

**MINUTES**  
**Middle Republican Natural Resources District**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at 7:30 PM**  
**Curtis, Nebraska**

**Board Members Present: Joe Anderjaska, Steve Cappel, John Palic, Shane Rippen, Jay Schilling, Buck Haag, Benjie Loomis, Rick McConville**

**Board Members Absent:** Kevin Fornoff, James Uerling, Brad Randel

**NRD Staff:** Jack Russell, Bob Merrigan, Alex Boyce, Sylvia Johnson, Mary Tidyman, Doris Burke, Spencer Campbell & Stacie Owens

**NRCS Staff:** Jason Kennedy, Amy Houser

**Others:** Brad Johnson, Ryan Kuhlman, Chelsea Erickson, William M. Barger, Virginia Trail

**Information Mailed to Directors:**

Agenda	Minutes
Financial Report	Legal Summary
Profit & Loss Report vs Actual	VAR10 – Trail
VAR11 – Kuhlman	Civil Rights Handout
Surface Water Report	

**Information Distributed at Meeting:**

Further Var11 Information	Envirothon report
Meet & Greet poster	SW NE Water Leader poster
Know Your NRD poster	Cost Share Summary
UTV Bids	

**Information E-mailed**

Legislative Update dated 2/12, 2/19 & 2/26

**REGULAR MEETING**

1. The regular monthly board meeting was called to order by Chairman Haag at 7:44 pm.
  - a. Verify Quorum.
  - b. Excused Absences.

◆ Schilling moved to excuse the absences of Fornoff and Uerling. Seconded by McConville.

Ayes - 8      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 February Regular Board Meeting were mailed to Directors.

- ◆ Schilling moved to approve the Minutes from the February Regular Board Meeting with the correction to page 6 on the vote. Seconded by Cappel.

Ayes - 8      Nays – 0      Motion Carried

#### **5. CONSIDER VARIANCE REQUEST**

Merrigan went over Trails request and turned questioning over to Virginia Trail. Discussion held.

- ◆ Anderjaska moved to deny Variance Request 10-2015. Seconded by Cappel.

Ayes - 8      Nays – 0      Motion Carried

Merrigan went over Kuhlman’s request and turned questioning over to Ryan Kuhlman. Discussion held.

- ◆ McConville moved to deny Variance 11-2015. Seconded by Cappel.

Ayes - 8      Nays – 0      Motion Carried

#### **6. FINANCIAL ACTIONS**

A. The February Financial Report was presented by Russell. The taxes received were \$212,860.47.

- ◆ Schilling moved to approve the February Financial Report. Seconded by Palic.

Ayes - 8      Nays - 0      Motion Carried

A copy of this report is filed with the Minutes.

Discussion held on the collection list provided and how to handle those unpaid debts.

#### **7. OPEN FORUM**

William M. Barger, Culbertson. Commented on collection issue.

#### **8. REPORTS – AGENCIES, ASSOCIATIONS, OTHERS**

##### **A. NRCS**

##### **1. District Conservation Report – Kennedy.**

Houser read her report on the Envirothon. Kennedy went over his report and stated that the new secretary in Trenton has started. The RCPP application has been approved for funding for all 4 NRD’s in the Republican River basin. Discussion was held regarding additional funds from our NRD.

- ◆ Schilling moved to approve a capped payment of \$485 from our NRD with a ceiling cap of total payment of \$1,000 for both the Ogallala Initiative and the RCPP. Seconded by Loomis.

Ayes - 8      Nays - 0      Motion Carried

Kennedy also discussed 2 late contracts that came in last year and whether they would fall under this option. Discussion held.

- ◆ Schilling moved to approve the payment of \$485 from the MRNRD on the 106 acres on the 2 late applications unless there were other applications approved last year at a lower rate. Seconded by Palic.

Ayes - 7                      Nays - Haag                      Motion Carried

## **B. NARD**

1. Report – Rippen went over events of the recent meeting he attended in Lincoln. He reported that the National Envirothon could be held in Nebraska in 2020. He has changed over to the Risk Pool committee and is learning about that now. He stated that Russell and Johnson will be attending the NARD Washington D.C. trip.

## **C. NNRC**

1. Report – Fornoff. None.

## **D. INFORMATION AND EDUCATION**

1. Report – Johnson reported on the Meet & Greet with Dan Hughes scheduled for Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. She and Russell spoke at a crop swap that Loomis had in North Platte recently. A tree ad has been placed in the newspaper as well as an article on facts and compact compliance. She also talked about attending hearings in Lincoln on some of the bills were being heard.

## **E. NeRRMDA**

1. Report – Cappel. None.

## **F. RRCA**

None.

## **G. LEGISLATION**

1. 1098 – Basin Planning.

Russell visited with Fasset and it seems he may be revamping this but no further details at this time.

## **H. N-CORPE**

1. Status Report.

Loomis reported on the last meeting which was held in February in Curtis. Current pumping is at a little over 18,000 acre feet. Bill Sellers provided a presentation of how well the public hunting went and the positive feedback they had received. They took bids on the flash grazing program and even though there was not a lot of response, they did get the bids completed. NRCS has expressed an interest in doing the streambed assessment on the Medicine Creek which should be little or no cost to us. Twin Platte has received a grant to perform a flyover of the N-CORPE project to help with modeling. They will be leasing out the 8 pivots they have in the past to the same renters. A request was made to have Randel and Loomis talk with Kyle Shephard reporting at our meetings. Further discussion held.

- ◆ Schilling moved that the MRNRD instructs its N-CORPE representative or his alternate to make a motion at the next N-CORPE meeting that required the N-CORPE manager to send a report the first Monday of each month that includes

pumping activity, amount pumped and major repairs to or caused by the project. The manager should also be required to send immediate reports in the case of emergency repairs or status changes such as startup or shutdown. These reports shall be sent by e-mail to the board member, alternate board member, manager and assistant manager of the four member NRDs. Seconded by Rippen.

Ayes - 8                  Nays - 0                  Motion Carried

2. Other.  
None.

## **I. OTHERS**

None.

## **9. GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT AREA**

### **A. GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT AREA**

#### **1. REPORTS**

##### **(a) WELL PERMITS.**

None.

##### **(b) SURFACE WATER**

Bureau's report included.

##### **(c) METER PROGRAM**

None.

##### **(d) GROUND WATER COMMITTEE**

Russell went over the recent meeting. The plan will be to start revisions on the rules and regulation section by section and then taking them to the committee for further review.

##### **(e) FRENCHMAN VALLEY COMMITTEE.**

Russell will be getting final data from Brown & Caldwell on the Culbertson canal.

##### **(f) MODELING – BROWN & CALDWELL**

None.

#### **2. RULES AND REGULATIONS**

Rule 2-1 Variances. Discussion held.

- ◆ Palic moved to suspend all variances indefinitely pending revisions to the rules and regulations. Seconded by Schilling.

Ayes - 8                  Nays – 0                  Motion Carried

#### **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**

1. Weather Station.

Russell is working on agreements to get an additional weather station in Hayes Center along with the ones we currently have in Curtis and McCook that will all have ET data available. There potentially could be a cost of \$10,000.

2. Decline Map.

Uerling requested this to be on the agenda but since he was unable to be at the meeting we will discuss it next month.

**10. PROGRAMS**

**A. COST-SHARE FUNDS – LCP/NSWCP.**

1. Approve Applications. Merrigan went over the report.

◆ Palic moved to approve the cost share report. Seconded by Rippen.  
Ayes - 8            Nays – 0            Motion Carried

**B. WATERSHEDS.**

None.

**C. EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL ACT.**

None.

**D. COMPLAINTS.**

None.

**E. CHEMIGATION.**

None.

**F. TREE PLANTING.**

Campbell will be starting tree planning most likely around the first part of April.

**G. BUFFER STRIPS.**

None.

**H. LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL APPLICATIONS.**

None.

**11. GENERAL OPERATIONS.**

**A. PERSONNEL.**

None.

**B. SALES AND RENTAL EQUIPMENT.**

None.

**C. UTV BIDS.**

Merrigan and Campbell went over the bids received and answered questions.

- ◆ Anderjaska moved to approve cash payment of up to \$9,000 on a UTV without a trade in. Seconded by Schilling.

Ayes - 6                      Nays – Rippen, Haag                      Motion Carried

**12. LEGAL MATTERS**

**A. Compact Issues.**

None.

**B. Other.**

Russell reported that Schroeder filed the appeal on Medicine Creek lawsuit.

**13. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- ◆ Anderjaska moved to enter into executive session to discuss real estate and invite staff to join. Seconded by Palic.

Ayes - 8                      Nays – 0                      Motion Carried

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

Entered Executive Session at 10:22 pm.

- ◆ Schilling moved to exit executive session. Seconded by Loomis.

Ayes - 8                      Nays – 0                      Motion Carried

Exited Executive Session at 10:39 pm.

The next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, April 12, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. at the Curtis Community Center, at 201 Garlick Avenue, in Curtis, Nebraska

The meeting was adjourned at 10:41 pm.

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Stacie M. Owens, Board Secretary