

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

July 14, 2016

The regular meeting of the North Platte Natural Resources District (NRD) Board of Directors was called to order at 3:01 p.m. MDT, July 14, 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 July 7, 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, Gary Darnall, Dave Deines, Roger Eirich, Dave Ostdiek, and Pete Lapaseotes. Absent: Gerald Dillman, Chuck Henkel, Dan Weinreis. Others present: John Berge, Barb Cross, Scott Schaneman, Dave Wolf, Carolyn Hudson, Tracy Zayac, Elizabeth Miller, Dave Christian, Lydia Hanson, and Amanda Shepperd, NPNRD staff; Steve Smith; Smith, Synder, Pettit, Hofmeister & Snyder; Jason Lambrecht and John Miller, USGS; 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, June 9, 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, June 9, 2016.
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Manager's Report
5. Report on "*Storm Damage & Repairs Needed on the Yensen Drain*".
6. Presentation of Greenhouse Proposal to Scottsbluff Airport Authority Board, dated July 15, 2016.
7. NET Platte River Time Lapse Video Project and Development of Educational Materials.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

The Board reviewed the minutes of the June 9, 2016, regular Board meeting.

Moved by Eirich, seconded by Deines, to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2016, regular Board meeting. Motion passed.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Dillman, Henkel, Weinreis

4. Treasurer's Report and Accounts Payable

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

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Dillman, Henkel, Weinreis

5. Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

6. Manager's Report

Berge reported Elizabeth Miller was hired as our Policy Analyst on July 1. She will be supervised by Tracy. Miller will assist Barb and I on the development of policy and will serve in a back-up role to Tracy. We have renewed our insurance policy as of July 1 with EMC. Because of our lack of claims, we saved nearly \$8,000 in premiums over the last year. Kyle Ann, Jackie and I are working with Beehive industries to ensure that our scope of work is coming to a close successfully and are working on a side agreement to ensure that an interface between telemetry and Beehive can be built and used successfully for flow meter reads. Staff are about 50% done with employee evaluations, and will be complete by month's end. We use these evaluations in determining performance pay

increases on top of a standard cost of living increase.

Much needed repairs are going to commence in the next several weeks to resurface the parking lot and repair the sidewalk separation on the north side of the building. Field staff have been working on telemetry installations since May 30, and have the installations down to a fine science. Installations last only 30 minutes per install when there are no complications. To date, they have successfully installed 245 units, and 16 remain because the initial site was not suitable for installation. We are presently working with AMCi to combat the problems which are generally related to cellular service. We also have ordered our first shipment of devices through our NET grant and expect shipment in September. This phase includes 42 units to be installed on the south side of the river from the state line to south Mitchell Highway.

We are presently in talks with four landowners on both permanent groundwater and temporary surface water leases – the groundwater leases will be reimbursable by the Water Suitability Fund grant secured earlier this year. We are hosting a meeting with JEO, our Hazard Mitigation consultants, and "airport hill" businesses to discuss the possibility of developing a storm shelter on the hill to accommodate the several hundred people that work in the vicinity of our office. I am speaking to the Nebraska Water Leaders Academy on July 15. This is a Nebraska State Irrigation Association (NSIA) sponsored group that Scott Schaneman is an alumnus of and Kyle Ann Hopkins is currently a class member of.

I am again serving as the co-chair of the Scottsbluff Gering United Chamber of

Commerce Water Tour of the North Platte Projects. Jody, Lynn, Elizabeth, Gary Darnall, and Steve will be attending from the NRD. We completed our first annual photo contest on Facebook. It was astoundingly popular, and we will give prizes in each of three categories.

7. Basin Wide Planning Process

Berge updated the Board on the Basin Wide Planning process. The North Platte NRD has nine stakeholders involved in the process, and we join the other four Upper Platte NRDs and other stakeholders. The process will update the Basin Wide Plan, which will influence our own Integrated Management Plan. Since there are many new stakeholders involved in the meetings, the discussions have been centered around updating on what has been done information. Barb Cross and Tracy Zayac will be giving a presentation to the group on our past and present water management activities. Berge will provide regular update on the process.

8. Report on Storm Damage on the Yensen Drain – Gering Valley Flood Control Project

Berge reported on the damage to the Yensen Drain that was sustained during a large rain event last month. Water was flowing over a road at one point and some crop damage has happened. In the design of the drain, rock was anchored into cement at the bottom of each drop structure and additional rocks were placed there to help slow the water. The rocks collect debris and silt which create dams. When the water cannot get through the rocks, it pools and eventually starts to go around the rocks. The water then erodes the soil around the drop structure and has pushed the unanchored rocks over 100 feet down the

drain. The permanent maintenance committee has viewed the problem and will consult with Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to see what permanent fixes are needed. Gering/Ft. Laramie Irrigation District has volunteered to get the unanchored rock out of the drain and a temporary fix is being looked at. The District has funds available to help with the costs of the fixes, with reimbursements from the permanent maintenance committee coming after the fixes have been completed. They are also looking into federal funding for emergencies through NRCS.

9. Presentation from USGS on Recorder Well Project

Jason Lambrecht and John Miller from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) presented to the Board on the USGS' role, what data they collect, who uses it, and the benefits of the program. The NRD provides data to USGS as part of a collaboration efforts to measure ground water.

10. Presentation of Greenhouse Proposal

Barb Cross presented a proposal to build a greenhouse on property just south of the NRD main office building. The greenhouse would be used for educational programs, demonstration areas, range and land judging practice sites, and tree plots. The food grown in the greenhouse would be donated to the Veterans Home and/or CAPWN. The land is currently owned by the Airport, but Cross has asked the Airport Authority Board to donate the land. They seemed very open to the idea. The additional fund for the greenhouse would come from a variety of grants, potential local donations, and some District funds. The board will be updated when additional information comes available.

11. Consideration of NET Platte River Time Lapse Video and Development of Educational Materials

Berge reported that Nebraska Televisions would like to expand on the Platte River Time Lapse project and work on a video and education materials. Nebraska Association of Resources District is asking for \$1800 from each NRD to help with the costs. The program could potentially highlight much of the North Platte River system, and the video would be used in education and public relations programs. Moved by Lapaseotes, seconded by Ostdiek to approve the contribution of \$1800 to the NET Platte River Time Lapse Video project and development of education materials. Motion passed.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Dillman, Henkel, Weinreis

12. Staff Spotlight – Amanda Shepperd

Amanda Shepperd started as an intern about a year ago and was brought on full time June 1st of this year. She had previously worked the GIS department, but would help out in other departments as needed. She just received her Associates of Science in Forestry and Wildlife Management and another one in Biology and Ecology. She has been accepted into Oregon State University and will continue her studying online. Her new position is a shared between the Nebraska Forest Service and the NRD. She will be working on a tree inventory in the western part of Nebraska and helping out in the Information and Education

Department at the NRD.

13. Adjourn

Moved by Ostdiek, seconded by Eirich, to adjourn at 4:24 p.m., MDT. Motion passed.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Dillman, Henkel, Weinreis