

N-CORPE

Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement Project

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

March 18, 10 a.m.

Hampton Inn, 200 Platte Oasis Parkway, 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: Brad Randel (Middle Republican NRD); Terry Martin (Upper Republican NRD); Jerry Weaver (Twin Platte NRD); and Tim Kahrs (Lower Republican NRD).

Others Present: Dean Large, Benjie Loomis, Mike Clements, Kyle Shepherd, Jasper Fanning, Kent Miller, Jim Meismer, Mike Keller, Nate Jenkins.

Information Sent to Board Members: Agenda, financial report

Information Available at Board Meeting: Agenda; minutes of Feb. 25, 2015 meeting; February 2015 payables; profit and loss statement; balance sheet as of Feb. 28, 2015; media column by Kyle Shepherd; NCORPE well field and pipeline loan debt service estimate from Ameritas.

Chairman Terry Martin called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. and designated NCORPE Manager Kyle Shepherd to run the meeting. Martin 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); Middle Republican NRD (Brad Randel); Twin Platte NRD (Jerry Weaver); and Lower Republican NRD (Tim Kahrs) were present.

Minutes:

- Martin moved to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2015 meeting as presented. Seconded by Randel. Roll call vote: 4-yes. 0-no. Motion approved.

Financial Report:

- a.) Payables:** Questions were asked about Bethel Bridge. Shepherd said it had washed out and been replaced. A question was asked about HOA and Fanning said it was for recent work. Shepherd said bin pads would be crushed soon; grass seeding has started.
 - Martin moved to approve the payables. Seconded by Tim Kahrs. Roll call vote: 4-yes. 0-no. Motion approved.
- b.) Financial Statement:** Fanning said an audit of NCORPE will begin fairly soon.
 - Martin moved to approve the financial statement. Seconded by Weaver. Roll call vote: 4-yes. 0-no. Motion approved.
- c.) Bond Refinancing:** Marc Munford and Dallas Watkins of Ameritas presented bond refinancing options that would short term bank financing with long term bond financing for the pipeline portion of the project. Munford estimated the interest on the bonds would average about 3.9%. Bonds would mature in 23, 20 or 15 years and total debt service would be approximately \$1 million annually for the approximately \$15 million bond issuance. It will take about 45 days to get firm interest rates. The three Republican NRDs agreed 15 year maturity was appropriate.
 - Martin moved to proceed with the refinancing. Seconded by Kahrs. Roll call vote: 4-yes. 0-no. Motion approved.

Project Update

- a.) Augmentation Operations:** Shepherd said there had recently been a power outage due to wind. To date, approximately 58,000 acre feet have been pumped. Project operations are expected to cease by early April.

- b.) **Seeding Update:** One contractor is onsite and has drilled 1,200 acres. All seed needed this year has been purchased and delivered. Some issues with Arrow Seed being too fluffy to feed through the drill were being addressed.

Property Management/Operations

- a.) **Public Hunting Proposal/Game and Parks Commission:** A new employee has been hired whose salary could be reimbursed from Game and Parks if an agreement with Game and Parks is eventually reached.
- b.) **NCORPE Policy:** Shepherd and the Board discussed what language should be in the potential agreement to address concerns that Game and Parks may stock animals. It was decided the potential agreement should state no game animals will be stocked.
- Weaver moved to enter executive session to discuss condemnation and potential litigation, with the executive session to include NCORPE representatives and alternates, NRD staff and NCORPE staff. Seconded by Martin. Roll call vote: 4-yes. 0-no. Motion approved. The board entered executive session at 11:03 a.m.
 - Randel moved to exit executive session and enter open session. Seconded by Weaver. Roll call vote: 4-yes. 0-no. Motion approved. The board entered open session at 11:47 a.m. No action was taken.
 - c.) **Office Tree Line:** Shepherd discussed a wish to have a windbreak around the NCORPE headquarters at a cost of approximately \$4,500.
 - Martin moved to allow staff to pursue a windbreak appropriate for the property with drip lines. Seconded by Randel. Roll call vote: 4-yes. 0-no. Motion approved.
 - d.) **Land/Facility Use Proposal:** Shepherd said the NCORPE committee established to consider options for the proposed egg facility recommended offering for sale a section of land on the Kason property south of Highway 23. But investors met with Shepherd and decided against the Kason property; they instead wanted project headquarters and a section of land west of it. Shepherd suggested they look at section 34 on the east end of the property off Somerset Road. The investors indicated that might work. The board discussed having an appraisal of the property done before offering the land for sale and having a right of first refusal in any contract that would allow NCORPE to buy the land back at the same price they had sold it in the event that the egg facility was not developed.

Open Forum: No one spoke.

There was no other business and the board adjourned at 12:17 p.m.

Brad Randel, Board Secretary

Date