

MINUTES
Middle Republican Natural Resources District
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at 1:30 PM
McCook, Nebraska

Board Members Present: Buck Haag, Joe Anderjaska, Shane Rippen, Rick McConville, John Palic, 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, Andrew Boyce, Sylvia Johnson and Stacie Owens

NRCS Staff: Jason Kennedy, Kaila Kressin, Carol Lashley

Others: Dan Estermann, William M. Barger, Chelsea Ericksen

Information Mailed to Directors:

Regular Meeting Agenda	Regular Meeting Minutes
Financial Report	Legal Summary
Profit & Loss Budget vs Actual	Civil Rights Handout
Letter from Strommen & Attachments	Surface Water Report

Information Distributed at Meeting:

High Tech Irrigation Invitation	2017 Crop Year Water Summary
Variance Summary	Cost Share Summary

Information E-mailed

N-CORPE Grazing	MRND Voting Districts
Legal Summary Breakdown	Groundwater Specialist
Forecast	NARD Weekly Report
Economic Study	

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 Regular Board Meeting were mailed to Directors.

◆ Schilling moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting. Seconded by Cappel
Ayes - 11 Nays – 0 Abstain -0 Haag Motion Carried

5. CONSIDER VARIANCE REQUEST

None.

6. FINANCIAL ACTIONS

A. The January Financial Report was presented by Russell. The taxes received were \$790,442.88.

- ◆ Schilling moved to approve the January Financial Report. Seconded by Palic.
Ayes - 12 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

Spencer arrived at 1:37 PM.

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 EQIP and Ogallala Aquifer funds received and the conservation stewardship deadline of March 2nd.

B. NARD

1. Report – Rippen went over their meeting during legislative conference which included some changes to insurance and review of the budget. Their next board meeting will be in March.

C. NNRC

1. Report – Fornoff stated that the Governor’s suggested budget would take 1.5 million in 2018 and 3.4 million in 2019 out of the Water Sustainability Fund. Their next board meeting will be in Kearney on February 21st.

D. OUTREACH

1. Report – Johnson passed around the video created by Red Thread. High Tech meetings are planned for February 22nd & 23rd at the Red Willow County Fairgrounds from 11:30 AM – 2 PM. Went to Lincoln to listen to testimony given on LB1123

E. LEGISLATION

- 1. 1098 – Basin Planning. None.
- 2. LB1123/LB1124. Russell went over what was going on in the legislature on the two bills and some of the testimony.

F. N-CORPE

1. Status Report. Loomis went over the meeting held in Alma on January 31st. He updated the board on the harvesting loss and the bills that had been turned in. He stated that Sellers did give a presentation on what their plan was to control the weeds in the future. The audit has been delayed to April or May due to tax season. 5,000 acres will be leased out for normal grazing plus some flash grazing will occur on other areas around the property.

2. Other – Landowners for a Common Purpose. Letter and other correspondence associated with it from their attorney was included in the board packets.

G. OTHERS

None.

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.

(i) 2017 District Usage Report. Included for the board to review.

(d) GROUNDWATER COMMITTEE.

(i) FVID Agreement. Russell stated he will plan on visiting with them on the current agreement and see if they would be willing to amend it for compact call years that don’t require management actions.

(e) MODELING – BROWN & CALDWELL.

Progressing.

(f) WELLFLEET ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(i) Tree Removal. Russell reported on the meeting with the Wellfleet Community Board. Boyce reported that BSB would remove the trees off the face of the dam for \$7,500 and will plan to do it around the end of February.

2. RULES AND REGULATIONS.

None.

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

1. Permanent Transfer & Variance Report.

- ◆ Loomis moved to accept the Permanent Transfer and Variance Report as presented. Seconded by Rippen.
Ayes - 12 Nays – McConville Motion Carried

10. PROGRAMS

A. COST-SHARE FUNDS – LCP/NSWCP.

Cost share report reviewed.

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.

None.

11. GENERAL OPERATIONS.

A. PERSONNEL & PROGRAMS – Schedule Committee Meetings.

Russell will start working on setting up both a Personnel and Programs Meeting and Groundwater Committee Meeting.

B. SALES AND RENTAL EQUIPMENT.

None.

C. ELECTIONS.

Randel requested that the board consider moving the meetings to mornings. Discussion was held about possibly afternoons or on another day. Everyone can think it over and we will put it on the agenda for the March meeting.

12. LEGAL MATTERS

A. Compact Issues.

None.

Spencer left at 3:34 pm.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- ◆ Schilling moved to enter into executive session to discuss real estate and potential litigation with the Board, Manager and staff. Seconded by Rippen.
Ayes - 12 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

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

Entered at 3:35 pm.

- ◆ Fornoff moved to exit the executive session. Seconded by Rippen.
Ayes - 12 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

Exited at 4:03 pm.

- ◆ Schilling moved to authorize Russell to negotiate real estate. Seconded by Fornoff.
Ayes - 12 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

The Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at 7:30 pm at the Curtis Community Center in Curtis, Nebraska.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 pm.

Stacie M. Owens, Board Secretary