

**MEETING MINUTES  
MIDDLE NIOBRARA NRD BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
November 13th, 2023**

The Middle Niobrara NRD Board of Directors meeting was advertised in the Valentine Midland News, Ainsworth Star Journal, Rock County Ledger, Springview Herald, & Sheridan County Journal Star.

The meeting was called to order by Board Vice Chairman Wilke at 3:00 pm. Wilke noted that the Open Meetings Act Laws were posted. The following persons were present:

Directors: Present: Justin Hammond, Leonard Danielski, Mark Monroe,  
Tim Nollette, Greg Wilke, Stephanie DeNaeyer, Marty Graff,  
Staff: Mike Murphy, Kyle Temple, Rick Joseph, James Battershaw, Chandler Schmidt  
NRCS: Christine Lousias  
UNL Ext:  
Guests:  
UNWNRD: Pat O'Brien  
Absent:

**Public Comment**

O'Brien congratulated Murphy on his hard work keeping the NRBA together on the Spencer Dam water rights project.

**Approve last Month's Minutes**

*Motion by Danielski second by Monroe to approve the October 13th, 2023 Board of Director's meeting minutes. Roll Call: Aye — Hammond, Danielski, Nollette, Wilke, Monroe & DeNaeyer. Nay - None. Abstain — None. Absent — Graff. Motion carried.*

**Treasurer's Report**

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

Murphy went over checks to be approved.

*Motion by Hammond second by Nollette to approve the November 13th, 2023, Treasurer's Report.. Roll Call: Aye —Hammond, Danielski, Wilke, Monroe, Nollette & DeNaeyer. Nay - None. Abstain — None. Absent — Graff. Motion carried.*

### **Directors' Forum:**

Wilke mentioned a concern he received over McGowen's Dam and Plum Creek.

### **Agency Reports:**

#### ***Extension Office***

Nothing new to report.

#### ***Niobrara Council***

Murphy gave an update from the two October meetings.

Marty Graff stepped in at 3:13 pm.

#### ***NRCS***

Lousias gave an update on her report that was included in the director's packet.

#### ***NARD***

Marty gave an update from the November Board of Director's Meeting.

#### ***NRC***

Nothing new to report. Next meeting will be November 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **Natural Resources Committee Meeting**

Discussions were held on trailer bids, Valentine Mill Pond, NE Class & Hazard Mitigation Plan.

***Motion by Monroe second by DeNaeyer to trade the 2 older gooseneck trailers and purchase 2 heavy axle Titan 36' trailers from Seidel and Sons. Roll Call: Aye — Hammond, Danielski, Graff, Nollette, Wilke, Monroe & DeNaeyer. Nay - None. Abstain — None. Absent — None. Motion carried.***

Murphy discussed the Valentine Mill Pond options for the High Hazzard Dam Classification.

Murphy discussed the Nebraska Class Investment.

***Motion by Monroe second by Nollette to have NE Class as a financial option. Roll Call: Aye — Danielski, Graff, Nollette, Wilke, Monroe & DeNaeyer. Nay - None. Abstain — Hammond. Absent — None. Motion carried.***

Murphy discussed the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

***Motion by Graff second by Monroe to move forward with and be the sponsor for the Hazard Mitigation Plan update. Roll Call: Aye — Hammond, Danielski, Graff, Nollette, Wilke, Monroe & DeNaeyer. Nay - None. Abstain — None. Absent — None. Motion carried.***

### **Water Committee Meeting**

Discussions held on New Irrigated Acres, Ground Water Index & Rules Violation/Cease & Desist.

***Motion by Graff second by Hammond to accept 26 New Irrigated Acre Applications. Roll Call: Aye — Hammond, Graff, Nollette, & Monroe. Nay - DeNaeyer. Abstain — Danielski & Wilke. Absent — None. Motion carried.***

***Motion by Danielski second by Wilke to lift cease & desist order. Roll Call: Aye — Hammond, Graff, Danielski, Monroe, DeNaeyer, Wilke & Nollette. Nay - None. Abstain — None. Absent — None. Motion carried.***

***Motion by Danielski second by DeNaeyer to not have a penalty hearing for rules violation. Roll Call: Aye — Danielski & DeNaeyer. Nay — Graff, Hammond, Monroe, Nollette & Wilke. Abstain — None. Absent — None. Motion failed.***

***Motion by Monroe second by Graff to have a penalty hearing for rules violation. Roll Call: Aye — Hammond, Graff, Monroe, Wilke & Nollette. Nay — Danielski & DeNaeyer. Abstain — None. Absent — None. Motion carried.***

### **Building Committee Meeting**

Meeting held October 24, at Middle Niobrara NRD office. Discussion held on building plan design, and options.

***Motion by DeNaeyer second by Nollette to move forward with Preliminary Design Services Agreement with Miller Architects & Builders. Roll Call: Aye — Hammond, Danielski, Graff, Nollette, DeNaeyer, Monroe & Wilke. Nay - None. Abstain — None. Absent — None. Motion carried.***

### **Administrative Assistant Report**

Joseph reviewed his report that was included in the director's packet.

### **Natural Resources Coordinator Report**

Battershaw reviewed his report that was included in the director's packet.

### **Water Programs Coordinator Report**

Temple reviewed his report that was included in the director's packet.

**Watershed Coordinator Report**

Schmidt reviewed his report that was included in the director's packet.

**Manager's Report**

Murphy provided an overview of his report.

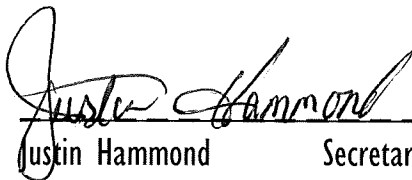
**Excused Absence**

No excused absence

**Announcements**

Graff mentioned the EPIC Consumption Tax and proposed Governor's budget funding formula to eliminate local taxing authority.

*Motion by Hammond second by Wilke to adjourn meeting at 4:26. Roll Call: Aye —Hammond, Danielski, Graff, Nollette, Wilke, Monroe & DeNaeyer. Nay - None. Abstain — None. Absent None. Motion carried.*

  
Justin Hammond

Secretary/Treasurer

  
Date

## ACRONYM KEY

ACEP	Agricultural Conservation Easement Program
CC	Cherry County
CSP	Conservation Stewardship Program
EQIP	Environmental Quality Incentives Program
EWP	Emergency Watershed Protection Program
LPCW	Long Pine Creek Watershed
LWG	Local Work Group
MNNRD	Middle Niobrara Natural Resources District
NACD	National Association of Conservation Districts
NARD	Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
NDEE	Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy
NDNR	Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
NET	Nebraska Environmental Trust
NFS	Nebraska Forest Service
NGPC	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
NRBA	Niobrara River Basin Alliance
NRC	Natural Resource Commission
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NSWCP	Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program
NWRA	National Water Resources Association
NSIA	Nebraska State Irrigation Association
PF	Pheasants Forever
PIFR	Preliminary Investigation Feasibility Report
PIP	Project Implementation Plan
Plan-EA	Plan – Environmental Assessment
SINREC	Sandhills Interactive Natural Resource Educational Complex
STF	Sandhills Task Force
UNL Ext	University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
WFPO	Watershed & Flood Preventions Operations Program
WQMP	Water Quality Management Plan
WRP	Wetlands Reserve Program
WSF	Water Sustainability Fund

