

N-CORPE

Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement Project

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

September 18, 2014, 9:30 a.m.

Twin Platte NRD Office, 111 South Dewey, Second Floor, 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: Bill Bose (Lower Republican NRD); Brad Randel (Middle Republican NRD); Terry Martin (Upper Republican NRD); and Jerry Weaver (Twin Platte NRD).

Others Present: Jasper Fanning, Nate Jenkins, Bob Merrigan, Mike Keller, Jim Meismer, Kent Miller, Jack Russell, Ann Fisher, Mike Clements, Dean Large, Mike Keller, Dan Estermann, Benjie Loomis, TJ Walker.

Information Sent to Board Members: Agenda

Information Available at Board Meeting: Agenda; minutes of July 16, 2014 meeting; August 2014 payables; September 2014 payables; July 2014 Profit and Loss Statement; Balance Sheet as of July 31, 2014; Proposed Scope of Duties for Onsite Manager Position; NCORPE Budget.

Chairman Terry Martin, called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m. and noted a copy of the Open Meetings Act was in the back of the room. He turned the meeting over to Jasper Fanning, manager of the Upper Republican NRD. Fanning announced that a copy of the Open Meetings Act was posted in the meeting room. Roll call was taken. Voting representatives from URNRD (Terry Martin); LRNRD (Bill Bose); Middle Republican NRD (Brad Randel); and Twin Platte NRD (Jerry Weaver) were present.

Minutes:

- Weaver moved to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2014 meeting as presented. Seconded by Martin. Roll call vote: 4-yes. 0-no. Motion approved.

Financial Report:

- a.) Payables:** Fanning reviewed the financial report and there were questions on the Merryman contract and wheat harvest. Income for the wheat harvest was reviewed. Jack Russell indicated that he wanted the MRNRD to be billed for NCORPE water that has been pumped thus far for the benefit of MRNRD; Fanning said that would be done, and for the LRNRD as well. There was a discussion about readings of electrical meters. Thus far electrical bills have been paid from the NCORPE account. Monthly electrical charges have averaged roughly \$200,000. There were questions about expenses incurred by URNRD; Jenkins said most was NCORPE's use of a URNRD tractor. Some work may still need to be done on some downstream crossings and expenses incurred. Once the auditor is finished with required audits of political subdivisions he was expected to be able to audit NCORPE, per NCORPE's directive.
- Martin moved to pay the payables and the treasurer's report. Seconded by Bose. Roll call vote: 4-yes. 0-no. Motion approved.

Project Update:

- a.) **Augmentation Operations:** Fanning said pumping has been going smoothly. When pumps were installed they were not set below the screen. Most ag wells sit below screens. Some of the wells will be tested for their capacity. When wells are pulled to replace impellers it will cost half the normal price to add column at the same time. When the system was shut off to work on the railroad bridge, there was a quick recovery in the well field. Drawdowns on the east end are similar to what was seen when they were used for irrigation purposes. Approximately 25,000 acre feet has been pumped to date. The cost per volume pumped has been the same despite issues with impellers that are being replaced. Wells where impellers have been replaced have demonstrated increased production of 300gpm-500gpm.

If Nebraska and Kansas can't reach agreement on crediting for augmentation projects it is expected that water will begin being released into Kansas in late September. Meisner asked if there were any negotiations with Kansas regarding crediting. If the same forecast is used next year as was used in 2014, the NRDs would have to make up about 11,000 acre feet. Crediting has been arbitrated and the states are discussing the issue outside of a U.S. Supreme Court trial. Fanning would not comment on negotiations but said that Kansas stands to gain control of water stored for their benefit.

Fanning asked if it was OK to add column to some wells where needed. Total cost would be approximately \$100,000. Weaver asked that Chris Miller come to the next board meeting and explain the issue.

- b.) **Medicine Creek Structures/Agreements:** Jack Russell said work has been done on a couple crossings. When legal issues arise regarding crossings he would rather they be handled by NCORPE. Brad Randel said in cases where the water is staying in the channel it's not prudent to pay people for crossing replacement but do work where needed.

Work has been done to prevent further erosion at a railroad crossing.

Property Management/Operations:

- a.) **Change Order:** Already discussed
- b.) **Superintendent/Manager Position:** Members reviewed a proposed scope of duties for an onsite NCORPE manager. Russell said he would like someone hired relatively soon to benefit from seeing the project while it is operating. Managers agreed. Fanning said NCORPE needs someone willing and able to make decisions in between board meetings. Salary will depend on the applicant.
- Martin moved to proceed with the hiring of an NCORPE manager; seconded by Weaver. Roll call vote: 4-yes. 0-no. Motion approved.
 - Weaver moved to sell the pumps and motors on Big Iron corresponding with the pivots being sold and stack the pumps and motors in a manner conducive to picking them up; seconded by Bose. Roll call vote: 4-yes. 0-no. Motion approved.

Surplus Property:

There was discussion about how many more pivots and wells to sell. Pros and cons of selling all remaining pivots and wells or a 20 or so at a time was discussed.

- Weaver moved to sell 20-25 pivots on Big Iron this year. Seconded by Bose. Roll call vote: 4-yes. 0-no. Motion approved.

Project Budget:

Fanning said the project budget would be updated based on what manager for NCORPE was hired. Fanning asked each District present an outlay of staff time and resources spent on the project so that they could be credited for those expenses as the project moved forward. Fanning said they would need an accounting of the time split between the well field and the south pipeline. A direct cash reimbursement is not being requested; time spent will be considered an in-kind contribution accounted for in future payments for operations of the project.

- Bose moved to approve NRD staff time as in-kind contributions; seconded by Martin. Roll call vote: 4-yes. 0-no. Motion approved.

Public Comment:

T.J. Walker of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission expressed interest in working with NCORPE to allow public access on some NCORPE ground. He asked if the board would be willing to consider proposals for public access. Walker said native grass emergence looked good onsite. Walker said if things worked out public access could be allowed next year or the following year. Walker said access could be allowed at times preferred by NCORPE instead of allowing access all year. Walker said Game and Parks could help provide some upkeep of the property. Fanning said the most probable block of land to allow hunting on was the Kason property south of Highway 23. Board members agreed and Walker said they would likely bring a proposal.

Dan Estermann said he had concerns about fire.

Executive Session

- Bose moved to enter executive session at 10:57 a.m. to discuss potential litigation, to include NRD staff; seconded by Weaver. Roll call vote: 4-yes. 0-no. Motion approved.
- Randel moved to exit executive session at 11:23 a.m.; seconded by Bose. Roll call vote: 4-yes. 0-no. Motion approved.

Next Meeting: The next meeting was scheduled for 9:30 a.m. CT Oct. 17 in Room 213 of McMillen Hall on the campus of McCook Community College.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:28 p.m.

Brad Randel, Board Secretary

Date