

**MINUTES**  
**Middle Republican Natural Resources District**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 9:00 AM**  
**Curtis, Nebraska**

**Board Members Present:** Tracy Zink, Benjie Loomis, Kevin Fornoff, Joe Anderjaska, Shane Rippen, Travis Rousselle, Rose Weskamp, Daniel Nelsen, Rick McConville, Jolene Messinger

**Board Members Absent:** Jay Schilling

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

**NRCS Staff:** Jason Kennedy

**Others:** Beau Kramer

**Information Posted to Directors I-Pads:**

Agenda – Regular Meeting

Financials for May and June

FNIC Insurance Quotes

Civil Rights Handout

Meeting Minutes – Regular Mtg

Draft Budget

Resolution MR5-2024

Surface Water Reports

**Information E-Mailed:**

None

**Information Handed Out**

None

**REGULAR MEETING**

1. The regular monthly board meeting was called to order by Chairman Zink at 9:00 a.m.
  - a. Verify Quorum.
  - b. Excused Absences.

- ◆ Zink moved to excuse the absence of Schilling due to NSIA meeting. Seconded by Fornoff.  
Ayes - 10      Nays – 0      Motion Carried

2. The agenda and roster were circulated to those present.

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 May Board Meeting were posted to the Directors IPads.

- ◆ Anderjaska moved to approve the Minutes from the May Board Meeting. Seconded by Fornoff.  
Ayes – 9      Nays – 0      Abstain – Messinger      Motion Carried

## **5. FINANCIAL ACTIONS**

- A. The Financial Report was presented by Russell.
- ◆ Anderjaska moved to approve the May and June Financials. Seconded by Loomis.  
Ayes – 10      Nays – 0      Motion Carried

A copy of this report is filed with the Minutes.

### **B. NARD 414(h) Retirement Plan Increase Resolution.**

- ◆ Anderjaska moved to approve Resolution MR5-2024. Seconded by Loomis.  
Ayes – 10      Nays – 0      Motion Carried

### **C. Second NRD Board Signatory.**

- ◆ Loomis moved to approve Daniel Nelsen as an additional Board Signatory for checks over \$10,000 at Western Nebraska Bank in the event he was unavailable for an extended period of time. Seconded by Fornoff.  
Ayes – 10      Nays – 0      Motion Carried

Updated Signatories will be as follows: Benjie Loomis, Daniel Nelsen, Jack Russell, Sylvia Johnson, Alex Boyce, Stacie Owens, Susan Maline, Carrie Hastings

## **6. OPEN FORUM**

None.

## **7. MANAGER'S REPORT**

A. Budget. Russell went over the latest adjustments he made to the budget and the new line items that will be created.

### **B. Insurance. Renewal documents were included in the board packets.**

- ◆ Loomis moved to accept the renewal quotes provided from FNIC. Seconded by Fornoff.  
Ayes - 10      Nays – 0      Motion Carried

C. Vacancy. Russell stated that he will be looking at replacing Colt's old position as it was tough for staff to keep up with their own jobs while covering that position as well. Also, we will start looking at filling the open field office secretary in Hayes Center. He also requested 20K for merit pay.

- ◆ Anderjaska moved to approve his request. Seconded by Fornoff.  
Ayes - 10      Nays – 0      Motion Carried

## **8. NRCS- KENNEDY**

They have received an additional 850K in EQIP funds which were primary irrigation related.

## **9. NARD - ANDERJASKA**

Reported on the tour highlights with 80+ people in attendance.

**10. NRC - FORNOFF**

Applications are being scored now. Four large ones and six small ones were submitted.

**11. NSIA – SCHILLING**

None.

**12. N-CORPE - LOOMIS**

Next meeting will be next Wednesday here in Curtis.

**13. LEGAL MATTERS**

A. Hearings. Russell stated that two hearings will need to be scheduled for Kuhlman and Asterisk 2, LLC for August or September depending on when we can get all the parties available.

- ◆ Anderjaska moved direct Russell to schedule a hearing date for both hearings. Seconded by Loomis.  
Ayes - 10          Nays – 0          Motion Carried

**14. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A. Personnel

- ◆ Zink moved to enter into executive session to discuss personnel with Board Members only. Seconded by McConville.  
Ayes - 10          Nays – 0          Motion Carried

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

Entered at 9:56 a.m.

- ◆ Zink moved to exit the executive session. Seconded by McConville.  
Ayes - 10          Nays – 0          Motion Carried

Exited at 10:27 a.m.

Chairman Zink reminded everyone that entered executive session that the discussions held within that timeframe were private and should not be discussed.

- ◆ Fornoff moved to raise Russell’s salary to \$150,000. Seconded by Loomis.  
Ayes - 9          Nays – Rippen          Motion Carried

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held Tuesday, August 13, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at the Middle Republican NRD Office in Curtis, Nebraska.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

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Stacie M. Owens, Board Secretary