

# N-CORPE

## *Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement Project*

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

**June 17, 2015 10 a.m.**

#### **Twin Platte NRD, 111 S. Dewey, 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:** Kyle Shepherd, Jasper Fanning, Nate Jenkins, Dean Large, Jim Meismer, Kent Miller, Bill Sellers, Bob Merrigan, Brian Cummings, Dan Estermann, Joe Estermann, Robert Peterson, Benjie Loomis, Scott Dicke, Mike Clements.

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

**Information Available at Board Meeting:** Agenda; minutes of May 20, 2015 meeting; May 2015 payables; May 2015 profit and loss statement; May 2015 balance sheet by class; financial statements for six months ended December 31, 2014; 2014 and 2015 pumping costs; draft 2016 budget.

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 May 20, 2015 meeting as presented. Seconded by Weaver. Roll call vote: 4-yes. 0-no. Motion approved.

#### **Financial Report:**

- a.) Payables:** Board members asked questions about expenses for pivot repairs. Shepherd said they were for pivots NCORPE was leasing. Weaver asked how payables compared to the profit and loss statement. Fanning said once payments are approved, they are entered into the books. For example, last month's payables are reflected in this month's profit and loss statement.
- Martin moved to approve the payables as presented. Seconded by Randel. Roll call vote: 4-yes. 0-no. Motion approved
- b.) Financial Statement:** Fanning discussed electrical charges for each of the NRDs for project pumping that occurred in 2014 and 2015. The cost is approximately \$38.67 per acre foot. That amount doesn't include demand charges. Fanning said the member Districts in the future could either pay based on a set rate, or wait until NCORPE is invoiced and pay actual electrical charges. Districts agreed to do the latter.  
Shepherd introduced Brian Cummins of accounting firm McChesney, Martin, Sagehorn. The firm will be doing financial bookwork for NCORPE.
- c.) Budget:** Shepherd presented a draft 2016 budget for board review. Fanning said he would see whether remaining bond requisition funds for capital expenditures or operating expenses. Jenkins said that pumping costs in the future should be less than they were in 2014 and 2015 because of the U.S.

Supreme Court decision that ensures Nebraska will no longer be charged with consuming water imported into the Republican Basin from the Platte Basin. It was mentioned that the budget could be acted upon in August.

**Project Update:** Shepherd said that since compact compliance operations ceased staff has been doing maintenance work such as repairing crossings. Fanning mentioned that legal counsel is exploring whether NCORPE could control water delivery under the project without owning the land and said a hearing before the state Tax Equalization Commission on Lincoln County's assertion that NCORPE is not being used for a public purpose is scheduled for Oct. 7.

### **Property Management/Operations**

- a.) **Bond Issuance:** District resolutions to allow issuance of bonds to finance project construction costs were briefly discussed.
- b.) **Seeding Presentation:** Range Manager Bill Sellers gave an overview of project seeding operations. Four circles have been sprayed with herbicide. Four circles will be drilled to cane and seeded to grass next spring. Sellers is tracking grass emergence on each of the circles.
- c.) **Liquidation of Pivots, Straw:** There are approximately 20 pivots that remain to be sold. Straw bales in excess of what will be needed on the property to prevent erosion and that need to be used before they rot were discussed.
- Weaver moved to proceed with selling the remaining pivots and straw bales. Seconded by Randel. Roll call vote: 4-yes. 0-no. Motion approved.
  - d.) **Wellfleet Dam:** A shoefly design that will allow project water to be diverted around the dam has been completed and submitted to three contractors.
  - e.) **Information Request:** Public information requests from Sen. Mike Groene of North Platte were discussed.
  - f.) **Open House:** A legislative interim hearing study on NCORPE is tentatively scheduled for August.
  - g.) **Land Use Agreement:** Shepherd said an organization interested in developing an egg facility has renewed interest in NCORPE property and now desire smaller plots of land. Discussions with developers will continue.

**Open Forum:** Robert Peterson said that legal notice of the NCORPE meeting had not been published in the North Platte Telegraph. Shepherd said that he had proof that the meeting notice had been sent to the Telegraph.

### **Executive Session:**

- Martin moved to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing staff reviews, to include board members, alternates and staff. Roll call vote: 4-yes. 0-no. Motion approved. The Board entered executive session at 11:58 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 12:18 p.m. No action was taken.

There was no other business and the board adjourned at 12:29 p.m.

Brad Randel, Board Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_