

N-CORPE

Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement Project

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Thursday, January 26, 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); Matt Harrison (Lower Republican NRD)

Others Present: Robert Merrigan (Middle Republican NRD); Alex Boyce (Middle Republican NRD); Kyle Shepherd (NCORPE); Pierre Dean (NCORPE); Bill Sellers (NCORPE); Mike Keller (NCORPE); Mike Clements (Lower Republican NRD); Jim Meismer (Twin Platte NRD); Sylvia Johnson (Middle Republican NRD); Jack Russell (Middle Republican NRD); Kevin Fornoff (Middle Republican NRD); Scott Dicke (Lower Republican NRD); Jim Cannia (AGF); Dallas Watkins (Ameritas); Bruce Lefler (Ameritas)

Information Sent to Board Members: Agenda; Minutes from December 14, 2016 meeting; Financial statements for six months ending December 31, 2016; in kind information packet.

Information Available at meeting: Agenda; Minutes from December 14, 2016 meeting; Bills and expenditures December 14, 2016 through January 26, 2017; Financial statements for six months ending December 31, 2016; in kind information packet.

Terry Martin called the meeting to order at 10:05 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 (Matt Harrison) were represented.

Minutes:

Terry Martin moved to approve the minutes of December 14, 2016 meeting as presented and was seconded by Jerry Weaver. Roll Call, Upper Republican- Yes; Middle Republican- Yes; Twin Platte- Yes; Lower Republican- Abstained. Vote: 3-Yes, 0-No, and 1- Abstained. Motion Approved

Financial Report:

- a.) **Payables:** Shepherd presented the payables and opened the floor to questions. Benjie Loomis asked about the bond issuance charge, Kyle Shepherd and Bruce Lefler answered that those were fees associated in obtaining the bond ratings.

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- Yes. Vote: 4-Yes, 0-No. Motion Approved.

- b.) **Financial Statements:** Shepherd provided an overview of the Financial Statements. Questions were asked why the monthly salaries were not included in the financials. Shepherd stated that the Upper Republican NRD handles NCORPE's salaries, insurances and credit cards thus it was not included. There was a request for the annual operational cost of the project and a budget for the next few years for operational cost. Mike Clements noted that NCORPE was rather close to the quarterly budget given and it was rather helpful.

- c.) **Bond Updates:** Bruce Lefler updated the board on the bond ratings. Lefler spoke on interest rates and insurances available for both AA and A1 bonds and savings that may be available.

Terry Martin nominated Benjie Loomis to be the secretary of NCORPE's board and was seconded by Jerry Weaver.

Roll Call, Upper Republican- Yes; Middle Republican- Abstained; Twin Platte- Yes; Lower Republican- Yes. Vote: 3-Yes, 1- Abstained. Motion Approved

Project Update:

Managers Reports:

Bill Sellers – Worked on removal cedars, creating new public access opportunities, and preparation for upcoming noxious weed season with the aid of part-time employees. Sellers updated the board on the public hunting for the past year. Sellers stated that it was rather quiet during the spring of last year but picked up during the fall as more hunters came out. Sellers also noted that a whistle count was done on quails and the results showed that the population was rather dense. No counts were done on pheasants due to the time of the year. Sellers also mentioned that a bat survey was done by University of Nebraska Lincoln and another group utilized the public access to do research on Prairie Chickens. Sellers also noted that it will be posted on the NCORPE's website and on the property that some locations will be closed during the spring grazing season.

Mike Keller – Operated the wellfields, did maintenance work on the lake and equipment with the help of part-time employees. Keller updated the board on how the pumping was progressing. Keller stated that there were issues with the discharge meter and he worked

with vendors to correct the issues. Keller is currently working with the vendors again and believes that the issue would be resolved in short order.

Kyle Shepherd – Shepherd was in Lincoln working on the bond issues, worked on In Kind reports, and worked on the Sakada system with vendors.

Property Management / Operations

a.) Alternate Power Generation

Bluestem Energy was unable to be present at this meeting and will present their presentation during an upcoming meeting.

b.) Model Update – Jim Cannia presented some of the results from the flight plans that they have recently done. Cannia stated that the results have not completely been deciphered yet due to the funding structure setup by the Environmental Trust. Once funding commences again, and the interpretation of the data is completed he will return and present it to the board.

c.) Land Trade Options

Kyle Shepherd advised that he had contacted a representative of one of the properties that were suitable for a land trade. He was informed that the family was still interested in the land trade. Jerry Weaver had contacted the property owners and was informed that there were some details that has to be taken into consideration before they proceed with the deal. Kyle Shepherd will follow up with the land owners for a more definitive answer.

d.) North Pipeline Update

Kyle Shepherd stated that the contract to construct the ten-mile north pipeline was awarded in mid-January and the estimated start date is set during the month of March. The estimated completion date for the project is September 30th 2017.

e.) Legislative Update

Shepherd updated the board that the Upper Republican's Assistant Manager Nate Jenkins was testifying in regards to one of the NCORPE's bills concerning public notice.

f.) In kind contribution options

Kyle Shepherd presented the In-Kind contributions to the board and opened the floor to questions. The board agreed that more detailed update of the contributions is needed and In-Kind contributions be dealt with differently.

Jerry Weaver moved the motion authorizing management to select a third-party auditor to examine the books and sale of equipment from the date of the purchase of the property to current date. Second by Benjie Loomis.

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

No members from the general-public were present at the time of open forum. There were no matters that required the board to enter executive session, thus the meeting was adjourned by Terry Martin at 1:10 pm.

Benjie Loomis, Board Secretary

Date