

**NORTH PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES
DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING
March 10, 2016**

The regular meeting of the North Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors was called to order at 3:00 p.m. MDT, March 10, 2016, by Kent Andreas at the North Platte NRD conference room, 100547 Airport Road, Scottsbluff, Nebraska. Notice of the meeting was given to the public by publishing a legal notice in the March 3, 2016, Scottsbluff *Star-Herald*. Andreas informed meeting attendees that this meeting would be conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, a copy of which is posted in the meeting room for public inspection.

Board members present: Kent Andreas, Roger Eirich, Chuck Henkel, Dave Ostdiek, and Pete Lapaseotes. Absent: Gary Darnall, Dave Deines, Gerald Dillman, and Dan Weinreis. Others present: John Berge, Tracy Zayac, Scott Schaneman, Kyle Ann Hopkins, Dave Wolf, Barb Cross, Carolyn Hudson, Travis Preston, and Dave Christian, NPNRD staff; Don Day, Day Weather; and Thad Kuntz, Adaptive Resources, Inc.

The following items of informational material were made available to the Directors electronically prior to the Board Meeting:

1. Meeting Notice
2. Agenda
3. Minutes, North Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors Meeting, February 11, 2016.
4. Treasurer's Report (Preliminary)

The following items were provided to the Directors at the Board Meeting:

1. Agenda
2. Minutes, North Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors Meeting, February 11, 2016.
3. Treasure's Report
4. Manager's Report
5. Western Water Use Management Modeling, Hydrogeology of Western NE Project Update and Upcoming Modeling Update, Extension, Recalibration, and Funding, by Thad Kuntz, Principal Hydrogeologist, with Adaptive Resources Inc.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

The Board reviewed the minutes of the February 11, 2016, regular Board meeting. Moved by Eirich, seconded by Ostdiek, to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2016, regular Board meeting. Motion passed.

Ayes: Andreas, Eirich, Henkel, Lapaseotes, Ostdiek,

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Darnall, Deines, Dillman, Weinreis

4. Treasurer's Report and Accounts Payable

Dave Ostdiek reviewed the Treasurer's report with the Board. Moved by Lapaseotes, seconded by Henkel, to accept the Treasurer's report and pay the bills as listed. Motion passed.

Ayes: Andreas, Eirich, Henkel, Lapaseotes, Ostdiek,

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Darnall, Deines, Dillman, Weinreis

5. Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

6. Manager's Report

Berge reported Jackie Bishop, Barb Cross and himself met to discuss the grant reporting procedures to determine whether there were any administrative improvements that we could pursue. They also discussed ways to ensure that we are completing out reports as effectively as possible. With the pending retirement of Roy Lyles later this spring, Berge authorized the scheduling of interviews for selected individuals that have expressed interest in working in our soil conservation department.

Cross is working to schedule a meeting of the Budget and Personnel Subcommittee to discuss the upcoming budget request and process for FY 17. Cross is also working to schedule a meeting of the District Operations Subcommittee to discuss several items pertaining to the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Cost Share Program, specific to practices funded, maximum assistance and scoring. Cross and Bishop developed and provided credit card training for each of our employees to discuss how employees will be required to reconcile their credit card statements and offer invoice information to Renay Smith for payment. Cross and Bishop have also renewed our procedure of collecting driving logs for each of our vehicles to aid in the use of those expenses for grant matching requirements.

The North Platte NRD has been approached again by city of Gering officials in

reference to our involvement in the operation and maintenance of the Evergreen House and/or a seven-acre property that the city currently manages as a community garden. Several proposals are being discussed, and this will likely be a discussion at an upcoming Budget and Personnel Subcommittee meeting. After much discussion with Jeff Fassett, the new Director of the Department of Natural Resources, we will renew the membership of the Department in the Western Water Use Management Model (WWUMM) Interlocal Cooperative Agreement. That will occur at an as of yet unscheduled meeting in the future.

Berge has been in discussions with Ducks Unlimited about potentially managing a permanent easement that they hold south of the City of Oshkosh for a recreation property for the District. This, too will be discussed in subcommittee as we are developing our budget priorities for the coming year. The managers took action at the last Platte Basin Coalition (PBC) meeting to hire HOR to be the facilitator for the BWP process that will begin in earnest in June.

Tracy Zayac has had two very productive meetings with the National Drought Mitigation Center in Lincoln to discuss our plans to hold a drought tournament at our office later this fall. This is an excellent opportunity for the Board and staff to garner input from the public in what our drought planning and strategies should look like in the event that we are hit with a multi-year drought.

We have ordered and provided down payment for the first round of telemetry units. These units will be installed in April, and we will look to get reimbursed at the 75% rate as agreed to by the Department of Natural Resources. We executed an agreement with

Beth Everett to temporarily set aside 240 acres of Minatare Canal Company acres and 88.1 acres of groundwater for a period of ten years. We have an agreement with the Minatare Canal Company to continue to divert that water and spill back to the river for credit under our IMP.

Staff recently scored cost share applications. A breakdown of the cost shares follows:

Practices other than flowmeters:

NSWCP – 36 applications were approved

NRD – 24 applications were approved

Denials - 4

Flowmeters:

NRD/WQF - 18 applications were approved

Bureau Grant - 9 applications were approved

Total Dollars Committed:

NSWCP -\$105,525.42

NRD - \$93,847.13

WQF -\$69,475.00

Bureau Grant - \$70,625.00

Total: \$339,472.55

Berge and members of the staff met with Troy Gilmore, Groundwater Hydrologist and Steve Sibray with the University of Nebraska to discuss a proposed project that they would like to undertake near Morrill on water quality. Proposals from

UNL will be forthcoming. Several staff and spouses got together two Saturdays ago to participate in the Polar Plunge for the Special Olympics. We ramped up our fundraising quickly and ended up fourth of sixteen teams in funds raised for this important cause. We raised \$1,126 from 32 donors.

We will be renewing our efforts to fully participate in both the Governance Committee and Platte River Decree and attend future meetings. Another successful No-Till Partnership Conference is in the books. Unfortunately, the Partnership was not renewed for funding from NET for this cycle, so we will be meeting in the near future to determine the future of the conference. Berge spoke about water management at the Annual Sugar Growers meeting in Gering.

7. Legislative Preview

Berge reported Senator Stinner has pulled LB 714. The Department of Natural Resources has agreed to make a rule within the department and that has satisfied all parties. This bill would add local conservation programs to a list that will allow for surface water appropriators to lease their water rights for up to 15 years instead of the five years they are currently allowed without losing their appropriation.

Berge also mentioned that LB 344, which would give the NRDs power to issue general obligation bonds, faced resistance by some senators. They believed the bond should be voted on by the people within the District, instead of approved by the NRD board of directors. LB 1038, which would deal with the purposed purchase of Spencer Dam water rights by Nebraska Game and Parks and the Niobrara NRDs, will be attached to another bill, but it also faces some resistance and might not be passed this legislative

session.

8. Western Water Use Management Model Update

Thad Kuntz reported on the progress of the Hydrogeology of Western Nebraska Project. The project was funded through the Nebraska Environmental Trust and would digitized old oil and gas well geophysical logs to add to the model's existing datasets. It was a joint project between the South Platte, North Platte, Twin Platte NRDS, and the Nebraska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (NOGCC). Kuntz went over some of the steps that ARI is currently working on and what will come next. The NOGCC is still scanning the 14,281 oil and gas logs. Cheyenne and Kimball Counties are complete, and one third of the Banner County is completed. ARI is also calibrating each log to see how the geology looks.

Kuntz also updated on the WWUMM. He reported that the data sets need to be extended through 2017 from 2013. The data sets include: land use datasets, climate datasets, and hydrologic datasets for each model. South Platte and North Platte NRD have applied for a grant through the Water Sustainability Fund to help fund some of the updates.

9. Climate Forecast by Day Weather

Don Day from Day Weather explained how the temperature of the ocean in the south Pacific affects the weather patterns over the United States, and what he sees as the upcoming weather patterns for the next couple of years. Last year was one of the strongest El Nino on record. The last time there was a strong El Nino (1997-1998), the next five years were fairly dry. Day reports that the District could see much drier starting in the 2016-2017.

10. Consideration of Adding Barb Cross as an Alternative to the Western Water Use Management Model (WWUMM) Interlocal Cooperative Agreement Board of Directors

Berge asked that Assistant Manager Barb Cross be added as the alternative to the Western Water Use Management Model Interlocal Cooperative Agreement Board of Directors and have the ability to act in the absence of the General Manager. Moved by Eirich, seconded by Ostdiek to approve the appointment of Barb Cross as alternative to Western Water Use Management Model Interlocal Cooperative Agreement Board of Directors. Motion passed.

Ayes: Andreas, Eirich, Henkel, Lapaseotes, Ostdiek,

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Darnall, Deines, Dillman, Weinreis

11. Consideration of Adding Barb Cross as an Alternative to the Platte Basin Coalition (PBC) and the Platte Overappropriated Committee (POAC)

Berge asked the Assistant Manager Barb Cross be added as the alternative to the Platte Basin Coalition (PBC) and the Platte Overappropriated Committee (POAC) and have the ability to act in the absence of the General Manager. Moved by Henkel, seconded by Eirich to approve the appointment of Barb Cross as alternative to Platte Basin Coalition (PBC) and the Platte Overappropriated Committee (POAC). Motion passed.

Ayes: Andreas, Eirich, Henkel, Lapaseotes, Ostdiek,

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Darnall, Deines, Dillman, Weinreis

12. Consideration of Adding Barb Cross as Delegated Authorizing Official in the Absence of the General Manager

As part of the assistant manager's duties, Berge asked the Board to authorize Cross to have the abilities to sign correspondence, memos and anything other duties or responsibilities designated by the General Manager. Moved by Henkel, seconded by Ostdiek to delegate Assistant Manager Barb Cross as an authorizing official in the absence of the general manager. Motion passed.

Ayes: Andreas, Eirich, Henkel, Lapaseotes, Ostdiek,

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Darnall, Deines, Dillman, Weinreis

13. Staff Spotlight: Travis Preston

Travis Preston and his family moved to the area in 1992. He graduated from Scottsbluff High School and joined the Marine Corps. In 2009, he married his wife Angela. He worked on imagery analysis for four years in the military and left in 2013. Went to Southern Illinois and received his bachelors in Geography with an emphasis in GIS. He has been with the NRD since January. He also has a six-month old daughter, Nora.

14. Adjourn

Moved by Eirich, seconded by Ostdiek, to adjourn at 4:03 p.m., MDT. Motion

passed.

Ayes: Andreas, Eirich, Henkel, Lapaseotes, Ostdiek,

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Darnall, Deines, Dillman, Weinreis