

N-CORPE

Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement Project

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Oct. 21, 2015 10 a.m.

Room 213, McMillen Hall, McCook Community College, McCook, Neb.

Agendas were sent to all Board Members and all others requesting agendas. Agendas were posted at www.ncorpe.org and 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); Dean Large (Upper Republican NRD); Jim Meismer (Twin Platte NRD). Absent: Lower Republican NRD.

Others Present: Jack Russell, Bob Merrigan, Kyle Shepherd, Jasper Fanning, Scott Dicke, Joe Estermann, Marlene Estermann, Mike Clements, Ken Anderson, Judy Pederson.

Information Sent to Board Members: Agenda; minutes of Sept. 2 meeting; payables; financial report and statement for year ended June 30, 2015; revised financial statement for one month ending July 31, 2015; financial statement for two months ending Aug. 31, 2015; financial statement for three months ending Sept. 30, 2015; employee policy manual.

Information Available at Board Meeting: : Agenda; minutes of Sept. 2 meeting payables; financial report and statement for year ended June 30, 2015; revised financial statement for one month ending July 31, 2015; financial statement for two months ending Aug. 31, 2015; financial statement for three months ending Sept. 30, 2015; employee policy manual.

Chairman Dean Large called the meeting to order at 10:08 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 the URNRD (Dean Large); Middle Republican NRD (Brad Randel); and Twin Platte NRD (Jim Meismer) were present. There was no voting representative of the Lower Republican NRD.

Minutes:

- Meismer moved to approve the minutes of the Sept. 2, 2015 meeting as presented. Seconded by Large. Roll call vote: 3-yes. 0-no. 1-absent. Motion approved.

Financial Report:

a.) Payables: Shepherd reviewed the payables and answered questions about specific items.

- Large moved to approve the payables as presented. Seconded by Meismer. Roll call vote: 3-yes. 0-no. 1-absent Motion approved.

b.) Financial Statements: Fanning and Shepherd provided an overview of the financial statements.

There was a discussion of the September assets, liabilities, and fund balances. Fanning explained how equity is distributed among the member Districts.

Project Update

- a.) Managers' Reports:** Shepherd provided a detailed account of work done by NCORPE employees during the previous month. Range Manager Bill Sellers had erected property signage, arranged for aerial photos of the property, helped with legislative hearing preparation, done a presentation at the State Fair, updated the website, and taken inventory of electric meters on the property, among other activities. Mike Keller had arranged for needed work on some augmentation wells and continued overseeing property cleanup, among other things. Shepherd reported that he had helped prepare for a legislative hearing, done presentations at the State Fair and spoke to area economic development leaders to correct misperceptions that NCORPE had not negotiated with a

proposed chicken-egg development facility. In fact, NCORPE created a subcommittee designated to help identify possible sites for the proposed facility and NCORPE had offered multiple sites on the NCORPE property as possibilities.

Property Management/Operations:

- a.) **Hiking/Biking Trail:** Judy Pederson of North Platte discussed the possibility of opening some of the NCORPE land on the eastern side of the property to hiking and biking by developing a low maintenance trail. Pederson said she expected that such a trail would receive significant use. Bill Sellers made a presentation on a possible trail on the east side of the property and said it could be used for hiking, biking and horseback riding. Costs of maintaining and developing a trail would be minimal. The Board discussed the proposal.
 - Meismer moved to direct staff to proceed with developing a trail. Seconded by Randel. Roll call vote: 3-yes. 0-no. 1-absent. Motion approved.
- b.) **Project Equity:** Fanning posed the question of whether a formal policy was needed regarding equity among Districts via their contributions to the project. Currently equity appears in cash accounts of the financial statements and financial contributions appear in the equity component of the financials. To avoid Districts making contributions to maintain equity even when contributions weren't required for project operations, Board members said contributions more than those made by other Districts would be treated as credits.
- c.) **Meeting Schedule:** The Board discussed having regular meetings once every two months. There was interest in holding policy workshops and members agreed those could be held in months when there were not Board meetings. Fanning suggested that if the meeting schedule were to change to request newspapers publish the change to the bimonthly schedule.
 - Randel moved to have meetings every other month beginning immediately so the next meeting would be held in December. Seconded by Meismer. Roll call vote: 3-yes. 0-no. 1-absent. Motion approved.
- d.) **NCORPE Hearing:** Shepherd reviewed the legislative hearing on NCORPE that was held Sept. 21. Mike Clements said he had received positive reaction to the hearing.
- e.) **Personnel Policy:** Shepherd reviewed proposed changes to the personnel policy. Changes to the current policy's hiring, job description, termination, tuition assistance, and personal business components were proposed.
 - Randel moved to approve the revised personnel policy. Seconded by Meismer. Roll call vote: 3-yes. 0-no. Motion approved.
- f.) **Management Plan Workshop:** Cancelled.

Open Forum: Marlene Estermann expressed concerns about blowing sand at the proposed trail site and said restrooms should be available and smoking prohibited. Joe Estermann recalled aspects of World War II.

Executive Session:

- Large moved to enter executive session to discuss pending and threatened litigation, with the session to include Board members, management and staff. Seconded by Meismer. Roll call vote: 3-yes. 0-no. 1-absent. Motion approved. The Board entered executive session at 11:20 a.m.
- Randel moved to exit executive session and enter open session. Seconded by Meismer. Roll call vote: 3-yes. 0-no. 1-absent. Motion approved. The Board entered open session at 11:42 a.m. and took no action. The meeting adjourned.

Brad Randel, Board Secretary _____

Date _____