

Chair Steffen called the May 21, 2020 meeting of the Lewis & Clark Natural Resources District (LCNRD) Board of Directors to order at 7:00 p.m. Chair Steffen stated to the public present that prior notice of the meeting had been publicized according to policy designated by the board. The meeting notice was adapted to allow for video conferencing pursuant to Attorney General Guidance in Executive Order No. 20-30 Corona Virus. Chair Steffen announced that a copy of the Open Meetings Act is located on the west wall of the meeting room and on the LCNRD web site. All visitors participating via Zoom have been asked to make sure their microphone has been muted. There will be an opportunity for visitors to comment at the end of the meeting. Chair Steffen conducted roll call of members present. Present: Armstrong, Condon, Christensen, Heine, Johnson, Kramer, Schmidt, Steffen.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda was reviewed. *It was moved by Kramer, seconded by Schmidt to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2020 board meeting and the April 17 to May 21, 2020 consent agenda, (less payroll items from April 20, 2020). The consent agenda includes financial reports, cost share approvals, claims, cancellations, corrections, and additions. (Copy attached to file copy of minutes). Roll call vote: AYE: Armstrong, Condon, Christensen, Heine, Johnson, Kramer, Schmidt, Steffen. NAY: None. ABSENT: Hoelsing, Howey, Weinandt. None. Motion carried (8-0-3).*

WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Committee Chair Heine reported on the water resources committee zoom meeting held prior to board meeting. Discussion included changes to Water Quantity Rules and Regulations, Agreement with UNL Forest Service RCPP application, agreement with UNL-IANR CIG application, well permits, variances, expanded acres and flow meter cost share.

The suggested changes to the water quantity rules were reviewed and main items discussed: attorney: suggestions on rules, well spacing requirement for domestic/irrigation wells, restrictions on confined aquifers vs. non confined aquifers, Level III management areas, and timeline for adoption and implementation of rules. The committee will meet again to review changes proposed and provide a recommendation to the board. Later this year LCNRD will begin working on updates to the water quality rules and regulations. (Matt Weinandt enters the meeting at 7:15 pm, Gary Howey enters at 7:47 pm).

NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program application with the Forest Service would establish a partnership to implement forest and management projects to reverse the trend of degrading forests and decreasing wildlife habitat. This partnership would provide funding to NRDs to increase available cost share for forestry programs or to expand forestry programs specific to NRD needs.

NRCS Nebraska Learning Cohort Initiative is an application that has been submitted to NRCS for CIG funding to improve farm management strategies and conservation implementation using technology-based approaches. Planned program will develop learning cohorts to improve conservation practice adoption in Northeast, Southeast, and South-Central Nebraska including multiyear on-farm trials of precision conservation practices. A match of \$3000 in kind per year is requested for five years.

The committee reviewed well permits and associated applications.

It was moved by Kramer, seconded by Johnson to approve recommendations made by the water resources committee listed below:

- 1. Authorize management to provide letter of participation to Nebraska Forest Service on the Nebraska Forest Restoration Partnership (NFRP)*
- 2. Authorize management to provide letter of participation to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln on the Nebraska Learning Cohort Initiative with a commitment of \$3,000 (in kind match) per year for 5 years*
- 3. Approve Jim and Jason Miller Well Permit LC-254 in the SWSE Section 32-T30N-R1W, Expanded Acre*

Permit X-20010 for 133 acres in SE¼, Section 32, T30N, R1W and FMLC-254 flow meter cost share.
Approve Darrell Fehringer Well Permit LC-255R in the NE¼SE¼ Section 23, T29N, R4W.
Approve Heimes Brothers Well Permit LC-256 in Section SE¼NW¼ Section 16, T32N, R1E Well Permit LC-257 in SE¼NW¼ Section 16, T32N, R1E

Variance V-20002C is tabled for the June meeting to allow for information to be received from Sue Lackey on geology in this area.

Approve Center C, LLC well permit LC-258 in the NE¼SW¼ Section 34, T30N, R1E

Roll call vote: AYE: Armstrong, Condon, Christensen, Heine, Howey, Johnson, Kramer, Schmidt, Steffen, Weinandt. NAY: None. ABSENT: Hoelsing. Motion carried (10-0-1).

AGENCY REPORTS

NE Nebraska Resources Conservation and Development and Wau Col Rural Water System: Howey had no reports as there were no meetings held.

Natural Resources Committee: Steffen had no report on NRC but spoke briefly on Healthy Soils Task Force activities and draft report development for the Governor. Discussed a soil “hub” to coordinate activities in the state and also financial assistance from corporations which could support carbon sequestration and other activities.

NARD: Kramer: No report as no meetings held. NARD Annual Basin Tour is cancelled for 2020 and next NARD meeting will be held via Zoom NARD in June.

MSAC: Heine reported on the May 5 meeting of the Missouri Sedimentation Action Coalition. The US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has completed Project Management Plan Phase 1, scoping. The Corps is delaying start of Phase II until their new budget cycle in October. Phase II involves economic and financial impacts and how it relates to different plans for maintaining effective life of Gavins Point Dam.

NRCS ACTIVITY: Rebekah Jessen, Acting District Conservationist, reported on activities in the field offices including personnel updates. Rob Van Lieshout has been hired for the Pheasants Forever Biologist position with his first day June 1. Brandon Boehm has been hired to fill the Wetland Biologist and will be starting in June.

Bazile Groundwater Management Area: Reports from Jeremy Milander, BGMA Extension Educator and Connor Baldwin, BGMA Coordinator are included in the packet.

RURAL WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Director Weinandt and Manager Fiedler reported on Cedar Knox Rural Water Project (CKRWP) Advisory Committee Meeting held May 14, 2020 (financial report and draft minutes attached to file copy of minutes).

Final payments have been received from FEMA for 2019 flooding. Groundwater resource investigation will continue with drilling anticipated to begin in June. Heine Electric was awarded contract by UNL-CSD for observation well development.

It was moved by Kramer, seconded by Johnson to approve the report and each of the recommendations as stated below.

1. Approve the minutes of the April 9, 2020 Cedar Knox Rural Water Project meeting.
2. Approve the expenses from April 10 to May 14, 2020 as presented.
3. Award the 2020 Galen Jueden Memorial Scholarship to Taylor Schieffer, Crofton High School.
4. Approve purchase of a Miox Unit to replace Miox #2 and replace the cell in Miox #1 with the operational cell in Miox #2 if possible.
5. Approve Engineering Review Applications for a 1 BU for Jason Schendt (Sec 20 T33N R2W, Knox County) and a 1 BU 1/2 price easement connection for High Ratl'r Ranch LLP-Craig Kollars (Sec 18 T33N R2W, Knox County).
6. Approve the forfeiture of water service for connections A114 and D001.

Roll call vote: AYE: Armstrong, Condon, Christensen, Heine, Howey, Johnson, Kramer, Schmidt, Weinandt, Steffen. NAY: None. Absent: Hoelsing: Motion carried (10-0-1).

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITY

Managers' report is attached to file copy of minutes. Manager Sudbeck reported on 2020 tree planting, health insurance premium increase, remodeling of front office, concrete poured in parking area, outside cleanup and Covid-19 precautions.

Manager Sudbeck reported on Meridian Trail asphalt maintenance and contract with Knife River to apply a tack coat on the bike trail for \$2,000. A sand layer will be applied by staff after tack coat application. Funds from Missouri River account will be used as Scott Wessel, NE Game and Parks approved use of the funds for trail maintenance.

Sudbeck reviewed planning for test hole drilling and observation well design as prepared by Susan Olafsen Lackey, UNL-CSD.

Sudbeck reported on pending sale of 160 acres where Erosion Sediment Control Act (ESCA) court order is in place on the former Kumm property (SE Section 8, T29N, R4W) with continued cropping requirements according to the 1999 court order. Potential purchaser has been in contact with the office on conservation plan that would meet court order which is very restrictive. Rebekah Jessen will check if the property is eligible to be enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program. Based on options for ESCA ground from attorney, *Directors consensus was to have attorney Don Blankenau create a compliance agreement between the NRD and new owner for review by directors.*

Kristi Hochstein has been hired as the Office Technician and will be starting on June 8th. Watershed Coordinator position has been posted with application deadline May 29th.

Staff reports for Schumacher, Lammers and Buettner were included in the meeting packet.

NRCS has an agreement with Farm Journal in the Bazile area for a conservation pilot to advance water quality and to enhance conservation adoption. Chase Buettner, Resources Technician, updated the board on Bazile demonstration sites, and also water quality samples being taken in the Bow Creek area at Jeff Steffen's farm.

EXCUSED ABSENCES - CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW

Director Hoelsing is excused from the meeting. Manager Sudbeck discussed the planned September Board meeting, retreat, and tour. Lammers and Sudbeck reviewed maintenance completed on Aowa Structures 31-1 and 22-3.

Adjourn: It was moved by Wienandt, seconded by Condon to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 pm. Roll call vote: AYE: Armstrong, Condon, Christensen, Heine, Howey, Johnson, Kramer, Schmidt, Weinandt, Steffen. Nay: None. ABSENT Hoelsing. Motion carried (10-0-1).

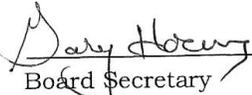
MEMBERS PRESENT

Curtis Armstrong
Dave Condon
Bill Christensen
Carolyn Heine
Gary Howey
Chris Johnson
Marcel Kramer
Russ Schmidt
Matt Weinandt
Jeff Steffen

GUESTS PRESENT

Annette Sudbeck, Manager
Chase Buettner, Resources Tech
Myles Lammers, Res Coord
Scott Fiedler, CKRWP Manager
Rebekah Jessen, Acting NRCS District Conservationist
Marilyn Schumacher, Office Mgr.

I, the undersigned Secretary for the Lewis & Clark Natural Resources District, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of proceedings had and done by the Board of Directors on May 21, 2020 and that all of the subject included in the foregoing proceeding were contained in the agenda for at least twenty four hours prior to said meeting; the minutes of the Chairman and Board of Directors of said district were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting of the said body, that all news media requesting notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subject to be discussed at said meeting.


Board Secretary