

MINUTES
Middle Republican Natural Resources District
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, November 14, 2017 at 7:40 PM
Curtis, Nebraska

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

Board Members Absent: None.

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

NRCS Staff: Jason Kennedy

Others: Andy Olson, Kendra Strommen, Steve Mossman, Kirk Olson, Ernie Goss, Dan Estermann, Randy Robinson, Marvin Knoll, Bill Sellers

Information Mailed to Directors:

Rules & Regs Public Hearing Agenda	Proposed Rules & Regs
Regular Meeting Agenda	Regular Meeting Minutes
Financial Report	Profit & Loss Budget vs Actual
Civil Rights Handout	Mossman Opinion Ltr
Ltr to Fasset 10/27/17	Surface Water Report

Information Distributed at Meeting:

Suggested Revision to 5-4.8	DNR Hearing Testimony Ltr
FCID Hearing Testimony Ltr	Legal Summary
Landowners For Common Purpose Proposal	Suggested Motion Language

Information E-mailed

None

REGULAR MEETING

1. The regular monthly board meeting was called to order by Chairman Haag at 7:43 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 October Regular Meeting were mailed to Directors.

- ◆ Schilling moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting. Seconded by Fornoff.

Ayes - 11 Nays – 0 Abstain – Randel, Spencer Motion Carried

5. CONSIDER VARIANCE REQUEST

None.

6. FINANCIAL ACTIONS

A. The October Financial Report was presented by Russell. The taxes received were \$313,722.70.

- ◆ Schilling moved to approve the October Financial Report. Seconded by Loomis.
Ayes - 13 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

A copy of this report is filed with the Minutes.

- B.** Audit – Accept
Waiting to see adjustments from Meyer.

7. OPEN FORUM

None.

8. REPORTS – AGENCIES, ASSOCIATIONS, OTHERS

A. NRCS

1. District Conservation Report – Kennedy reported on deadlines for conservation practice signup.

B. NARD

1. Report – Rippen was excused from last meeting but will be getting an update soon which he will have for the Board at the December meeting.

C. NNRC

1. Report – Fornoff went over the scoring results. He will have more details after his next meeting in Kearney on November 28th.

D. INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

1. Report – Johnson has been reading meters in Frontier County. She attended a water roundtable event that Ricketts held. Farm & Ranch Expo in McCook will be held Wednesday and Thursday this week. Attended the preliminary forecast meeting in Holdrege this morning. Russell stated that they did state it would be a compact call year but no management actions would be required.

E. LEGISLATION

- 1.** 1098 – Basin Planning.
Next stakeholders meeting will be November 30th.

F. N-CORPE

1. Status Report.
Loomis reported on the October 18th meeting. Audit is coming along but they are still needing some more information and final results may take longer than December. HDR attended the meeting to talk about the lack of interest and timing of the wind farm project. It was decided to go back to having meetings every other month and also to have them at each district location.

2. Land Owners for a Common Purpose.

Kirk Olson handed out an economic impact study regarding the selling of the N-CORPE property but N-CORPE maintaining the water rights on the pipeline. Ernie Goss, who created the economic study went over his findings in detail for the Board and answered questions. Mossman, attorney for the group, presented his legal opinion on the ability to sell the ground. Randy Robinson stated he felt that if it were owned by a handful of different farmers, it would be easier for them to deal with the weed control and grass management. Olson provided the Board with a suggested motion for them to consider.

3. Other
None.

G. 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 in Board packets.

(c) METER PROGRAM

Meters are currently being read.

(d) GROUNDWATER COMMITTEE.

None.

(e) MODELING – BROWN & CALDWELL.

Russell stated that they are finishing up on some work.

(f) WELLFLEET ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

None.

2. RULES AND REGULATIONS – APPROVE TO GO TO HEARING.

- ◆ Schilling moved to approve the suggested language on rule 5-4.8 basing the initial N-CORPE allocation on historical use. Seconded by McConville.

Ayes – 13 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

- ◆ Schilling moved to approve the rules and regulations as presented at the hearing along with the suggested change to 5-4.8. Seconded by Cappel.

Ayes – 13 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

None.

10. PROGRAMS

A. COST-SHARE FUNDS – LCP/NSWCP.

Cost share report reviewed.

B. WATERSHEDS.

None.

C. EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL ACT.

None.

D. COMPLAINTS.

None.

E. CHEMIGATION.

None.

F. TREE PLANTING.

Russell has been getting costs from other vendors but will probably stick with who we have been using.

G. BUFFER STRIPS.

None.

H. LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL APPLICATIONS.

None.

11. GENERAL OPERATIONS.

A. PERSONNEL & PROGRAMS.

Russell stated they met prior to the Board meeting and will report further our their discussions during executive session.

B. SALES AND RENTAL EQUIPMENT.

None.

12. LEGAL MATTERS

A. Compact Issues.

None.

B. Other.
Lindstrom.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- ◆ Anderjaska moved to enter into executive session to discuss potential litigation, real estate and personnel with the Board, Manager and staff. 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 8:55 pm.

- ◆ Palic moved to exit the executive session. Seconded by Fornoff.
Ayes - 13 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

Exited at 9:31 pm.

- ◆ Palic moved to authorize Russell to negotiate real estate purchase. Seconded by Anderjaska.
Ayes - 13 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

The regular board meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 12, 2017 at 1:30 pm at the Curtis Community Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Stacie M. Owens, Board Secretary