

Upper Republican
NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

**Board of Directors Regular Meeting
May 3, 2022 at 9:00 am
511 East 5th Street, Imperial, NE**

Agendas were sent to all Board Members and others requesting agendas. Agendas were posted in the NRD Office in Imperial, the NRCS Offices in Grant and Imperial, and the FSA Office in Benkelman, and posted on the District website. The meeting was announced over KADL-Imperial, KRVN-Lexington and KOGA-Ogallala and published in area newspapers.

Board Members Present: Dave Brown, Jason Kunkel, Dean Large, Jay Lee, Harry Merrihew, Terry Martin, Tom Schroder, Brock Stromberger, Janice Stroup, CJ Swanson and Tyler Turner.

Board Member Absent: Janice Stroup.

NRD Staff: Jasper Fanning, Nate Jenkins, Julia Strand and Deb Hayes.

Others Present: Andy Keep (NRCS), T. J. Martin, Duane Dinnel, Brad Dixon.

Information emailed to Directors:

Agenda

Regular Board Meeting minutes April 5, 2022

Variance Information

Report of District applications, contracts,
and agreements

Information distributed at Board meeting:

Agenda

Regular Board Meeting minutes April 5, 2022

Financial reports

NRCS Report

Variance Applications

Report of District applications, contracts,
and agreements

Chairman Martin called the regular meeting to order at 9:20 a.m.

Chairman Martin announced that the Open Meetings Act was posted in the NRD Office.

Janet Stroup is excused from the meeting today.

Board Members and Staff introduced themselves.

MINUTES:

- Large moved to approve the April 5, 2022, Regular Board meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Merrihew.

Roll call vote: 8-yes, 2-abstain, 1-absent. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Financial Report was presented to the Board.

- Kunkel moved to accept the Treasurer's report and pay the Accounts Payable. Seconded by Brown.

Roll call vote: 10-yes, 1-absent. Motion carried.

NRCS REPORT:

Andy Keep gave the NRCS report. On April 27th NRCS celebrated its 87th birthday. It was first established as the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) and in 1994 the name was changed to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to better reflect the broadened scope of the agency's concerns. NRCS has announced the availability of Conservation Collaboration Agreement funding. This funding will leverage NRCS resources to get conservation on the land, address local natural resources issues, encourage collaboration and develop State and community level conservation leaderships. Proposals will be accepted until May 31, 2022.

- Large moved to approve the NRCS Report of Planning Activity dated May 5, 2022, to include the Conservation Plans as signed for Chase and Perkins County. Seconded by Lee.

Roll call vote: 10-yes, 1-absent. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

GROUNDWATER MANGEMENT/RULES AND REGULATIONS:

Dean Large, Chairman of the Groundwater Committee, said the committee has been meeting and will be putting packets together to review with the Board in a few months.

VARIANCE COMMITTEE:

Brock Stromberger gave the Variance Committee report.

#1 Ron Jones is requesting a Variance to transfer 205 certified acres with no reduction in certified acres due to historical use, from the NE 9-1-38 to NE 4-2-39 and NW 10-2-39 which are currently satellite acres. The NE ¼ of 4-2-39 will receive 130 certified acres and will be watered by the well in NW 3-2-39. The NW ¼ 10-2-39 will receive 75 certified acres and will be watered by the well in NE 10-2-39. The remaining 114.4 certified acres on the NE ¼ 9-1-38 will be decertified and the well, G-068463 will be decommissioned. The NE 9-1-38 does not have a recent historical use but they would like to move the certified acres to more efficient wells and bring certified acres to their satellite acres. Based on historical use 0.0 acres are transferable from NE 9-1-38, and the well has an SDF of 23.2%. The well on NW 3-2-39 has an SDF of 14.4% and the well on the NE 10-2-39 has an SDF of 14.3 % for an SDF decline of 8.8%.

- Stromberger on behalf of the Variance Committee recommends denying the Variance request of Ron Jones.

Roll call vote: 10-yes, 1-absent. Motion carried.

#2 T. J. Martin is requesting to transfer 180.8 certified acres from the NW ¼ 12-6-42 and 64.1 certified acres from SWA 30-7-41 to W ½ 5-6-41 with no reduction in certified acres due to historical use or SDF increase and to develop two new pivots. The wells on the NW 12-6-42 and SWA 30-7-41 will be decommissioned or converted to livestock wells and two new irrigation wells will be drilled on W ½ 5-6-41. The NW ¼ 5-6-40 will receive 122.45 certified acres and the SW ¼ 5-6-41 will receive 122.45 certified acres. The NW 12-6-42 is sandy ground with high erosion and the well on SWA 30-7-41 is sucking air. The W ½ 5-6-41 is better ground and has better water. The well on NW 12-6-42 has an SDF of 18.3%, the well on SWA 30-7-41 has an SDF of 18.5% and W ½ 5-6-41 has an SDF of 31.3 % for an SDF increase of 12.9%. Based on

historical use and SDF increase 14.7 acres are transferrable from NW 12-6-42 and 20.05 certified acres are transferrable from SWA 30-7-41.

- Stromberger on behalf of the Variance Committee recommends approving the Variance request of T. J. Martin to transfer 180.8 certified acres from the NW ¼ 12-6-42 and 64.1 certified acres from SWA 30-7-41 to W ½ 5-6-41 with no reduction in certified acres due to historical use or SDF increase and to develop two new pivots. The wells on the NW 12-6-42 and SWA 30-7-41 will be decommissioned or converted to livestock wells and two new irrigation wells will be drilled on W ½ 5-6-41. The NW ¼ 5-6-40 will receive 122.45 certified acres and the SW ¼ 5-6-41 will receive 122.45 certified acres. Both fields would receive thirty-nine inches of carryforward which is the pool average and would have no end guns on pivots.

Roll call vote: 10-yes, 1-absent. Motion carried.

REPORT OF DISTRICT APPLICATIONS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS:

- Large moved to approve the Report of District applications, contracts and agreements dated May 3, 2022, to include the NSWCP applications. Seconded by Swanson.

Roll call vote: 9-yes, 1-abstain, 1-absent. Motion carried.

LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT: No report

REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN MEETING/COMPACT REPORT: No report

Jasper reported on a letter for Stakeholder Feedback on EcoBalance Climate-Smart program and are asking for a letter of support for a USDA grant. This will be a May agenda item.

AUGMENTATION PROJECT:

Working on maintenance issues at NCORPE and Todd is working on spraying and different items at Rock Creek.

LETTER OF SUPPORT, USDA GRANT APPLICATION:

Jasper had reviewed the letter and reported that USDA had sent out letters to several people for support for their program.

ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT:

Nate reported on property owned by Ducks Unlimited. There is 55 acres in NW Chase County that Duck Unlimited would donate to the NRD. This property is in the Wetland Reserve program. NRCS holds a permanent easement which preserves it as a playa lake, seeded to natural grass and there is no building on it and no haying or grazing on the property. The NRD could work with NRCS on compatible use agreements to allow haying and grazing. NRD would be in charge of noxious weed management.

- Brown moved to have Manager continue working with Ducks Unlimited for the NRD to acquire the property. Seconded by Stromberger.

Roll call vote: 10-yes, 1-absent. Motion carried.

INFORMATION & EDUCATION: No report.

LEGISLATION: No report.

STATE ASSOCIATION: No report.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: No report.

Chairman Martin adjourned the meeting at 10:00 am.

Respectfully submitted.

CJ Swanson
Secretary/Treasurer



6-7-22