

MINUTES
Middle Republican Natural Resources District
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at 10:00 AM
Via Zoom

Board Members Present: Tracy Zink, Benjie Loomis, Kevin Fornoff, Rick McConville
Board Members on Zoom: Joe Anderjaska, Shane Rippen, Travis Rousselle, Jay Schilling, Rose Weskamp, Jolene Messinger, Daniel Nelsen
Board Members Absent: None.
NRD Staff: Jack Russell, Alex Boyce, Sylvia Johnson and Stacie Owens
NRCS Staff: None
Others via Zoom: Chelsea Erickson

Information Posted to Directors I-Pads:

Agenda – Regular Meeting	Meeting Minutes – Regular Mtg & Exec Comm
Financials	Civil Rights Handout
Surface Water Report	2023 Water Usage Report
Russell’s Notes on Dams	Water Leaders Academy Letter
NARD 414 Increase	

Information E-Mailed:

Brown Case, 12/19/23 & 1/3/24	Blackwood 11-A & Dry Creek 2-A
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REGULAR MEETING

1. The regular monthly board meeting was called to order by Chairman Zink at 10:06 a.m.
 - a. Verify Quorum.
 - b. Excused Absences.
2. The agenda and roster were circulated to those present.
3. Notice of the regular monthly meeting was published in the **North Platte Telegraph** and the **McCook Daily Gazette** and was posted at the **MRNRD Office** and on the District website at **www.mrnrd.org**. As a courtesy it was also provided to local radio stations. Guests should also note the location of a current copy of the statutes dealing with public meetings and the booklet with the information provided to directors.
4. The Minutes for the December Board Meeting and January Executive Committee Meeting were posted to the Directors iPads.

- ◆ Schilling moved to approve the Minutes from the December Board Meeting with corrections. Seconded by Fornoff.
Ayes – 10 Nays – 0 Abstain – Zink Motion Carried
- ◆ Anderjaska moved to approve the Minutes from the January Executive Committee Meeting. Seconded by Loomis.
Ayes – 11 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

5. FINANCIAL ACTIONS

A. The Financial Report was presented by Russell.

- ◆ Anderjaska moved to approve the December and January Financials. Seconded by Schilling.

Ayes – 11 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

A copy of this report is filed with the Minutes.

6. OPEN FORUM

None.

7. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A. FVID Agreement for Compliance. Russell updated the board on current discussions and the waiting on a timeline from the Bureau. He will continue to update them as time goes on.

8. MANAGER'S REPORT

A. PL566 discussion. Russell went over his summary of options that he wrote up for the board to review. Discussion held.

- ◆ Anderjaska moved to directed Russell to send letter to NRCS on each damn and request remedial action. Seconded by McConville.

Ayes – 11 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

9. NRCS

None.

10. NARD - ANDERJASKA

A. Retirement Plan Increase Consideration. Discussion was held and individual opinions were voiced.

11. NRC - FORNOFF

Next meeting will be February 21st at 11 AM at Holiday Inn in Kearney.

12. NSIA – SCHILLING

A. Water Leaders Academy. Schilling went over what the program is and their recent findings that they were not going to receive funds from the NET grant this year. In order to keep the academy going and provide education. Decided to table it until next meeting until board members had time to further chance to look into the program.

13. N-CORPE - LOOMIS

Last meeting was in North Platte on February 2nd. Loomis stated that there have been questions regarding some of the payables so Kyle is supposed to be getting from information out soon.

14. LEGAL MATTERS

A. Legislation/Gov. Support. Russell requested some guidance from the board regarding supporting letters to be written as long as the board unanimously at legislative conference.

- ◆ Schilling moved to direct Manager to issue testimony or supporting letters for legislation that was unanimously supported by our board members at Legislative Conference. Seconded by Loomis.
Ayes – 10 Nays – 0 Abstain – Rippen Motion Carried

15. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Litigation and Contracts.

- ◆ Fornoff moved to enter into executive session to discuss litigation and contracts with Manager and staff. Seconded by McConville.
Ayes - 11 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

Chairman Zink restated, for the record, the limitation of the subject matter of the closed session.

Entered at 11:30 a.m.

- ◆ Fornoff moved to exit the executive session. Seconded by McConville.
Ayes - 11 Nays – 0 Motion Carried

Exited at 11:51 a.m.

Chairman Zink reminded everyone that entered executive session that the discussions held within that timeframe were private and should not be discussed.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the Middle Republican NRD Office in Curtis, Nebraska.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

Stacie M. Owens, Board Secretary