

MINUTES

LOWER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

May 27, 2021

Ord, Nebraska

The May meeting of the Board of Directors of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District was held at the Cobblestone Inn Convention Center, 127 Trotter Avenue, Ord, Nebraska, on May 27, 2021. Chairman Citta called the meeting to order at 5:10 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
Larry D. Schultz, I&E Coordinator
Dell R. Harris, Water Resources Specialist
Jason Moudry, Water Programs Specialist
Brian Kolar, Projects Technician

Tylr Naprstek, Assistant General Manager
Kim A. Lyons, Financial Secretary
Cameron Conrad, Water Modeling Coord.
Richard L. Woollen, District Forester
V. Anne Freeman, Water Programs Sec.
Cheryl Hornickel, Programs Assistant

Guest in attendance:

Bryce Bauer, NRCS, Ord
Bill Hart, Sargent
Rodney O'Neel, Sargent

James Nelson, Cairo
John Cox, Sargent
Martin Riddle, Sargent

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 website, and in the eight field office locations.

ROLL CALL

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

EXCUSED ABSENCES

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

Boesch motioned, seconded by Adams, to excuse absent directors. Motion carried by electronic vote, all present voting yes.

MINUTES

Chairman Citta asked for corrections and/or additions to the April 22, 2021, Board meeting minutes. None were heard.

Vlach motioned, seconded by Anderson, to approve the April 22, 2021, Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried by electronic vote, all present voting yes.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Russell Callan, General Manager, highlighted expenditures of \$26,292.95 to Downey Drilling Inc. for monitoring wells in Platte County, \$7,736.80 to Cornhusker Press for newsletter expenses, \$10,000 to Upper Loup NRD for the NET Drought Resilience of the South Loup River Study, \$17,066.06 to Nebraska Forest Service for a share of the Forester position salary, \$8,556.72 to CMBA Architects for Building Design work, \$2,250 to Baird Holm for work on the Platte Republican Diversion filing, \$59,115.20 to JEO for work on the Mud Creek WFPO, and \$2,550 to Rutjens Construction for the driveway on the Columbus property where the monitoring well is being installed.

Kruse motioned, seconded by Eschliman, to approve the May 27, 2021, Treasurer's Report. Motion carried by electronic vote, all present voting yes.

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

None

SARGENT EAST IPA AREA BENEFITS & COST HEARING

(Whereupon, at 5:17 p.m. the following proceedings were had)

Joseph Citta: My name is Joseph L. Citta Jr. I am Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District. This hearing is subject to the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, and a copy of which is, like I mentioned before, is posted at the entrance to the room.

Our purpose for the meeting here this evening is to hear public comments on the proposed Sargent East IPA apportionment of benefits as required by state law and as authorized by Neb. Rev. Statute 2-3254. This is not a question-and-answer session, very clear on that. We are here to learn what you have to say about the apportionment of benefits. Uh, there will be another, other opportunities where we can get into other discussions about that.

Notice of this public hearing has been properly published in The Custer County Chief and The Burwell Tribune. Invitations regarding the public hearing were sent to all landowners within the project area.

The time is now, let me pull this up here, the time is now 5:17 p.m. and I will formally open this IPA Hearing. I will ask for comments from the public concerning the proposed project apportionment of benefits. I will ask that you give your name, your legal residence, or/and, and/or whom you represent. I will now ask, first of all, any comments? Everybody understands the process for this? Any questions on that?

(None heard)

OK, the other thing is, when you, when you want to address the Board, please take your time and walk up to the podium so that way we can all see and hear ya. And uh, once again, we are here, we really want to hear from you. It's very important, so take your time and say what you got to say about it and we'll definitely, definitely listen. Uh, first of all, I want to ask are there any comments from the Directors of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District just before we start out?

(None heard)

OK.

We will ask the directors again after we hear comments from the public. I just want to make sure you understand that. So first of all, I will to, go ahead now, and ask

members of the public. I do have folks signed up here, if it's alright, I, I could call on the first one signed up, or, unless, which works for me.

The first one on the list is Bill Hart, Bill are you here? Do you wanna come up and address the Board?

Bill Hart: Yeah.

Joseph Citta: Yeah, why don't ya. We'll turn the lights on here.

Russ Callan: We don't want to keep you in the dark here Bill, we'll get some lights on.

Joseph Citta: There we go, that's better. Thank you.

Bill Hart: My name is Bill Hart, Sargent Nebraska, (unintelligible)

Joseph Citta: That's it.

Bill Hart: I think we all know that we have a real problem on the Sargent East area. I think it's the same problem that the City of Sargent has. And uh, something needs to be done. It's been a problem forever, but the cost of this plan is excessive for a lot of people. I feel that we're being asked to, uh, make up for the (muffled) county roads. There was absolutely no drainage allowed for it when the Bureau put their project in. But if you go east, or west, of Sargent there is a lot of drainage paid for by the Bureau, and now adding the river water to this ground we go (muffled). This thing is bigger than just a few people, but just a few people being asked (unintelligible) I hesitate to think that it's fair for anyone.

I, uh, I guess I'm the one that started this petition. I thought we had an opportunity to get something done but the cost we're looking at (unintelligible) I don't know what else I can say, I guess. But it's odd that Sargent's and our problem have been separated, because they are basically the same problem. There is too much groundwater, and that is a lot of, due to water deliverance. In other areas, Loup City, they have problems real similar to us and without proper drainage, your gonna have this issue. I don't know what else I can say. Funding is a major thing, if there are programs or grants or any other avenues (unintelligible) and I don't know if that's been looked into (unintelligible) I see that the NRD has I think (unintelligible) there looking at this as three different issues.

(Unintelligible)

Joseph Citta: Thank you Bill. Is anybody, the other names here, have marked that they did not have a desire to speak. Uh, but does anybody else want to address the board? You're certainly, certainly welcome to and we'd sure like to hear what you have to say. OK, I'm gonna ask one more time.

(No Response)

Joseph Citta: Anybody else?

(No Response)

Joseph Citta: OK. Once again, if somebody from the public shows up late, we'll certainly offer them an opportunity to address the Board. It's important; we want to hear what people have to say. Uh, before I close the hearing, on that now, I'll return again and ask the directors if there are any comments from any of the directors. Of the Board.

Randy Kauk: I have a question just for Bill.

(Unintelligible talk in audience)

Randy Kauk: Is that something that we could research? (Unintelligible) Or do we want to open that up? (unintelligible) Beings it's been abandoned. (unintelligible) Is there anything that we can look at, or that they can look at, or that this whole group of people can, or (unintelligible) Is that a loaded question?

(Unintelligible)

Joseph Citta: Can I enter, and jump in here a little bit? Uh, the hearing is not a question-and-answer hearing. What I'd like to do, is if, if you want to get into questions and discussion, what I'd like to do is hear if there is any comments from the directors, then we could close the hearing.

(Unintelligible)

Joseph Citta: No problem, with all due respect, I know, but, once again everything that, that's mentioned during the hearing, all of this gets transcribed cause it's a public hearing, so I'd like to see, is there any comments we have and then I, and let me close the hearing and then if you want to get into some questions and discussion, the other thing to remember is any of the public can also attend any of our Board meetings and we can have discussion, but, we started some good dialog here if you don't mind, let me see if there's comments pertaining to what the hearing is and then let me close the hearing and then we can get into some discussion, is that OK? I think that's the, I believe that's the proper way to handle it, at least that's the advice I'm hearing from, from the boss over here. So, uh, if you could just hold for a bit on that. Any, any other, any discussion from the board on this, comments?

Gary Kruse: Russ, how much has the NRD paid engineering wise for this total process?

Russ Callan: Uh, the, the original contract was about \$122,000.

Larry Mohrman: So is there a portion of the city too (unintelligible)

Russ Callan: That's different.

Larry Mohrman: I mean that.

Russ Callan: That's different.

Larry Mohrman: (unintelligible) a portion of that hundred and some thousand, it all went here, it didn't get split up?

(Unintelligible)

Joseph Citta: And these are good, good kind of discussions to have with the board on this. Go ahead Jim.

Jim Adams: Do you want us to make a motion now to close the hearing?

Joseph Citta: I, I can, I can close it as soon as all the discussion among the Board members is done.

(Unintelligible)

Joseph Citta: Is there any other discussion? Thank you, OK, we didn't need a motion, but go ahead.

(Unintelligible)

Joseph Citta: We've got a motion to close the hearing.

(Unintelligible)

Joseph Citta: OK, I will go ahead, I'm just gonna go ahead and close it. OK. Alright, if there are no other comments, I will close this hearing at 5:30 p.m.

(Hearing concluded at 5:30 p.m.)

Kauk stated he was on the Farwell Irrigation board and could talk to the manager to see if he could find anything out. Callan stated the solution which staff had reached had been presented and that it was the best avenue to get things done. He said this had been brought forward before and costs increase when you start working with wetlands. Coffey asked about the total cost and how many acres were involved. Kolar stated he did not have the exact cost. Coffey asked if the landowners were being asked to pay the total amount of the project. Callan stated, yes, that is why the hearing was set up to discuss apportionments. Callan stated that everyone in the area got notification of how it was divided out.

Eschliman asked over how many years the cost would be spread. Callan stated it was yet to be decided and that Duncan East was 15 years. Eschliman asked if this could be 25 years. Callan stated yes, if landowners and the Board wanted it that way.

Adams asked if all landowners were notified. Callan stated they were. Mohrman asked how the project compared to the cost was of the Duncan East Project. Callan stated he did not remember the exact cost, but Duncan East was a much bigger project. Coffey stated that if he remembered right, it was about \$100 per acre, but that was 35 years ago. Eschliman asked if Duncan East IPA solved all the problems. Coffey stated it depended on who you asked. Citta stated it helped a lot. Coffey stated that current owners complain about the ditches, but they do not know what it was like previously. Mohrman asked when Duncan East was done. Freeman stated petitions were started in 1972 and the project was completed in 1985.

Thoene asked about grants for the project. Callan stated staff had been looking but nothing stood out yet.

Anderson asked about railroad abandonment. Callan stated it was abandoned, and land went back to the owners, depending on their easement.

Kruse asked if there was a lesser degree model that would still do the job. Callan stated they had looked at others, but there was not as much benefit and this project had the best benefit per cost ratio.

Bill Hart commented on Grainger's benefit, saying for his assessment of \$148,000, he could not see that he would get much good out of it and did not think he was getting a fair shot and that he was on the bottom end.

Hadenfeldt asked if Grainger was the biggest spender. Citta stated Hart was by far. Eschliman stated that it's not up to the Board, but ultimately up to the landowners. Callan stated the project would move forward until the Board says stop or Hart petitions. Mohrman asked what the time frame was. Callan stated there would be another hearing and it would be discussed again next month. Mohrman asked if the NRD have more costs incurring. Callan stated that the NRD's \$120,000 was spent and, as of now, there were no landowner costs.

Hart asked what the process was. Callan stated that tonight was to look at apportionments and see if the landowners agreed and the Board would review again and see if it was fair. He said the Board would continue to talk about it and then would need to decide if construction would begin. He said Hart could petition and stop the process because he had the majority of benefits. Hart stated the project was necessary and needed, but there must be funding. He said maybe the Bureau could help. Hart asked if the NRD could ask the Bureau for the original documentation of the area.

It was discussed that this was the third or fourth time the NRD had gone through this process and it had been stopped each time.

FORESTER'S REPORT

Richard Woollen, District Forester, reported that Spring Buffer Strip payments had gone out and there were some new applications coming in. He said that most participants re-enroll when their existing contract is up.

Woollen also reported that the machine plant trees had been completed and he would have a summary available once all the invoices were turned in.

Woollen also reported that other forestry assistance had included visits to high schools to give presentations on forestry, as well as an Arbor Day tree planting in Ord and working to address recent insect and disease concerns.

Kauk asked if all the trees had been picked up that were ordered, and Woollen stated that they had.

NRCS REPORT

Bryce Bauer, NRCS, reported that the RC positions in Ord and Spalding had been filled; however, the positions were filled by current employees moving to different offices, so staff would be traveling back and forth for a while and advertisements would be run again this summer to fill the vacancies.

Bauer reported that staff had been working on EQIP and CSP contracts and that they were up to 50% staffing in their offices with one producer allowed in the office at a time.

INFORMATION & EDUCATION REPORT

Camps

Larry Schultz, I&E Coordinator, reported that there were 45 campers enrolled—2 from the Lower Loup that would receive scholarships to attend ACE Camp and 13 that will receive scholarships for the 2021 Range Youth Camp.

Water Matters

Schultz reported that the newsletter was at the printers and would be sent shortly to residents of Phase II and Phase III water quality areas in the District..

Boesch asked if the newsletters were available online. Schultz replied that they were all available on the NRD website.

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Davis Creek

Tylr Naprstek, Assistant General Manager, reported that outdoor recreation is at an all-time high. He said that last Friday there was a count of 53 boats with reports of over 90 on Saturday at Davis Creek. He said there have been minor complaints of people wanting to hold spots with tents; however, things were going smoothly.

Citta stated that Davis Creek was listed as one of the top walleye lakes in the state by NG&PC.

Eschliman asked who handled the disputes at the recreation area. Naprstek stated that the camp host can handle most conflicts. But if situations escalate, NRD staff is notified and if need be, the sheriff is available for assistance. It was also reported that the State Conservation Officer stores his boat at Davis Creek for patrolling Davis Creek and Sherman Reservoir and that the sheriff is on regular rotation to patrol the area.

Naprstek reported that the repeater tower had been installed at the Davis Creek shop.

Pibel Lake

Naprstek reported that there have been some campers at Pibel Lake. He reported that the geese population was up despite the non-lethal control methods staff had tried to control them. Naprstek reported that Moudry had put the sonde out earlier in the week to sample water quality in cooperation with NDEE as part of their ambient lake water quality analysis. He also reported that there have been a few complaints of weeds in the water, but for now it has been mostly regular pond weeds. Naprstek also reported the Kolar had checked the settling basin and it was at about 50% levels, despite flooding.

Cover Crop Study

Naprstek reported that the soil monitoring equipment had been put back out and the final report on previous findings would be available for review later in June. He also stated there had been an increase of cover crops in the area.

Chemigation

Naprstek reported that despite being a busy spring season, chemigation permit numbers were down. He stated that staff was sending out more reminders and that if renewals were not received before June 1st, permits would be considered new, the fee would be higher and the system would need to be checked by a technician before chemigation could begin. He also reported that staff was looking into a chemigation promotion program in GWQMA 28, 29 & 30.

Kauk stated he had caught a lot of static from surface water users having to get permits. Naprstek stated that it is statute that permitting was required any time chemicals are mixed in an

irrigation system. Callan stated that some of the Chemigation Act covers protecting where chemicals are going and not just where they are coming from.

Podolak asked about the 30/30 program that Biden was talking about and asked if it would impact the NRD. Citta stated that it would and has been brought up by NRC. It was also discussed that Governor Ricketts had come out with a “Not 30/30” program. It was discussed that there should be further education on the topic at the next meeting.

Bryce Bauer stated that the general outline of the program is that Biden wants 30% of private lands enrolled in either EQIP or CSP programs and that there had been more of a push for conservation efforts.

Callan stated he had been looking at the program and there has been good conservation dollars coming in; however, easement requirements need to be considered. Citta stated there had been talk at the State level about banning conservation easements because that land can be taken off the County tax assessments.

Vlach stated there needed to be more information made available on the program. Eschliman stated the NARD would be taking up a resolution regarding the program at their next meeting.

WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

UNL Isotope Study in Area 30

Naprstek reported that Dan Snow gave a presentation to the Committee and that he would give the presentation to the full Board at the June meeting. It was reported that there were 20 samples taken and were mostly nitrates from mixed sources. Naprstek reported that the analysis was compared to the study done in Hastings and results were almost identical.

Broken Bow Drinking Water Protection Plan

Naprstek reported that EPA suggested that additional testing be done and that the testing was covered 90% by NDEE and the rest was left for the City to acquire. They had requested NRD participation to cover the additional costs.

Smith motioned, seconded by Adams, to cover the remaining portion of the cost, approximately \$990, associated with the additional modeling. Motion carried by electronic vote, all present voting yes.

2022 AEM Flight Proposal – Nance County

Naprstek reported that discussion was held about conducting AEM flights in Nance County to define where the aquifer is limited and where there is low transmissivity. It was reported that there was a possibility of a grant through the Water Sustainability Fund to cover the costs.

Smith motioned, seconded by Thoene, to submit a grant proposal to the Water Sustainability Fund for AEM flights over the well interference zone in Nance County.

Boesch asked if the study would benefit the whole region and it was replied that it would. Coffey asked about the total cost of the project. Naprstek stated it would be roughly \$417,000 and that the flight lines would be further apart so the study would cover a larger area. He said that this flight would assist in finding where the aquifer is limited. Mohrman asked how many acres this would cover. Cam Conrad, Water Modeling Coordinator, stated it would be about 250 square miles with the same amount of flight lines, spread out further to approximately 3 miles apart. Mohrman asked who determined how far to spread out and Naprstek replied that Aqua Geo Frameworks did.

Mohrman asked why they were spreading out further here than in the previous flights. Naprstek answered that in previous flights, the NRD was looking for possible recharge projects, so the volume calculation was needed; whereas, this time, the NRD was looking for where the aquifer ends. Callan stated that volume information would not be accurate here with the spread.

Static Water Level Report

Naprstek stated the Static Water Level Reports had been sent out to the tablets for review. He stated that, overall, he felt the NRD was in a good position. Conrad put together maps showing the comparison of water levels and showed a chart outlining the spring static water level trends. A breakdown was shown by county and a map of interpolation changes between sites was shown.

Smith motioned, seconded by Boesch, to approve the 2021 Static Water Level Report. Motion carried by electronic vote, all present voting yes.

New Irrigated Acres Allocations 2021

Naprstek reviewed the irrigated acres allocations from past years and discussed the location of the well interference zone in Nance County, as well as the basins where new acres were not granted due to low water levels. He showed the locations of the stream gaging stations in the District and reviewed the trend lines for each basin. Naprstek also showed the summary of the allowable depletion impact for the NRD per the Lower Platte River Basin Coalition Agreement with Nebraska DNR. He reported that the NRD had given out over 10,000 acres over the last 5 years. It was highlighted that the NRD still had 5520 acre-feet out of the original 5583 acre-feet that was allowed per the agreement. Naprstek stated that staff had recommended adding additional acres to the North Loup Basin allocation due to high water levels.

Smith motioned, seconded by Thoene, to approve 3,000 irrigated acres (1,500 in the North Loup, 750 in the Beaver, and 750 in the Middle Loup) to be available for application starting in September, 2021, and to continue with the 30-point bonus for location inside the groundwater increase areas.

Kauk stated he had a problem with the number of acres being allotted. He said that 2019 was an exceptionally wet year and he was worried that acres may have to be taken back if we go into a drought. Citta stated that the additional acres that were granted could be terminated if need

be. Kauk stated he thought the Board should forgo adding acres for a year and see what happens with the water levels and expressed concern with running into another situation like the one in Nance County. Adams stated that had been discussed in previous years.

Vlach asked if all acres approved by the Board were granted last year. Naprstek stated they were not. Vlach asked if there was a way to see if there was an effect on the static water levels due to the acres given out. Naprstek stated levels were reviewed the last two years and the acres are not significantly impacting levels. Eschliman stated that the Board had been conservative with acres in the past and still have 5520 acre-feet that can be used. Callan stated that the 5583 acre-feet was what was determined could be developed and still not influence the water supply.

Callan stated that the issue in Nance County was a special situation and that acres cannot be applied for in that area; however, that is why the AEM flights would be important. He said they may be able to identify if there was somewhere in that area where acres could be allowed.

Kauk asked if data could be reviewed back to 2012. Naprstek showed data from 1988 to 2012. Callan stated the amounts were based off a conservative acre-feet number. Vlach asked when it was determined. Callan stated in 2016. Naprstek said that acres were given out for 4 years and stopped in 2012 during the drought and then allocations started back up again in 2016. Mohrman expressed concern with running into another pocket of low water like Nance County.

Coffey said if we have 3-4 dry years, people that spend money to develop acres may not want to increase their acres if they know they could lose them and that could change the water table a lot, he also expressed concern with giving extra points for certain areas. Smith stated that staff was still using a formula to determine eligibility and that producers must meet certain criteria to qualify for acres.

Podolak asked what the status was on the Drought Mitigation Plan. Callan stated that work had started on it again after a pause due to COVID-19 shutdowns. Podolak stated he wanted to have something strategic to show how to handle those situations.

Motion carried by electronic vote. Directors voting yes: Adams, Amsberry, Anderson, Citta, Eschliman, Hadenfeldt, Kruse, Petersen, Podolak, Thede, Thoene, Vlach. Directors voting no: Bartak, Boesch, Coffey, Kauk, Mohrman, Nitsch, Smith. Directors absent: Bauer, Lukasiewicz.

Columbus Recharge Project

Callan reported that a schedule was received from Rutjens and construction would begin on June 6th.

PROGRAMS/PROJECTS COMMITTEE

North Loup Flood Mitigation

Kruse reported that JEO had finished the preliminary design and cost estimate for clearing the channel and costs were estimated to be \$179,000. He reported that there was discussion on funding sources and how much of the project was in city limits and what portion was not.

Village of Sargent Flood Project

Kruse reported staff was still waiting to hear back on the BRIC grant.

Middle Loup Irrigation District Participation Request

It was reported that the irrigation district had requested participation in a Rubicon automated system on Canal #3. Callan talked to the Rubicon representative and they discussed what portion of the project was in-kind. There will be more information before the next meeting.

Building Addition

Callan reported that two contractors walked through the project and bids were due by June 8th. Adams asked if there was a difference in price due to the increased cost of building materials. Callan stated he did not know for sure until bids came in. He said there was a 2 week guarantee on materials due to increases.

Loup Public Power Fishing Pier Participation

Kruse reported that Chris Shank from Loup Public Power was at the meeting and discussed putting in two fishing piers at Lake North near Columbus. He reported they want to mirror the piers that are at Pibel Lake. The cost would be \$140,800 each and they were looking for NRD participation as well as searching for other participants. Kruse stated the Committee expressed interest in participation pending other participants.

Kruse motioned, seconded by Boesch, to approve participation in the Loup Public Power Fishing Pier Project pending additional partners and funding.

Callan stated there would be another motion after getting a dollar amount. Eschliman stated they had a better chance of additional funding if the NRD expressed they would participate.

Motion carried by electronic vote. Directors voting yes: Adams, Amsberry, Anderson, Boesch, Citta, Coffey, Eschliman, Hadenfeldt, Kauk, Kruse, Mohrman, Nitsch, Petersen, Podolak, Smith, Thede, Thoene, Vlach. Director voting no: Bartak. Directors absent: Bauer, Lukasiewicz.

Garfield County Fairground Request

Kruse reported that the Garfield County Fair Board had requested assistance for repairs/improvements with bleacher upgrades, restrooms, and concession/entertainment areas. Kruse stated the Committee may be interested in participating in public access areas, like restrooms. He said someone would be at the next Committee meeting to discuss the request further.

Thoene stated that the restrooms were the main topic but there are a lot of campsites as well.

St. Edward Channel Cleanout

Kruse reported that St. Edward was working on a channel cleanout project, and representatives would come to another Committee meeting to discuss the cleanout further.

Platte County Flood Zone Buyout Program

No update.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Litigation Update

Callan reported a bill was received on the Platte Republican diversion issue. He said he had a discussion with DNR this week about instream flow and there was nothing new to report.

New Hires

Callan reported that Marin Reilly, Carson Corman, Will Grint, and Chuck Green have started for the summer, as well as Jim Thompson for Davis Creek Maintenance.

Non-action Reports

None.

Citta stated there would be an Executive Session after reports to discuss salary increases.

FY 2022 BUDGET WORK SESSION #1

Callan went over the following budget codes and the suggested amounts for budget.

Code 405 – Auto & Truck Expense - \$68,000
Code 167 – Auto, Trucks, & Other Equipment - \$154,000
Code 407 – Directors Expenses - \$50,000
Code 409 – Directors Per Diem - \$38,000
Code 413 – Dues & Memberships - \$70,000

Code 417 – Personnel Expenses - \$45,000
Code 419 – Fees & Licenses - \$63,400
Code 421 – Public Information, Education, and Promotion - \$160,000
Code 423 – Bonds - \$500
Code 425 – Insurance - \$56,000
Code 426 – Chemigation - \$8,500
Code 431 – Legal Notices - \$18,000
Code 432 – Miscellaneous Expenses - \$15,000
Code 433 – Office Supplies & Expenses - \$60,000
Code 169 – Office Equipment - \$65,000
Code 436 – Employment Security - \$5,500
Code 437 – Postage - \$45,000
Code 439 – Professional Services - \$50,000
Code 452 – Telephone - \$38,000
Code 453 – Utilities - \$50,000
Code 463 – Building Maintenance - \$40,000
Code 213 – Loan Repayment - \$2,000,000
Code 464 – Farm Account - \$20,000
Code 467 – Davis Creek Recreation Area & Maintenance - \$650,000
Code 479.00 & 454 – Pibel Lake Recreation Area & Maintenance - \$60,000
Code 469 – Wildlife Habitat Program - \$55,000

Eschliman motioned, seconded by Kauk, to tentatively approve the first half of the FY 2022 Budget as presented.

Coffey asked when the fiscal year ends. Callan stated the new year begins July 1st. Boesch stated she thought a lot of money was spent at Davis Creek and questioned how badly the road needed paving. Callan stated the project would be just past the shower house and that staff must grade and gravel it every time it rains. Kauk stated that he was not a boater or camper, but people appreciate a good road to drive their expensive campers on. Citta clarified that the project would still have to come to the Board for a final vote later but needed to be included in budget numbers in case it was done later. Vlach asked about Game and Parks funding for the road. Callan stated staff could look into it. Naprstek stated they were more into water activities. Coffey asked if the Board needed to revisit fees again. Kruse stated they were raised 2 years ago. Citta stated that Game and Parks increased their rates this year.

Motion carried by electronic vote, all present voting yes.

NARD REPORT

Eschliman reported that there was a meeting this week on insurance and the Committee voted to send to the board an increase of 5% for both insurance and dental. He also stated that the Basin Tour was coming up.

NRC REPORT

Hadenfeldt reported that there had not been a meeting; however, one was planned for June.

RC&D REPORT

Adams reported that the RC&D would visit with the Committee about participation in installing four camper hookups by their office for state patrol to use during the rodeo. He also reported that there was a big turnout for their electronics pickup project. They are now focusing on Junk Jaunt and have held raffles to raise money.

Citta commended staff on setting up the meeting and dealing with the technology issues that arose. Kauk asked if the new building would accommodate bigger meetings such as this. Callan stated it would not.

Mohrman motioned, seconded by Coffey, to enter Executive Session at 7:28 p.m. to discuss staff and General Manager salaries. Motion carried by electronic vote, all present voting yes.

Smith motioned, seconded by Boesch, to exit Executive Session at 7:48 p.m. Motion carried by electronic vote, all present voting yes.

Smith motioned, seconded by Petersen, to approve a 2.5% increase in staff salaries for FY 2022, as well as an additional 1% increase to be apportioned at the discretion of the General Manager. Motion carried by electronic vote, all present voting yes.

Kruse motioned, seconded by Boesch, to increase the General Manager's salary by \$5,000 per year, an increase of 3.88%. Motion carried by electronic vote. Directors voting yes: Amsberry, Anderson, Bartak, Boesch, Citta, Coffey, Eschliman, Hadenfeldt, Kauk, Kruse, Mohrman, Nitsch, Petersen, Podolak, Smith, Thede, Thoene, Vlach. Director voting no: Adams. Directors absent: Bauer, Lukasiewicz.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / FUTURE MEETING TOPICS

None

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, Citta declared the meeting adjourned at 7:52 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 June 24, 2021, at 5:00 p.m., at the Headquarters Office in Ord, Nebraska.

Henry J. Thoene
Secretary