

MINUTES
Middle Republican Natural Resources District
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at 1:40 PM
Curtis, Nebraska

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

Board Members Absent: Brad Randel

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

NRCS Staff: Jason Kennedy

Others: William M. Barger, Chance Thayer

Information Mailed to Directors:

Public Hearing Agenda	Proposed Rules & Regulations
Agenda	Minutes
Financials	Legal Summary
Profit & Loss Budget vs Actual	Civil Rights Handout

Information Distributed at Meeting:

R & R Testimony – DNR	Audit and associated letters
MRNRD Tree Planting 2020 w/map	Draft Flight Plan Map
Surface Water Report	

Information E-mailed

NARD Summary 2/14/20, 2/21/20, 2/28/20

Rescheduled Local Work Group ZW Weekly 2/14/20

REGULAR MEETING

1. The regular monthly board meeting was called to order by Chairman McConville at 1:40 pm.
 - a. Verify Quorum.
 - b. Excused Absences.

♦ Schilling moved to approve the absence of Brad Randel. Seconded by Loomis.
Ayes - 11 Nays – 0 Abstain - Messinger 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 of the February Regular Board Meeting. Seconded by Palic.
Ayes - 8 Nays – 0 Abstain – Rippen, Schafer, Spencer, Zink Motion Carried

5. CONSIDER VARIANCE REQUEST

None.

6. FINANCIAL ACTIONS

a. The February Financial Report was presented by Russell. The taxes received were \$284,604.11.

- ♦ Zink moved to approve the February Financial Report. Seconded by Schilling.
Ayes - 12 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

A copy of this report is filed with the Minutes.

b. Audit – Review. Russell requested the board to review the audit and we will have it on the agenda next month to be accepted. There will also be a proposal by another auditing firm to be reviewed next month as well.

7. OPEN FORUM

None.

8. MANAGERS' REPORTS

a. Tree Program. Livingston updated the board on the number of tree/shrub orders for 2020 and provided a map of the locations. He also reported on the official variance requests received since March of 2019 stating that of those submitted 13 were approved and 9 were denied.

b. AEM.

- Flight/Timeline. Boyce provided a map of the flight line area. Estimated to begin in June or July and can be completed with a 10 full day of flight time. A helicopter will be used for the flight and the data gathered should be processed and back to us in approximately a year following the completion of the flight.

c. WRCF. Russell went over the number of acres to be permanently retired.
- Hansen Resolution

- ♦ Schilling moved to approve the resolutions for permanent retirement of 109 GW acres of Chris Hansen's. Seconded by Zink.
Ayes – 12 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

Russell stated that this retirement reaches the cap for this fiscal year. He went over some future plans based on preliminary information from DNR. He and Johnson are working on a long term budget to keep on top of the designation of these funds over the next few years.

Johnson requested that the board might possibly consider a local cost share program to help cover the installation of check valves with the installment of the new meters. They have ran into approximately 71 out of 200 so far that will need them. The cost of the valve and installation runs around \$1,000. Discussion held. Johnson will draft up something based on the

feedback she received and will present it to the board for approval.

9. COMMITTEE REPORT

a. Personnel & Programs. None.

b. Groundwater – Rules & Regulations Hearing.

- ♦ Schilling moved to approve the Rules and Regulations, with the inclusion that the fee established under the Rule 6-3 Chemigation Permit will cover the reasonable costs of administering the permit program, as presented at the Hearing. Seconded by Loomis.

Ayes – 12 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

c. Wellfleet. Russell requested a quick meeting following the board meeting.

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

EQIP program finally received a cutoff date which was listed as Friday, March 13th. Based on language in the Farm Bill there will be a designation of wellhead protection areas around the District which will have an opportunity at some EQIP funding. The local workgroup will be meeting tomorrow, March 11th in McCook at 1:30 pm.

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

Deadlines for Hall of Fame and conservation stewardship awards will be May 1st if anyone has anyone they want to consider.

12. N-CORPE

a. Other. Loomis reported that they haven't heard anything further at this point. Anderjaska did make some phone calls regarding the insurance matter. N-CORPE can get insurance directly through the association but will need to have the N-CORPE board request it directly to the Risk Pool. Discussion held.

13. LEGAL MATTERS

Russell reported that he is moving forward in the process of scheduling an initial meeting with regards to changing the IMP.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 14, 2020 at 7:30 pm at the Middle Republican NRD Office in Curtis, Nebraska.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:42 pm.

Stacie M. Owens, Board Secretary