

N-CORPE

Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement Project

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

November 26, 2014, 9:30 a.m.

Twin Platte NRD Office, 111 South Dewey, Second Floor, North Platte, Neb.

Agendas were sent to all Board Members and all others requesting agendas. Agendas were posted in the following offices: Twin Platte NRD; Lower Republican NRD; Middle Republican NRD; and Upper Republican NRD.

Board Members Present: Dave Bartels (Lower Republican NRD); Brad Randel (Middle Republican NRD); Tom Terryberry (Upper Republican NRD); and Jerry Weaver (Twin Platte NRD).

Others Present: Jasper Fanning, Nate Jenkins, Bob Merrigan, Mike Keller, Jim Meismer, Kent Miller, Jack Russell, Mike Clements, Dean Large, Dan Estermann, Joe Estermann, Marlene Estermann, Benjie Loomis, TJ Walker, Kevin Fornoff, Steve Cappell, James Uerling, Brad Edgerton, and Scott Dicke.

Information Sent to Board Members: Agenda, financial report.

Information Available at Board Meeting: Agenda; minutes of Sept. 18, 2014 meeting; October 2014 payables; October 2014 profit and loss statement; October 2014 balance sheet; November 2014 payables; November 2014 profit and loss statement; November 2014 balance sheet; and financial statement for year ending June 30, 2014.

Acting Chairman Tom Terryberry called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. and designated Fanning to run the meeting. Fanning noted a copy of the Open Meetings Act was in the back of the room. Roll call was taken. Voting representatives from URNRD (Tom Terryberry); LRNRD (Dave Bartels); Middle Republican NRD (Brad Randel); and Twin Platte NRD (Jerry Weaver) were present.

Minutes:

- Weaver moved to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2014 meeting as presented. Seconded by Bartels. Roll call vote: 4-yes. 0-no. Motion approved.

Financial Report:

- a.) Payables and Financial Reports:** Fanning and Jenkins reviewed the payables and financial reports for September and October; the September profit loss stated \$41,279.81 in irrigation utilities that were actually augmentation pumping utility expenses in Midwest Public Power District.
 - Bartels moved to pay the payables and the financial reports. Seconded by Loomis. Roll call vote: 4-yes. 0-no. Motion approved.
- b.) Occupation Tax Issues:** Representatives of the Middle Republican NRD asked for an update on how occupation taxes in the District no longer required because of the change in NCORPE land status from irrigated to non-irrigated would be managed. Fanning said the amount of occupation tax no longer received by the MRNRD will be credited to the MRNRD the same as a cash payment. Adjusting entries will be provided.

- c.) **Tax Equalization and Review Commission Update:** Fanning reported that no hearing date had yet been set and that the Upper Republican NRD was still waiting on a decision from the commission on a similar case involving the Rock Creek Augmentation Project in Dundy County. There have been preliminary discussions about whether federal impact aid provided to some political subdivisions that receive less revenue because of federal projects/property that is non-taxable could provide guidance on how to address revenue concerns in Lincoln County.

Project Update

- a.) **Augmentation Operations:** Fanning reported that project pumping continues as planned. The preliminary forecast from the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources indicates that the NRDs will have to provide approximately 19,000 acre feet of water in 2015. Work is ongoing in the project well field to change impellers and add column.
- b.) **Medicine Creek Structures and Agreements:** Resolution of one significant crossing issue is being worked on and some minor work is required downstream.

Property Management/Operations

- a.) **Public Hunting Proposal/Game and Parks Commission:** T.J. Walker with Game and Parks presented a proposal whereby portions of the NCORPE property would be opened for public hunting and in exchange the Game and Parks Commission would offer a wildlife biologist position that could help maintain the property, doing such things as developing wildlife habitat, helping with range management, and doing tasks for NCORPE. Walker identified four separate areas with a total of 9,581 acres that could be opened to public hunting. Board members asked Walker questions about the proposal, including clarification of the proposed employee's duties.
- b.) **2015 Cropland Rental:** Fanning reported that the renter of 1,012 acres owned by NCORPE in the far northeast portion of the property did a good job of managing the farm ground and preventing erosion and other problems. He asked if the lease should be renewed or if bids should be accepted for a 2015 lease. It was agreed that staff should ask the current tenant if they were interested in leasing the land in 2015 at the same rate of \$ 270 an acre.
- c.) **Home and Shop Repairs:** Jenkins said a new heater was needed for the north shop because the current one is failing. A quote had been obtained for a forced air heater and a radiant heater. Guidance was needed on what type of heater to pursue. It was agreed one or more quotes should be obtained for house repairs on the property.
- Terryberry moved to get other quotes on a radiant heater; seconded by Bartels. Roll call vote: 4-yes. 0-no. Motion approved.
- d.) **2015 Annual Capacity of the Well field:** Kent Miller said the Twin Platte NRD was looking into the development of a regional model for the project to help determine future operations levels. A model may be completed next year. Jack Russell said it is likely the project will not operate after June 1, 2015 in 2015.

Onsite Manager Position/Onsite Staff Position

Members decided to discuss personnel issues later in the meeting during executive session.

Open Forum

Dan Estermann asked why September payables for NCORPE weren't presented to the board. He was told that they were approved at the last NCORPE meeting. He said NCORPE entered into executive session too often. He was told to review meeting minutes that specify why the board goes into executive session for legal purposes.

James Uerling said he preferred that water use allocations be reduced to reduce stream depletions by the 19,800 acre feet estimated to be needed by the state. He questioned the use of NCORPE relative to the NRDs Integrated Management Plans.

Project Budget/Member Credits

They were not discussed.

Executive Session

Randel moved to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters and negotiations of salaries, with attendees in the executive session to include NCORPE Board members and managers. Seconded by Bartels. Roll call vote: 4-yes. 0-no. Motion Approved. The executive session began at 10:57 a.m.

Weaver moved to exit executive session. Seconded by Bartels. The Board entered open session at 11:58 a.m.

Randel moved to offer the NCORPE manager position to Dave Fulton. Seconded by Terryberry. Roll call vote: 4-yes. 0-no. Motion approved.

Next Meeting: It was decided that the next meeting would be Dec. 17.

The meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

Brad Randel, Board Secretary

Date