

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**MIDDLE NIOBRARA NRD BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**January 11, 2021**

The Middle Niobrara NRD Board of Directors meeting was advertised in the Ainsworth Star Journal and Valentine Midland News newspapers, MNNRD website, and KBRB, KVSH, & Twister radio stations.

Directors Danielski, Nollette, and Wilke were sworn in prior to the meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Danielski at 3:01 pm. Danielski noted that the Open Meetings Act Laws were posted as well as the Governors new executive order for virtual board meeting participation. The following persons were present:

Directors: Present: Leonard Danielski, Marty Graff, Justin Hammond, Tim Nollette, Cherryl Lovejoy, and Greg Wilke  
Staff: Mike Murphy, Zachery Peterson, Tim Storm, Leslie Harvey, Chandler Schmidt, Kyle Temple, Kaleb Puncochar, Steffan Silva  
NRCS: Via Phone: Christine Lousias, Gordon Suhr  
Guests: Dennis Connot  
Absent: Dean Jochem

**Approve December Minutes**

*Motion by Graff, second by Lovejoy to approve the December 14, 2020 Board of Director's meeting minutes as presented. Roll Call: Aye - Danielski, Graff, Hammond, Lovejoy, Wilke. Nay - None. Abstain — Nollette. Absent — Jochem. Motion carried.*

**Treasurer's Report**

Lovejoy reported the balances for general ledger, STFIT general and sinking funds, CD's, manager's account, and checks to be approved.

Murphy went over checks to be approved.

*Motion by Lovejoy, second by Graff to approve the January 11, 2021 Treasurer's Report. Roll Call: Aye - Graff, Hammond, Nollette, Lovejoy, Wilke, Danielski. Nay - None. Abstain — None. Absent - Jochem. Motion carried.*

## Directors' Forum

A local well driller asked Graff about the status of the VIMP as well as the status of allowing any new irrigated acres.

New director Tim Nollette introduced himself to the other board members.

### Agency Reports:

#### *Extension Office*

No report

#### *Niobrara Council*

Agenda and minutes from the previous meetings were included in the director's packet.

#### *NRCS*

Lousias reviewed her report.

#### *NARD*

Legislative Conference will be held but will be a shortened version with Murphy and Graff attending. Directors were given a list of Legislative bills of interest.

#### *NRC*

Hearing to be held January 15<sup>th</sup> @ 10:30 am @ the MNNRD office.

## Executive Committee Meeting

### *Building*

Reviewed the updated design plans from Granger.

Greentech will be at the office to look at the building.

New building should be delivered by the 19<sup>th</sup> of January.

### *SINREC*

Heartland Scenic Studios Inc. was selected for the initial SINREC design.

*Motion by Hammond, second by Lovejoy to accept the design contract with Heartland Scenic Studios Inc. with Kyle as the representative with a 10% down payment in the amount of \$5000.00. Roll Call: Aye –Hammond, Nollette, Lovejoy, Wilke, Danielski, Graff. Nay – None. Abstain – None. Absent – Jochem. Motion carried.*

## **Water Program's Committee Meeting**

### ***Fertilizer Reports***

Storm reported that 34 producers have not turned in their fertilizer reports. Cease and Desist letters were discussed. Directors discussed different ways for producers to report. Committee members discussed a meeting date. Tentatively set for January 25, 2021 @ 1:00 pm

### ***Water Quality Cost-Share Apps***

No action taken. Will be addressed at the Water Program's Committee meeting.

### ***Transfer Apps***

An application to transfer irrigated acres by a landowner from one location to another with the same depletion levels was reviewed.

***Motion by Graff, second by Danielski to approve the transfer application of 128.9 acres by Connot Living Trust. Roll Call: Aye — Nollette, Lovejoy, Wilke, Danielski, Graff, Hammond. Nay — None. Abstain — None. Absent — Jochem. Motion carried.***

### ***Rules and Ranking Criteria***

No action taken. Will be addressed at the Water Program's Committee meeting.

## **Natural Resources Committee Meeting**

### ***NSWCP Cost-Share Rate***

No action taken until notification is received from the NET grants that have been applied for.

### ***NDEE 319 Phase III***

Schmidt reported that notification has not been received.

### ***Local Workgroup***

Meeting will be held February 24<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 pm in Valentine and February 25<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 pm in Ainsworth.

### ***HMP Update***

Schmidt updated the board on the progress of the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

### ***Review Services Pricing***

No action taken.

**Christmas Party/Memorial - January 17<sup>th</sup> 2021**

A celebration of life for Dana Krueger will be held @ 1:00 pm January 17<sup>th</sup> at the MNNRD office with the Christmas Party to be held at 5:00 pm.

**Administrative Assistant Report**

Nothing besides what was on her report.

**Technician Reports**

Temple reported on a recycling report and a NE RAIN report that was included in Director packets.

**Watershed Coordinator Report**

Schmidt reviewed his report.

**Natural Resources Supervisor's Report**

Temple reported on the tree program and Cub Creek.

**Water Supervisor's Report**

Storm reviewed his report.

**Assistant/Office Manager Report**

Peterson gave an update on the boiler unit, WFPO's, new building and new phone system.

**Manager's Report**

Murphy passed out his report and reviewed it.

**Excused Absence**

*Motion by Graff, second by Danielski to approve absence of Jochem. Roll Call: Aye — Nollette, Lovejoy, Wilke, Danielski, Graff, Hammond. Nay - None. Abstain — None. Absent — Jochem. Motion carried.*

**Public Comment**

No Comment

**Announcements**

None

**Election of Board Offices & Representatives**

Chair — Justin Hammond

Vice-Chair — Tim Nollette

Secretary/Treasurer — Cherryl Lovejoy

NARD Representative — Marty Graff

Niobrara Council Representative — Mike Murphy

Niobrara River Basin Alliance — Marty Graff and Justin Hammond

*Motion by Graff, second by Lovejoy to appoint Board Offices and Representatives as outlined above. Roll Call: Aye – Lovejoy, Wilke, Danielski, Graff, Hammond, Nollette. Nay - None. Abstain – None. Absent – Jochem. Motion carried.*

**Committee Appointments**

Water Resources Committee – Marty Graff, Dean Jochem, Greg Wilke

Natural Resources Committee – Leonard Danielski, Cherryl Lovejoy, Tim Nollette

Committees were appointed by Chairman Hammond.

**Adjourn**

*Motion by Graff, second by Hammond to adjourn. Roll Call: Aye – Wilke, Danielski, Graff, Hammond, Nollette, Lovejoy. Nay - None. Abstain – None. Absent - Jochem. Motion carried.*

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Cherryl Lovejoy Secretary/Treasurer

Date