

MINUTES
Middle Republican Natural Resources District
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 1:30 PM
Curtis, Nebraska

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

Board Members Absent: Brian Schafer

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

NRCS Staff: Jason Kennedy

Others: Todd Siel, Scott Dicke, Jack Colelli, Chance Thayer, William M. Barger, Randy Robinson

Information Mailed to Directors:

Agenda	Minutes
Financials	Legal Summary
Profit & Loss Budget vs Actual	Civil Rights Handout
Surface Water Report	Board Meeting Options

Information Distributed at Meeting:

CRP General Signup
Possible Tax Implications - NCORPE

Information E-mailed

Local Work Group Meeting Kick Off the NRD Conference at Single Barrel Invite

REGULAR MEETING

1. The regular monthly board meeting was called to order by Chairman McConville at 1:32 pm.
 - a. Verify Quorum.
 - b. Excused Absences.

♦ Loomis moved to excuse the absence of Schafer. Seconded by Zink.
Ayes - 12 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

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.

- ◆ Zink moved to approve the minutes of the December Regular Board Meeting as amended. Seconded by Schilling.
Ayes - 11 Nays – 0 Abstain – Estermann Motion Carried

5. CONSIDER VARIANCE REQUEST

None.

6. FINANCIAL ACTIONS

A. The December Financial Report was presented by Russell. The taxes received were \$35,326.88.

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

A copy of this report is filed with the Minutes.

7. OPEN FORUM

Randy Robinson, North Platte. Expressed concerns about the wind farm and encouraged the board to vote against it.

Scott Dicke, Alma. Went over a handout of the tax implications of the wind farm lease. Will discuss further under N-CORPE.

William M. Barger, Culbertson. Made supportive comments relating to the wind farm.

Jack Colelli, Denver, CO. Introduced himself as part of the wind energy company and made himself available to answer any questions that the Board might have.

8. REPORTS – AGENCIES, ASSOCIATIONS, OTHERS

A. NRCS

1. District Conservation Report – Kennedy provided a handout of CRP meeting dates and locations coming up in the district. Russell and Kennedy will be meeting with the state engineer at legislative conference in Lincoln regarding the P2 dam. Workgroup had to be rescheduled to March 11th.

B. NARD

1. Report – Rippen reported he had received an email on the bills from Dean. He requested Johnson to send them out to the Board Members.

C. NNRC

1. Report – Fornoff. Russell reported that we were awarded a grant for Boyce to build a model of areas with high declines.

D. OUTREACH

1. Report – Johnson reported on the recent CPR training. She’s been working on the new meter installations with Ken, attending various meetings and did state that we have received the reimbursement funds we have been waiting for from DNR. The open house was held in

December and we received many compliments from the public.

E. LEGISLATION

None.

F. N-CORPE

1. Status Report – Loomis reported that the Twin Platte is planning on pumping 5,600 acre feet from their pipeline around February 8th. Still checking on quotes from different insurance agencies. Grazing bids will close on February 10th and the committee will meet to open them shortly thereafter. Schilling reported that they had a conference call with Lindstrom yesterday to go over the wind energy contract. Scott Dicke was asked some questions by the board regarding his handout and background.

CHAIRMAN MCCONVILLE MOVED 13 HERE.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. N-CORPE

- ◆ Schilling moved to enter into executive session to discuss N-CORPE contract negotiations on wind energy with Board, Manager and Staff. Seconded by Loomis.
Ayes - 12 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

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

Entered at 2:15 pm.

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

Exited at 3:32 pm.

G. OTHERS

None.

9. GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT AREA

A. GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT AREA

1. REPORTS

(a) SURFACE WATER.
Bureau report included.

(b) PERMANENT TRANSFER & VARIANCE REPORT.
None.

2. RULES AND REGULATIONS.
None.

3. IMP – Alternatives.

None.

B. GROUND WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA

None.

C. OTHER GROUND WATER ACTIVITY

None.

10. PROGRAMS

A. COST-SHARE FUNDS – LCP/NSWCP.

None.

B. WATERSHEDS.

None.

C. CHEMIGATION.

(1) Changes.

None.

D. METERS.

None.

E. TREE PLANTING.

None.

F. LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL APPLICATIONS.

None.

11. GENERAL OPERATIONS.

A. COMMITTEE REPORTS.

(1) Personnel & Programs.

None.

(2) Ground Water.

Schilling went over what was discussed at the committee meeting prior to the regular board meeting and reviewed in detail the suggested changes to the rules and regulations. Further language is being developed and will be sent out to the board members for review once complete. The plan will be to settle on all the changes by the February meeting and vote to take them to hearing in March. They had a discussion regarding the bureau's contract with H&RW which will expire in 2 years. We would like to encourage them to extend that contract Discussion held.

- ◆ Zink moved to instruct the staff to draft a letter of support to H&RW to extend their contract with the Bureau. Seconded by Palic.

Ayes – 11 Nays – 0 Abstain - Spencer Motion Carried

B. SALES AND RENTAL EQUIPMENT.

None.

C. MEETING TIME.

Russell instructed the members to rank all four options. Johnson and Russell tallied them up and passed out ballots for option 2 and 3. Results were 6 and 6 so meetings will default back to the current Bylaws which state 1:30 PM December through March and 7:30 PM April through November.

D. OTHER

None.

12. LEGAL MATTERS

A. Compact Issues.

None.

B. Other.

None.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

****MOVED UP ON THE AGENDA UNDER 8.F.1.***

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at 1:30 pm at the Middle Republican NRD Office in Curtis, Nebraska.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:09 pm.

Stacie M. Owens, Board Secretary