

N-CORPE

Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement Project

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Wednesday, December 14, 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) Brad Randal (Middle Republican NRD); Lower Republican NRD was not represented.

Others Present: Robert Merrigan (Middle Republican NRD); Alex Boyce (Middle Republican NRD); Bruce Curtis (Upper Republican NRD); Dean Large (Upper Republican NRD); Kyle Shepherd (NCORPE); Pierre Dean (NCORPE); Nate Jenkins (Upper Republican NRD); Kent O. Miller (Twin Platte NRD); Bill Sellers (NCORPE); Mrs. Estermann (Wellfleet); Dan Estermann (Wellfleet); Mike Clements (Lower Republican NRD); Benji Loomis (Middle Republican NRD); Marvin Knoll (Knoll Ranch); Miles Morgan (United States Bureau of Reclamation); Cody Styemeyer (North Platte); B.J. Wilson (North Platte); Dan Carl (North Platte); Ken Anderson (North Platte); Bauy Carl (North Platte); Bruce McDermott (Wellfleet); Steve Potter (North Platte); Mike Matheson (Lincoln)

Information Sent to Board Members: Agenda; Minutes from November 21, 2016 meeting; Bills and expenditures September 22, 2016 through December 14, 2016; Financial statements for three months ending September 30, 2016.

Terry Martin called the meeting to order at 10:00 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) were present, the Lower Republican NRD was not represented.

Minutes:

Terry Martin moved to approve the minutes of November 21, 2016 meeting as presented and was seconded by Jerry Weaver. Roll Call, Upper Republican- Yes; Middle Republican- Yes; Twin Platte- Yes; Lower Republican- Not represented. Vote: 3-Yes, 0-No, and 1- Absent. Motion Approved

Financial Report:

- a.) **Payables:** Shepherd presented the payables and opened the floor to questions. Brad Randel asked if the fencing is almost completed to which Shepherd replied yes. Jerry Weaver Asked if the billing was for interior fencing and was told yes by Shepherd. Brad Randel asked about the progress of the work on the creek and Shepherd responded that the work is mostly completed. Robert Merrigan asked if NCORPE bills are still going through Upper Republican NRD and Shepherd advised the only the credit cards and salaries were paid through the Upper Republican NRD. Jerry Weaver asked if the payment to the Flatwater group was for the model and Shepherd confirmed that it was.

Jerry Weaver moved to approve the Financial Report Payables as presented and was seconded by Terry Martin.

Roll Call, Upper Republican- Yes; Middle Republican- Yes; Twin Platte- Yes; Lower Republican- Not represented. Vote: 3-Yes, 0-No, and 1- Absent. Motion Approved.

- b.) **Financial Statements:** Shepherd provided an overview of the Financial Statements. Terry Martin requested to have the financial reports reviewed during another meeting in more details. Other Board members agreed to reviewing the reports in more detail during the next board meeting.

Terry Martin moved the motion to accept the Financial Statements as present and seconded by Jerry Weaver.

Roll Call, Upper Republican- Yes; Middle Republican- Yes; Twin Platte- Yes; Lower Republican- Not represented. Vote: 3-Yes, 0-No, and 1- Absent. Motion Approved.

- c.) **Bond Updates:** Kyle Shepherd read a report submitted by Ameritas with an update on the bonds. Based on the report the board will not reissue bonds until there is significant changes in the market. Kent O. Miller was concerned that the board missed the opportunity to issue bonds due to the reports not being prepared in time. He was advised by Nate Jenkins that completion was delayed due to data not being submitted in time for earlier completion. Miller responded that the data could have been made available sooner if the NRDs were advised that outstanding data were delaying the completion of the Reports.

Project Update:

Managers Reports:

Bill Sellers – Worked on controlling Canada thistles, preparing stock wells for winter and spring, removing cedars, attended the NARD conference, attended the Society for Range Management annual meeting, preparation of haying and grazing plans and posted them for bidding – posting on NCORPE’s website, Craigslist, Face Book and newspapers, gave several tours and utilized part-time employees to complete some of these tasks.

Mike Keller – Turned on wells to start pumping, addressed issues on the Wellfleet lake, performed maintenance on equipment, worked with engineers on the construction of the north discharge and bid documents for the north pipeline, and utilized part-time employees to complete some of these tasks.

Kyle Shepherd – Attended NARD conference, water forum, several boards meetings, was present at the Supreme Court, worked on bonds, did public relations, assisted with wellfield operations.

Property Management / Operations

a.) Flatwater excess flows study

Shepherd advised that the study has been completed and will be presented during the next board meeting.

b.) Bruce McDermott request

Steve Potter represented Bruce McDermott and spoke on his behalf. He expressed Mr. McDermott's concerns that the wetlands on his property would not consistently hold water. He also complained that the water would flood out of the creek affecting the usage of his pivots. He also stated that there are noxious weeds that need to be removed. The board asked for something in writing that specifies their requests and concerns to be reviewed by the board for further consideration.

c.) Alternate Power Generation

Mike Matheson from Aksamit Energy Development presented a wind farm proposal to the board. Matheson proposed a potential 200 megawatt wind farm on NCORPE's property. This could include about 70 – 100 wind turbines, a substation and an operations/maintenance building. Matheson estimated a \$600,000 annual income to NCORPE per year just for land lease alone as well as a percentage of the total output. The county could also be set to collect about \$700,000 annually in taxes from the project. There would be a two year testing and gathering of data along with environmental studies before the project would officially start.

d.) Land Trade Options

Kyle Shepherd spoke on potential land trade options in relations to eight circles owned by NCORPE but not located next to the well fields. The proposal was to trade those eight circles for land located closer to the existing wellfields then retire those irrigated acres. There were three land owners that approached NCORPE in regards to a possible land trade. Of the three properties the Nikkel's property was closest to the wellfield and was fairly close in size and estimated price. Nate Jenkins suggested that an appraisal be done on both properties before the board considers any negotiation in relations to the land trade.

Terry Martin moved the motion to permit NCORPE's management to seek appraisals for both the Nikkel's property and the eight circles owned by NCORPE. Brad Randel seconded the motion. Roll Call, Upper Republican- Yes; Middle Republican- Yes; Twin Platte- Abstained; Lower Republican- Not represented. Vote: 2-Yes, 0-No, 1- Abstained, and 1- Absent. Motion Approved.

e.) Model Update

Kyle Shepherd advised that the model is almost completed. Completion is estimated with 4-5 months as data is still being collected.

Dean Large noted that the board is still discussing the land trade options and have not made any decisions on the land trade as yet. Dan Carl asked if there was any way NCORPE would consider selling the land instead of trading. Kent O. Miller said that trading is the best option at this time to comply with the state water laws the acres must be maintained.

Executive Session

Terry Martin moved to go into executive session to discuss pending and current litigation, to include the NCORPE board and staff along with NRD staff. Seconded by Brad Randel. Roll Call, Upper Republican- Yes; Middle Republican- Yes; Twin Platte- Yes; Lower Republican- Not represented. Vote: 3-Yes, 0-No, and 1- Absent. Motion Approved. The board entered executive session at 12:12 p.m.

Brad Randel moved to exit executive session. Seconded by Dean Large. Roll Call, Upper Republican- Yes; Middle Republican- Yes; Twin Platte- Yes; Lower Republican- Not represented. Vote: 3-Yes, 0-No, and 1- Absent. Motion Approved. The board exited the executive session at 12:42 p.m. and was immediately adjourned as there were no further matters to be discussed.

Brad Randel, Board Secretary

Date