N-CORPE

 ***Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement Project***

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**2020 Annual Report Hearing**

Tuesday April 20th, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. Central Time

At the Lower Republican NDR office,

30 N. John St. Alma, NE 68920

Terry Martin called to review the 2020 Annual Report Hearing at 10:02 a.m. No comments from the public were made. This review was closed at 10:03 a.m.

 **Board Meeting**

*April 20th, 2021, 10 a.m. Central Time*

*Lower Republican NDR Office*

*30 N. John St., Alma, NE 68920*

**Draft Version**

Agendas were sent to board members and others requesting agendas. Agendas were posted at [www.ncorpe.org](http://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); Nelson Trambly (Lower Republican NRD); Benji Loomis (MRNRD), Jim Meismer (TPNRD).

**Others Present:** Kyle Shepherd (NCORPE); Nate Jenkins (URNRD); Todd Siel (LRNRD); Kent Miller (TPNRD); Jack Russell (MRNRD); Jay Schilling (MRNRD); Nick Simonson; Mike Keller (NCORPE); Amy Cauffman (NCORPE)

**Information Sent to Board Members:** Notice; Agenda; Minutes of January 20th Board Meeting; NCORPE Annual Report – 2020; Accounts Payable, 2020 Financial Audit, and Six Months Ended December 31, 2020 Financial Statements.

Terry Martin called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. and designated NCORPE’s General Manager Kyle Shepherd to chair the meeting. Shepherd pointed out that the Open Meetings Act was posted.

Roll call was taken. Voting representatives from the Upper Republican NRD (Terry Martin); Twin Platte NRD (Jim Meismer); Lower Republican NRD (Nelson Trambly); Middle Republican NRD (Benji Loomis) were present.

**Public Forum**

Shepherd opened the Public Forum. No members of the public commented.

**Annual Audit**

Robert Meyer reviewed the audit for the year 2020. He stated that NCORPE was in the maintenance stages of production exhibiting low activity such as new construction. Meyer expressed the budget was in place and exemplified good participation and that the insurance had been paid and was in place adequately from the business perspective. Meyer also claimed the breakdown of the individual NRDs were reasonable and the segregation of duties showed no issues. Meyer opened to the floor for questions. Siel had a question about contributions.

Meismer moved to approve the Annual Audit. The motion was seconded by Trambly.

Roll Call: Upper Republican NRD – Yes; Middle Republican NRD – Yes; Lower Republican NRD – Yes; Twin Platte NRD – Yes. Vote 4 – Yes, 0 – Abstain. Motion approved.

**Minutes of the October 21st, 2020 Meeting**

Shepherd presented the draft minutes of the January 20th meeting to the board.

Meismer moved to approve the minutes of the January 20th, 2020 meeting. The motion was seconded by Trambly.

Roll Call: Upper Republican NRD – Yes; Middle Republican NRD – Yes; Lower Republican NRD – Yes; Twin Platte NRD – Yes. Vote 4 – Yes, 0 – Abstain. Motion approved.

**Annual Report**

Shepherd presented the 2020 annual report to the board.

Martin moved to approve the annual report. The motion was seconded by Meismer.

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

**Fresno Pivots**

Discussion took place about the condition of the land and the selling of the 4 Fresno pivots.

Martin moved to discontinue the electrical use on the 4 Fresno pivots and to sell them for $10,000 each. The motion was seconded by Loomis.

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

**Payables**

Shepherd presented the payables to the board. Shepherd noted the correction on page 18 as follows: the four entries of Land Energy Charge should state Land Demand Charge. Further discussion included: seed for 8 pivots on page 2, augmentation repairs on page 5, Mike’s replacement truck on page 10, yard seed on page 16, and fencing on page 17. Shepherd also stated the 1st half grass leases were paid in full and shared the 2021 Grazing/Seeding Maps.

Martin moved to approve the payables as presented and was seconded by Meismer.

Roll Call: Upper Republican NRD – Yes; Middle Republican NRD – Yes; Lower Republican NRD – Yes; Twin Platte NRD – Yes. Vote 4 – Yes, 0 - Abstain. Motion approved.

**Financial Statement**

Shepherd presented the financial statements to the board. Siel questioned the cash contributions on page 4 and how it would relate to the previously discussed audit contributions.

Martin moved to approve the financial statements as presented and was seconded by Trambly.

Roll Call: Upper Republican NRD – Yes; Middle Republican NRD – Yes; Lower Republican NRD – Yes; Twin Platte NRD – Yes. Vote 4 – Yes, 0 – Abstain. Motion approved.

**Project Update**

**Managers Reports**

Mike Keller – Keller received a new truck. His old truck has been converted into a fire sprayer which was used recently to help with 2 neighboring fires.

Kyle Shepherd – Shepherd shared details and pictures of grain bin tear down and removal which are awaiting shipment, yearlings in spring grazing, and Bob Lemon seeding at one of the dove hill circles.

**Property Management/Operations**

**Game and Parks position/Range Manager position**

Shepherd indicated that managers had previously met and discussed the new position and agreed to move forward in the hiring with the Game and Parks. However, Adam Kester from Game and Parks said they would unlikely be able to provide the funding for the new position. Kester did not partake in the board meeting. Further discussion took place about the necessity of continuing to hire for the new position with emphasis on finding and hiring the right person.

Martin moved to start the hiring process. The motion was seconded by Trambly.

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

**Public Hunting**

Discussion took place about possibly increasing the amount of land to be utilized for public hunting. Major safety concerns were addressed with hunting and grazing simultaneously. Martin suggested to table this discussion.

**2022 Budget**

Shepherd presented the budget and there were no questions or concerns.

**Legislative Update**

Introduced NCORPE bills are still in committee.

**Electrical**

**Midwest Billing**

Discussion took place about the difficulties with Midwest Public Power and the NCORPE augmentation wells in their service. Due to the ongoing issues, Shepherd presented to the board the option of switching from Midwest service to Dawson Public Power service.

Loomis moved to approve the process of Dawson serving all of NCORPE’s augmentation wells. The motion was seconded by Trambly.

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

**Backup Generator**

Shepherd informed the board that the NCORPE office has no backup generator and expressed the need for one. 2 bids were presented from electrical contractors. These were discussed and it was agreed upon that a generator was necessary.

Martin moved to approve Shepherd pursuing a backup generator for the NCORPE office. The motion was seconded by Loomis.

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

**Executive Session**

No executive session.

The meeting adjourned at 11:53 a.m. by Martin.

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Benjie Loomis, Board Secretary Date