

MEETING MINUTES
MIDDLE NIOBRARA NRD BOARD OF DIRECTORS
February 8, 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.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Hammond at 3:05 pm. Hammond 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: Marty Graff, Justin Hammond, Tim Nollette, and Greg Wilke
Staff: Mike Murphy, Zachery Peterson, Tim Storm, Leslie Harvey, Chandler Schmidt, Kyle Temple
NRCS: Christine Lousias
Guests: Marla Shelbourn, Jenny Suhr, Amy Timmerman
On phone: Hannah Greenwell, T.L. Meyer
Absent: Leonard Danielski, Dean Jochem, Cherryl Lovejoy

Approve January Minutes

Motion by Graff, second by Nollette to approve the January 11, 2021 Board of Director's meeting minutes as presented. Roll Call: Aye - Graff, Hammond, Nollette, Wilke. Nay - None. Abstain — None. Absent — Danielski, Jochem, Lovejoy. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Graff 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 Graff, second by Hammond to approve the February 8, 2021 Treasurer's Report. Roll Call: Aye - Graff, Hammond, Nollette, Wilke. Nay - None. Abstain — None. Absent - Danielski, Jochem, Lovejoy. Motion carried.

CD Renewal

Directors reviewed new rates for CD# 7604 that is due to mature 2/14/2021.

Motion by Graff, second by Nollette to roll over CD# 7604 with the new rate. Roll Call: Aye - Graff, Nollette, Wilke. Nay - None. Abstain — Hammond. Absent - Danielski, Jochem, Lovejoy. Motion carried.

Directors' Forum

No report

Agency Reports:

Extension Office

Hanna Greenwell introduced herself and gave an oral report over the phone.

Amy Timmerman gave an oral report to directors.

Niobrara Council

Murphy reviewed the agenda and minutes from the previous meetings that were included in the director's packet.

NRCS

Lousias reviewed her report.

Local Workgroup

Lousias reported that she will be in attendance in person. Discussion was held on fund pools and ranking criteria for the workgroup. Meetings will be held in Valentine on February 24th at 6:00 pm at the MNNRD office, and in Ainsworth on February 25th at 6:00 pm at the Community Building.

NARD

Graff reported on Legislative Conference. The staff has moved into the new NARD building.

NARD Alternate

Due to lack of attendance, the board will vote on an alternate at the March meeting.

Benefits Committee

Murphy reported that an NRD has requested to be taken out of the Risk Pool. If they do leave, they would not be able to participate again for 2 years.

NRC

No report

Executive Committee Meeting

Building

No update from the engineer. A check has been issued to Granger, but it will be held until communication has been reestablished.

Fletcher

The court case has been won by the MNNRD and some different options are being looked at as far as liens and garnishments.

Water Program's Committee Meeting

Fertilizer Report Letter

Storm reported the letter has been revamped and will be sent out in the next week.

Rules and Ranking Criteria

The committee has been going over rules and is working on updating the Groundwater Management Plan.

Natural Resources Committee Meeting

NSWCP Cost-Share Rate

Discussion was held on some different options to help make the cost-share dollars available to more producers. No action taken.

NDEE 319 Phase III

Schmidt reported that notification has not been received.

Administrative Assistant Report

Nothing besides what was on her report.

Discussion was held as to if the staff reports would be included in the board book for the public to review.

Technician Reports

Temple reviewed his report.

Murphy reviewed the other Technician reports.

Watershed Coordinator Report

Schmidt reviewed his report.

Natural Resources Supervisor's Report

Temple reported on the tree program. The MNNRD will be doing a few planting days with area youth. There has been some composting work with a landowner close to town.

Water Supervisor's Report

Storm reviewed his report.

Assistant/Office Manager Report

Peterson reviewed his report.

Manager's Report

Murphy reviewed his report. The March meeting will be held on the 9th due to scheduling conflicts.

Excused Absence

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

Public Comment

Graff reported that Brown County Commissioners have voted to not be a part of Region 24 Emergency Management.

Announcements

Timmerman announced a webinar on the Bazile Nitrogen Management Area.

Adjourn

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

Cherryl Lovejoy Secretary/Treasurer

Date