

## N-CORPE

### *Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement Project*

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#### **Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**Jan. 21, 2015, 9:30 a.m.**

**Room 213, McMillen Hall, McCook Community College, McCook, 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:** Tim Kahrs (Lower Republican NRD); Brad Randel (Middle Republican NRD); Terry Martin (Upper Republican NRD); and Jim Meismer (Twin Platte NRD).

**Others Present:** Bill Bose, Kyle Shepherd, Jasper Fanning, Nate Jenkins, Benjie Loomis, Bob Merrigan, Kent Miller, Dean Large, Mike Keller, Dan Estermann, Joe Estermann, Lynn Frederick.

**Information Sent to Board Members:** Agenda, financial report

**Information Available at Board Meeting:** Agenda; minutes of Dec. 17, 2014 meeting; January 2015 payables; December 2014 profit and loss statement; balance sheet as of Jan. 20, 2015; summary of grass seed bids; proposed cropland lease agreement

Chairman Terry Martin called the meeting to order at 9:35 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 (Terry Martin); LRNRD (Tim Kahrs); Middle Republican NRD (Brad Randel); and Twin Platte NRD (Jim Meismer) were present.

#### **Minutes:**

- Meismer moved to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2014 meeting as presented. Seconded by Martin. Roll call vote: 4-yes. 0-no. Motion approved.

#### **Financial Report:**

- a.) Payables and Financial Reports:** Fanning reviewed the payables and financial statement. Fanning mentioned the payables include the final payment to Merryman Construction. Questions were asked about what is insured on the property and utilities for stock wells. Fanning responded that personal property including pivots and buildings are insured; there are utility bills for stock wells to be on standby status. Occupation tax credits for the Middle Republican and Twin Platte NRDs will appear as member contributions. The Board asked how proceeds from pivot sales are used; Fanning said for general operations, while proceeds from land sales were used to redeem bonds.
- Martin moved to approve the payables and financial report. Seconded by Meismer. Roll call vote: 4-yes. 0-no. Motion approved.

- b.) NCORPE Account Authorization:** The Board discussed adding new NCORPE Manager Kyle Shepherd and new board member Tim Kahrs, who represents the Lower Republican NRD on the NCORPE Board and is secretary/treasurer of NCORPE, to the NCORPE account.
- Meismer moved to add Kyle Shepherd to the NCORPE account. Seconded by Martin. Roll call vote: 4-yes. 0-no. Motion approved.
  - Martin moved to add Tim Kahrs to the account as secretary/treasurer of NCORPE. Seconded by Meismer. Roll call vote: 4-yes. 0-no. Motion approved.

#### **Project Update:**

- a.) Augmentation Operations:** Mike Keller said that impellers on four wells remain to be replaced and a temperature gauge on one drive is being fixed. Fanning said that all water required to be delivered for 2014 will soon be delivered and 2015 pumping will occur, to be completed before June 1. Should there be a minimal number of shutdowns, pumping could be completed in late April.
- b.) Medicine Creek Structures/Agreements:** Nothing reported.

#### **Property Management/Operations**

- a.) Grass Seed Bid:** Jenkins reviewed grass seed bids that had been received seeking enough grass seed to seed approximately 9,600 acres. Each of the bidders said they could supply approximately 1,500-2,500 acres worth of seed. Because of the uncertainty of future seed supplies and the desire to establish grass on the property as soon as possible for best land management practices, the Board agreed to pursue buying seed from as many of the bidders as necessary to attain 9,600 acres worth. The Board also agreed that is wise to get as much seed as possible this year in order to utilize a grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust.
- Randel moved to attain as much seed as possible from vendors who bid and to leverage the grant funds. Seconded by Kahrs. Roll call vote: 4-yes. 0-no. Motion approved.
- b.) Public Hunting Proposal/Game and Parks Commission:** Fanning and Jenkins reported that funding from the Game and Parks Commission that would pay for a new NCORPE employee, in exchange for NCORPE allowing public hunting access on approximately 8,500 acres, was dependent on a federal grant and that it would be a few months before it was known whether the grant would be awarded. Hiring, then, would not be able to occur until possibly July if the Board was to wait until acceptance of the grant was known. The Board decided it was prudent to pursue hiring an employee sooner and to involve Game and Parks under the assumption the grant would be received.
- Martin moved to pursue hiring an NCORPE employee, with Game and Parks being involved to the extent they are able. Seconded by Meismer. Roll call vote: 4-yes. 0-no. Motion approved.
- c.) 2015 Cropland Lease Agreement:** Jenkins provided an overview of the proposed 2015 lease including language that allowed the tenant to chop silage provided he drilled a cover crop by Oct. 1. The tenant also wished to graze the cover crop until April 1, 2016.
- Meismer moved to approve the lease as presented and to add allowance for grazing cover crop until April 1, 2016. Seconded by Martin. Roll call vote: 4-yes. 0-no. Motion approved.
- d.) 2015 Grazing Options/Rental:** Shepherd said that a landowner whose property abuts approximately 100 acres of NCORPE grassland that doesn't have a stock tank or well had requested to lease the land for grazing and the Board agreed to allow the rental. Shepherd and Jenkins said NRCS officials said grazing NCORPE property for approximately one month early in the spring would be acceptable and Shepherd will pursue options for doing so.
- e.) Gran Bin Site:** Shepherd said some bids had been received to break up and remove concrete pads that used to hold grain bins on the property. The cost would be approximately \$70,000 and it would cost another \$40,000 to crush the concrete.
- Meismer moved to authorize Shepherd to receive and awards bids for removing and crushing the concrete. Seconded by Martin. Roll call vote: 4-yes. 0-no. Motion approved.

**Open Forum:** Lynn Frederick said he has an old irrigation well he doesn't believe will provide adequate water in 2015. Kent Miller suggested NCORPE have the well looked at and determine a course of action.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting was scheduled for 10 a.m. Feb. 25 in McCook.

There was no other business and the board adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

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Brad Randel, Board Secretary

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Date