

LOWER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

December 15, 2011

Ord, Nebraska

The December 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 December 15, 2011. Chairman Kruse called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Directors in attendance

James C. Adams
Darwin B. Anderson, Secretary
Joseph L. Citta, Jr. Vice Chairman
Craig E. Frenzen
Michael P. Gutzmer
Thomas Knutson
James C. Nelson
Dean J. Rasmussen
Gerald P. Smith
Kim Walden

Rollie D. Amsberry, Treasurer
Tim Bartak
James J. Eschliman
Virgil W. Gellermann
N. Richard Hadenfeldt
Gary A. Kruse, Chairman
Alan D. Petersen
Darwin R. Sieh
Henry J. Thoene

Directors absent

Bradley R. Staab

Staff in attendance

Leon "Butch" Koehlmoos, General Manager
Cheryl K. Hornickel, Programs Assistant
Jason Moudry, Water Programs Specialist
Irene F. Kreifels, Financial Secretary
Richard L. Woollen, NC District Forester
Dan Ray, NRD Technician, Spalding

Russell Callan, Assistant Manager
Robert T. Mohler, District Engineer
Tylr Naprstek, Water Modeling Coordinator
Larry D. Schultz, I&E Coordinator
Dell Harris, Water Resources Specialist

Guests in attendance

Mark Sintek, CPM, NRCS, Ord
Bruce Lammers, Severson, Lammers & Abel, CPAs, P.C., Ord

NOTICE OF OPEN MEETING LAW POSTING

Chairman Kruse referred those in attendance to the open meeting law information posted in the Board room.

APPROVAL OF VERIFICATION OF MEETING NOTICE, ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND EXCUSED ABSENCES

Chairman Kruse asked for verification of the meeting notice. General Manager Leon “Butch” Koehlmoos verified that the meeting notices were properly published in all newspapers. The meeting notice was also posted at the NRD Headquarters office in Ord, the NRD web site, and the eight field office locations. Koehlmoos said that the agenda was revised to include item #6, Auditor’s Report, and that the change was properly posted as required by law.

Eschliman motioned, seconded by Frenzen, to approve the verification of the meeting notice, adopt the revised agenda, and excuse all absent directors. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.

MINUTES

Chairman Kruse asked for corrections and/or additions to the November 17, 2011, Board meeting minutes and none were heard. Kruse ruled that the November 17, 2011, Board meeting minutes would stand approved as submitted.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Chairman Kruse directed the Board’s attention to the Treasurer’s Report as published in the regular and supplemental agendas.

Koehlmoos told the Board that a bill from Arrow Seed reflected an increase in seed sales in the District. He said that he had turned the seed program over to Jason Moudry and the increase was thanks to Moudry’s efforts. Koehlmoos said that Moudry was also making great progress with the NRD’s wellhead protection program.

Koehlmoos said a bill from Sack Lumber for \$917.17 was for materials to make repairs to Davis Creek restroom facilities damaged by the summer’s tornado. He said that when no area contractor was interested in the job, Callan led a crew of NRD employees to make the repairs. He said the Bureau of Reclamation provided additional funding for the repair and clean-up work.

Rasmussen motioned, seconded by Knutson, to approve the December, 2011, Treasurer’s Report and pay all bills. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Bruce Lammers of Severson, Lammers and Abel, CPAs, P.C., provided the Board with the audit report for Fiscal Year 2011 and presented a summary of the report.

Adams motioned, seconded by Eschliman, to approve the FY 2011 Audit Report. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.

FORESTER'S REPORT

North Central District Forester Richard Woollen of the Nebraska Forest Service reported that he had applied for grant from a conservation organization called *American Forests* for establishing a hardwood planting at the Aagaard Farm. He said the group makes a grant available through a program called the Global Relief Program. He said that a grant will be awarded in each state and there was only one other application in Nebraska.

Woollen said that orders totaling approximately 16,000 conservation trees had been received.

NRCS REPORT

Mark Sintek, CPM, of the Ord NRCS office, made the report in the absence of District Conservationist Bryce Bauer and referred the Board to Bauer's written report in the agenda.

Callan said that a number of questions have arisen regarding the NRD's "FSA/NRCS Consultation" form and suggested that a meeting between Bauer and NRD staff might be warranted. Koehlmoos suggested that a meeting with County Assessors might also be worth scheduling.

Thoene asked if CRP payments remained the same when irrigation rights were transferred off the land in a contract and Callan said they did.

ENGINEERING REPORT

a. Middle Loup Diversion at Sargent

District Engineer Robert Mohler referred the Board to a photo included in the agenda of the Middle Loup Diversion Dam near Sargent. He said that the project was, for the most part, complete. The radio controls for the structure were not yet functional, but the project was otherwise complete. Mohler said that Al Schmidt reported that FEMA funding was in-line for funding when the federal dollars were available. Knutson said that much of FEMA's funding has gone to Missouri River recovery.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION REPORT

a. Land Judging Steering Committee

Information & Education Coordinator Larry Schultz told the Board that the State Land Judging Committee would meet on a conference call on January 3rd. Planning would begin for the 2012 contests.

b. NARD Calendars

Schultz told the Board that the calendars were scheduled to arrive the day after the NRD Board meeting. Calendars would be mailed to Board members.

Schultz said that 12 awards would be presented at the Annual Awards Dinner which followed the meeting. The dinner was set to begin at 6:30 p.m.

ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT

Groundwater Management Area Activities

Area 28 Activities

Callan told the Board that 407 partially completed Area 28 Annual Report forms had been sent to landowners in Area 28 the previous day. The reports would be due back January 31st.

Area 18 Activities

Callan told the Board that the NRD's technicians had completed vadose zone sampling at 28 sites in Area 18. There were 5 sites to complete when weather conditions improved. Water sample test results were coming in and averaging around 6 parts per million nitrate levels.

ELM Update

Callan said that work continues on the calibration phase of the ELM model.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Letter of Interest for Appointment to Open Seat in Subdistrict #5

General Manager Butch Koehlmoos told the Board that he had received a letter from Dean Thede requesting the Board's consideration in appointing him to the vacant Subdistrict #5 seat. Koehlmoos said the Board had numerous options. Kruse said that, given redistricting and the short window before the next election, his suggestion was to leave the seat open for election. Koehlmoos said that the position could be advertised for a month or two, interview potential candidates and then make a selection. Frenzen said given the time such a process would take, he agreed with Kruse that

leaving the seat open would be the best option. Hadenfeldt said he knew Thede and his son and knew them to be good farmers.

Sieh motioned, seconded by Nelson, to leave the open Subdistrict #5 seat vacant until it could be filled during the election process. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.

Attorney's Opinion on Requests for District Information

Koehlmoos reported that he had received a recommendation from the NRD's attorney regarding a request for information on applicants for new irrigated acres. He referred the Board to information provided by the attorney in the regular and supplemental agendas. Koehlmoos said that the attorney suggested the NRD develop a standardized form that would handle such requests for information. Citta said that the NRD would have a set time frame to reply under a formal "Freedom of Information Act" request. Koehlmoos said that staff would create a draft form for Board review.

Request for Assistance – UNL Research Project

Koehlmoos told the Board that he received a request from the University of Nebraska regarding a research project on soybean production. The NRD's assistance had been sought in providing data and field work. He said that the request sought letters from the NRD seeking the data for the project from landowners. The Board's consensus was not to participate in the project.

Spalding Property

Koehlmoos told the Board that paperwork regarding the new office in Spalding was in the hands of NRCS and he hoped the project would move forward soon.

Pibel Lake

Koehlmoos told the Board that Senator Kate Sullivan was drafting a bill that would transfer ownership of the recreation area to the NRD. He said that legal location had been received from Nebraska Game and Parks.

Knutson asked what the cost of assuming control of the lake would be and Koehlmoos said it would be similar to the expense of operating Davis Creek Recreation Area.

New Hires

Koehlmoos said that a new contract cleaning person had been hired. He said that Kaye Stevens had begun work.

NARD REPORT

Director's Report

Rasmussen said the NARD Board had not met.

Legislative Conference

Koehlmoos told the Board that room reservations were needed for the Legislative Conference and a sign-up sheet was passed to the Board. Koehlmoos reported that the Lower Loup NRD had joined the Central Platte NRD for dinner with the senators following the NARD Reception.

NARD Washington, DC Conference

Koehlmoos told the Board a head count was needed for the NARD Washington, DC Conference that will be held March 11-14, 2012. Schultz passed a sign-up sheet to the Board.

NRC REPORT

Hadenfeldt told the Board that the Natural Resources Commission had not met.

RC&D REPORTS

Loup Basin RC&D

Rasmussen told the Board that the RC&D had not met.

PrairieLand RC&D

Gellermann reported that the RC&D had not met.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS, NARD REPRESENTATIVE/ALTERNATE, RC&D DELEGATES/ALTERNATES, LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE VOTING DELEGATE/ALTERNATE, AND ANNUAL CONFERENCE VOTING DELEGATE/ALTERATE.

D. Rasmussen motioned, seconded by Walden, to maintain the current slate of officers. Motions carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.

Citta motioned, seconded by Eschliman, to name D. Rasmussen as NARD Representative and Gellermann as alternate; and name D. Rasmussen as voting delegate and Gellermann as alternate for the 2012 NARD Legislative Conference and the 2012 NARD Annual Conference. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.

Frenzen motioned, seconded by Gutzmer, to name D. Rasmussen as delegate to the Loup Basin RC&D and Gellermann as delegate and D. Sieh as alternate to the PrairieLand RC&D.

APPROVAL OF 2012 BOARD MEETING CALENDAR, DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS & BANKS, SET MAXIMUM COST LIMIT PER PLATE FOR AWARDS DINNER AND MAXIMUM FOR 2012 AWARDS

Gutzmer motioned, seconded by Smith, to approve the proposed 2012 Board Meeting calendar; name the Grand Island Independent as the District-wide newspaper with use of The Albion News, The Burwell Tribune, The Custer County Chief, The Columbus Telegram, The Greeley Citizen, The Nance County Journal, The Ord Quiz, The Phonograph-Herald, The Ravenna News, and The Sherman County Times for meeting announcements and legal notices; name Great Western Bank in Ord as the main repository for the Lower Loup NRD's funds, and First National Bank in Ord as the secondary repository; and set the Annual Awards Dinner maximum at \$40 per plate for the meal and \$100 maximum for awards. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, Chairman Kruse declared the meeting adjourned at 5:53 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 newspaper in each county within the District. The next Board of Directors meeting will be held Thursday, January 26, 2012, at 5:00 p.m., at the Headquarters Office in Ord, Nebraska.

Darwin B. Anderson
Secretary