

N-CORPE

Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement Project

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes March 14, 2017 Curtis Community Center, 201 Garlick, Curtis, NE

Agendas were sent to board members and 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: Terry Martin (Upper Republican NRD); Jerry Weaver (Twin Platte NRD) Benjie Loomis (Middle Republican NRD); Nelson F. Trambly (Lower Republican NRD)

Others Present: Robert Merrigan (Middle Republican NRD; Kyle Shepherd (NCORPE); Pierre Dean (NCORPE); Jack Russel (Middle Republic NRD); Mike Clements (Lower Republican NRD); Jim Meismer (Twin Platte NRD); Sylvia Johnson (Middle Republican NRD); Kevin Fornoff (Middle Republican NRD); Scott Dicke (Lower Republican NRD); Kent O. Miller (Twin Platte NRD); Jasper Fanning (Upper Republican NRD); Dick Hasenauer (North Platte); Dean Large (Upper Republican NRD); Kurt Pieper (North Platte); David Pieper (North Platte); Brian Renolds (McCook); Miles Morgan (USBR)

Information Sent to Board Members: Agenda; Minutes from February 22, 2017 meeting; Payables February 16, 2017 - March 8, 2017.

Information Available at meeting: Agenda; Minutes from February 22, 2017 meeting; Payables February 16, 2017 - March 8, 2017. Lincoln County Water farm is growing article.

Terry Martin called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. and designated NCORPE General Manager Kyle Shepherd to chair the meeting. Shepherd pointed out that there were copies of the Open Meeting Act posted in the back of the room.

Roll call was taken. Voting representatives from the Upper Republican NRD (Terry Martin); Middle Republican NRD (Benjie Loomis); Twin Platte NRD (Jerry Weaver); Lower Republican NRD (Nelson F. Trambly) were present.

Minutes:

Terry Martin moved to approve the minutes of February 22, 2017 meeting as presented and was seconded by Nelson F. Trambly. Roll Call, Upper Republican- Yes; Middle Republican- Yes; Twin Platte- Yes; Lower Republican- Yes. Vote: 4-Yes, 0-No. Motion Approved

Financial Report:

- a.) **Payables:** Shepherd presented the payables and opened the floor to questions. The board thought that item 2330 on the payables should not be the responsibility of NCORPE and should be removed from the payables. Benjie Loomis questioned why the fence supply expenditure was lower this month. Shepherd replied that it was due to the winter months and there's a mile and half of exterior fence, some interior fences plus another two and a half miles by Nikkels that was tentative based on the outcome of the land trade.

Terry Martin moved to approve the Financial Report Payables as presented with the exception item 2320 and was seconded by Benjie Loomis. Roll Call, Upper Republican- Yes; Middle Republican- Yes; Twin Platte- Yes; Lower Republican- Yes. Vote: 4-Yes, 0-No. Motion Approved.

- b.) **Bond Updates:** Shepherd said that Bruce Lefler advised that refunding of the bonds would save NCORPE about 10 million to 10.5 million dollars. The Bonds would be marketed on Tuesday of next week and there will be a follow-up board meeting on Wednesday. Mike Clements asked the interest rate and Shepherd replied that it's not locked in and would be confirmed by next week. Shepherd also assured the board that Lefler knows that he is not to proceed unless the rates are favorable.

Project Update:

Managers Reports:

Mike Keller – Has been busy monitoring the wellfield, the crossings and the lake, and completing maintenance on equipment. He has been working with HOA to address some computer issues, issues with Dawson Power company and issues with surge protectors. Keller has been assisted by hourly employees to complete some of these tasks.

Bill Sellers – Sellers continued in removal of Eastern Red Cedars, cleared out tire trash piles and seeded the area, and currently preparing for spring grazing. He was assisted by hourly employees to complete some of these tasks.

Kyle Shepherd – Shepherd has been working on the bond reissue, In Kind, the budget, RFPs, attended several meetings and worked on public relations.

Property Management / Operations

a.) Lone Star extension – Dick Hasenhauer

Mr. Hasenhauer requested an easement or a county road access through the NCORPE property. Hasenhauer wanted to either extend Lone Star Road to the Hersey Dickens Road and/or join the Hershey Dickens Road to Summerset Road. Shepherd said that he was told that the county didn't have sufficient funds to build or maintain a new road. The Board would be happy to work with Hasenhauer and Jerry Weaver suggested that he presented a proposal with the routes desired as the board has no objections to the road if it doesn't divide the property.

b.) UNL Map – Shepherd said that a new UNL map has been released. Shepherd said that there appeared to be inaccuracies on the map. However, the report has explained the differences. Once the model is completed a more precise interpretation should be available.

c.) Alternate Power Generation

Shepherd said that there have been several proposals on wind generation and development agreements. The board directed Shepherd to send out some RFPs and seek some other proposals for wind generation. Shepherd said that there were a few road blocks that has slowed the RFP process down. He does not think that NCORPE is ready to do a RFP at the time. However, a couple companies had contacted him and they will attend a meeting in April to present their proposals.

d.) Pumping Update

Shepherd told the board that NCORPE aims to complete pumping on March 27, 2017. Shepherd said that NCORPE will begin to decrease the amount of water being pumped on March 24, 2017 and everything should be completed by April 1, 2017. Jerry Weaver asked if the target remains the same and Shepherd confirmed that is still the same at 10,800 acre-feet. Shepherd said that the pumping had been extended due to computer error that caused inaccuracies in the actual amount of water pumped.

e.) Land Trade Options Update

Shepherd said that the initial parties that were interested in trading land were no longer interested. The other party that had property suitable to be traded was invited to present their proposal to the board for consideration. Kurt and David Pieper were present and Kurt Pieper spoke on their behalf. Pieper represented four quarters in section 261131. Pieper said that he sought out MTC properties which is represented by Brian Renolds and continued that if combined with MTC Properties they would have a total of 911.6 acres to trade. He believed that NCORPE has a total of 1012.06 which is a difference of about 100 acres more than they have should you match acre for acre. Jasper Fanning asked if they were certified acres or irrigated acres and Pieper confirmed that they were certified acres. Pieper said that they would want the entire eight pivots and understand that they would have to pay NCORPE the difference for the additional acres. Renolds said that they have about 376 irrigated acres on Sommerset and would like to get similar property to what they have preferably in Twin Platte. Pieper said that they want to trade to increase the amount of property that they currently have, move closer to their storage facilities and move away from their current water usage limitations. Pieper also said that they are willing to share the cost of having appraisals done. They are willing to rent the eight pivots owned by NCORPE while the land trade is being completed.

f.) Legislative Update

Kyle Shepherd said that LB218 that forces the sale of NCORPE's land had a motion to stop the bill but was not approved. It is still in committee and is more likely to remain in committee until next year.

g.) Third Party Audit

Kyle Shepherd advised that RMS was suggested by the managers to perform the third-party audit. Shepherd said that RMS estimates the cost for completing the audit to be between \$25,000 and \$35,000. Jasper Fanning suggested that a contractual agreement be made to not exceed \$35,000.

Benjie Loomis moved the motion to allow RMS perform the audit not to exceed \$35,000, seconded by Jerry Weaver.

Roll Call; Twin Platte NRD – Yes; Upper Republican NRD – Yes; Middle Republican NRD – Yes; Lower Republican NRD – Yes. Vote 4 – Yes, 0 – No, Motion Approved.

Open Forum

There were no questions from the audience.

Terry Martin moved the motion to go into executive session to discuss pending litigation and land purchasing to include board members NCORPE representatives, alternates and managers and NRDs staff at 11:46 am. Motion was seconded by Nelson F. Trambly. Roll call, Twin Platte – Yes; Upper Republican – Yes; Middle Republican – Yes; Lower Republican – Yes. Vote 4 – Yes, 0 – No. motion Approved.

Terry Martin moved the motion to exit executive session 2:05 pm seconded by Nelson F. Trambly. Roll call, Twin Platte – Yes; Upper Republican – Yes; Middle Republican – Yes; Lower Republican – Yes. Vote 4 – Yes, 0 – No. motion Approved.

The meeting was immediately adjourned as there were no other matters to be discussed.

Benjie Loomis, Board Secretary

Date