

MINUTES
Middle Republican Natural Resources District
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, September 14, 2021 following the budget hearing and special meeting
Curtis, Nebraska

Board Members Present: Joe Anderjaska, Daniel Nelsen, John Palic, Jolene Messinger, Travis Rousselle, Benjie Loomis, Jay Schilling, Tracy Zink, Dan Estermann

Board Members Absent: Brad Randel, Rick McConville, Shane Rippen

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

NRCS Staff: Jason Kennedy

Others: William M. Barger

Information Posted to Directors I-Pads:

Budget Hearing Agenda	Special Hearing Agenda
Budget	Agenda
Minutes – Regular Meeting	Financial Report
Surface Water Report	Legal Bills

Information Distributed at Meeting:

Legal Summary

Information E-Mailed:

Sept Packets	NARD Conference
NRDs 2021 Annual Conference	

REGULAR MEETING

1. The regular monthly board meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Zink at 7:10 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: 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 posted to the Directors iPads.
 - ♦ Schilling moved to approve the minutes of the August Regular Board Meeting.
Seconded by Loomis.
Ayes – 9 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

5. FINANCIAL ACTIONS

A. The July Financial Report was presented by Russell. The taxes received were \$44,493.15.

- ♦ Nelsen moved to approve the August Financial Report. Seconded by Anderjaska.
Ayes - 9 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

A copy of this report is filed with the Minutes.

B. Budget – Approve.

1% Increase in Restricted Funds Authority

A motion was made by Anderjaska and seconded by Loomis to increase the total restricted funds authority by an additional 1%.

Ayes - 9 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

Budget Approval

A motion was made by Loomis and seconded by Rousselle to approve the 2021-2022 budget as presented and adopt Resolution MR5-2021.

Ayes - 8 Nays – Palic Motion Carried

6. OPEN FORUM

William M. Barger, Culbertson. Had a question regarding water rights purchased.

7. MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Meter Installation.

Meter Installations

- Every site is inspected.
- Look at the location of meter (does it meet spec and does it measure all water?).
- Sent letter out as to what work is needed prior to installation, giving them several months
- If work not completed – send second letter with a deadline, usually several months.
- Cease and Desist – letter and process – after a call or two.

#-Needs to meet our rules and regulations of accuracy and installation.

All sites are photographed and kept on file.

- ♦ Anderjaska moved to approve the process as described above. Seconded by Schilling.
Ayes - 9 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

Second WaterSMART was approved for \$1.3 million with another \$800,000 from WRCF expected. Will put in another 1,000 meters in decline area and total of up to 2,000 meters.

B. RRCA. Russell and Boyce attended the 3 States meeting and gave a report. Based on what was reported there, it's likely not to be considered a water short year for 2022.

C. GIS

- Estimated cost \$80-100,000 to get started
 - Weather Stations and Observation Well Transducers
- Meeting next week to discuss strategy with everyone involved.
 - JEO
 - Mike
 - McCrometer
 - Benji
 - Unanimous
 - Staff
- Will be open to suggestions on how to handle the move to GIS in the most efficient and cost-effective way
 - Start with a broader base
 - Start with a base specific
 - Jump in and get it all done at once/up front
- Direction may impact the cost

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

9. NRCS

Kennedy stated they were busy renewing CRP contracts this last 3 weeks. They are also have 21 CSP renewals that also have to be completed.

10. NARD

A. Fall Conference. Scheduled for September 26-28th in Kearney. Currently Russell, Johnson, Boyce, Anderjaska, Rippen and Zink will be attending.

B. Voting Delegates. Rippen will be assigned as Delegate and Zink as the Alternate.

11. N-CORPE

Nothing new to report. Next meeting is in October.

12. LEGAL MATTERS

Russell stated that there might be a potential for some changes in how we proceed forward later on down the road.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Legal Matters.

- ♦ Palic moved to enter into executive session to discuss legal matters with the Board, Manager and Staff. Seconded by Loomis.
Ayes – 9 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

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

Entered at 8:05 pm.

- ♦ Palic moved to exit the executive session. Seconded by Schilling.
Ayes - 9 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

Exited at 8:33 pm.

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

- ♦ Anderjaska moved to instruct Russell to visit with counsel to file for dismissal, appeal or other actions for case id CI-2148 based on legal advice received. Seconded by Palic.
Ayes - 9 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at 7:00 pm at the Middle Republican NRD Office in Curtis, Nebraska.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm.

Stacie M. Owens, Board Secretary