

MINUTES
Middle Republican Natural Resources District
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, March 14, 2017 at 7:30 PM
Curtis, Nebraska

Board Members Present: Joe Anderjaska, Shane Rippen, Jay Schilling, Rick McConville, John Palic, Buck Haag, Benjie Loomis, Brad Randel, Kevin Fornoff, Steve Cappel, Brian Schafer, Rick Spencer, Jolene Messinger

Board Members Absent: None

NRD Staff: Jack Russell, Bob Merrigan, Alex Boyce, Sylvia Johnson, Doris Burke, Mary Tidyman

NRCS Staff: Jason Kennedy

Others: William M. Barger, Brad Johnson

Information Mailed to Directors:

Agenda	Minutes
Financial Report	Legal Summary
Profit & Loss Budget vs Actual	Civil Rights Handout

Information Distributed at Meeting:

2020 Envirothon Financing	N-CORPE Land Trade Map
N-CORPE Invoice #1059 & Breakdown	Brown & Caldwell Agreement
Cost Share Summary	

Information E-mailed

Feb. 17 th NARD Update	Feb. 24 th NARD Update
Medicine Creek Case decision	Mar. 10 th NARD Update

REGULAR MEETING

1. The regular monthly board meeting was called to order by Chairman Haag at 7:32 pm.
 - a. Verify Quorum.
 - b. Excused Absences. None.
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 February Regular Board Meeting were mailed to Directors.

- ◆ Schilling moved to approve the minutes of the February Regular Board Meeting. Seconded by Palic.
Ayes - 13 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

5. CONSIDER VARIANCE REQUEST

None.

6. FINANCIAL ACTIONS

A. The February Financial Report was presented by Russell. The taxes received were \$259,975.12.

- ◆ Schilling moved to approve the February Financial Report. Seconded by Cappel.
Ayes - 13 Nays - 0 Motion Carried

A copy of this report is filed with the Minutes.

7. OPEN FORUM

William M. Barger, Culbertson. Had had questions relating to surface water credits and permanent retirement credits.

8. REPORTS – AGENCIES, ASSOCIATIONS, OTHERS

A. NRCS

1. District Conservation Report – Kennedy reported their current work load and applications they are pre-approving for funding.

B. NARD

1. Report – Rippen reported on meetings he attending on March 5-6th. He went over some of the bills that were before the legislature and due dates on some of the programs available.

C. NNRC

1. Report – Fornoff reported on their February meeting where they elected new officers. Next meeting to be held in June.

D. INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

1. Report – Johnson reported on recent meetings she had attended with Frenchman Valley, Frenchman Cambridge Irrigation District and Senator Groene. High-Tech meetings are scheduled for March 22nd from 10 AM to 12 PM in McCook and 2 PM to 4 PM in Curtis.

2. National Envirothon Request.

Rippen went over the requests to donate to the National Envirothon event that will occur here in Nebraska. There were options for payment presented for those who were willing to contribute. Discussion held.

- ◆ Anderjaska moved to approve the 3-year payment program offered at \$4,869 a year. Seconded by Schilling.
Ayes - 13 Nays - 0 Motion Carried

E. RRCA.

None.

F. LEGISLATION

1. 1098 – Basin Planning.

Next meeting to be held in Cambridge on March 21st.

G. N-CORPE

1. Status Report. Loomis reported on the two meetings they have recently had. Blue Stem Energy presented their windfarm presentation. There will be presentations from a couple more windfarm operations soon. They could provide income for N-CORPE and it would help the property tax issue. More to report as information is gathered. Bonding is moving forward and confirmed that it will be less than the 4% cap that was voted on for refinancing. There was a computer malfunction which didn't record the correct amount pumped so it is currently still running and will until approximately March 27th. RSM out of Lincoln will be the company conducting the third party audit which will be complete by July 1. Discussion was held relating to the land trading they have been looking at doing. Appraisals are being conducted now.

2. Approve Quarterly Billing. More detailed information was put together. Discussion held.

◆ Randel moved to pay invoice number 1059. Seconded by Schafer.
Ayes - 8 Nays – Palic, Rippen, Schilling, Spencer, Cappel Motion Carried

3. Other.

None.

H. OTHERS

None.

9. GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT AREA

A. GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT AREA

1. REPORTS

(a) WELL PERMITS.

None.

(b) SURFACE WATER

None.

(c) METER PROGRAM

None.

(d) GROUNDWATER COMMITTEE

Russell will set up a meeting prior to next month regular board meeting to finalize changes to the rules and regulations.

(e) FRENCHMAN VALLEY COMMITTEE.

None.

(f) MODELING – BROWN & CALDWELL.

Chairman Haag moved this down to the end of the agenda.

(g) TZA PROPOSAL.

None.

2. RULES AND REGULATIONS

Discussed under groundwater committee report.

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

None.

10. PROGRAMS

A. COST-SHARE FUNDS – LCP/NSWCP.

1. Approve Applications.

◆ Cappel moved to approve the cost share report. Seconded by Rippen.

Ayes - 13 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

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.

Russell requested executive session to discuss personnel.

B. SALES AND RENTAL EQUIPMENT.

None.

12. LEGAL MATTERS

A. Compact Issues.

None.

B. Other.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- ◆ Fornoff moved to enter into executive session to discuss personnel, possible litigation and real estate with the Board, Manager, staff and legal counsel. Seconded by Rippen.

Ayes - 13 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

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

Entered at 8:48 pm.

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

Ayes - 13 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

Exited at 9:48 pm.

- ◆ Schilling moved to accept the recommendation of the Personnel and Policies Committee on Russell's employment contact. Seconded by Spencer.

Ayes - 13 Nays - 0 Motion Carried

- ◆ Loomis moved to allow Schroeder to continue to work with Blankenau on the Medicine Creek Case. Seconded by Schafer.

Ayes - 13 Nays - 0 Motion Carried

9.A.1.f.

Brown & Caldwell. Russell went over the proposal received for the Red Willow Creek Basin Model. Discussion held.

- ◆ Anderjaska moved to proceed with the Red Willow Creek Basin Model for \$284,918 and apply for grants. Seconded by Schafer.
Ayes - 13 Nays - 0 Motion Carried

CMAT Modeling Tool. Boyce provided a presentation of what was being offered. Discussion held.

- ◆ Schafer moved to deny the CMAT Modeling Tool at this time. Seconded by Randel.
Ayes - 13 Nays - 0 Motion Carried

The next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, April 11, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. at the Curtis Community Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 pm.

Stacie M. Owens, Board Secretary