

MINUTES
Middle Republican Natural Resources District
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, December 13, 2016 at 1:30 PM
Curtis, Nebraska

Board Members Present: Joe Anderjaska, Shane Rippen, Jay Schilling, Rick McConville, John Palic, Buck Haag, Benjie Loomis, Brad Randel, Kevin Fornoff, Steve Cappel, James Uerling

Board Members Absent: None

NRD Staff: Jack Russell, Alex Boyce, Sylvia Johnson, Doris Burke, Mary Tidyman & Stacie Owens

NRCS Staff: Jason Kennedy, Shirley Ferguson, Kathy Barger, Ron Thompson, Kaila Kressin

Others: Rick Spencer, Brian Schafer, Dan Estermann, Adrienne Randel

Information Mailed to Directors:

Agenda	Minutes
Financial Report	Legal Billing Summary
Profit & Loss Budget vs Actual	Civil Rights Handout
Bonding Amended Resolution	Surface Water Report
Bylaws	

Information Distributed at Meeting:

NRCS Report	Long Term Lease
Grant Application Score & Funding WS	

Information E-mailed

Letters mailed to Producers

REGULAR MEETING

1. The regular monthly board meeting was called to order by Chairman Haag at 1:35 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.

- ◆ Schilling moved to approve the minutes of the November Regular Board Meeting as corrected. Seconded by Fornoff.

Ayes - 10 Nays – 0 Abstain - Uerling Motion Carried

5. CONSIDER VARIANCE REQUEST

None.

6. FINANCIAL ACTIONS

A. The November Financial Report was presented by Russell. The taxes received were \$112,649.87.

- ◆ Uerling moved to approve the November Financial Report. Seconded by Schilling.
Ayes - 11 Nays - 0 Motion Carried

A copy of this report is filed with the Minutes.

7. OPEN FORUM

None.

8. REPORTS – AGENCIES, ASSOCIATIONS, OTHERS

A. NRCS

1. District Conservation Report – Kennedy went over his report he handed out updating the Board on what they are currently working on and notified them that he and Jack will be starting to interview to fill the Curtis secretary position soon.

B. NARD

1. Report – Rippen stated he was unable to attend the November meeting but did go over the update from Dean Edson. Legislative conference will be the next event which will begin January 23rd in Lincoln.

C. NNRC

1. Report – Fornoff went over the results of the approved grant applications and discussed some of the projects.

D. INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

1. Report – Johnson reported on meetings with DNR. She will also be spending a lot of time on the hi-tech project now that the grant has been approved.

E. RRCA.

None.

F. LEGISLATION

1. 1098 – Basin Planning. Next meeting will be on January 17th.

G. N-CORPE

1. Status Report. Randel reported that N-CORPE has started pumping again. There are some concerns relating to some bills they have received which are planned to be discussed at tomorrow's meeting.

2. Amended Bond Resolution. Owens went over the amended resolution on the bonding which now included the language allowing the districts' to put down additional funds on the refinancing resolution that was previously approved.

- ◆ Anderjaska moved to approve the Amendment to Prior Resolution authorizing the issuance of Limited Obligation Occupation Tax Supported River Flow Enhancement Refunding Bonds in the maximum principal amount not to exceed \$23,750,000 for the purpose of refunding some or all of the outstanding Series 2013 Limited Obligation Occupation Tax Supported River Flow Enhancement Refunding Bonds previously issued by the NRD to NCORPE “and lower the threshold of the proposed resolution to 4%”. Second by Cappel.
Ayes - 10 Nays – Palic Motion Carried

- 3. Other.
None.

H. OTHERS

Russell reported that the weather station in Hayes Center is up and running. We paid for the entire project and DNR will be reimbursing some of those funds back to us soon.

9. GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT AREA

A. GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT AREA

1. REPORTS

(a) WELL PERMITS.

None.

(b) SURFACE WATER

Bureau’s report was included in the packets.

(c) METER PROGRAM

Technicians are cleaning up some of the readings on the wells they were unable to get to due to crops still being in the fields.

(d) GROUND WATER COMMITTEE

Russell would like to set up another committee meeting before bringing the final changes of the rules and regulations before the entire Board. He will work on setting up a time sometime towards the end of December or first part of January.

(e) FRENCHMAN VALLEY COMMITTEE.

Long Term Lease. A copy of the proposed lease was handed out for Board review. Discussion held.

- ◆ Uerling moved to approve the proposed lease between the Middle Republican NRD and Frenchman Valley/H&RW Irrigation Districts at \$18/acre foot during compact call years and \$9/acre foot during non-compact call years with a cap at \$150,000/per year. Seconded by Schilling.

Ayes - 11 Nays - 0 Motion Carried

Purchase of Enders Water.

Discussion held regarding purchase of Enders water which the Bureau figured would be around 2,000/acre feet which would provide an approximate credit of 1,500/acre feet for our District.

- ◆ Schilling moved to approve the purchase of Enders water at \$40/acre foot. Seconded by Loomis.
Ayes - 7 Nays - 0 Abstain – Palic, Rippen, Uerling, Cappel Motion Carried

(f) MODELING – BROWN & CALDWELL

Russell stated that once we know if we get the NET grant, we will have them start working on the Red Willow project.

(g) TZA PROPOSAL.

Russell reported they are working on the mound credit with Boyce.

2. RULES AND REGULATIONS

Discussed under Ground Water Committee section.

3. IMP

Will discuss further under legal matters.

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

None.

10. PROGRAMS

A. COST-SHARE FUNDS – LCP/NSWCP.

1. Approve Applications.

None.

B. WATERSHEDS.

None.

C. EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL ACT.

None.

D. COMPLAINTS.

None.

E. CHEMIGATION.

None.

F. TREE PLANTING.

None.

G. BUFFER STRIPS.

None.

H. LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL APPLICATIONS.

Staff reviewed the application from Buffalo Plains Genetics Farrowing Operation and found nothing of concern to report.

11. GENERAL OPERATIONS.

A. PERSONNEL.

Russell has items to discuss under executive session.

B. SALES AND RENTAL EQUIPMENT.

None.

Randel exited the meeting at 2:40 PM.

C. BYLAW REVISIONS.

Reviewed the proposed changes and revisions.

- ◆ Fornoff moved to approve the changes to the bylaws as presented. Seconded by Anderjaska.
Ayes – 10 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

12. LEGAL MATTERS

A. Compact Issues.

Russell stated that he has requested compact credit numbers from DNR but they have not yet responded. He is planning on meeting with Fassett tomorrow to discuss exactly what we are requesting.

B. Other.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- ◆ Uerling moved to enter into executive session to discuss legal and personnel issues with the Board and Manager. Seconded by McConville.
Ayes - 10 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

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

Entered at 3:08 pm.

- ◆ Fornoff moved to exit the executive session. Seconded by Loomis.
Ayes - 10 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

Exited at 3:33 pm.

- ◆ Fornoff moved to approve the recommended changes to the job descriptions as proposed by Russell. Seconded by McConville.
Ayes - 10 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

The next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. at the Indianola Community Center, at 408 F Street, in Indianola, Nebraska

The meeting was adjourned at 3:36 pm.

Stacie M. Owens, Board Secretary