

N-CORPE

Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement Project

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2015 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: Kyle Shepherd, Jasper Fanning, Nate Jenkins, Dean Large, Jim Meismer, Kent Miller, Jack Russell, Bill Sellers, Connie Jo Discoe, Brad Edgerton, Jay Schilling, Craig Scott, Bob Merrigan, James Uerling, Gordon Duval, Joe Knox, Dan Estermann, Joe Estermann, Ben Miller, Benjie Loomis.

Information Sent to Board Members: Agenda

Information Available at Board Meeting: Agenda; minutes of April 15, 2015 meeting; April 2015 payables; April 2015 profit and loss statement; April 2015 profit and loss statement by class; April 2015 balance sheet by class; revised financial statement for fiscal year ending June 30, 2014.

Chairman Terry Martin called the meeting to order at 10:05 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:

- Kahrs moved to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2015 meeting as presented. Seconded by Randel. Roll call vote: 4-yes. 0-no. Motion approved.

Financial Report:

- a.) Payables:** Shepherd commented on items in the payables including costs associated with removing and crushing concrete grain bin pads and riprap purchased from BSB Construction to do crossing repairs. Questions were asked about payment to the North Platte telegraph for advertising expenses related to a job opening and bills associated with grass seeding.
- Martin moved to approve the payables as presented. Seconded by Randel. Roll call vote: 4-yes. 0-no. Motion approved
- b.) Financial Report:** Fanning and Shepherd reviewed the financial report. Auditors at the request of NCORPE had recently been gathering information to conduct the audit. An audit report is expected in a few months. Ameritas personnel were expected to discuss at the June board meeting a proposal to issue bonds for NCORPE construction costs. A revised financial statement that was presented did not need approval but was for board review.

Project Update

- a.) Seeding:** NCORPE employee Bill Sellers reported that all but four of the NCORPE circles had been seeded to native grass and forbs. One contractor has seeded 4,810 acres; the other contractor 4,561 acres. The remaining four circles will be drilled to Sorghum Sedan in the fall and seeded to grass in spring 2016.

Property Management/Operations

- a.) **Seed Drill Purchase:** Sellers and Shepherd said it may be prudent to purchase a seed drill to maintain cover in fragile areas such as hilltops, spot drill grass into some areas, and could be used to drill the four remaining circles to Sorghum Sedan. Drills owned by the NRDs had been used in the past but were needed by the NRDs at the same time a drill was needed at NCORPE. A new drill would cost \$25,000-\$28,000.
- Weaver moved to approve the purchase of a drill after receiving bids. Seconded by Martin. Roll call vote: 4-yes. 0-no. Motion approved.
 - b.) **Public Hunting at Kason:** Sellers presented a proposal to allow public hunting on NCORPE land south of Highway 23 referred to as Kason. The goal would be to allow public hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities for the public and educational opportunities for students. No center fire or muzzleloader hunting would be allowed. Ten circles would be open to hunting and no reservations would be required. Two parking lots along main roads would be constructed with rules and regulations posted and available in a dry box. No trapping would be allowed. Sellers also presented a proposal whereby hunting would be allowed using a first-come, first-serve reservation system.
- Randel moved to direct staff to proceed with plans to allow public hunting on the Kason property without requiring reservations. Seconded by Kahrs. Roll call vote: 4-yes. 0-no. Motion approved.
 - c.) **Wellfleet Dam:** A shoe fly design for the outlet structure was being developed. Once a design is complete and bids are accepted there will be discussions with other entities about paying for the work.
 - d.) **TERC Appeal:** The appeal hearing before the state Tax Equalization and Review Commission of Lincoln County's determination that NCORPE was not being used for a public purpose and therefore is subject to taxation is scheduled for October. Fanning reiterated NCORPE's position that it wanted to mitigate tax impacts and that the appeal process should unfold before a solution is sought.
 - e.) **Information Request:** Shepherd reported that state Sen. Mike Groene of North Platte had requested specific groundwater information from NCORPE. The information was determined to be a work in progress and preliminary so was not released. Shepherd said Groene was informed that the information would not be released unless the NCORPE board authorized its release. The board did not direct the release.

Open Forum

James Uerling made a presentation that included photos of what he said was stream bank erosion caused by NCORPE. He said the NCORPE land should be sold so taxes could be collected.

Joe Knox said he was concerned about silt in Wellfleet Lake.

Dan Estermann said NRDs are supposed to control erosion and flooding but instead is causing both and that he thought information requested by Groene was Twin Platte NRD's.

Jay Schilling said he had told landowners to come to the meeting to express concerns about erosion and suggested NCORPE, when operated, pump water at lower volumes.

Joe Estermann said NRD managers should be fired and NCORPE had caused flooding to an extent he had never before seen.

There was no other business and the board adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Brad Randel, Board Secretary_____

Date_____