

**LOWER NIOBRARA NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MAY 1, 2017**

Chairman Baumeister called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M. He called attention to the Open Meeting Law poster on the wall in the meeting room and stated notices of the meeting were published in newspapers of general circulation throughout the District.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 3, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Engelhaupt and second by Higgins to approve the minutes of the April 3, 2017 meeting as provided to the Directors. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Connell, Engelhaupt, Higgins, Holtgrew, Janzing, Kaczor, Klawitter, Mahon, Marcellus, Morrow, Baumeister, Bell) Abstain: (Naprstek, Pavlik) Absent: (Liewer, Schultz, Wendt). MOTION CARRIED.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Terry stated his report was mailed for Directors to review. He informed the Board his mother was severely injured in a vehicle accident and has a long road to recovery. He would like the Personnel Committee to meet after the meeting to schedule a date for the yearly salary review. Pavlik questioned how tree planting was proceeding. 7 sites remain and those are all in heavier soils. Terry stated that site preparation needs to be evaluated and possibly our letter needs to be revised to state if the site is not prepared the cooperators is responsible to see the trees are properly in the ground after planting. Plumbing & Electric ran the pigs through the RWS line on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday last month after the meeting on Monday. Sargent Irrigation suggested using a chlorine activator, which was put in the line for 16 days, then flushed. Test results are improving with the test from well #4 to the north well on the NRD 80 being 0. From there to the tank one test resulted in 20, but after letting it run for 24 hours the test resulted in 5. Friday pumping started again and was to run all weekend, but power went out due to the storm so he was unsure whether another test was taken today. Chlorine was run through the line with air and then flushed. The line is holding pressure so there is no leak in the pipe. There will be a Rural Water Advisory Committee Meeting on May 16th at 7:00. Debate on LB 98 the 3 cent levy bill will be tomorrow. There is some misunderstanding among senators regarding this levy. Information on the Eastern Red Cedar Summit attended was mailed to Directors. Bell strongly stated she disagreed with the statement in Terry's report, "the fact is, even if another cedar were never planted the uncontrolled spread would not stop or slow down". She explained the difference between native cedar and the cedar planted now, which were adapted to grow easier. Bell said planting of other trees like pines and hardwoods should be encouraged. Studying should be done to find other trees to replace cedar. She stated next year the District should not plant any cedar. Discussion was held on the non-survivability of pines. It was mentioned if a windbreak is wanted for survival the only option we have is to plant cedars. A copy of the Knox County FAC minutes was made available to the Directors along with the Bazile GWMA meeting minutes and vadose zone sampling information. A copy of the *Supplemental Report to Summarize the 2015 Instream, Flow Application on the Niobrara River Downstream of Spencer Dam* was passed around. Attorney Blankenau informed Terry a meeting is scheduled on Wednesday to review the purchase agreement for the Spencer Dam.

WATER RESOURCES COORDINATOR REPORT

Wade's report was mailed prior to the meeting. He reported he worked heavily this past month on the Nitrate Certification Program and has been working with LCNRD & UENRD to develop a program for sharing certification information. Static water level letters were sent informing cooperators measuring of their wells would be conducted in the near future. 3 replacement well applications were approved. Ken Breithaupt's wells were pumped. One was dry, another pumped dry and the other 2 pumped a while and samples were taken. Wade informed the Directors there is a technical 26-27 page report that will have to go to DEQ for Breithaupt. Mahon mentioned the fee we are charging is not enough for the time Wade is spending on this. Plans tomorrow are to begin taking static water levels. Terry mentioned a Ground Water Management Committee meeting will need to be held later this month.

PROGRAMS ASSISTANT

Connie's report was also mailed. She mentioned her report is different than in the past. She has been working with ESRI, GIS people due to a corrupted file, which doesn't allow things to work as they should. At one point she could not move wells. This has been corrected, but there still is a corruption somewhere in a file. She has entered 139 certifications mostly from Holt County.

ASSOCIATION REPORT

Wendt is absent since she is participating in the welcome home for the Vietnam Veterans at Lincoln's airport who flew to Washington DC. She was so impressed with the welcome her husband received when he returned from that trip she wanted to participate in this welcome home. Her written report was in the packets.

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS--Jim Mathine mailed his report also. He discussed the CSP reviews and mentioned May is when HEL reviews are conducted. Cover crops and grassed waterways will be encouraged to repair femoral gully erosion. He explained the hiring freeze has been lifted, but agencies are required to begin planning for a reduction in work force.

Niobrara Council--Higgins reported a committee meeting was held prior to the meeting to discuss hiring of a consulting firm to do the design work for a camp ground. Funds will be needed to extend beyond 2017. Funds allocated to the Council for a road are only going to do a few miles rather than the intended distance since the allocation years ago. Another problem is landowners are not granting right-of-ways. A member of the Friends of the Niobrara wants to serve on the Council, but is not eligible due to the specifications for eligibility on the Council.

NE RC&D--Pavlik reported approximately 40 individuals participated in the Prairie Chicken Tour held. He also mentioned the RC&D building owned by Meuret in Plainview is being sold. Previously the RC&D was charged \$1,000 a year for rent. He questioned if the Board would be willing to contribute funds towards purchase of the building and acreage. The assessed value is \$42,000. The building houses two part-time employees and also the Farmers Market is held here in the summer. Pavlik explained the recycling venture being undertaken by a man from Laurel, which the RC&D is assisting with.

Friends of the Missouri--Mahon stated there has been no meeting. Terry reported there is a meeting tomorrow at 3:00 in Vermillion. Mahon plans to attend. Terry also will attend after a trip to the WKRWS and a trip to the Sioux City hospital to check on his mother.

APPOINT LNNRD REPRESENTATIVE ON WKRWS ADVISORY BOARD

Arden Uhlir had served in this position prior to his death. Klawitter is a RWS customer and it was suggested he fill this position. There never has been an alternate, but Pavlik also shows interest in the RWS. Motion by Higgins and second by Pavlik that Klawitter be appointed as the LNNRD Representative on the WKRWS Advisory Board. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Connell, Engelhaupt, Higgins, Holtgrew, Janzing, Kaczor, Mahon, Marcellus, Morrow, Naprstek, Pavlik, Baumeister, Bell) Abstain: (Klawitter) Absent: (Liewer, Schultz, Wendt). MOTION CARRIED.

NSWCP ACTIVITIES

A listing of activities was on the reverse side of the agenda. Vivian reported additional funds were received in the amount of \$2,972.85 from other districts who had not allocated all their funds. Motion by Pavlik and second by Engelhaupt to approve the Phyllis Camin application in the amount of \$4,300.00 for a fence and the two extensions for Paul Allen and Harold Gene Micanek. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Connell, Engelhaupt, Higgins, Holtgrew, Janzing, Kaczor, Klawitter, Mahon, Marcellus, Morrow, Naprstek, Pavlik, Baumeister) Abstain: (Bell) Absent: (Liewer, Schultz, Wendt). MOTION CARRIED.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Connell and Mahon both reviewed the expenditure receipts. Motion by Higgins and second by Marcellus to approve the Treasurer's Reports as presented. Roll Call Vote, Aye: (Connell, Engelhaupt, Higgins, Holtgrew, Janzing, Kaczor, Klawitter, Mahon, Marcellus, Morrow, Naprstek, Pavlik, Baumeister, Bell) Absent: (Liewer, Schultz, Wendt). MOTION CARRIED.

OPEN COMMENTS

Terry mentioned it may be a few days before Knox County trees with heavier soils can be planted due to the snow.

EXCUSE ABSENT DIRECTORS

Wendt is participating in the Vietnam Veterans welcome home; Liewer is visiting in Scottsbluff and attending a grandchild's track meet; Schultz had been gone, but intended to be back.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 8:29 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

Directors: Larry Baumeister, Lana Bell, Karl Connell, Jack Engelhaupt, Tom Higgins, Don Holtgrew, John Janzing, Brian Kaczor, Randy Klawitter, Bradley Mahon, Dwain Marcellus, Curt Morrow, Ray Naprstek, Kent Pavlik

Staff: Terry Julesgard, Vivian Frasch, Wade Ellwanger, Connie McCarthy

Visitors: Jim Mathine, Paul Allen

I, the undersigned Secretary of the Lower Niobrara Natural Resources District hereby certify the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the proceedings had and done by the Board of Directors on May1, 2017. That all subjects included in the foregoing proceedings were contained in the agenda for at least twenty-four hours prior to the meeting. The minutes of the Chairman and Board of Directors were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting of said body. All news media requesting notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting were notified.

Marvin Liewer, Secretary