

N-CORPE

Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement Project

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Thursday, October 3, 2019 at 10am Central Time at the Twin Platte NRD office at 111 S. Dewey, North Platte, 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); Jim Meismer (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); Bill Sellers (NCORPE); Mike Keller (NCORPE); Don Blankenau (Blankenau Wilmoth); Ken Anderson (North Platte); Lynn Fredericks (North Platte); Bruce Lefler (Piper Jaffray); Dawson Welch (Moorefield), Henry Vogt (Lin. Co.); Julie Stenger (Lin. Co.), Dan Esterman (Wellfleet); David Morgan (Sutherland); George Lauby (Bulletin)

Information Sent to Board Members: Notice; Annual Report; Agenda; Minutes Sept. 4th, 2019 Board Meeting; Balance Sheet; Accounts Payable;

Terry Martin called the meeting to order at 10:00am 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 (Jim Meismer); Lower Republican NRD (Nelson F. Trambly) were present.

Public Forum

Shepherd opened the Public Forum. Shepherd stated that the public is provided an opportunity to speak to the Board during the Public Forum at the beginning of each Board meeting and the public is only allowed to speak during the Public Forum. Mr. Shepherd

stated that the Chairman may limit the time for each person speaking to the Board. There were no comments. Shepherd closed the Public Forum.

Minutes of Sept. 4th, 2019 Meeting

Shepherd presented the draft minutes of the September 4th meeting to the board. The board discussed the process of drafting, editing, and approving the meeting minutes. Shepherd reported that an employee compiled the first draft and posted it to the website and that Shepherd then edited the draft minutes document making about a dozen edits. Both versions had been posted on the internet. The board suggested that in the future minutes made publicly available before being approved by the Board be described as a “draft” version so the public would not view them as approved minutes. Blankenau answered a question on how detailed the minutes need to be, that minutes should be sufficiently detailed so that the public is aware of what was discussed, but the minutes don’t need to be a transcript of the meeting, generally though more information included in the minutes is favorable.

Meismer moved to approve the minutes of the Sept. 4, 2019 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 – No, Motion approved.

Payables

Shepherd presented the payables to the board. A question on why the deposits showed up as undeposited was addressed by Shepherd. MMS had not reconciled them, so they show up as undeposited in the report. Board members expressed they were pleased with the new format of the payables.

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

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

Financial Statement

There was not a financial statement to review.

Project Update

Managers Reports

Bill Sellers – Sellers worked on leases, hearing prep., fencing report and updated the board on NCORPE’s cooperation with the Wallace Fire Department.

Kyle Shepherd – Shepherd worked on meeting prep., hearing prep., NARD conference and bond savings.

Mike Keller – Mowed tumble weeds, stock well repair, mowed access trails and roads and surveyed the north pipeline.

Bond Financing

Lefler with Piper Jaffary presented that if NCORPE was to refinance the bond debt with taxable bonds NCORPE might be able to save about \$3 million. He suggested that interest rates continued to be monitored, before we decide to start the refinancing process. He also discussed the advantages and disadvantages of taxable bonds. The board directed Shepherd to continue to work with Lefler and monitor interest rates.

Grain Bin Leases

Shepherd reported to the board a neighbor of NCORPE had called a board member and complained about an NCORPE tenant and their use of the county road to access property leased from NCORPE. The tenant rents nine of NCORPE's grain bins. The neighbor wondered if the rent NCORPE received was worth the wear and tear on the roads by the tenant's trucks. It was noted that truck traffic has been greatly reduced by NCORPE already. The board agreed that road issues are a responsibility of Lincoln County. The board was also informed that the tenant had made an offer to purchase the bin site property.

Legislative Update

Jenkins discussed the recent natural resources committee hearing with the board.

Conference Attendance

Shepherd stated he had been invited to several upcoming conferences and wanted to make sure a manager or himself could attend. The managers agreed to follow up by email to ensure NCORPE was represented at the conferences.

Annual Report Approval

The NCORPE board was presented the annual report for approval.

Martin moved to approve the report and was seconded by Loomis.

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

FSA Payments

Shepherd reported to the board on his discussions with FSA. He reported that state review of the contract may be necessary. Board members expressed that the leases need to comply with FSA regulations.

PR Needs

Shepherd said that a member of the NARD board was concerned with NCORPE's handling of PR and had talked with Shepherd and Jenkins. In response to some inaccurate information in the press, Jenkins drafted a column to be submitted to the region's newspapers. He asked for the support of the board to print it. It was suggested that all of the managers have input on the article and that Shepherd coordinate their input.

Executive Session Release of Information

Shepherd stated that Sen. Groene on his radio show had talked about information that was shared at the last board meeting in executive session. Blankenau advised the board that if board members released confidential information doing so could make them personally liable for disclosing information discussed in executive session.

Executive Session

Terry Martin moved to go into Executive session to discuss the annual employee review, contractual negotiations and imminent litigation at 11:32am and was seconded by Trambly.

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.

Martin moved to exit Executive session at 2:12 pm and was seconded by Meismer. Roll Call, Twin Platte NRD – Yes; Upper Republican NRD – Yes; Middle Republican NRD - yes; Lower Republican NRD – Yes; Vote 4 – yes, 0 – No, motion approved.

Trambly moved to direct Shepherd to sign all needed documents in association with the purchase agreement to buy additional land and was seconded by Meismer. Roll Call, Twin Platte NRD – Yes; Upper Republican NRD – Yes; Middle Republican NRD - yes; Lower Republican NRD – Yes; Vote 4 – yes, 0 – No, motion approved.

Meismer moved to direct Shepherd to make a counter-offer to sell the bin site at \$70,000 and was seconded by Loomis. Roll Call, Twin Platte NRD – Yes; Upper Republican NRD – Yes; Middle Republican NRD - yes; Lower Republican NRD – Yes; Vote 4 – yes, 0 – No, motion approved.

Trambly moved to give Shepherd a 2% cost of living salary increase and was seconded by Meismer. Roll Call, Twin Platte NRD – Yes; Upper Republican NRD – Yes; Middle Republican NRD - No; Lower Republican NRD – Yes; Vote 3 – yes, 1 – No, motion approved.

Meeting was immediately adjourned at 2:26 pm as there were not further matters to be discussed.

Benjie Loomis, Board Secretary

Date