

N-CORPE

Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement Project

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Wednesday, April 20, 2016 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: Sylvia Johnson (Middle Republican NRD); Jack Russell (Middle Republican NRD); Jim Meismer (Twin Platte NRD); Dean Large (Upper Republican NRD); Brad Randel (Middle Republican NRD); Kyle Shepherd (NCORPE); Pierre Dean (NCORPE); Robert Merrigan (Middle Republican NRD); Nate Jenkins (Upper Republican NRD); Jasper Fanning (Upper Republican NRD); Scott Dickie (Lower Republican NRD); Kent O. Miller (Twin Platte NRD); Bill Sellers (NCORPE); Brian Reynolds (McCook); Dan Estermann (Wellfleet); Jeff Nichols (NRCS, North Platte).

Information Sent to Board Members: Agenda; Minutes from February 17, 2016 meeting; Water Service Agreement; Bills and expenditures December 8, 2015 through February 15, 2016; Financial statements for six months ending December 31, 2015.

Information Available at Board Meeting: Agenda; Minutes from February 17, 2016 meeting; Water Service Agreement; Bills and expenditures December 8, 2015 through February 15, 2016; Financial statements for six months ending December 31, 2015.

Terry Martin called the meeting to order at 10:07 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 (Brad Randal); Twin Platte NRD (Jerry Weaver); and Lower Republican NRD (Nelson Trambly) were present.

Minutes:

Terry Martin moved to approve the minutes of February 17, 2016 meeting as presented and was seconded by Nelson Trambly. Roll call vote: Upper Republican NRD – Yes; Lower Republican NRD – Yes; Middle Republican NRD – Yes; Middle Republican NRD – Yes
4- Yes 0- No; Motion Approved.

Financial Report:

- a.) **Payables:** Shepherd presented the payables and advised that Nelson F. Trambly had been added to the Bank account. Brad Randal asked how much fence had been installed, and Shepherd responded about 10 miles and an estimated 7-9 miles to be completed. Randal also asked if interior perimeter fences were being done, Shepherd replied that mostly exterior fences were being done at the time. Robert Merrigan asked how many submersible pumps were replaced and Shepherd responded that 7 were replaced.
Roll call vote: Upper Republican NRD – Yes; Lower Republican NRD – Yes; Middle Republican NRD – Yes; Middle Republican NRD – Yes
4- yes 0- No; Motion Approved.
- b.) **Financial Statements:** Shepherd provided an overview of the financial statements. Terry Martin moved the motion to accept the Financial Statements as present and seconded by Jerry Weaver.
Roll call vote: Upper Republican NRD – Yes; Lower Republican NRD – Yes; Middle Republican NRD – Yes; Middle Republican NRD – Yes
4- Yes 0- No; Motion Approved.

Project Update:

Managers Reports:

Bill Sellers – Worked on maps and created Red Flag policy, assisted with stock wells for grazing, worked with NRCS, hike and bike trail, presented several presentations, assisted with Prairie Chicken project, coordinated flash grazing project, and utilized part-time employees to accomplish some of these tasks.

Mike Keller – Continued to assist with loading sold auction items, maintained well fields, worked with vendors and contractors to address well and pipeline issues, worked dam repair and pivot removal, and utilized part-time to complete these tasks.

Kyle Shepherd – Overseen and assisted with various projects, gave irrigator tour, assisted with the model, did public relations, worked on wells and pipelines.

Property Management / Operations

a.) Proposal on leasing land for prescribed burns

Bill Sellers presented proposal for leasing land to prescribed burns participants for their cattle to graze on. Terry Martin asked how soon NCORPE would be involved and what would be NCOPRE's obligations. Sellers responded that there may be a section or a section and a half that could be grazed as early as 2017 but thinks that 2018-2019 would be more realistic. Nelson F. Trambly asked what type of fencing would be used and how would it be protected during prescribed burns. Sellers responded that at the moment temporary electric fence is currently being used on the perimeters to contain cattle and permanent fencing is being installed along the property borders. Jeff Nichols added that a border would be mowed around the burn area and the intensity prescribed burns are much lower than a

regular wild fire. Jerry Weaver suggested that permanent fencing be used for interior fencing instead of temporary fencing. Kyle Shepherd said that NCORPE is currently installing perimeter fences and once that is completed consideration would be given to interior fencing. Dean Large asked who would be eligible to bring their cattle for grazing. Jeff Nichols responded that prescribed burns participant within NCORPE's NRDs would be eligible to bring their cattle. Dean Large also asked about the time frame and recovery time for burns, Nicholls responded that it could range between 12-18 months.

b.) Grazing Update

Bill Sellers gave a brief update on the flash grazing status. He says that the process seems to be going smoothly even though in some areas the cattle stayed longer than originally scheduled.

c.) Well field operation update

Kyle Shepherd gave an update on well field operations. Shepherd said that 28046 acre feet was pumped so far of the 31000 acre feet target. Thus a 30 day shut down plan on the wells will began on April 19, 2016. Shepherd also mentioned some emergency shut downs that were done due to weather conditions to prevent flooding, that delayed the starting of the shut down process. He mentioned that there were some issues with the recording of data as output is not being accurately recorded due to discrepancies in meters. He further stated that HOA suggested adding 2 computers to help synchronize the time on the wells with 1 of them being used for redundancy. Brad Randal asked about monthly updates to the NRDs in regards to damages and other incidentals. Kyle Shepherd responded saying that they are currently being sent to the state so it could be very easily sent to the board as well. Jack Russell asked if information could be furnished on the starting up and shutting down of wells. Shepherd stated that monthly updates would be sent to the board as requested by the board.

Roll call vote: Upper Republican NRD – Yes; Lower Republican NRD – Yes; Middle Republican NRD – Yes; Middle Republican NRD – Yes

4- Yes 0- No; Motion Approved.

d.) Model Update

Kyle Shepherd stated the model has been developed, parameters are being stabilized and it is preparing to be calibrated. Shepherd stated that the model should be ready the end of September. Kent O. Miller added that the NRDS are also meeting with Jim Schneider in regards to the model. Miller also asked what type of reports would be required to simplify the model and bring clarity to AEM flight lines. Kent O. Miller said that AEM flight lines would begin this summer. Miller said that applications for grants from the NET should cover about 70% of

the estimated cost of the flight lines. Nelson F. Trambly asked how the data would be used and was answered by Jerry Weaver as Twin Platte had utilized data from flight lines before.

e.) Medicine Creek.

Jack Russell suggested that a culvert should be added at Medicine Creek to assist with cattle crossing.

f.) North Pipeline Update

Kent O. Miller spoke on easements for the proposed pipeline. Jasper Fanning noted that the agreement does not give permission for NCORPE to access the easement or the pipeline on Twin Platte NRD's property. He suggested that an easement be added to the document and presented at the next board meeting.

g.) Water Sustainability Fund Grant

Jasper Fanning spoke on applying for a grant for a pipeline for water recharging into Medicine Creek. Nelson F. Trambly stated that the recharging would be beneficial rather than letting the excess water go uncollected. Nate Jenkins spoke on the availability of funds from grants for the project. Kent O. Miller stated that there would be resistance and this is not the best time for a reversal pipeline. Jack Russell asked if the pipeline and grants were approved if the Twin Platte NRD would support it. Kent O. Miller replied that Twin Platte NRD would not support it at this time.

Operations Workshop

Jerry Weaver suggested that guides as to what constitutes the necessity of an emergency shutdown be established. Jack Russell had questions on how much the wells would be pumping in compared to what was initially established. It was suggested that it also be established when NCORPE should and should not be used for pumping.

Kyle Shepherd opened the floor to the audience. Audience members declined to comment.

Nelson F. Trambly moved to go into executive session to discuss threatened and pending litigation and real estate negotiations, to include the NCORPE board and staff. Seconded by Terry Martin. Roll call vote: Upper Republican NRD – Yes; Lower Republican NRD – Yes; Middle Republican NRD – Yes; Middle Republican NRD – Yes
4- Yes 0- No; Motion Approved.

The board entered executive session at 1:42 p.m.

Randal moved to exit executive session and enter open session. Seconded by Terry Martin. Roll call vote: Upper Republican NRD – Yes; Lower Republican NRD – Yes; Middle Republican NRD – Yes; Middle Republican NRD – Yes

4- Yes 0- No; Motion Approved.

The board entered open session at 2:44 p.m. and adjourned at 2:47 p.m. as there was no other business.

Brad Randel, Board Secretary

Date