

**MINUTES**  
**Middle Republican Natural Resources District**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Tuesday, June 9, 2020 at 7:30 PM**  
**Curtis, Nebraska**

**Board Members:** Joe Anderjaska, Rick McConville, Benjie Loomis, Jay Schilling, Brian Schafer, Shane Rippen, Tracy Zink, John Palic, Dan Estermann, Dan Nelsen, Brad Randel

**Board Members Absent:** Jolene Messinger, Rick Spencer

**NRD Staff:** Jack Russell and Stacie Owens

**NRCS Staff:** Jason Kennedy

**Others:** None.

**Information Mailed to Directors:**

Agenda	Minutes
Financials	Legal Summary
Profit & Loss Budget vs Actuals	Civil Rights Handout
Surface Water Report	April 21 Letter to the Board from Russell
April 28 Letter to the Board from Russell	

**Information Distributed at Meeting:**

Surface Water Report	SW Weed Management Letter
UNL Weather Station Invoice	Cost Share Proposed Changes
E-mail from William & Lisa Brannen and attachments	

**Information E-mailed**

Budget Comments 4/21/20                      Budget 4/23/20, 4/27/20  
May 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting 4/30/20, 4/30/20 & 5/2/20(3)

**REGULAR MEETING**

1. The regular monthly board meeting was called to order by Chairman McConville at 7:30 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 April Regular Board Meeting and Rules and Regulations Hearing Minutes were mailed to Directors.

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

## **5. CONSIDER VARIANCE REQUEST**

None.

## **6. FINANCIAL ACTIONS**

a. The April and May Financial Report were presented by Russell. The taxes received were \$207,452.23 for April and \$312,730.71 for May.

- ◆ Schilling moved to approve the April and May Financial Reports. Seconded by Loomis.  
Ayes - 9      Nays – Rippen, Palic      Motion Carried

A copy of this report is filed with the Minutes.

b. Agreements. Russell went over Southwest Weed Management’s request for funds to help get some projects up and running. Discussion held.

- ◆ Schilling moved to approve budgeting \$2,000 which will be dispersed to them pending a report on what the money will go for and board approval. Seconded by Palic.  
Ayes - 10      Nays – Rippen      Motion Carried

The annual invoice arrived for the payment of \$2,600 to UNL for the weather stations. Discussed was held.

- ◆ Anderjaska moved to not fund the UNL weather stations. Seconded by Loomis.  
Ayes - 11      Nays – 0      Motion Carried

The two year easement on P2 dam is up and the project is expected to take another year if not two.

- ◆ Loomis moved to approve the extension of easement for P2 dam for two more years. Seconded by Palic.  
Ayes - 11      Nays – 0      Motion Carried

Russell suggested budgeting \$2,000 for projects at Wellfleet Lake. The advisory committee would need to present to the Board what they wished you to use the funds for and get Board approval.

## **7. OPEN FORUM**

None.

## **8. MANAGERS’ REPORTS**

a. Outreach. Russell provided a quick update on meters. WaterWorld and Irrigation Leader magazines will likely both be doing an article on our District. Additionally, Podcasts are still being looked into as well.

b. Insurance. Russell reported that we did not receive a quote from LARM so we will plan on keeping the current insurance company we have.

c. Cost Share/Trees/Valves. Anderjaska went over the recommended changes to the cost share on trees as shown on the handout. Also, it was decided not to cost share on the valves.

- ◆ Anderjaska moved to approve the proposed changes as presented. Seconded by Palic.  
Ayes - 11                      Nays – 0                      Motion Carried

Discussion held about the permanent irrigation retirement program. Considered budgeting \$900,000 in case we have the ability to gain those funds from DNR.

- ◆ Anderjaska moved to approve to budget \$900,000 pending rule implementation on the permanent irrigation retirement program. Seconded by Loomis.  
Ayes - 11                      Nays – 0                      Motion Carried

**9. COMMITTEE REPORT**

- a. Personnel & Programs.  
Will discuss in executive session.

- b. Ground Water.

Schilling reported that the committee look at variances and transfers that have been done. The criteria that was put together seems to be working well so the committee doesn't recommend any changes to it at this time. Board members did request a monthly report to be provided to them on what has passed. Zink reported that the AEM project is scheduled to begin to fly around the first part of July. Potentially will take 10-30 days to complete. They will be doing advertising so the public is aware of the flight occurring and what we are doing.

- c. Wellfleet

They met with the advisory group and had some good discussions. Estermann met with the village board. Russell and Estermann both met with the community group.

- ◆ Anderjaska moved to use rental funds from Wellfleet land lease to fund the Wellfleet projects. Seconded by Zink.  
Ayes - 11                      Nays – 0                      Motion Carried

**10. NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) – KENNEDY.**

June 4<sup>th</sup> was the first phase of reopening so full staff is allowed back in the offices. but still meeting with patrons on appointment only basis. Hopefully, phase 2 can begin next Thursday which would allow meeting with patrons on appointment only basis. Should there be a spike in COVID-19 cases in the area, then that would be delayed. At the end of May, Tracy Baits retired. They have hired Amy Houser in the Curtis office as the soil conservationist and will be advertising to replace Tracy's position as well as hire a technician soon.

**11. NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICTS (NARD) - RIPPEN.**

They did hold a zoom meeting but there were technical difficulties so he missed a large portion of the meeting. The NARD building was rioted and started on fire so they will be looking for a new office location. There was a 7.5% increase on insurance. He has a copy of the proposed budget if anyone is interested in looking at it.

**12. N-CORPE**

- a. Other. Will discuss in executive session.

### **13. LEGAL MATTERS**

None.

### **14. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

a. N-CORPE and Personnel.

- ◆ Schilling moved to enter into executive session to discuss N-CORPE personnel with Board, Manager and Staff. Seconded by Zink.

Ayes - 11      Nays - 0      Motion Carried

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

Entered at 8:49 pm.

- ◆ Anderjaska moved to exit the executive session. Seconded by Schilling.

Ayes - 11      Nays - 0      Motion Carried

Exited at 9:44 pm.

- ◆ Palic moved to enter into executive session to discuss personnel with Board and Manager. Seconded by Zink.

Ayes - 11      Nays - 0      Motion Carried

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

Entered at 10:02 pm.

- ◆ Loomis moved to exit the executive session. Seconded by Zink.

Ayes - 11      Nays - 0      Motion Carried

Exited at 10:44 pm.

- ◆ Zink moved to accept the \$650,000 personnel budget item as presented. Seconded by Loomis.

Ayes - 10      Nays - Palic      Motion Carried

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 14, 2020 at 7:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:47 pm.

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Stacie M. Owens, Board Secretary