

MINUTES
Middle Republican Natural Resources District
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, February 10, 2015 at 1:30 PM
Hayes Center, Nebraska

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

Board Members Absent: None

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

NRCS Staff: Jason Kennedy, Kathy Barger

Others: Roger Goltl, William M. Barger, Dan Estermann, Mike Winter, Brad Johnson, Chelsea Erickson, Don Felker,

Information Mailed to Directors:

Agenda	R & R Hearing Minutes
Regular Meeting Minutes	Financial Report
Profit & Loss Budget vs Actual	Civil Rights Handout
Well Permit Report	2014 Water Usage – Final
R & R effective Feb. 9, 2015	Well Permit application
Variance Request VAR4-2015	2015 Pickup Bids

Information Distributed at Meeting:

Schroeder Bill Breakdown	Variance Request form (03/15)
Draft changes to Rule 2-1.2	Ltr to MRNRD & URNRD from DNR (1/29/15)
Ltr to MRNRD from DNR (1/29/15)	Cost Share Summary
Kansas Bostwick ID Ltr (2/5/15)	Ltr from Schroeder (2/9/15)

Information E-mailed

NARD Bills through Day 7	NARD Bills through Day 9
NARD Bill List w/ Budget Bills	Medicine Creek Watershed
eResource dated 1/20, 2/2, 2/3, 2/4	Barger Case decision
Management Actions	

REGULAR MEETING

1. The regular monthly board meeting was called to order by Chairman Haag at 1:30 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 January Rules and Regulations Hearing and Regular Board Meeting were mailed to Directors.

- ◆ Schilling moved to approve the Minutes from the January Rules and Regulations Hearing and Regular Board Meeting. Seconded by Fornoff.
Ayes - 11 Nays - 0 Motion Carried

5. Open Hearing for Variance Request. None.

6. Close Hearing.

7. CONSIDER VARIANCE REQUEST

None.

8. FINANCIAL ACTIONS

A. The January Financial Report and Profit and Loss Budget vs Actual were presented by Russell. The taxes received were \$861,022.42.

- ◆ Uerling moved to approve the January Financial Report and Profit and Loss Budget vs Actual. Seconded by Schilling.
Ayes - 11 Nays - 0 Motion Carried

A copy of this report is filed with the Minutes.

9. OPEN FORUM

William M. Barger, Culbertson. Commented that the board should consider opening up pooling to everyone.

Don Felker, Culbertson. Reported on a teleconference between DNR and KS this morning. Also discussed other meetings that have occurred or will be occurring. All agencies are working together to come up with a solution.

10. REPORTS – AGENCIES, ASSOCIATIONS, OTHERS

A. NRCS

1. District Conservation Report – Kennedy reported that the Trenton position still has not been filled but he has received a job description for him to review. Currently ranking EQIP applications now. He also requested the Board to start to think about whether or not they would like to put in additional funds to increase the payment on EQIP applicants. Discussion held. Will plan on working with the Ground Water Committee to come up with a list for the Board to review.

B. NARD

1. Report – Uerling reported on the meetings during Legislative Conference. He was also placed on the Program and Planning Committee. Next meeting will be March 9th in Lincoln. The June meeting will be held at Monsanto and will coincide with the basin tour which will be June 15th & 16th and will tour the canals and N-CORPE. More details will be provided as they become available.

C. NNRC

1. Report – Fornoff reported on the meeting they had during Legislative Conference. He was nominated as Chairman. They are currently still working on rules. Their next meeting

will be February 20th in Kearney. He also reported that there are funds available that N-CORPE could be able to get and that they should pursue submitting a grant application.

D. INFORMATION AND EDUCATION.

1. Report – Johnson reported that the Water Conference is March 3rd in McCook. She currently has 7 speakers lined up. She is getting the details for the Meet and Greet with Dan Hughes and will provide those once available. The Envirothon will be held in Curtis tomorrow. The scholarship applications are out on the website and the deadline is April 1st.

E. NeRRMDA

1. Report – Cappel. None.

F. RRCA.

None.

G. LEGISLATION.

1. 1098 – Basin Planning.

Russell stated that the first stakeholder meeting will be held March 31st in Cambridge.

H. N-CORPE.

1. Status Report.

Randel and Loomis reported on what is currently going on. Reviewing bids for grass seeding now. Extended the lease on the pivots in Twin Platte. Working on getting bids for getting the concrete dozed and crushed for use on the roads and around the property.

2. Other.

None.

I. OTHERS.

None.

11. GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT AREA

A. GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT AREA

1. REPORTS

(a) WELL PERMITS

Report included.

(b) SURFACE WATER

No report available.

(c) METER PROGRAM

Final usage report provided.

(d) GROUND WATER COMMITTEE – POOLING/VARIANCE CHNGS.

Russell reported that Schroeder is currently reviewing the pooling changes so those will not be up for review by the board for a while. The variance changes are in the packets for the Board's review and consideration.

- ◆ Fornoff moved to approve the proposed changes to the Rules and Regulations and take them to Hearing in March. Seconded by Uerling.
Ayes - 11 Nays - 0 Motion Carried

(e) FRENCHMAN VALLEY COMMITTEE

Russell reported on the meeting they had with the Bureau last week and their meeting with DNR to discuss the FVID water situation. Russell recommends that the Board enter into an agreement with FVID to take water as long as they can while we continue to work with DNR to see what positive long term benefits can be attained.

- ◆ Uerling moved to offer FVID \$18 for every acre foot diverted with a cap of \$200,000. Seconded by Cappel.

Discussion held.

- ◆ Palic moved to amend the motion to set the cap at \$150,000. Seconded by Fornoff.
Ayes - 9 Nays – Uerling, Rippen Motion Carried

Further discussion held.

- ◆ McConville moved to amend the motion to offer \$10 for every acre foot diverted.

Motion died for lack of a second.

- ◆ Uerling moved to offer FVID \$18 for every acre foot diverted with a cap of \$150,000. Seconded by Cappel.
Ayes - 9 Nays – McConville, Haag Motion Carried

(f) MODELING – BROWN & CALDWELL

Russell reported that he has a copy of all the data collected so far and will have it posted on the website for the Board’s review.

2. RULES AND REGULATIONS.

None.

3. IMP – DNR DISCUSSION.

Russell went over the letter received from DNR on the percentages and discussed some ideas that have been tossed around. He is planning on using Landon on some of the ideas.

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. REVIEW OF GOLTL REQUEST.

Merrigan went over the documents provided and turned the questioning over to Roger Goltl. Goltl explained his request to move a well to another area to tie in with an existing well so he can water his pivot with more efficiency than he is currently able. The Board reviewed documents and questioned Goltl further. They also requested maps of current location of the well and the destination of the new well to be drilled as well as history of use from the staff.

2. MOORE HEARING.

An adjudicatory hearing will be set for April with regard to the Board's denial of the Moore Variance Request.

12. PROGRAMS

A. COST-SHARE FUNDS – LCP/NSWCP.

1. Approve Applications.

- ◆ Fornoff moved to accept the Cost Share Report as presented. Seconded by Loomis.
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.

Rules changes took effect February 9th.

F. TREE PLANTING.

None.

G. BUFFER STRIPS.

None.

H. LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL APPLICATIONS.

None.

13. GENERAL OPERATIONS.

A. PERSONNEL

Russell reported that the Curtis Field Office Secretary, Amy Houser, is expecting a new baby here shortly and he requested approval from the Board to allow her to work from home pursuant to the terms of Kennedy's agreement.

- ◆ Uerling moved to approve Houser's request to work from home pursuant to the terms of Kennedy's agreement. Seconded by Palic.
Ayes - 11 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

Russell stated that a request from Tom Hansen has been made to give Spencer Campbell 40 hours of Hansen's vacation.

- ◆ Anderjaska moved to approve 40 hours of Hansen's vacation to be transferred to Campbell. Seconded by Loomis.
Ayes – 11 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

B. SALES AND RENTAL EQUIPMENT.

None.

C. 2015 PICKUP BIDS.

Merrigan went over the bids received and answered questions.

- ◆ Uerling moved to accept the staff's recommendation for the purchase of a 2015 Dodge pickup from Janssen Jeep Dodge for \$13,337.00. Seconded by Cappel.
Ayes – 11 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

14. LEGAL MATTERS

A. Report. Russell went over the letter received from Schroeder answering a question Uerling had requested him to look into.

B. Compact Issues.

None.

C. Interlocal Agreement – 9 NRD's re: Lobbyist.

Russell requested the Board decide whether or not they want to get involved. 7 other NRD's have signed the agreement. The North Platte NRD declined. Discussion held.

- ◆ Cappel moved to deny participation in the interlocal agreement. Seconded by Schilling.
Ayes – 9 Nays – Anderjaska, Fornoff Motion Carried

D. Other. None.

The next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, March 10, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. at the Community Center at 201 Garlic Ave., Curtis, Nebraska.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:02 pm.

Stacie M. Owens
Board Secretary