

MINUTES
Middle Republican Natural Resources District
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, October 8, 2019 at 9:00 AM
Curtis, Nebraska

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

Board Members Absent: Rick Spencer, Brian Schafer

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

NRCS Staff: Jason Kennedy

Others: William M. Barger, Jim Bowen

Information Mailed to Directors:

Regular Meeting Agenda	Regular Meeting Minutes
Budget Hearing	Special Budget Hearing
Financial Report	Legal Billing Summary
Profit vs Loss Budget vs Actual	Civil Rights Handout
Proposed MRNRD Bylaw Revisions	

Information Distributed at Meeting:

Ltr from DNR re: Water Cash Resources Cash Fund Contract #1055

N-CORPE Notes Southwest Weed Management Handout

Information E-mailed

None

REGULAR MEETING

1. The regular monthly board meeting was called to order by Chairman McConville at 9:00 am.
 - a. Verify Quorum.
 - b. Excused Absences.

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.

Messinger arrived at 9:02 am.

4. The Minutes for the September Budget Hearing, Special Budget Hearing and Regular Board Meeting were mailed to Directors.

- ◆ Zink moved to approve the minutes of the September Budget Hearing, Special Budget Hearing and Regular Board Meeting with additions to N-CORPE report. Seconded by Rippen.
Ayes - 11 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

5. CONSIDER VARIANCE REQUEST

None.

6. FINANCIAL ACTIONS

A. The September Financial Report was presented by Russell. The taxes received were \$819,547.15.

- ◆ Schilling moved to approve the September Financial Report. Seconded by Palic.
Ayes - 11 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

A copy of this report is filed with the Minutes.

7. OPEN FORUM

William M. Barger, Culbertson. Spoke about his opinion on the meeting in McCook with Senator Groene. Commented on N-CORPE’s bidding process on renting land. Considers a wind farm to be a great idea for additional income. He stated we should not accept anything less than the full allocation for credit on any certified acre buyouts.

John Palic, McCook. Would like to see a rebuttal on an article written by Hughes that stated some inaccurate information whether it be from the Board or an individual.

8. REPORTS – AGENCIES, ASSOCIATIONS, OTHERS

A. NRCS

1. District Conservation Report – Jason Kennedy reported that the new fiscal year started on October 1st. There will be some software training updates and classes coming up that he will plan to send the field office secretaries to. No deadlines have been set for EQIP applications yet but they are going ahead with taking them from producers. Currently getting some field work caught up. Have one RCPP contract which is done but payment has not been made since the landowner has passed away and everything is going through the estate right now. Once it’s finalized, payment will be completed.

Russell stated that there may be an opportunity to modify the RCPP program. They will have a meeting to discuss and see what the options will be. Further report will be made on the findings.

B. NARD

1. Report – Rippen reported on the September 16th conference call which went over the draft audit, balances of the financials and risk pool accounts. Potential of providing board members insurance was discussed but they were not interested in pursuing the topic at this time. Zink attended the meeting they had after the Annual Conference and stated that they discussed the same items as Rippen had just reported.

Anderjaska reported that he felt good about the information provided at the breakout sessions during the conference.

C. NNRC

1. Report. None.

D. OUTREACH

1. Report – Johnson reported that they had the Land Judging contest here in Curtis last week and everything went very well. McCrometer thinks they have all the bugs worked out with the new meters so they are moving forward with the large order so Ken can get as many installed as possible and will finish up with the rest of the installations next spring.

Russell stated that a UNL graduate student who will be doing a study on soil health has been in contact with him requesting the Board members e-mail addresses for completion of a survey. Everyone agreed that it would be alright to provide her with them.

E. LEGISLATION

- None.

F. N-CORPE

1. Status Report – Russell went over the N-CORPE outline notes of things discussed at the meeting. Schilling stated that he plans to concentrate on the budget, spending, allocation and the reseeded since other items they continue to get voted down on when brought up. Loomis agreed. Loomis then reported there had been a complaint received from a person living on the road which is being used by the renter to haul his grain to the bins. Discussion has been held about selling the bins and a price has been set so we will see if there is a buyer out there interested. The plan would be for the funds to be put down on the bonds if sold. Bruce Leffler, bond agent, was there quoting refinancing options. Currently paying 3.88% and new rates are now at 2.93% and dropping. Bruce is with a new company so the idea to request them to go out with bids was brought up. Still looking at whether it's illegal to request a landowner receiving FSA payments to pay N-CORPE a portion of those funds. May have to go to the head of FSA and ask the question. They are also discussing doing some PR news articles in the paper to try to straighten out false information being currently spread around.

G. OTHERS

1. Southwest Weed Management – Jim Bowen, Coordinator. Bowen introduced himself and discussed what they are currently doing and where they would like to go in the future now that the group has been reformed. He provided a handout with information on exactly what they have been doing and their plans. There will be a potential of requesting the NRD to provide some funding. Schilling stated that he should gather information on what they might need and exactly what the funds would go for to be presented to the Board next year prior to setting the new budget.

9. GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT AREA

A. GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT AREA

1. REPORTS

(a) SURFACE WATER.

None available at this time.

(b) PERMANENT TRANSFER & VARIANCE REPORT.

None.

2. RULES AND REGULATIONS.

None.

3. IMP – Alternatives.

Russell had a copy of the letter from Fassett included in the handouts. They are currently working with DNR on contracts on the items in the letter. Russell has not received a response from DNR on his letter to them regarding the IMP but anticipated he should hear from them very soon.

B. GROUND WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA

None.

C. OTHER GROUND WATER ACTIVITY

None.

10. PROGRAMS

A. COST-SHARE FUNDS – LCP/NSWCP.

Russell reported on 3 EWP sites that need to be repaired. One of the sites was a N-CORPE crossing and was repaired by them. After review of what would need to be done to fix the other 2 with federal funds would be more costly in legal bills than what he feels is necessary to spend. He would like to approach the County and see if we could all work together to get them fixed ourselves.

B. WATERSHEDS.

There was a meeting regarding P2 and it looks like they plan to go out with bids around the first of the year.

C. CHEMIGATION.

There will be a draft of the suggested set of new rules and regulations with the changes to the Chemigation section for review by the committee prior to the next meeting. Russell will try to plan on setting one up after harvest is complete.

D. METERS.

As reported under Outreach, everything is moving forward. Schroeder is currently looking at the contract now.

E. TREE PLANTING.

None.

F. LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL APPLICATIONS.

None.

11. GENERAL OPERATIONS.

A. COMMITTEE REPORTS.

(1) Personnel & Programs.

(a) Proposed Bylaw Changes. Russell went over the changes which were mostly further clarification on the subject of missed meetings. Discussion held.

- ◆ Zink moved to approve the proposed bylaw changes as presented. Seconded by Loomis.

Ayes - 11 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

(2) Ground Water.
None.

B. SALES AND RENTAL EQUIPMENT.

There are two pickups approaching 80,000 miles that will need traded off after meter reading season has been completed.

12. LEGAL MATTERS

A. Compact Issues.
None.

B. Other.
None.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Legal

- ◆ Schilling moved to enter into executive session to discuss personnel and legal contractual issues with N-CORPE with the Board, Manager and Assistant Manager. Seconded by Anderjaska.

Ayes - 10 Nays – Palic Motion Carried

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

Entered at 10:25 am.

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

Ayes – 11 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

Exited at 11:08 am.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at 9:00 am at the Middle Republican NRD Office in Curtis, Nebraska.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:09 am.

Stacie M. Owens, Board Secretary