

**NORTH PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES  
DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MEETING  
January 14, 2016**

The regular meeting of the North Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors was called to order at 3:02 p.m. MDT, January 14, by Gary Darnall 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 January 7, 2016, Scottsbluff *Star-Herald*.

Darnall 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, Gary Darnall, Roger Eirich, Dave Ostdiek, Pete Lapaseotes, and Dan Weinreis. Absent: Gerald Dillman and Chuck Henkel. Others present: Tracy Zayac, Scott Schaneman, Kyle Ann Hopkins, Dave Wolf, Barb Cross, Dave Christian, Carolyn Hudson, and Craig Uhrig, NPNRD staff; Dallas Johannsen, NRCS; 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, December 10, 2015.
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, December 10, 2015.
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Manager's Report
5. Description of Conservation Grant Program-Encouraging Producer Innovations through Conservation Grant Programs.
6. Descriptive Information worksheet regarding the Telemetry SOP Program.
7. Press Releases- North Platte NRD reminds Landowners of Flow Meter Requirements, dated December 28, 2015.
8. Press Release-North Platte NRD reminds Landowners about Cost-share Opportunities, dated December 28, 2015.
9. Press Release-North Platte NRD creates new Programs to Help with Water Management, dated January 4, 2016.
10. Press Release-North Platte NRD offers new Recycling Cost-share Program, dated November 16, 2015.
11. Press Release-North Platte NRD Announces Poster Contest Winners, dated November 30, 2015.
12. Article, "*Start Clicking: NRD's 2016 Photo Contest will take Entries Soon*" by Steve Frederick, dated January 4, 2016.
13. NRD's 2016 Legislative Conference – Tentative Agenda for Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup> through Wednesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

14. Memo to North Platte NRD Board of Directors, dated January 14, 2016, regarding Flow Meter Maintenance Fee Schedule.
15. Memo to North Platte NRD Board of Directors, dated January 14, 2016, regarding Harrisburg Water System Fee Schedule.
16. Reorganization Requirements for North Platte NRD, Required at January Board Meeting.

### **3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings**

The Board reviewed the minutes of the December 10, 2015, regular Board meeting. Moved by Eirich, seconded by Weinreis, to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2015,

regular Board meeting. Motion passed.

Ayes: Andreas, Deines, Eirich, Lapaseotes, Ostdiek, Weinreis, Darnall

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Dillman, Henkel

### **4. Treasurer's Report and Accounts Payable**

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

Ayes: Andreas, Deines, Eirich, Lapaseotes, Ostdiek, Weinreis, Darnall

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Dillman, Henkel

## **5. Comments from the Public**

There were no comments from the public.

## **6. Manager's Report**

Zayac briefly went over the manager's report. In order to accommodate new staff members, we have modified some offices in the building, and invite the board to take a look around to familiarize yourselves with where everyone is now sitting. Travis Preston, GIS Coordinator and Barb Cross, Assistant Manager both started their duties on January 4. We are excited to have them. The board should take time to visit with them and get to know them as time allows. Additionally, we are working to replace Dan Ruterbories in the Water Department.

The Employee Appreciation Dinner is to be held on January 16 at the Gering Civic Center. Cocktail hour is at 6:00 p.m. and Dinner is at 6:30 p.m. If you've not yet RSVP'd your attendance, please visit with Susie Kaufman and let her know your plans. You are going to reorganize the Board today, including new subcommittee chairmen. Berge would like the Chairmen to consider when they would like to hold recurring meetings this year as there are a number of topics that will need to be addressed and recommendations made to the full board. It is nearing that time of year again, and Jackie, Barb and I will be beginning preliminary work on the budget in the coming weeks.

The NPNRD administers the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Fund Cost Share program to assist landowners with implementing conservation practices on

their land. This work is done in conjunction with NRCS. As you recall, we changed sign up to continuous about a year ago, and the deadline for applications to be scored, ranked and awarded is February 12. Scoring will occur on February 16.

Announcements on awards will be shortly thereafter. Sign-up for the EPIC and 10/30 programs will commence on January 25 and end on February 5 for these two programs. The applications will be scored and ranked on February 16. Announcements on awards will be shortly thereafter.

The Data Access Monitoring Program (DAMP) will begin this month with ordering of 261 AMCi Wireless Telemetry units for installation at select sites throughout the District. We will take delivery in March, and will have them installed and ready for the 2016 water year. Seth Popp of the Water Department has developed a Standard Operating Procedure for the installation of these units that is attached. You may recall that this program is a partnership with the Department of Natural Resources, who is funding the vast majority of this project through reimbursement. Additionally, we are working with AMCi so that the telemetry will interface with our database and to develop a web portal for landowners to use this technology to monitor their water use. We are requiring flowmeters in the Fully Appropriated area of the District by the end of 2016. We will be cost sharing this project with the NSWCP funds and with a grant from the Bureau of Reclamation. We are embarking on a major media push on this to ensure landowners know the requirement and funding options.

In the next couple of months, Berge will be asking the Water Resources Subcommittee to set lease and retirement rates based on URF depletion percentages for agreements that we could potentially enter into with landowners in the future. He would

like the committee to make recommendations each spring for the board to approve, so that we can eliminate negotiations.

Tracy, Barb and John will be meeting with the Department of Natural Resources Director, and his staff at the end of the Legislative Conference to discuss several issues including the model and the very important issue of return flow obligations for surface water leases. We raised both of these issues with Mr. Fassett when he was in our District a couple of months ago.

Seametrics has reached out to us related to their not being on the approved meter list any longer, and is trying to make things right with us as it relates to our ongoing issues with these meters being on our outlier list, primarily due to power (battery) concerns. They offered to come out and replace batteries, and we countered that they need to come out and evaluate whether there are opportunities for hard-wiring, and they have also offered to come out and replace 5 meters with new ones at no cost. They are continuing to evaluate the issues related to the batteries. Scott is working with them on this. We submitted our application for the Water Sustainability Fund on December 22. A copy of that application is in your packet.

The North Platte NRD will be hosting a series of Producer Roundtable Discussions around the district this month to talk about our programs, our rules, introduce staff and take input from those we serve. Outreach about these meetings will be through media, invitations to producers and word of mouth. Directors are more than welcome to attend any/all of the meetings. If you do intend to come, and would like to speak, please let me know. The schedule for the meetings and locations/times follow:

Garden County:

January 19  
11:00a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Most Unlikely Place in Lewellen

Banner County:  
January 21  
1:00p.m. – 3:00p.m.  
Double L Cafe (Former Hilltop Cafe)

Sioux County:  
January 22  
11:00a.m. -  
1:00 p.m.  
Morrill American Legion

Morrill County:  
January 28  
11:00 a.m. -  
1:00 p.m.  
Broadwater Fire  
Hall

Scotts Bluff  
County:  
January 29  
11:00a.m. -  
1:00p.m.  
Remington Club in Minatare

We will be participating in Bean Day on January 12, 2016 to discuss several new programs and sign up deadlines at the NRD. Berge will be speaking to the Sugar Growers Annual Meeting on February. We are working on setting up an appearance at the WESTCO Young Producers Meeting in the coming months. The NRD will have a strong presence at the KNEB Farm and Ranch Expo. We will be participating in the annual Oshkosh Farm and Ranch Show on February 20. Berge will be speaking at the Michigan Agribusiness Association Annual Meeting on January 13. Jody Fiscus, Seth

Popp and Berge will be attending the Four States Irrigation Council Meeting in Ft. Collins after I return from Michigan for the balance of the week. As you may recall, we were the only groundwater organization that was invited to attend, and there may be a possibility that we could occupy a seat on the board for the upcoming year. We will keep this Board apprised. We will discuss during the legislative update on the regular agenda. Berge spoke to the Nebraska Water Balance Association Board Meeting in Scottsbluff on December. As always, the NRD will have a strong presence and play a significant role in the Annual Panhandle No-Till Partnership Annual Meeting on February 23 and 24. Our press outreach is ongoing and broad. We have continued with twice weekly updates on KNEB, and have had several print articles in papers across the District on a variety of projects and programs. We will be doing massive press outreach in the coming days and weeks on 10/30, EPIC, Domestic Well Testing, Producer Roundtable Meetings, NSWCP Cost Share, Flowmeters in the FA, and Telemetry.

## **7. Agency Reports**

### **a. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**

Dallas Johannsen reported they are starting to rank applications and funding will start in six to eight weeks.

### **b. Natural Resources Commission (NRC)**

Deines reported the Commission had a conference call earlier in the week, and they voted on 10 people to be on the committee to review the applications for the Water Sustainability Fund. Deines was chosen to sit on the committee. A total of 27 applications have been submitted. Final vote will be in April or May.

**c. NE Association of Resources Districts (NARD)**

Dillman was not present, so no report was given.

**d. High Plains Weed Management Association (HPWMA)**

Weinreis reported the next meeting was later on in the afternoon.

**e. North Platte Valley Water Association**

Dillman was not present, so no report was given.

**8. Legislative Preview**

Zayac reminded the Board about the NARD Legislative Conference later on in January. Four members of the staff and four members of the Board will be attending. During the conference, staff has set up multiple meetings with State Senators and University of Nebraska researchers to talk about a variety of topics. Zayac briefly explained LB 714, a bill introduced by Senator John Stinner, 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.

**9. Consideration of Flow Meter Maintenance Fee Schedule Staff Recommendation**

Zayac reported that currently, the District charges the price of the part plus fifteen percent if maintenance is performed on the flow meter. A \$1.00 seal would cost the landowner \$1.15. The landowner would not be charged for the employee's time or the fuel costs. Staff recommended that the Board approve a \$25.00 service charge to be added to the cost of parts and 15 percent of the parts. Moved by Weinreis, seconded by Eirich, to approve the increase in the Flow Meter Maintenance Fee Schedule to

\$25.00 service fee, cost of the part, and an additional charge that equals 15 percent of the cost of the part. Motion passed.

Ayes: Andreas, Deines, Eirich, Lapaseotes, Ostdiek, Weinreis, Darnall

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Dillman, Henkel

**10. Consideration of Harrisburg Water System Fee Schedule Staff Recommendation**

Zayac reported that he last time the fees were raised at the Harrisburg Water System was in 2008. The costs do not reflex the funds necessary to properly administer the system. The system is now 20 years old, and maintenance will gradually become a bigger expense. The District has been approach multiple times by people interested in purchasing water in a one-time deal. Staff has recommended that the Board refer the aforementioned issues to Water Resource and District Operation Committees for further discussion. Moved by Ostdiek, seconded by Weinreis, to refer the issues of increasing the Harrisburg Water System Fee Schedule and policy and fee schedule for the purchase of water from the Harrisburg Water System. Motion passed.

Ayes: Andreas, Deines, Eirich, Lapaseotes, Ostdiek, Weinreis, Darnall

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Dillman, Henkel

**11. Consideration of Board Reorganization**

The Board leadership terms have expired and the Board needs to nominate and vote

for Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Chairman: Kent Andreas was nominated. Moved by Ostdiek, seconded by Eirich to close nominations and unanimously approve Chuck Andreas for Chairman. Motion passed.

Ayes: Deines, Eirich, Lapaseotes, Ostdiek, Weinreis, Darnall

Nay: None

Abstain: Andreas

Absent: Dillman, Henkel

Vice Chairman: Gary Darnall was nominated by Weinreis and seconded by Ostdiek and Roger Eirich was nominated by Deines and second by Lapaseotes. Since there was more than one nominated, it was determined that a silent vote will be conducted to determine who will win. Tracy Zayac would then count the votes. The results of the silent vote was six votes for Eirich and one vote for Darnall. Eirich is elected.

Secretary: Pete Lapaseotes was nominated. Moved by Eirich, seconded by Ostdiek to close nominations and unanimously approve Pete Lapaseotes for Secretary. Motion passed.

Ayes: Andreas, Deines, Eirich, Ostdiek, Weinreis, Darnall

Nay: None

Abstain: Lapaseotes

Absent: Dillman, Henkel

Treasure: Dave Ostdiek was nominated. Moved by Lapaseotes, seconded by Deines to close nominations and unanimously approve Dave Ostdiek for Treasure. Motion

passed.

Ayes: Andreas, Deines, Eirich, Lapaseotes, Weinreis, Darnall

Nay: None

Abstain: Ostdiek

Absent: Dillman, Henkel

**12. Consideration of Adding Barb Cross and Chuck Henkel to the Signature cards for Platte Valley National Bank and First State Bank.**

Currently, Berge and Dave Ostdiek are the only signatories with the ability to sign checks for the District. Berge is asking the Board to consider adding Barb Cross and Chuck Henkel to the signature cards in the event that either one of the current signatories are unable to sign the checks. Moved by Lapaseotes, seconded by Eirich to add Assistant Manager Barb Cross and Director Chuck Henkel to the signature cards for Platte Valley National Bank and First State Bank. Motion passed.

Ayes: Andreas, Deines, Eirich, Lapaseotes, Ostdiek, Weinreis, Darnall

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Dillman, Henkel

Absent: Dillman, Henkel

**13. Consideration of Adding Barb Cross to the Nebraska Public Agency Investment Trust as an Authorized User.**

Similar to the action item above, Berge is asking that the Board consider adding Cross to the Nebraska Public Agency Investment Trust as part of her duty as Assistant Manager. This will allow her to act on the District's behalf if Berge is not in office.

Moved by Eirich, seconded by Lapaseotes to add Assistant Manager Barb Cross to the Nebraska Public Agency Investment Trust as an authorized user. Motion passed.

Ayes: Andreas, Deines, Eirich, Lapaseotes, Ostdiek, Weinreis, Darnall

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Dillman, Henkel

### **13. Staff Spotlight: Craig Uhrig**

Craig Uhrig has a bachelor in General Agriculture from the University of Nebraska. He has worked for Sandberg Implement, State Farm Insurance, and Panhandle Coop before he came to the NRD in 2002. When he started, his duties included trees, chemigation, well census, reading flow meters, flow meter maintenance, and just recently, he transferred to the water department. He has replaced trees with ground water level readings to his list of duties.

### **14. Adjourn**

Moved by Lapaseotes, seconded by Andreas, to adjourn at 4:01 p.m., MDT.

Motion passed.

Ayes: Andreas, Deines, Eirich, Lapaseotes, Ostdiek, Weinreis,

Dillman Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Darnall, Henkel