

N-CORPE

Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement Project

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Wednesday, February 17, 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); Mike Clements (Lower Republican NRD); ; Kyle Shepherd (NCORPE); Pierre Dean (NCORPE); Bob 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) Denny Oelschlager (Nebraska Land Conservation); Mark Cooper (Nebraska School Land Association).

Information Sent to Board Members: Agenda; Minutes from December 9, 2015 meeting; Bills and expenditures December 8, 2015 through February 15, 2016; Financial statements for five months ending November 30, 2015.

Information Available at Board Meeting: Agenda; Minutes from December 9, 2015 meeting; Bills and expenditures December 8, 2015 through February 15, 2016; Financial statements for five months ending November 30, 2015.

Terry Martin called the meeting to order at 10:01 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); and Lower Republican NRD (Nelson Trambly) were present.

Minutes:

- Terry Martin moved to approve the minutes of December 9, 2015 meeting as presented and was seconded by Nelson Trambly. Roll Call Vote: 4-Yes, 0-No. Motion Approved

Financial Report:

- a.) **Payables:** Shepherd presented the payables. Benjie Loomis and Mike Clements asked questions about the solar pumps and that were answered by Kyle Shepherd. Kent O. Miller asked questions regarding power billing during non-pumping periods and they were addressed by Kyle Shepherd and Bill Sellers. Jim Meismer asked questions on poured concrete loads that were answered by Kyle Shepherd. Kent O. Miller and Jim Meismer asked questions on engineering billing that were also answered by Kyle Shepherd. Terry Martin moved to approve the payables as presented and was seconded Benjie with one exception to be adjusted. Roll call vote: 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 Benjie Loomis. Roll call vote: 4- yes 0- No; Motion Approved.
- c.) **Authorized Signatures on Account:** Nelson Trambly as treasurer was elected to sign on the Account. Motion was moved by Terry Martin and Second by Jerry Weaver. Roll call vote – 4 Yes 0 – No, Motion Approved.

Project Update:

Managers Reports:

Bill Sellers – Worked on flash grazing leases, removal and installation of new fencing, solar pumps and trailers, work with surveyors on property boundaries, made a presentation at the Weed Board conference and North Platte High School, attended the farm expo, attended the legislative conference and burn workshop, utilized part-time employees to accomplish some these tasks.

Mike Keller – Continued to assist with loading sold auction items, maintained well fields, assisted with pivot removal, dam repairs, snow removal and utilized part-time employees to complete these tasks.

Kyle Shepherd – Attended the legislative conference, presented at the Weed Board meeting, dealt with audit issues, did public relations with the World Herald, worked on grant application along with Nate Jenkins and others, and also worked with Union Bank on Bond Reporting.

The wells are currently pumping 37,000 gallons of water per minute and currently at 18381 acre feet of water pumped for compliance of the 2016 30,000 acre feet target range.

Bill Sellers spoke on the outcome of the public hunting grounds since opening to the public September 1, 2015. Sellers mentioned that it was welcomed by the public with minimal questions and very low littering. There were very little concerns expressed by the neighboring property owners as well. Mike Clements asked how much land was available for public hunting and Sellers responded that there is about 1,600 acres designated for public hunting.

Property Management / Operations

a.) Proposal on leasing land for prescribed burns

Denny Oelschlager of Nebraska Land Conservation Services spoke on prescribed burns. Oelschlager said that they teamed up with Nebraska Board of Education Lands and Funds to promote prescribed burning on school lands in the state. Oelshlager said that the board has noticed the losing battle with the eastern red cedar as current solutions are not long term solutions, and the most cost effective solution would be one of prescribed burning. With prescribed burning some land owners would need a place to relocate their cattle during the burn and recovery periods. The Nebraska Board of Education Lands and Funds would like to work with NCORPE in this venture.

The NCORPE board agreed to assist with the project and Kyle Shepherd and Bill Sellers were selected to work with the group to design a program to make land available for the prescribed burning program.

b.) Model Update

Jim Schneider has been working with Landon Shaw on the model collecting data and meeting with the managers and estimates time of completion to be midsummer. Japer Fanning suggested that Kyle Shepherd be authorized to add any additional equipment into existing irrigation wells necessary to assist with data collection recommended by Schneider.

Kyle Shepherd was authorized to purchase any equipment necessary to assist the collection of data for the operational model.

Terry Martin moved to approve the decision Seconded by Nelson Trambly. Roll call vote: 4 – Yes. 0 – No. Motion approved.

c.) Flash Grazing Leases

Kyle Shepherd informed the board that only 3 of the 4 lots offered to be used for flash grazing were bid on. Jerry Weaver asked about the daily bid price that was answered by Kyle Shepherd and Bill Sellers. Jasper Fanning asked why the bids were so low and Bill Sellers answered his question.

d.) NE Pivot Leases

Kyle Shepherd asked about long term plans for the 8 pivots in regards to selling leasing or trading the land. Terry Martin suggested leasing the land and Jim Meismer agreed that it should be kept until a use for the land arises. The current tenants offered to lease the land again at a lower rate. Jasper Fanning along with Jim Meismer and Nelson Tramly agreed to accept the current tenants offer under the terms of an annual lease.

Nelson Tramly moved the motion to approve the lease renewal. Seconded by Terry Martin. Roll call vote: 3 – Yes. 0 – No. 1 – Abstain. Motion approved.

e.) Medicine Creek.

Jack Russell spoke briefly on Medicine Creek. He met with NRCS acting state engineer and they may be able to assist with assessments with no cost to the board.

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

Terry Martin moved to go into executive session to discuss threatened and pending litigation, to include the NCORPE board and staff. Seconded by Nelson Tramly. Roll call vote: 4-Yes. 0-No. Motion approved. The board entered executive session at 11:17 a.m.

Terry Martin moved to exit executive session and enter open session. Seconded by Benjie Loomis. Roll call vote: 4-Yes. 0-No. Motion approved. The board entered open session at 11:47 a.m. and immediately adjourned as there was no other business.

Brad Randel, Board Secretary

Date