

MINUTES
Middle Republican Natural Resources District
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, September 10, 2019 at 9:05 AM
Curtis, Nebraska

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

Board Members Absent: Rick Spencer

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

NRCS Staff: Jason Kennedy

Others: William M. Barger

Information Mailed to Directors:

Budget Hearing Agenda	Special Hearing Agenda
Regular Meeting Agenda	Regular Meeting Minutes
Financial Report	Legal Billing Summary
Civil Rights Handout	

Information Distributed at Meeting:

Proposed Insurance Resolution	Surface Water Report
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Information E-mailed

Legal Invoices from July	NARD – Interim Study Notice of Hearing
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REGULAR MEETING

1. The regular monthly board meeting was called to order by Chairman McConville at 9:07 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.

4. The Minutes for the August Regular Board Meeting were mailed to Directors.

- ◆ Zink moved to approve the minutes of the August Regular Board Meeting with correction. Seconded by Loomis.

Ayes - 12 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

5. CONSIDER VARIANCE REQUEST

None.

6. FINANCIAL ACTIONS

A. The August Financial Report was presented by Russell. The taxes received were \$64,350.77.

- ◆ Schilling moved to approve the August Financial Report. Seconded by Nelsen.
Ayes - 12 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

A copy of this report is filed with the Minutes.

B. Approve Budget.

- ◆ Anderjaska moved to approve the budget as presented and resolution MR-2019-3 setting the property tax request. Seconded by Loomis.
Ayes - 10 Nays – Palic, Estermann Motion Carried

7. OPEN FORUM

William M. Barger, Culbertson. Questioned whether we would get credit for the water rights that are sold. Commented on erosion issues and that NRD or NRCS should pay to help repair them. Suggested the board members raise their hands until the Chairman calls on them.

8. REPORTS – AGENCIES, ASSOCIATIONS, OTHERS

A. NRCS

1. District Conservation Report – Jason Kennedy reported they were wrapping up the fiscal year and finalizing contracts.

B. NARD

1. Report – Rippen reported they were just getting things ready for the annual conference.

2. Annual Conference, Kearney.
September 23rd and 24th.

3. Resolution on Insurance.

Russell went over the resolution that would allow board members to get insurance benefits, at their cost, through NARD. Rippen will get on the NARD agenda to discuss.

C. NNRC

1. Report. None.

D. OUTREACH

1. Report – Johnson reported that McCrometer is finishing up the last few of the meter installs before they start working on the larger orders.

E. LEGISLATION

Russell stated that the N-CORPE interim study has been set for September 19th in McCook. Discussion held.

- ◆ Schilling moved to direct Russell to testify in support of LR14. Seconded by Palic.
Ayes - 12 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

F. N-CORPE

1. Status Report – Loomis and Schilling went over items discussed at the last meeting and current activities. Looking at possible 5-year grazing leases. Did some work on the creek that needed some repairs. Discussed the plans for reseeding some of the grounds. Electric and operations will now be billed out monthly to the Districts. Are not planning on leasing out the 4 pivots after the contract is up next year. Currently Russell, Schilling and Loomis have been working on the budget. Discussion held.

G. OTHERS

None.

9. GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT AREA

A. GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT AREA

1. REPORTS

(a) SURFACE WATER.

Reviewed Bureau’s report.

(b) PERMANENT TRANSFER & VARIANCE REPORT.

None.

2. RULES AND REGULATIONS.

None.

3. IMP – Alternatives.

Russell reported on his meeting with DNR and the discussions that were had.

B. GROUND WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA

None.

C. OTHER GROUND WATER ACTIVITY

None.

10. PROGRAMS

A. COST-SHARE FUNDS – LCP/NSWCP.

No report at this time. The groundwater committee met prior to the regular board meeting and Zink provided a report and their recommendations at this current time.

- ◆ Loomis moved to fund local contracts to-date with the remaining local cost share funds and use groundwater funds to make up the small remaining balance. Seconded by Schafer.
Ayes - 12 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

- ◆ Zink moved that we provide no more matching funds for the rest of this fiscal year for the RCCP and OAI programs. Seconded by Schafer.
Ayes - 11 Nays – Rippen Motion Carried

B. WATERSHEDS.

None.

C. CHEMIGATION.

Russell will have the groundwater committee look over the language that Lindstrom is working on.

D. METERS.

None.

E. TREE PLANTING.

None.

F. LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL APPLICATIONS.

None.

11. GENERAL OPERATIONS.

A. COMMITTEE REPORTS.

(1) Personnel & Programs.

Russell will be scheduling a meeting with the next week to review the final cost share applications.

(2) Ground Water.

Russell went over DNR's request for offering permanent retirement dollars with the water cash resource funds and discussion was held.

- ◆ Schilling moved to cap the permanent retirement offers at 1 million and it will be based on first come, first serve basis. Seconded by Loomis.
Ayes - 12 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

B. SALES AND RENTAL EQUIPMENT.

None.

12. LEGAL MATTERS

A. Compact Issues.

None.

B. Other.

None.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Legal

- ◆ Palic moved to enter into executive session to discuss legal with the Board, Manager and Staff. Seconded by Zink.
Ayes - 12 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

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

Entered at 11:03 am.

- ◆ Palic moved to exit the executive session. Seconded by Zink.
Ayes – 12 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

Exited at 11:54 am.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 8, 2019 at 9:00 am at the Middle Republican NRD Office in Curtis, Nebraska.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 am.

Stacie M. Owens, Board Secretary