the Trenton Community Center, at 201 Garlick Avenue, Curtis, Nebraska.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:36 pm.

Stacie M. Owens
Board Secretary