

**NORTH PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES
DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

April 11, 2019

The regular meeting of the North Platte Natural Resources District (NRD) Board of Directors was called to order at 3:06 p.m. MDT, April 11, 2019, 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 April 4, 2019, 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, Dave Deines, Roger Eirich, Chuck Henkel, Pete Lapaseotes, Ryan Reuter, Dan Weinreis, and Mark Westphal. Absent: Gary Darnall. Others present: John Berge, Barb Cross, Danielle Schafer, Scott Schaneman, Lydia Hendrickson, Dave Wolf, Craig Uhrig, Jody Fiscus, Travis Preston, Dave Christian, Kyle Ann Hopkins and Amanda Sheppard, NPNRD staff; Thad Kuntz, Adaptive Resources, Inc; Megan Dockery, Simmons Olsen Law Firm; Sarah Gray, Natural Recourses Conservation Service; Chrissy Land, Nebraska Forest Service; and Dave Fisher.

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, March 21, 2019.

4. Minutes, North Platte Natural Resources District, Water Resources/District Operations Joint Committee, March 19, 2019.
5. Treasurer's Report

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, March 21, 2019.
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Manager's Report
5. Proposed FY-2019 Budget Schedule
6. Report Update from Natural Resources Conservation Service.
7. Nebraska Fact Sheet from Natural Resources Conservation Service, regarding the Emergency Watershed Protection Program in Nebraska.
8. Minutes, North Platte Natural Resources District, Water Resources/District Operations Joint Committee, March 19, 2019.
9. Final North Platte Natural Resources District, Rules & Regulations.
10. DRAFT, North Platte Natural Resources District, Rules & Regulations.
11. Summary of Changes Made to the North Platte Natural Resources District Rules & Regulations.
12. North Platte Natural Resources District, Long Range Implementation Plan.
13. North Platte Valley Water Association, Consent to Dissolution by Written Consent.
14. North Platte Valley Water Association, Certificate of Plan of Dissolution, adopted by the Directors of the Corporation on March 11, 2019.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Board reviewed the minutes of the March 21, 2019, regular Board meeting. Moved by Eirich, seconded by Henkel, to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2019 regular Board meeting. Motion passed.

Ayes: Andreas, Eirich, Henkel, Lapaseotes, Reuter, Weinreis

Nay: None

Abstain: Deines, Westphal

Absent: Darnall

4. Treasurer's Report and Accounts Payable

Ryan Reuter reviewed the Treasurer's report with the Board. Moved by Weinreis, seconded by Eirich, to accept the Treasurer's report and pay the bills as listed. Motion passed.

Ayes: Andreas, Deines, Eirich, Henkel, Reuter, Weinreis, Westphal

Nay: None

Abstain: Lapaseotes

Absent: Darnall

5. Comments from the Public

Dave Fisher provided comments on the pending Integrated Management Plan (IMP), offered some suggestions to improve it, and is worried about the water supply for future generations.

6. Manager's Report

John Berge provided the Manager's Report.

The District was named Panhandle Business and Professional Women's small employer of the year. The District was excited to receive the award and over half of our staff is women.

The NRD has received the payment from the Water Resources Cash Fund (WRCF) program for reimbursements related to contract 1070 for the EPIC payments made in FY 2018 and payments related to the 1023 for lease payments are expected to be made of the next three years. Payments should be made to the NRD by the end of next week. Berge and Scott Schaneman met with Thad Kuntz and Steve Schaneman to discuss project construction on the Schaneman Recharge Project. This project will stack surface water diversion from four farms into a recharge pit to gain consumptive use credit and to maintain historic return flows. The project is on the Enterprise Irrigation District and will cost nearly \$80,000.

The Nebraska Forest Service has hired a replacement for Amy Seiler. Chrissy Land serves as the area community forester and partial supervisor to Amanda Shepperd of our staff. Her first day was April 18. The District is requesting forty percent reimbursement for each of the following programs for FY 2020: the EPIC Program, with nearly \$120,000 in reimbursement on nearly \$300,000 of contracts, and the construction costs for the Schaneman Recharge Project.

The NRD hosted the first meeting of the Nitrogen Advisory Group on March 28 where group members were briefed on the existing issues in the area and provided some take away questions to get them thinking about potential solutions. The nitrogen management chapter will not be finalized until the group finishes their work.

Berge provided a schedule for the budget process.

Berge will be out of town April 25th through the 28th.

7. Agency Update from NRCS

Sarah Gray presented on the program numbers for the District. She went over the number of conservation practices contracted, number of acres enrolled, and the amount of the contracts. She also highlighted the importance of the NRD/NRCS partnership.

8. Departmental Presentation from GIS Department

Travis Preston provided an update on the GIS Department. Preston and Lydia Hendrickson make up the department and provide maps for many of the programs and projects in the District including spring levels, flow meter readings, Chemigation, and hydrographs.

They are constantly looking for new ways to improve the efficiency of the staff or to help the District's constituents.

9. Report from Joint Meeting of the Water Resources Committee and District Operations Committee

Berge reported the lease rate proposals for permanent retirements and temporary lease contracts will be delayed until the May Board meeting. He also reported staff has taken all the suggested changes to the Rules & Regulations from both committees that have been discussed previously and incorporated them into a rough draft. The Directors were provided three different copies: a clean copy, redline copy, and a summary of the changes. Berge then provided a brief summary of the changes, which include livestock facilities certifications, carryforward changes, enforcement procedures, reinserting transfer rules, and others. The nitrogen management chapter will be delayed until the recommendations from the Advisory Group have been submitted.

a. Consideration of Setting Hearing Date for Changes to District Rules and Regulations

The Board needed to set a hearing date, and the date of July 18th was recommended by staff, which is the same time the IMP and Basin-Wide Plan. Moved by Lapaseotes, seconded by Henkel, to set the public hearing date for approval of the Rules and Regulations for the Enforcement of the Nebraska Ground Water Management and Protection Act and the Nebraska Chemigation Act for July 18, 2019. Motion passed.

Ayes: Andreas, Deines, Eirich, Henkel, Lapaseotes, Reuter, Weinreis, Westphal

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Darnall

10. Consideration of Long-Range Implementation Plan (LRIP)

Berge reported that the District must submit a Long-Range Implementation Plan (LRIP) with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources. The Board must approve the plan before it can be submitted. Moved by Eirich, seconded by Reuter, to approve the District's Long-Range Implementation Plan. Motion passed.

Ayes: Andreas, Deines, Eirich, Henkel, Lapaseotes, Reuter, Weinreis, Westphal

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Darnall

11. Review and Approve Consent to Dissolution of the North Platte Valley Water Association (NPVWA) and Certificate of Plan of Dissolution

Berge reminded the Board how the North Platte Valley Water Association (NPVWA) came into existence and their purpose. The different groups within the organization have found other ways of working together and it has met only once in the past three years. Staff recommends dissolving the NPVWA and consenting to the dissolution. Moved by Lapaseotes, seconded by Weinreis, to approve the Consent to Dissolution of the North Platte Valley Water Association (NPVWA) and Certificate of Plan of Dissolution. Motion passed.

Ayes: Andreas, Deines, Eirich, Henkel, Lapaseotes, Reuter, Weinreis, Westphal

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Darnall

12. Adjourn

Moved by Weinreis, seconded by Reuter, to adjourn at 4:17 p.m., MDT. Motion passed.

Ayes: Andreas, Deines, Eirich, Henkel, Lapaseotes, Reuter, Weinreis, Westphal

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Darnall