

MINUTES
Middle Republican Natural Resources District
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at 9:05 AM
Curtis, Nebraska

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

Board Members Absent: Travis Rousselle

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

NRCS Staff: Jason Kennedy

Others: Tony Cribell, Tim McKillip, Laurie Maris, Gary Kotschwar, Amanda Johnson, Ben Widener, Jane Widener, Josh Friesen, Krystle Friesen, Colleen Mullanix, Duane Dinnel, Nathan Vitosh, Garret Pollard, David Gross

Information Posted to Directors I-Pads:

Public Hearing Agenda	Notice with changes
Agenda – Regular Meeting	Regular Meeting Minutes
Financials	Surface Water Report
Civil Rights Handout	

Information E-Mailed:

Proposed Rule Changes Oct 8, 2024

Information Handed Out

None.

REGULAR MEETING

1. The regular monthly board meeting was called to order by Chairman Zink at 9:27 a.m.

- a. Verify Quorum.
- b. Excused Absences.

- ◆ Anderjaska moved to excuse the absence of Rouselle due to funeral. Seconded by Loomis.

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 October Board Meeting were posted to the Directors iPad.

- ◆ Anderjaska moved to approve the Minutes from the October Board Meeting. Seconded by Schilling.

Ayes – 9 Nays – 0 Abstain - Messinger Motion Carried

5. FINANCIAL ACTIONS

- A. Russell presented the Financial Report.
- ◆ Schilling moved to approve the October Financials. Seconded by Nelsen.
Ayes – 10 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

A copy of this report is filed with the Minutes.

6. OPEN FORUM

None.

7. VOTE ON RULES & REGULATIONS

- ◆ McConville moved to delete Rule 8-3.11 as presented at the hearing. Seconded by Fornoff.
Ayes – 6 Nays – Rippen, Schilling, Anderjaska, Messinger Motion Carried
- ◆ Fornoff moved to approve Rule 13-4-2 to change inspections from 4 years to 5 years. Seconded by McConville.
Ayes – 10 Nays – 0 Motion Carried
- ◆ Nelsen moved to delete Rule 9-1.14, Appendix 1.1.7 and 1.9.2 as presented at the hearing. Seconded by Loomis.
Ayes – 6 Nays – Schilling, Anderjaska, Messinger, Rippen Motion Carried

Discussion was held on both sides with Anderjaska and Schilling stating their reasons for voting against is the desire to wait for AEM to present their model to us for more informative use before making changes to the rules.

8. MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Act. Russell went over the legislation that has been passed. DNR will be allocating funds to each district which they are only based on acres at this point.

B. Stay on Variances.

- ◆ Anderjaska moved to put a stay on transfers of wells and certified acres until November 2025. Seconded by Schilling.
Ayes – 5 Nays – Zink, Fornoff, Loomis, McConville, Nelsen Motion Failed

9. GW COMMITTEE – VARIANCE REQUEST

Russell went over the variance request submission which was denied and pushed to the GW committee and now to the Board. Discussion held.

- ◆ Nelsen moved to approve variance and waive the 2 criteria on depletions and development but not the criteria on well spacing and adhere to drilling in the ¼ that was presented on the map. Seconded by Fornoff.
Ayes – 4 Nays – Anderjaska, McConville, Messinger, Rippen, Schilling, Zink Motion Failed

10. NRCS- KENNEDY

Handed out his presentation he gave at the NARD conference and answered questions.

11. NARD - ANDERJASKA

Updated the board on their recent meeting and the Governor’s thoughts on taking water quality out of DEE and assigning it to DNR and requiring state-wide metering.

12. NRC - FORNOFF

December 11th will be the next meeting. Reminder, he will not be running for the position again and encourage someone from the board or in the district to pursue some interest in running. Elections will be held in January.

13. NSIA – SCHILLING

They have a joint conference coming up November 24-26 and anticipate a meeting will be called prior to that but have not received notice yet.

14. N-CORPE - LOOMIS

Went over the October 16th meeting discussion held in North Platte.

15. LEGAL MATTERS

Russell updated the Board on the current supreme court dates.

16. MEADOWLARK PROJECT – JOSH WESTLING.

Westling went over his resume, projected business proposal, and what agreements they have already set up with outside sources and other things they are working on getting completed. Board members had some questions that he answered.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- ◆ Anderjaska moved to enter into executive session to discuss contract negotiations with Board Members, staff and Josh Westling. Seconded by Loomis.
Ayes - 10 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

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

Entered at 11:53 a.m.

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

Exited at 12:13 p.m.

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

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the Middle Republican NRD Office in Curtis, Nebraska.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:14 p.m.

Stacie M. Owens, Board Secretary