

MINUTES
Middle Republican Natural Resources District
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, December 12, 2017 at 1:30 PM
Curtis, Nebraska

Board Members Present: Joe Anderjaska, Shane Rippen, Rick McConville, John Palic, Buck Haag, Kevin Fornoff, Steve Cappel, Jolene Messinger, Brian Schafer, Benjie Loomis, Jay Schilling, Brad Randel, Rick Spencer

Board Members Absent: None.

NRD Staff: Jack Russell, Alex Boyce, Sylvia Johnson, Mary Tidyman, Connie Elson and Stacie Owens

NRCS Staff: Jason Kennedy, Kaila Kressin

Others: William M. Barger, Ken Anderson, Dan Estermann, Marvin Knoll, Randy Robinson, Kyle Shepherd

Information Mailed to Directors:

Regular Meeting Agenda	R & R Public Hearing Minutes
Regular Meeting Minutes	Financial Report
Legal Summary	Profit & Loss Budget vs Actual
Civil Rights Handout	FVID Water Supply Calculations
Surface Water Report	

Information Distributed at Meeting:

Cost Share Summary	2018 Legislative Conference Tentative Agenda
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Information E-mailed

NRD Banquet Head Count for Lunch	Audit
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REGULAR MEETING

1. The regular monthly board meeting was called to order by Chairman Haag at 1:38 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: 8.b.4. NARD Voting Delegate
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 Rules and Regulations Public Hearing and Regular Board Meeting were mailed to Directors.

- ◆ Schilling moved to approve the minutes of the Rules and Regulations Public Hearing and Regular Board Meeting. Seconded by Cappel.
Ayes - 13 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

5. CONSIDER VARIANCE REQUEST

None.

6. FINANCIAL ACTIONS

A. The November Financial Report was presented by Russell. The taxes received were \$116,070.05.

- ◆ Schilling moved to approve the November Financial Report. Seconded by Rippen.
Ayes - 13 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

A copy of this report is filed with the Minutes.

B. Audit – Accept

- ◆ Schilling moved to accept the audit report. Seconded by Fornoff.
Ayes - 12 Nays – Palic Motion Carried

C. Policy on Past Due Bills.

Discussion held about changing policy to interest after 30 days and turn over to collection after 120 days. Russell will draft something up to be approved at the next meeting.

7. OPEN FORUM

William M. Barger, Culbertson. Commented that the State of Nebraska cap is 16%.

Randy Robinson, Wellfleet. Wanted to continue to have the Board consider their proposal on the sale of the N-CORPE land.

8. REPORTS – AGENCIES, ASSOCIATIONS, OTHERS

A. NRCS

1. District Conservation Report – Kennedy reported on workload and deadlines. There are a number of tree and shrub plantings this year so they plan on start to flag them now. No budget has been released yet so the position in Hayes Center will remain unfilled.

B. NARD

1. Report – Rippen reminded everyone about Legislative Conference coming up January 23-24, 2018.

2. Senator Reception at Leg. Conf. Johnson requested guidance from the Board as to what to set up and gave them a couple options. Discussion held. They advised her to talk to the other NRD's and see what they wanted to do.

3. Legislative Conference – Attendance Count. Currently, Anderjaska, Schilling, Palic, Loomis, Haag, Randel, Rippen and McConville all plan to attend.

4. Voting Delegate. Haag appointed Palic as the delegate and Schilling as the alternate.

C. NNRC

- 1. Report – Fornoff reported on the grants and funds.

D. OUTREACH

1. Report – Johnson has been reading meters. She did attend a meeting with DNR with Russell.

- 2. Red Thread Agreement.

Russell and Johnson met with them and were provided with costs of services. The idea is to get the district more exposure with the Senators and others about challenges we face and management actions that are being done.

- ◆ Anderjaska moved to approve up to \$30,000 for Phase 1 and work on getting sponsorships to offset some of the cost. Seconded by Rippen.
Ayes - 12 Nays – Palic Motion Carried

Schafer left the meeting at 2:29 PM.

E. LEGISLATION

- 1. 1098 – Basin Planning.
Stakeholder meeting is tomorrow in Arapahoe.

F. N-CORPE

1. Status Report. Loomis reported they have not had any meetings since our last board meeting. Kyle Shepherd was at the meeting to update the Board on what they have been working on. He stated they are currently dealing with the tumbleweed issue on the Randy Robinson field with a customer harvester they hired to pick the corn and are working with the insurance company to see if there can be some insurance coverage payment. Flash grazing bids are out on the website. The Board members had additional questions and discussion was held.

- ◆ Schilling moved to request the N-CORPE Board provide the MRNRD Board with a formal plan on how they intend to effectively manage the land and that plan should be received within 90 days. Seconded by Spencer.
Ayes - 12 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

Rippen left the meeting at 3:07 PM.

- ◆ Schilling moved to direct the staff to work with Senator Hughes on what it would take legislatively to make a change that would provide the ability to sell some of the N-CORPE property. Seconded by Cappel.
Ayes - 11 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

Discussion on starting to research what the hurdles may be by working with the Senator’s staff.

- 2. Other
None.

G. OTHERS

DNR – Surface Water Credits. Will discuss letter in executive session.

9. GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT AREA

A. GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT AREA

1. REPORTS

(a) WELL PERMITS.

None.

(b) SURFACE WATER.

Bureau's report included in Board packets.

(c) METER PROGRAM.

Wrapping up meter readings.

(d) GROUNDWATER COMMITTEE.

None.

(e) MODELING – BROWN & CALDWELL.

Still working on the model.

(f) WELLFLEET ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Russell stated that he will be setting up a meeting sometime in the next month.

2. RULES AND REGULATIONS.

a. Lift Variance Suspension.

- ◆ Loomis moved to lift the suspension on variances and transfers. Seconded by Fornoff.

Ayes - 10 Nays – Haag Motion Carried

3. IMP

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

None.

10. PROGRAMS

A. COST-SHARE FUNDS – LCP/NSWCP.

Cost share report reviewed.

B. WATERSHEDS.

Currently working on the dam at Rick Spencer's.

C. EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL ACT.

None.

D. COMPLAINTS.

None.

E. CHEMIGATION.

None.

F. TREE PLANTING.

Russell stated that we will plan to stay with the current tree planter for this year.

G. BUFFER STRIPS.

None.

H. LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL APPLICATIONS.

None.

11. GENERAL OPERATIONS.

A. PERSONNEL & PROGRAMS.

Will discuss in executive session.

B. SALES AND RENTAL EQUIPMENT.

None.

C. ELECTIONS.

Reminder for incumbents that deadline is February 15.

12. LEGAL MATTERS

A. Compact Issues.

None.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- ◆ Anderjaska moved to enter into executive session to discuss potential litigation and real estate with the Board, Manager and staff. Seconded by Palic.
Ayes - 11 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

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

Entered at 3:26 pm.

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

Exited at 4:12 pm.

- ◆ Anderjaska moved to enter into executive session to discuss personnel and N-CORPE with the Board and Manager. Seconded by Palic.
Ayes - 11 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

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

Entered at 4:13 pm.

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

Exited at 4:38 pm.

The Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 9, 2017 at 1:30 pm at the Curtis Community Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:39 pm.

Stacie M. Owens, Board Secretary