

MINUTES
Middle Republican Natural Resources District
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, January 8, 2019 at 1:30 PM
Curtis, Nebraska

Board Members Present: Joe Anderjaska, Rick McConville, John Palic, Daniel Nelsen, Dan Estermann, Benjie Loomis, Jay Schilling, Shane Rippen, Rick Spencer, Tracy Zink, Jolene Messinger, Brian Schafer

Board Members Absent: Brad Randel

NRD Staff: Jack Russell, Alex Boyce, Andrew Boyce, Sylvia Johnson and Stacie Owens

NRCS Staff: Jason Kennedy

Others: Chelsea Erickson, Todd Siel

Information Mailed to Directors:

Regular Meeting Agenda	Regular Meeting Minutes
Financial Report	Legal Summary
Profit vs Loss Budget vs Actual	Civil Rights Handout
Compact Accounting Adjustments	Legal Retainer Agreement

Information Distributed at Meeting:

Letter from Bureau 1/3/19	Ltr from DNR 12/20/18
2019 Forecast of Depletions	Cost Share Report
Audit	

Information E-mailed

None

REGULAR MEETING

1. The regular monthly board meeting was called to order by Chairman McConville at 1:30 pm.
 - a. Verify Quorum.
 - b. Excused Absences.

◆ Anderjaska moved to excuse the absence of Randel. Seconded by Loomis.
Ayes - 12 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

- c. Board Reorganization

McConville stepped down as Chairman and turned the meeting over to Russell.

Russell made 3 calls for nominations from the floor for the position of Chairman.
Zink nominated McConville for Chairman. Seconded by Palic.

Anderjaska moved that nominations cease. Seconded by Zink.

Russell announced McConville to retain position as Chairman.

Russell made 3 calls for nominations from the floor for the position of Vice Chairman.
Loomis nominated Randel for Vice Chairman. Seconded by Zink.

Palic moved that nominations cease. Seconded by Loomis.

Russell announced Randel to retain position as Vice Chairman.

Russell made 3 calls for nominations from the floor for the position of Secretary.
Rippen nominated Messinger for Secretary. Seconded by Schafer.

Anderjaska moved that nominations cease. Seconded by Palic.

Russell announced Messenger to the position as Secretary.

Russell made 3 calls for nominations from the floor for the position of Treasurer.
McConville nominated Palic for Treasurer. Seconded by Rippen.

Anderjaska moved that nominations cease. Seconded by Schafer.

Russell announced Palic to retain position as Treasurer.

Russell turned meeting over to Chairman McConville.

McConville requested one volunteer from each district to serve on the Groundwater Committee.
Discussion held. Groundwater Committee shall consist of the following members:

Schilling	Loomis
Estermann	Spencer
Zink	Schafer

McConville requested one volunteer from each district to serve on the Programs/Personnel Committee. Discussion held. Programs/Personnel Committee shall consist of the following members:

Anderjaska	Palic
Rippen	Messinger
Randel	Nelsen

McConville requested volunteers for the Building Committee. Discussion held. Building Committee shall remain the same with members being Schilling, Messinger and Loomis.

McConville requested volunteers for the Wellfleet Committee. Discussion held. Wellfleet Committee will be Anderjaska, Loomis and Estermann.

McConville requested volunteers for the N-CORPE board. Discussion held. N-CORPE member will be Loomis and the alternate will be Schilling.

McConville requested volunteers for NARD. Discussion held. NARD representative will be Rippen and the alternate will be Zink.

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 December Regular Board Meeting were mailed to Directors.

◆ Schilling moved to approve the minutes of the December Regular Board Meeting as corrected. Seconded by Loomis.

Ayes - 10 Nays – 0 Abstain – Messinger, Nelsen Motion Carried

5. CONSIDER VARIANCE REQUEST

None.

6. FINANCIAL ACTIONS

A. The December Financial Report was presented by Russell. The taxes received were \$15,212.77.

◆ Anderjaska moved to approve the December Financial Report. Seconded by Spencer.

Ayes - 12 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

A copy of this report is filed with the Minutes.

B. Audit Handout. Russell advised the board to review it. He will have Bob Meyer attend the next meeting to go over it and answer any questions.

7. OPEN FORUM

None.

8. REPORTS – AGENCIES, ASSOCIATIONS, OTHERS

A. NRCS

1. District Conservation Report – Jason Kennedy reported despite the government shutdown, they are still at work and getting paid for now. FSA is closed. Phase 1 of the P2 Dam is complete. Working on taking tree orders now. Local Workgroup meeting will tentatively be scheduled on Wednesday, January 23rd at 1:30. He will need to confirm that will work for the others involved and will let everyone know.

B. NARD

1. Report – Rippen stated they were just getting things ready for the conference.
2. Legislative Conference, Jan. 29-30, 2019. Let Owens know if you want to go. Registration deadline is Friday the 11th.
3. Voting Delegates. Schilling will be the delegate, Palic will be the alternate.

C. NNRC

1. Report – Fornoff will finish out his 2 years on the NNRC. Russell stated that they did approve the High-Tech grant so we can move forward on that. They did not approve the small grant submitted but encouraged us to re-apply for it next year.

D. OUTREACH

1. Report – Johnson’s been working with the building crew. Drywall should be here next week. She requested guidance as to what to do with the old building. Committee discussed putting a sign in the window and selling it privately. Discussion held. Johnson will check with Old West to see what would be the most feasible option and report back to the building committee.

- ◆ Anderjaska moved to direct the building committee to decide what direction to take. Seconded by Palic.
Ayes - 12 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

E. LEGISLATION

1. 1098 – Basin Planning. Russell stated that we will need to publish an Order and once that is complete, this will be taken off the agenda.
2. Potential Legislative this Session. Russell touched on a few bills that might be being brought forward relating to the 3 cent levy, removing the over appropriated language on the Platte and selling augmentation project lands.

F. N-CORPE

1. Status Report – Loomis reported on their last meeting. It was decided not to pay NSIA dues since the NRD already pays them. Voted to move forward with the land trade with Pieper and Margritz; however, the deal with Margritz fell through. They are looking at other options otherwise the money will just go back on the bonds. Scott Dicke is looking into other ideas such as wind energy. Next meeting will be February 20th.

G. OTHERS

None.

9. GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT AREA

A. GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT AREA

1. REPORTS

(a) SURFACE WATER.

None.

(b) PERMANENT TRANSFER & VARIANCE REPORT.

None.

(c) MODELING – BROWN & CALDWELL.

Complete

2. RULES AND REGULATIONS.

None.

3. IMP

Russell included the proposal he sent out for the board's review. Still waiting on feedback.

B. GROUND WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA

None.

C. OTHER GROUND WATER ACTIVITY

1. Meter Program with DNR. Russell went over what he is hoping to propose as far as upgrading the meters over a 4 year timeframe. Correct installation of the meters should save us water on what is currently being recorded. Discussion held.

- ◆ Schilling moved to direct Russell to approach DNR about the meter program idea instead of land retirement. Seconded by Anderjaska.

Ayes - 12 Nays – Anderjaska Motion Carried

10. PROGRAMS

A. COST-SHARE FUNDS – LCP/NSWCP.

1. Cost share report reviewed.

- ◆ Schilling moved to approve the Cost Share Report. Seconded by Palic.

Ayes - 11 Nays – Anderjaska Motion Carried

B. WATERSHEDS.

Discussed during NRCS report.

C. CHEMIGATION.

None.

D. METERS.

Almost complete.

E. TREE PLANTING.

Taking orders February 8th deadline.

F. LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL APPLICATIONS.

None.

11. GENERAL OPERATIONS.

A. COMMITTEE REPORTS.

(1) Personnel & Programs.

Russell went over what was discussed during the committee meeting.

(2) Ground Water.

None.

(3) Wellfeet Advisory.

None.

(4) Building Committee.

Discussed under Johnson's report.

B. SALES AND RENTAL EQUIPMENT.

None.

12. LEGAL MATTERS

A. Compact Issues.

None.

B. Other. Discussion held regarding legal services provided by which law firms.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Personnel.

◆ Palic moved to enter into executive session to discuss personnel with the Board, Manager and Staff. Seconded by Rippen.

Ayes - 12 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

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

Entered at 3:07 pm.

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

Exited at 3:18 pm.

Discussion held.

- ◆ Anderjaska moved to direct the manager to discuss changing the Trenton field office to a part-time position and the Curtis field office to part-time at NRCS and part-time at the NRD. Seconded by Loomis.
Ayes - 11 Nays – Palic Motion Carried

The Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 12, 2019 at 1:30 pm at the McCook Fairgrounds in McCook, Nebraska.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:22 pm.

Stacie M. Owens, Board Secretary