

# **PUBLIC HEARING ON LOWER LOUP NRD FY 2021 BUDGET**

August 27, 2020

Ord, Nebraska

The Board of Directors of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District held a Public Hearing on the Lower Loup NRD FY 2021 Budget at the Headquarters Office, 2620 Airport Drive, Ord, Nebraska, on August 27, 2020. Notice of the public hearing was published in The Grand Island Independent, The Columbus Telegram, The Custer County Chief, The Ord Quiz, The Burwell Tribune, Albion News, The Nance County Journal, The Sherman County Times, The Phonograph-Herald, The Greeley Citizen, and The Ravenna News.

Chairman Citta opened the Budget Hearing at 5:00 p.m.

Citta asked for comments from the public concerning the proposed budget. None were heard.

Citta asked for comments from the Board of Directors of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District. None were heard.

With no comments heard from either the public or Directors, Chairman Citta closed the public hearing at 5:03 p.m.

# **PUBLIC HEARING TO SET THE FINAL TAX REQUEST FOR LOWER LOUP NRD FOR FY 2021**

August 27, 2020

Ord, Nebraska

The Board of Directors of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District held a Public Hearing to Set the Final Tax Request for the Lower Loup NRD FY 2021 at the Headquarters Office, 2620 Airport Drive, Ord, Nebraska, on August 27, 2020. Notice of the public hearing was published in The Grand Island Independent, The Columbus Telegram, The Custer County Chief, The Ord Quiz, The Burwell Tribune, Albion News, The Nance County Journal, The Sherman County Times, The Phonograph-Herald, The Greeley Citizen, and The Ravenna News.

Chairman Citta opened the Public Hearing to Set the Final Tax Request at 5:16 p.m.

Citta asked for comments from the public. None were heard.

Citta asked for comments from the Board of Directors of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District. None were heard.

With no comments heard from either the public or Directors, Chairman Citta closed the public hearing at 5:17 p.m.

# MINUTES

## LOWER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

August 27, 2020

Ord, Nebraska

The August meeting of the Board of Directors of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District was held at the Headquarters Office, 2620 Airport Drive, Ord, Nebraska, on August 27, 2020. Chairman Citta called the meeting to order at 5:17 p.m.

### CALL TO ORDER

#### Directors in attendance:

James C. Adams  
Darwin B. Anderson  
Beth Boesch  
John Coffey  
N. Richard Hadenfeldt  
Gary A. Kruse  
Todd Nitsch  
Chad J. Podolak  
Dean G. Thede  
Rick Vlach

Rollie D. Amsberry, Treasurer  
Timothy E. Bartak  
Joseph L. Citta, Chairman  
Jim Eschliman, Vice Chairman  
Randy Kauk  
Larry Mohrman  
Alan D. Petersen  
Gerald Smith  
Henry J. Thoene, Secretary

#### Directors absent:

Robert L. Bauer

Matt Lukasiewicz

#### Staff in attendance:

Russell G. Callan, General Manager  
Irene F. Kreifels, Administrative Assistant  
Richard L. Woollen, District Forester  
Larry D. Schultz, I&E Coordinator  
V. Anne Freeman, Water Programs Secretary

Tylr Naprstek, Assistant General Manager  
Kim A. Lyons, Financial Secretary  
Dell R. Harris, Water Resources Specialist  
Cameron Conrad, Water Modeling Coord.

#### Guests in attendance

Jim Nelson, Cairo

## NOTICE OF OPEN MEETING LAW POSTING

Chairman Citta referred those in attendance to the open meeting law information posted in the Board room and that meeting material was available at the entrance to the Board room.

## VERIFICATION OF MEETING NOTICE AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairman Citta asked for verification of the meeting notice. General Manager Russell Callan stated that the agenda was current, and that the meeting notices were properly published in all newspapers, posted at the NRD Headquarters office in Ord, on the NRD web site, and in the eight field office locations.

## ROLL CALL

Roll Call was conducted electronically. Directors present: Adams, Amsberry, Anderson, Bartak, Boesch, Citta, Coffey, Eschliman, Hadenfeldt, Kauk, Kruse, Mohrman, Nitsch, Petersen, Podolak, Smith, Thede, Thoene, Vlach. Directors absent: Bauer, Lukasiewicz.

## EXCUSED ABSENCES

Chairman Citta stated that Directors Bauer and Lukasiewicz had asked to be excused.

**Smith motioned, seconded by Boesch, to excuse absent directors. Motion carried by electronic vote. Directors voting yes: Adams, Amsberry, Anderson, Bartak, Boesch, Citta, Coffey, Eschliman, Hadenfeldt, Kauk, Kruse, Mohrman, Nitsch, Petersen, Podolak, Smith, Thede, Thoene, Vlach. Directors absent: Bauer, Lukasiewicz.**

## MINUTES

Chairman Citta asked for corrections and/or additions to the July 23, 2020, Board meeting minutes. Adams stated that he had asked to be excused from the July meeting. The minutes will be changed to reflect an excused absence.

**Kruse motioned, seconded by Podolak, to approve the July 23, 2020, Board meeting minutes with the discussed changes. Motion carried by electronic vote. Directors voting yes: Adams, Amsberry, Anderson, Bartak, Boesch, Citta, Coffey, Eschliman, Hadenfeldt, Kauk, Kruse, Mohrman, Nitsch, Petersen, Podolak, Smith, Thede, Thoene, Vlach. Directors absent: Bauer, Lukasiewicz.**

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Russell Callan, General Manager, highlighted expenditures of \$31,350.00 to Gateway Motors Inc. for the new Traverse; \$14,076.56 to JEO for the Mud Creek WFPO and drought plan; \$9,600.00 to EA Engineering for the cover crop study; and \$10,151.91 to HDR Engineering for the Columbus Project; and \$12,800.00 to EA Engineering for additional cover crop study expenses and explained that last month's bill had come in after the July Board meeting, causing two payments

this month. Callan also highlighted \$24,550.00 to Phoenix Web Group for updates and changes to the NRD's database; \$875.00 to JEO for work with Mira Creek; \$580.00 to Pandorf Land & Cattle for the access incentive program for habitat; and \$999.00 to Petska Backhoe & Plumbing for pumping out the outhouses at Pibel Lake.

**Vlach motioned, seconded by Coffey, to approve the August 27, 2020, Treasurer's Report and pay all bills. Motion carried by electronic vote. Directors voting yes: Adams, Amsberry, Anderson, Bartak, Boesch, Citta, Coffey, Eschliman, Kauk, Kruse, Mohrman, Nitsch, Petersen, Podolak, Smith, Thede, Thoene, Vlach. Director abstaining: Hadenfeldt. Directors absent: Bauer, Lukasiewicz.**

The Treasurer's Report Approval Policy states that the approved expenditures are to be published and each director who has per diem and/or reimbursement of expenses included in such financial reports, abstains from voting for the approval of his or her own per diem and/or expense reimbursement.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments.

### FORESTER'S REPORT

Richard Woollen, District Forester, reported that there had been several forestry assistance requests addressing forest health related concerns. He said assistance had been given to individuals, golf course managers, and various natural resource professionals. Woollen also reported that higher groundwater levels have taken a toll on windbreaks and he was looking into assistance to help with funds for new plantings. He informed the Board that 51,809 trees were sold in 2020 and of that number, about 43% were Eastern redcedar.

### NRCS REPORT

Due to the absence of anyone from NRCS, directors were referred to the report provided in the agenda. Callan reported that Bryce Bauer may call in next month to give an update. Callan stated that NRCS was still not open to the public; however, they were taking appointments, like the NRD.

### LLNRD FY 2021 BUDGET

#### Action to Adopt the FY 2021 Budget

Citta presented Resolution FY2021-001: *Resolution to Adopt the Budget of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District for Fiscal year 2020-2021*. The resolution follows.

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE BUDGET  
OF THE LOWER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021**

WHEREAS, the Lower Loup Natural Resources District, a political subdivision organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, said Board of Directors of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District has held two (2) Budget Work sessions to hear suggestions as to what reoccurring expenses and new projects the District will incur in the coming Fiscal Year 2020-2021; and

WHEREAS, said Board of Directors of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District has compiled a list of proposed funding sources to help cover those expenses and projects planned for Fiscal Year 2020-2021; and

WHEREAS, said Board of Directors of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District recommends a budget expenditure of \$18,436,788.53 for Fiscal Year 2020-2021; and

WHEREAS, said Board of Directors of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District has held a public hearing in compliance with the provisions of State Statute Sections 13-501 to 13-513, for the purpose to hear support, opposition, criticism, suggestions, or observations from the general public and the Board of Directors of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District relating to their proposed budget and no dissenting comments were heard;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District assembled on this 27<sup>th</sup> day of August 2020, adopt Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget as presented.

This Resolution was adopted at a regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District held on August 27, 2020, by electronic vote, on a motion by Director Smith, seconded by Director Boesch.

Electronic Vote: 18-Yes      1-No      2-Absent

**Smith motioned, seconded by Boesch, to adopt Resolution FY2021-001: *Resolution to Adopt the Budget of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.* Motion carried by electronic vote. Directors voting yes: Adams, Amsberry, Anderson, Bartak, Boesch, Citta, Coffey, Eschliman, Hadenfeldt, Kauk, Kruse, Mohrman, Petersen, Podolak, Smith, Thede, Thoene, Vlach. Director voting no: Nitsch. Directors absent: Bauer, Lukasiewicz.**

## FINAL TAX REQUEST FOR FY 2021

### Action to Adopt Resolution to Approve Additional One Percent Increase

Citta presented Resolution FY2021-002: *Resolution to Approve Additional One Percent Increase*. The resolution follows.

### **RESOLUTION TO APPROVE ADDITIONAL ONE PERCENT INCREASE**

WHEREAS, the Lower Loup Natural Resources District has completed and approved their FY-2021 Budget; and

WHEREAS, a special public hearing was held on August 27, 2020, as required by law, to hear and consider comments concerning the property tax request; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska Revised Statute 13-519 provides a governmental unit may exceed the limit provided in subsection (1) of this section for a fiscal year by up to an additional one percent upon the affirmative vote of at least seventy-five percent of the members of the governing body constituting a quorum authorized to conduct business; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District has determined the one percent allowable increase is necessary for the financing of proposed District programs and projects;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District approves the adoption of the additional one percent increase allowed to their FY-2021 budget.

This Resolution was adopted at a regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District held on August 27, 2020, by electronic vote, on a motion by Director Kruse and seconded by Director Anderson.

Electronic Vote: 19-Yes 0-No 2-Absent

**Kruse motioned, seconded by Anderson, to adopt Resolution FY2021-002: *Resolution to Approve Additional One Percent Increase*. Motion carried by electronic vote. Directors voting yes: Adams, Amsberry, Anderson, Bartak, Boesch, Citta, Coffey, Eschliman, Hadenfeldt, Kauk, Kruse, Mohrman, Nitsch, Petersen, Podolak, Smith, Thede, Thoene, Vlach. Directors absent: Bauer, Lukasiewicz.**

Action to Adopt Resolution to Set the Property Tax Request

Citta presented Resolution FY2021-003: *Resolution to Set the Property Tax Request*. The resolution follows.

**RESOLUTION  
TO  
SET THE PROPERTY TAX REQUEST**

WHEREAS, Nebraska Revised Statute 77-1601.02 provides that the property tax request for the prior year shall be the property tax request for the current year for purposes of the levy set by the County Board of Equalization unless the Governing Body of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District passes by a majority vote a resolution setting the tax request at a different amount; and

WHEREAS, a special public hearing was held as required by law to hear and consider comments concerning the property tax request; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District that the property tax request for the current year be a different amount than the property tax request for the prior year;

WHEREAS, the total assessed value of property differs from last year's total assessed value by -1 percent;

WHEREAS, the tax rate which would levy the same amount of property taxes as last year, when multiplied by the new total assessed value of property, would be \$0.036166 per \$100 of assessed value;

WHEREAS, the Lower Loup Natural Resources District proposes to adopt a property tax request that will cause its tax rate to be \$0.029264 per \$100 of assessed value;

WHEREAS, based on the proposed property tax request and changes in other revenue, the total operating budget of Lower Loup Natural Resources District will exceed last year's by 10 percent;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Governing Body of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District, by a majority vote, resolves that:

1. The 2020-2021 property tax request be set at \$4,736,484.19.
2. A copy of this resolution be certified and forwarded to the Platte County Clerk on or before October 13, 2020.
3. Any levy which is not in compliance with this section and section 77-1601 shall be construed as an unauthorized levy under section 77-1606.

This Resolution was adopted at a regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District held on August 27, 2020, by electronic vote, on a motion by Director Thoene, seconded by Director Vlach.

Electronic Vote 18-Yes 1-No 2-Absent

**Thoene motioned, seconded by Vlach, to adopt Resolution FY2021-003: *Resolution to Set the Property Tax Request.* Motion carried by electronic vote. Directors voting yes: Adams, Amsberry, Anderson, Bartak, Boesch, Citta, Coffey, Eschliman, Hadenfeldt, Kauk, Kruse, Mohrman, Petersen, Podolak, Smith, Thede, Thoene, Vlach. Director voting no: Nitsch. Directors absent: Bauer, Lukasiewicz.**

Action to Adopt Resolution to Set the Levy for FY 2021

Citta presented Resolution FY2021-004: *Resolution to Set the Levy for the Lower Loup Natural Resources District for Fiscal Year 2021.* The resolution follows.

**RESOLUTION  
TO  
SET LEVY FOR THE LOWER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
FOR  
FISCAL YEAR 2021**

WHEREAS, the Lower Loup Natural Resources District has completed work on and published their Budget for Fiscal Year 2021; and

WHEREAS, said Budget calls for a property tax \$4,736,484.19; and

WHEREAS, the valuation reported to the Lower Loup Natural Resources District by sixteen (16) County Assessors within the District, shows a total valuation of \$16,185,327,865.00; and

WHEREAS, the District has by public notice stated that it will set its own levy at a figure different from what the Platte County Clerk established;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the levy for Fiscal Year 2021 be established by the District at \$0.029264 per \$100.00 of valuation as is calculated by dividing the property tax requirement by the total valuation.

This Resolution was adopted at a regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District held on August 27, 2020, by electronic vote, on a motion by Director Eschliman, seconded by Director Mohrman.

Electronic Vote 19-Yes 0-No 2-Absent

**Eschliman motioned, seconded by Mohrman, to adopt Resolution FY2021-004:  
*Resolution to set Levy for the Lower Loup Natural Resources District for Fiscal Year 2021.***

Coffey asked why the levy was set through Platte County. Callan explained that it was set with the county with the highest valuation and that previously it had been in Custer County but went back to Platte County.

**Motion carried by electronic vote. Directors voting yes: Adams, Amsberry, Anderson, Bartak, Boesch, Citta, Coffey, Eschliman, Hadenfeldt, Kauk, Kruse, Mohrman, Nitsch, Petersen, Podolak, Smith, Thede, Thoene, Vlach. Directors absent: Bauer, Lukasiewicz.**

Mohrman asked why, on the *Statement of Valuations*, it showed growth in counties that have decreased valuations. Callan explained that the growth represents new buildings, etc. in the county that were built and which attribute to the overall valuation.

## INFORMATION & EDUCATION REPORT

Larry Schultz, Information & Education Coordinator, reported that he was working on the next *In the Loup* newsletter and would have articles discussing new acres, the Mud Creek project, and several other topics. Schultz also reported that the Area 4 Range Judging Contest had been cancelled for 2020 and whether to have the North Central Land Judging Contest or not was being debated. He stated that the ag instructors were in favor of holding the contest, but he was skeptical of holding any judging this year due to COVID-19, as he did not want anyone getting sick. He also stated that NRCS would not have anyone present at the actual event, so that would put more work on the NRD staff to handle everything. Schultz said that Lower Loup NRD would get to make the final call on the contest since they are the host.

The Board expressed their support in cancelling the contest for this year.

Schultz also reported that Lower Loup was honored with Educator of the Year award. He said Boyd Bowder, Voc Ag instructor from St. Paul was the recipient.

## ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

### Davis Creek

Tylr Naprstek, Assistant General Manager, reported that he had received calls about there not being enough sand and beaches; however, sites are full for the next couple of weekends, as well as September 26<sup>th</sup> for Junk Jaunt weekend. He highlighted the picture on the agenda cover showing that Valley County had put millings at the entrance. Naprstek also reported that the lake is dropping quickly and within the next month it should be at wintering level, so staff has been pushing the docks down.

### Pibel Lake

Naprstek reported that the latrines were cleaned out. He said there was concern with blue-green algae in the lake, but it tested at .77 ppb and the safe level is 8 ppb, so what has been sampled is not the dangerous type of algae.

### Drought Management Plan

Naprstek reported that Howard County was labeled drought, initially, but the area had grown to include Merrick County and possibly others. He stated that a stakeholder group may be formed. However, other online public gatherings were being held and would be used to see if Lower Loup could get successful participation before the drought group was finalized.

### Cover Crop Study

Naprstek reported that staff had been installing different relay nodes. The manufacturer found faulty nodes and they have been replaced, as well as several others. Naprstek reported that he had been getting several calls from people interested in the study since they were seeing a difference in runoff with cover crops planted.

### Chemigation

Naprstek reported that NRD technicians had completed 933 renewal permit inspections and had 215 yet to do. He said 282 new permits were received in 2020. He expected that chemigation inspections would be completed in about two to three weeks.

Adams stated that chemigation is a very time-consuming job and it is unbelievable that the techs get so much done. In his experience it can take 2-3 visits to the same place to complete some inspections. Callan agreed that it was a major part of the work the NRD does that is under-acknowledged. He stated that, due to COVID-19, staff was having to drive separately when they would usually jump in the same vehicle as the producer to go to the site.

## WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

### Columbus Recharge Project

Callan stated that the City of Columbus had a draft easement agreement that they were reviewing, and he had not heard anything back yet. He stated he had been keeping an eye on their agenda to see if it shows up. He also reported that a proposal had been presented on the piece of land that the well would be placed on and he was just waiting to see it come back. Callan reported that he received a letter from U.S. Fish and Wildlife on interest in the committee for the canal. He stated he thought there were a couple more easements that must be drawn up but didn't think one would be needed for the cove because it should stay within current easements.

Kauk asked what the elevation of the pit was. Callan stated it was currently at 1424, where the pump would be turned on, and then off again at 1425. Kauk asked if that was down and Callan stated it had been over that elevation for the last few years. Coffey asked where the elevation level

was last year and Callan replied around the 1425 area. Callan stated he was working on getting numbers from ADM to see if it was still down. Coffey stated he believed that ADM did not plan on opening their dry plant till spring.

#### Nebraska Chemigation Act

Naprstek reported that Callan reached out to Blankenau, Wilmoth, Jarecke LLP and got their opinion on the Nebraska Chemigation Act and found that if anyone was pumping out of any source, they needed a permit. Naprstek stated he had been contacting NDEE to make sure they were aware and his goal was to get a letter out to all known surface water applicators and those with canal rights to make sure they were aware they needed a permit. He has also been reaching out to other NRDs to advise them of the rule.

#### Broken Bow Source Water Project

Naprstek reported that Moudry discussed the project with Broken Bow and grants are being sought for cost-share and other projects. He has worked with the City Administrator to make sure they were aware of the programs available. Naprstek reported that they were looking at the wellhead protection area and would work to get cost-share in that area. He stated that Broken Bow was the furthest west community with this project.

#### Psota Irrigation Project

Dell Harris, Water Resources Specialist, presented a power point presentation on the Psota Irrigation Project that was expiring this year. The general guidelines of the project were discussed as well as data that was collected on water supply and irrigation limits imposed for the project. The study showed that Psota was at 13.1% efficiency where other studies had showed a 7.1% efficiency. Overall, it was determined that the project had proven to be successful.

**Smith motioned, seconded by Adams, to continue the Psota Irrigation Project with the same stipulations as the original agreement.**

It was asked how long the agreement would continue. Callan informed the Board that the agreement stated that if Psota goes out of bounds of the agreement, it would be cancelled. Coffey asked what would be done with the information gathered from the study. Callan stated that the NRD was learning the recharge potential the study offered and that the information may be utilized when there was not a lot of water. Coffey asked if it could be used to add irrigated acres due to gravity. Callan replied that was something he would investigate and would have to run some figures on consumption.

**Motion carried by electronic vote. Directors voting yes: Adams, Amsberry, Anderson, Bartak, Boesch, Citta, Coffey, Eschliman, Hadenfeldt, Kauk, Kruse, Mohrman, Nitsch, Petersen, Podolak, Smith, Thede, Thoene, Vlach. Directors absent: Bauer, Lukasiewicz.**

#### Water Quality Studies Update

Naprstek informed the Board that staff had finished the Area 30 isotope study and the results should be available sometime in March. He also stated that staff was assisting UNL with a study

and that the South Loup study with USGS was winding down. He said that EPA did a coliform bacteria analysis and there was still a lot of mouse fecal matter, as well as some human and other wildlife in origin. Naprstek stated that sampling in Area 29 & Area 30 has been completed.

### Other

Adams asked if the South Loup water flows were new or old water. Callan stated that most were new. Naprstek stated it was more susceptible to drought because the water was circulating every few years.

The previous well interference issues were also discussed. Callan reported he thought it was taken care of but recently received a call about issues. He stated that he thought there was a land purchase happening between the two owners, but apparently had not happened. Callan stated they have a watering agreement that he had drafted for them.

## PROGRAMS/PROJECTS COMMITTEE

### North Loup Flood Mitigation

Kruse reported that JEO had come up with an estimate of work in the city and a channel design that was \$42,600 for in-town work. Callan attended a City Council meeting and informed them that the NRD would not move forward without their commitment. Callan proposed they enter into an interlocal agreement with the NRD as the sponsor and have them take care of the in-town work. The channel cleanout and design were \$62,000. Callan stated that JEO said it would be another \$10,000 to do a design on the railroad bridge.

### City of Sargent Area Drainage Issues

Kruse reported that the final report was reviewed and presented to the Committee with various construction and funding alternatives outlined. The Committee felt that an interlocal agreement with the City should be obtained before work continued with the project. The agreement would divide the fee for consultant work at 75% NRD, 25% City.

**Kruse motioned, seconded by Boesch, to enter into an interlocal agreement with the City of Sargent for grant applications.**

Callan stated the cost was \$7,500 to apply for a grant and the total project would be \$5.4 million.

**Motion carried by electronic vote. Directors voting yes: Adams, Amsberry, Anderson, Bartak, Boesch, Citta, Coffey, Eschliman, Hadenfeldt, Kauk, Kruse, Mohrman, Nitsch, Petersen, Podolak, Smith, Thede, Thoene, Vlach. Directors absent: Bauer, Lukasiewicz.**

Kruse reported that the final report had been received on the city of Sargent and that completed Olsson's contract on the project, so action was needed to accept the report.

**Kruse motioned, seconded by Mohrman, to accept the final report submitted by Olsson. Motion carried by electronic vote. Directors voting yes: Adams, Amsberry, Anderson,**

**Bartak, Boesch, Citta, Coffey, Eschliman, Hadenfeldt, Kauk, Kruse, Mohrman, Nitsch, Petersen, Podolak, Smith, Thede, Thoene, Vlach. Directors absent: Bauer, Lukasiewicz.**

### Sargent East IPA

Kruse reported that RFPs were sent out and JEO and Olsson had submitted bids. The bids were reviewed and ranked by Callan, Naprstek and Kolar. Naprstek highlighted the pros and cons of each bid and showed the scoring that was determined on each. Callan added that now design and wetland work and determination of benefits would be completed.

**Kruse motioned, seconded by Amsberry, to approve JEO's bid of \$120,570 for the Sargent East IPA development. Motion carried by electronic vote. Directors voting yes: Adams, Amsberry, Anderson, Bartak, Boesch, Citta, Coffey, Eschliman, Hadenfeldt, Kauk, Kruse, Mohrman, Nitsch, Petersen, Podolak, Smith, Thede, Thoene, Vlach. Directors absent: Bauer, Lukasiewicz.**

### Platte County Flood Buyout

Callan stated that the property owners were still interested in a possible sale and the NRD could get onto the property to look at it. The current owners put fences up to keep four-wheelers off the property. Kolar took drone footage of the property. Callan will be working on setting up a tour.

## MANAGER'S REPORT

### Litigation Update

Callan reported there was nothing new with litigation. He reported that Don Reilly of Flatwater Group was the new Director of the Department of Natural Resources and that the NRD had done instream flow work with his group before.

### New Hires

Callan reported that there were no new hires.

### Non-Action Reports

There were no non-action reports.

## NARD REPORT

### Directors Report

Eschliman reported that the Executive Committee and staff met and had decided to cancel the 2020 Annual Conference. However, the business session, committee meeting and board meetings would still take place in person. NARD suggested to NRDs that their NARD Board member be the voting delegate to limit attendance.

### NARD Building Discussions

Eschliman reported that the building committee had found that the NARD Foundation was originally started as a building fund. He reported that NARD had discussed purchasing a property and was working on negotiating a purchase price. He said the building would be owned by the Foundation so they would get their tax-exempt status. Eschliman reported that they were still working on the insurance claim, but the limit was \$225,000 so they should have well over that when finished.

### NARD Fall Conference Funding

Eschliman reported that since the conference was cancelled and NARD depends on the money raised from the conference for operating expenses, other NRDs were considering contributing money towards the NARD building and operating expenses. Amounts spent on annual conference were discussed.

**Boesch motioned, seconded by Adams, to contribute \$5,000.00 to NARD for building and operating expenses. Motion carried by electronic vote. Directors voting yes: Adams, Amsberry, Anderson, Bartak, Boesch, Citta, Coffey, Eschliman, Hadenfeldt, Kauk, Kruse, Mohrman, Nitsch, Petersen, Podolak, Smith, Thede, Thoene, Vlach. Directors absent: Bauer, Lukasiewicz.**

### NRC REPORT

Hadenfeldt reported that a meeting was held August 12<sup>th</sup> in Kearney and there were eight projects to score, so there was enough money to fund all projects; however, scoring would still take place. He stated that the scoring committee would meet in a few weeks.

### RC&D REPORT

Adams stated he did not attend the meeting but would have something by next Committee meeting. Thoene reported that a technology cleanup was coming up.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS/FUTURE MEETING TOPICS

Boesch stated that former Director Walden said hello.

Podolak stated that the NRD had a bunch of data and was interested in what constituents are concerned about. He said the NRD could talk about flooding focus, but 85-90% of conversations people start with him were about recreation. He asked about doing a survey to see what people want the NRD to investigate for future projects. Callan stated that is why Board members are spread out throughout the District, so they can bring suggestions and concerns that they are hearing from their area. Adams stated he felt that the NRD was confused with NRCS a lot. Hadenfeldt said that he had received calls stating that the Board priorities were good, and he had heard good comments on the 20% assistance for flood and recreation.

## ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, Chairman Citta declared the meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Roster for attendance of this meeting and tally of votes cast on motions at this meeting are being filed with the official minutes of this meeting at the Lower Loup Natural Resources District's Headquarters Office, 2620 Airport Drive, Ord, Nebraska. Publication notification of this meeting was made via a newspaper in each county within the District. The next Board of Directors meeting will be held September 24, 2020, at 5:00 p.m., at the Headquarters Office in Ord, Nebraska.

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Henry J. Thoene  
Secretary