

N-CORPE

Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement Project

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

April 15, 10 a.m.

Room 213, McMillen Hall, McCook Community College

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 Meisner, Mike Keller, Nate Jenkins, Dan Estermann, Marlene Estermann, Joe Estermann, Robert Peterson, Bill Sellers, T.J. Walker, Jack Russell, Scott Dicke, Adam Smith

Information Sent to Board Members: Agenda, financial report

Information Available at Board Meeting: Agenda; minutes of March 18, 2015 meeting; March 2015 payables; profit and loss statement by class; balance sheet by class; overview of MOU with Game and Parks Commission; proposed MOU from Game and Parks Commission; animal release policy.

Chairman Terry Martin called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m. and designated NCORPE Manager Kyle Shepherd to run the meeting. It was 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:

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

Financial Report and Payables: Discussion and action was postponed until later in the meeting.

Project Update

- Augmentation Operations:** Mike Keller reported that all of the wells were turned off recently and static water level had risen .5 feet in 24 hours. All well updates have been completed.
- Seeding Update:** New employee Bill Sellers reported that seeding was progressing well, approximately 3,711 acres had been completed by one contractor and all seeding was expected to be done by May 15.

Property Management/Operations

- Nebraska Forest Service Proposal:** Adam Smith of the Nebraska Forest Service presented a proposal to use wood chips on .88 miles of NCORPE roads as a pilot project to determine their usefulness. Total cost would be \$25,000 and NCORPE would be reimbursed that amount.
- Randel moved to proceed with the proposed project and directed Shepherd to work with the Forest Service. Seconded by Weaver. 3-yes. 1-no (Kahrs). Motion approved
 - Fencing:** Shepherd reported that an NCORPE neighbor wants to share the expense of replacing 1.5 miles of fence on the west side of cropland leased by NCORPE. Board members said any arrangement to repair fences should be in accordance with state law and expressed an intention for

NCORPE to pay half and landowners to pay half. Regarding expenses related to NCORPE property, Shepherd said a contractor had expressed interest in buying surplus, damaged ductile iron pipe. There are approximately three 20' sections of 42" pipe.

- Weaver moved to declare the pipe surplus material. Seconded by Randel. Roll call vote: 4-yes. 0-no. Motion approved.
 - c.) **Public Hunting Proposal/Game and Parks Commission:** Shepherd reported that NCORPE expressed interest in reaching an agreement with Game and Parks and that a draft agreement with Game and Parks appeared mostly acceptable; the two parties had verbally discussed three of four minor changes. A later draft presented by Game and Parks included 14 modifications, some of them substantial. TJ Walker of Game and Parks said he was unable to answer specific questions about the proposed changes. Board members expressed concerns with the changes and discussed whether Game and Parks goals of developing wildlife habitat concurred with NCORPE's goals of establishing rangeland. Walker said Game and Parks did not have funds available to pay for public access.
- Weaver moved to suspend further negotiations with Game and Parks. Seconded by Randel. Roll call vote: 4-yes. 0-no. Motion approved.
 - d.) **NCORPE Animal Policy:** The Board and Shepherd discussed a policy that says NCORPE will not release, stock or introduce nuisance and/or large game animals on any NCORPE property. The policy was initiated to quell rumors that game animals would be released on the property by Game and Parks.
- Weaver moved to approve the policy as presented. Seconded by Martin. Roll call vote: 4-yes. 0-no. Motion approved.
 - e.) **Truck Purchase:** Shepherd discussed the need to purchase a truck that could be used by the new employee.
- Randel moved to accept bids for a new truck. Seconded by Loomis. Roll call vote: 4-yes. 0-no. Motion approved.
 - f.) **Bostwick Irrigation District:** Clements said Bostwick Irrigation District was interested in buying water from NCORPE and that they had \$250,000 to spend. The district had expressed interest in buying water for \$45 an acre foot. Board members discussed the possible precedent of selling water to an irrigation district and whether it was prudent to pump more water than necessary. It was decided further discussions should take place in executive session because negotiations would be involved.
 - g.) **Land/Facility Use Proposal:** Shepherd reported that after NCORPE offered to sell a section of land on the east side of the property, investors in the proposed egg-production facility responded that land preparation costs would be too high. The investors again proposed buying land adjacent to NCORPE headquarters and the well field. Keller said that land and the land NCORPE proposed to sell was not substantially different. Egg investors have indicated they would probably look elsewhere to locate their facility.

Financial Report

- a.) **Payables:** Fanning said he and staff were in the process of specifying how project expenses should be allocated among individual NRDs and that information, along with financials, would be sent to NCORPE members for review.
- Kahrs moved to approve the payables. Seconded by Randel. Roll call vote: 4-yes. 0-no. Motion approved.

Open Forum

Dan Estermann said NCORPE should request that the State Auditor audit NCORPE

James Uerling asked if NCORPE would tour erosion near Wellfleet during a tour of the area by NARD.

Joe Estermann asked about well work.

Executive Session:

- Martin moved to enter executive session to discuss potential water pricing and potential litigation over possible property damages, to include NCORPE board members, alternates, managers and staff. Seconded by Kahrs. Roll call vote: 4-yes. 0-no. Motion approved. The Board entered executive session at 12:20 p.m.
- Kahrs moved to exit executive session. Seconded by Martin. Roll call vote: 4-yes. 0-no. Motion approved. The Board exited executive session and entered open session at 1:15 p.m.

There was no other business and the board adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Brad Randel, Board Secretary

Date