MINUTES

Middle Republican Natural Resources District Board of Directors Meeting Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 7:00 PM Curtis, Nebraska

Board Members: Joe Anderjaska, Rick McConville, Benjie Loomis, Jay Schilling, Tracy Zink, John Palic, Brad Randel, Rick Spencer, Dan Nelsen, Dan Estermann, Brian Schafer

Board Members via Teleconference: Jolene Messenger

Board Members Absent: Shane Rippen (was a call in but experience communication problems)

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

NRCS Staff via Teleconference: Jason Kennedy Others: Travis Rousselle, William M. Barger

Information Mailed to Directors:

Agenda Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Public Hearing Min. – Brown Public Hearing Min. – Uhrich & Brown

Public Hearing Min. – Nisley Public Hearing Min. – Hauxwell

Public Hearing Min. - Ashtonfield Special Meeting Minutes

Financials Legal Summary

Profit & Loss Budget vs Actual Civil Rights Handout

Information E-mailed

COVID 11-2-20 Agenda Reg Mtg November 2020

Governor Ricketts Executive Order 20-34 Virtual Mtgs

REGULAR MEETING

- 1. The regular monthly board meeting was called to order by Chairman Randel at 7:01 pm.
 - a. Verify Quorum.
 - b. Excused Absences.
- 2. The agenda and roster were circulated to those present.
 - a. Items added to the Agenda since mailing: 7(a) NNRC Fornoff
- 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. MINUTES

The Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting held on October 13th, Public Hearings for Brown, Uhrich & Brown, Nisley, Hauxwell and Ashtonfield; and, Special Meeting all held on October 30, 2020 were provided to Directors.

♦ Zink moved to approve the minutes of the October 13th Regular Board Meeting with correction. Seconded by Loomis.

Ayes - 8 Nays - 0 Abstain – Estermann, Nelsen, Schafer, Spencer Motion Carried

• Schilling moved to approve the Public Hearings for Brown, Uhrich & Brown, Nisley, Hauxwell and Ashtonfield; and, Special Meeting all held on October 30, 2020. Seconded by Zink.

Ayes - 11

Nays - 0

Abstain – Spencer

Motion Carried

5. FINANCIAL ACTIONS

- a. The October Financial Report was presented by Russell. The taxes received were \$102,264.03.
 - ♦ Zink moved to approve the Financials and Profit & Loss Budget vs Actual.

 Seconded by Schafer.

Ayes - 12

Nays - 0

Motion Carried

A copy of this report is filed with the Minutes.

6. OPEN FORUM

William M. Barger, Culbertson. Expressed concerns relating to the Hauxwell case. Questioned what was paid for permanent retired acres.

7. NNRC - FORNOFF

a. Nebraska Natural Resources Commission (NNRC) – Fornoff. Went over the grants that have been approved at the October meeting. Reported he didn't get appointed by the Governor so, if the Board would like, he would be willing to run for the position on the committee again. A caucus meeting will be set up in January in McCook at some point where some or all members of the Board can show up to nominate and vote. No date has been set as of yet.

8. MANAGERS' REPORTS

- a. Meters. Russell reported on installation of the new meters.
- b. Rules & Regulations. Russell reported that discussion are occurring within the staff at this time and we will start considering thoughts on changes along with Lindstrom's recommendations very soon. Committee meetings will be set up to collect their thoughts soon as well.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Personnel & Programs.

We have 3 land retirement applications to review so will plan on setting up a meeting by the end of this month.

b. Ground Water.

Once we have had a chance to start revising the rules and regulations, we will schedule a meeting.

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

Provided an update on the staff's workload and deadlines. Will be working with the NRD to set up ranking criteria for the funds from the WaterSmart Grant program. Also stated that due to the current COVID-19 case outbreak, everyone at NRCS has been encouraged to attend all meetings via teleconference or video conference as much as possible.

11. NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICTS (NARD) - RIPPEN. None.

12. N-CORPE – LOOMIS/SCHILLING.

a. Other. Last meeting was held on the 21st which neither attended. Based on what reports they received, the bonding refinance was completed and they approved the budget. Palic did request information regarding the cost of the refinancing of the bond. Information will be gathered.

13. LEGAL MATTERS

None.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Palic moved to enter into executive session to discuss legal matters and personnel with Board, Manager and elected Board Member, Travis Rousselle. Seconded by Zink.

Ayes - 12

Navs - 0

Motion Carried

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

Entered at 7:38 pm.

♦ McConville moved to exit the executive session. Seconded by Palic.

Ayes - 12

Navs - 0

Motion Carried

Exited at 8:43 pm.

♦ Zink moved to approve Resolutions MR14-18. Seconded by Schilling.

Ayes - 12

Navs - 0

Motion Carried

♦ Anderjaska moved to consult counsel on letters to Nisley and Agri Affiliates and present their draft to the board for consideration. Seconded by Zink.

Ayes - 5

Nays - Palic, Randel, Schafer, Schilling, Spencer, Messinger,

Nelsen

Motion Failed

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 1:30 PM.

Stacie M. Owens, Board Secretary