

# N-CORPE

## *Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement Project*

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### **Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, June 19, 2019 at 10am Central Time at 201 Garlick Ave, at  
Curtis Community Center in Curtis, NE**

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); Jerry Weaver (Twin Platte NRD); Benjie Loomis (Middle Republican NRD); Nelson F. Trambly (Lower Republican NRD)

**Others Present:** Kyle Shepherd (NCORPE); Kent O. Miller (Twin Platte NRD); Scott Dicke (Lower Republican NRD); Jasper Fanning (Upper Republican NRD); Dean Large (Upper Republican NRD); Jack Russell (Middle Republican NRD); Jay Schilling (Middle Republican NRD); Todd Siel (Lower Republican NRD); Tim Khars (Lower Republican NRD); Jim Meisner (Twin Platte NRD); Sylvia Johnson (Middle Republican NRD); Bill Sellers (NCORPE); Mike Keller (NCORPE); Nate Jenkins (Upper Republican NRD); Bill Sellers (NCORPE); Dan Estermann (Wellfleet)

**Information Sent to Board Members:** Agenda; Minutes from April 17, 2019 Board Meeting; NCORPE Policies; Employee Report April-May 2019; Balance Sheet 6-12-19; Accounts Payable up to June 12, 2019; Accounts Payable up to June 12, 2019 Totals; 2020 Budget Draft; NCORPE 2018 Annual Report.

Terry Martin called the meeting to order at 10:06 am. and designated NCORPE's 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 (Nelson F. Trambly) were present.

### **Open Forum**

The floor was opened for questions from the audience and there were none. The open forum was then closed as there were no comments or matters to be discussed.

### **Minutes of April 17, 2019 Meeting**

Kyle Shepherd presented the minutes to the board and opened the floor to questions. Jack Russell asked why was there a drop in revenue from the grazing. Shepherd explained that there was some loss due to reseeded being done. Jack Russell also asked why was there a payment of \$252,000 in taxes when there should have been only about \$170,000 paid in taxes. Shepherd explained it was because there were three half year tax payments made.

Benjie Loomis moved to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2019 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Nelson 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.

### **Payables**

Kyle Shepherd presented the payables to the board and opened the floor to questions. Jerry Weaver asked about the coding of the Dawson Power's demand charges. Kyle Shepherd explained that there are just items in the memo lines on the payables but when it is actually in the financials they would be coded correctly. Benjie Loomis asked about the upgrades that were done with Dawson Power and if they are actually showing as a savings. Kyle Shepherd said that the numbers aren't reflected on this report but the saving were an estimated \$80,000.

Jerry Weaver moved to approve the payables as presented and was seconded by Terry Martin.

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

### **Project Update**

#### **Managers Reports**

Bill Sellers – Sellers coordinated all of the seeding and it's now complete, he is currently working on musk thistle removal, and getting ready for Canada thistle removal and coordinated the summer grazing. Sellers gave a brief summary of the seeding, summer grazing and minor fire that happened during haying resulting in about 30 acres being burnt. Sellers said that the recovery of those acres was remarkable.

Kyle Shepherd – Shepherd worked on the budget, coordinated with Pivot Electric, worked on the creek with HDR and Jack Russell.

Mike Keller - Spent a lot time working on the county roads as there are now many semis coming on the road, worked with HOA to have some improvements done on the SCADA system. Keller gave a brief explanation on work that was done with HOA and challenges of maintaining the roads.

### **Legislative Update**

Nate Jenkins told the board the LB608 did not make it out of committee. He continued in saying Senator Groene proposed an interim study before the next session. The primary focus is to look precedence as it relates to ground water access and land ownership. Mr. Jenkins said it is usually up to the committee to determine how much they are going to study. At this point Jenkins is uncertain if there would be a hearing on it and will keep in touch with the committee for updates. Kent O. Miller pointed out that committees do not have to have hearings on resolutions or do anything.

### **Policy Approvals**

Shepherd presented NCORPE's vehicle usage policy to the board and opened the floor for questions and comments.

The policy reads as follows;

#### **NCORPE Vehicle Usage Policy**

Due to the remote location of NCORPE and lack of onsite housing for most employees, NCORPE employees are allowed to use NCORPE vehicles to commute to and from work and work-related tasks in addition to while at work. Employees are expected to use their personal vehicles for non-work uses but can use NCORPE vehicles for non-work purposes while commuting. Should an NCORPE vehicle not be available for work-related tasks, an employee may use his personal vehicle and will be paid the most current IRS mileage rate. A mileage report will be submitted and approved by the board.

Jerry Weaver moved the motion to approve the amended vehicle usage policy which includes a mileage report is submitted monthly and was seconded by Terry Martin. Roll Call, Upper Republican NRD – Yes; Middle Republican NRD – Yes; Lower Republican NRD – Yes; Twin Platte NRD – Absent. Vote 4 – Yes, 0 – No, Motion approved.

Terry Martin moved the motion to approve the NCORPE vehicle usage policy as amended and was seconded by Nelson 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.

### **Seeding Update**

Kyle Shepherd informed that the seeding had been completed and waiting until fall to determine when seeding would commence for the following year.

### **Long Term Goals for Section 26**

Kyle Shepherd asked the board to make a decision on the long-term plans for section 26 that was recently obtained. The land is currently being leased for row crop by the former owners. Mr. Shepherd wanted to know if the board wanted to renew the lease when it expires or retire the land since it was closer to the well field.

Jerry Weaver moved the motion to retire section 26 after the current lease expires and return it to grass land in a timely manner. Motion was seconded by Benjie Loomis.

Roll Call, Upper Republican NRD – No; Middle Republican NRD – Yes; Lower Republican NRD – Yes; Twin Platte NRD – Yes. Vote 3 – Yes, 1 – No, Motion approved.

### **August Meeting Location**

Kyle Shepherd announced that the next meeting was scheduled to be held at the NCORPE headquarters on August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019 at 10:00 am and was rescheduled for September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at the NCORPE headquarters.

### **McDermott Request.**

Kyle Shepherd said that he was told that during the construction of the pipeline NCORPE's contractor was asked by Mr. McDermott to fill in some of the low areas of his pivot with the excess dirt. The contractor complied and filled in the areas. Eventually NRCS became aware that the low parts of the pivots had been filled in but it had been designated as a wet land. The NRCS went out and surveyed the land and determined that Bruce McDermott had indeed filled in the wetland. NCORPE was not involved in the hearing or any part of the NRCS report. However, Mr. McDermott spoke with several of NCORPE's representatives as he feels NCORPE is responsible. He has given NCORPE three options or he would seek legal options. The first of which is to pay a land developer \$40,000 to remove the fill that was placed in the wetlands; The second option is to have NCORPE staff complete the work; and the third option is to purchase his land and his son's land for \$20,000,000.

Terry Martin moved the motion to deny the request made by Mr. McDermott. The motion was seconded by Benjie Loomis.

Roll Call, Upper Republican NRD – Yes; Middle Republican NRD – Yes; Lower Republican NRD – Yes; Twin Platte NRD – Abstained. Vote 3 – Yes, 0 – No, 1 – Abstained, Motion approved.

### **Creek / Crossing**

Kyle Shepherd said that he along with Jack Russell and Mike Keller looked at four culverts that were installed by BSB construction. Shepherd said that over the past three or four years there were issues with erosion when the water goes over the top of the culverts. Shepherd said that HDR looked at the culverts and made some recommendations.

### **2020 Budget**

Kyle Shepherd presented the draft budget to the board and opened the floor to questions. The Budget will be reviewed and voted on during the next board meeting.

### **Planning Session**

Kent O. Miller thought that the session should be used to plan the long-term goals of NCORPE. Topics that were discussed included Leasing of the Land, Renewable Energy opportunities and Recreational opportunities.

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Benjie Loomis, Board Secretary

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Date