

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

July 13, 2017

The regular meeting of the North Platte Natural Resources District (NRD) Board of Directors was called to order at 3:00 p.m. MDT, July 13, 2017 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 6, 2017, 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, Gerald Dillman, Dave Deines, Roger Eirich, Chuck Henkel, Dave Ostdiek, Pete Lapaseotes, and Dan Weinreis. Others present: Barb Cross, Tracy Zayac, Lydia Hanson, Amanda Shepperd, Elizabeth Miller, Travis Preston, and Dave Wolf, NPNRD staff; Thad Kuntz, Adaptive Resources, Inc, and Steve Smith, Smith, Snyder, Pettit, Hofmeister, & Snyder.

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 8, 2017.
4. 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, June 8, 2017.
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Manager's Report
5. Letter from Smith, Snyder, Pettitt & Hofmeister, dated July 6, 2017, regarding the firm will be dissolved as of August 1, 2017, and will be joining Simmons Olsen Law Firm P.C.
6. Presentation, "Perceptions of Water Use & Management in the NPNRD", by Elizabeth Miller, dated July 13, 2017.
7. Presentation, 2016-2017 North Platte Natural Resources District, Education Outreach, by David Wolf.
8. University of Nebraska-Lincoln Fee for Service Agreement.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

The Board reviewed the minutes of the June 8, 2017, regular Board meeting. Moved by Eirich, seconded by Henkel, to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2017, regular Board meeting.

Motion passed.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: Deines, Dillman

Absent: None

4. Treasurer's Report and Accounts Payable

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

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

5. Comments from the Public

No comments from the public.

6. Manager's Report

Barb Cross provided the manager's report. In September, the District will be hosting two AmeriCorps Volunteers from the Nebraska Conservation Education Fund. These folks will work part-time under our supervision on the planning and execution of the Greenhouse Project and several public relations projects at the District. They are fully funded by the Nebraska Conservation Education Fund. Since the District's last large property tax deposit, the cash accounts, project sinking funds, and CDs have all been rebalanced. As reported in

the Treasurer's Report, the NPAIT, First State Money Market, Platte Valley Checking and one of the First State CDs are all replenished after some necessary transfers occurred last fall.

The latest draft budget proposal was shared with the Budget Committee last week and are meeting as a committee On July 20 to finalize that request in the hopes of recommending to the full board. In addition to the Budget Committee meeting, the Water Resources Committee will be meeting on August 1 and District Operations will be meeting on August 10.

Administrative staff has implemented an optional flex working schedule for employees to take advantage of in working with their supervisors. All employees are expected to work core hours here, but may flex their start and end times, still accounting for 80 hours every two weeks. Staff is also in the midst of being evaluated by their supervisors, and they should be completed by August 1. The annual audit of accounts will take place July 24-28. Dana Cole will again be performing that work for us.

John Berge has signed a proposal with the firm Velosys to develop and host the telemetry dashboard that will be accessible by landowners that have this technology installed on their properties. This project will require about 30-60 days for completion, and the portal will be available next water year for those that have the technology. The NRD is very close to signing two leases on surface water acres on the Enterprise ditch that will

allow us to build intentional recharge pits to take full advantage of the portfolio of leases on Enterprise for maximum credit while maintaining historic return flows back to the river.

Berge recently signed a purchase agreement for the next cadre of telemetry units totaling over \$571,000. These new units will be installed next spring and will be operable by WY 2018. This will bring our total installed up to over 860 units.

The District will again be working with KNEB to sponsor each of the county fairs in our District this year. These sponsorships are nominal in cost and allow us maximum exposure in each of the counties that we represent. Basin Wide Planning Stakeholder Group will be meeting next week in North Platte.

Dave Christian and Berge will be arranging a meeting of affected landowners on the Yensen Drain to discuss potential repair options for many of the ongoing issues in that area. California Ag Secretary (and Banner County native) Karen Ross met with Staff at length to gather information about our successes in water management, incentives and use of technology to save water in our overappropriated areas of the District. Karen and Berge served together at USDA and as she is fact finding, she wanted to visit about District activities. She will likely do some follow-up as they continue to develop their own water saving measures. Berge will be attending Water Leaders Academy July 13 and 14 and will be presenting to the Academy on the 14. Cross will be speaking and partially hosting the Chamber of Commerce Water Tour on July 18-19.

7. Legislative Update

Dave Wolf reported that staff meet with the legislative committee of the local Nebraska Realtor's Association to inform them about the effects of LB 98 on the NRD's ability to meet their Integrated Management Plan obligations. After some discussion, they agreed to help talk to state senators about supporting LB 98. Berge stressed finding allies to help advocate for the constituents in our district and this meeting is a step towards that advocacy.

8. Drought Planning Update

Zayac reported the planning committee have met twice, but they have not completed their recommendations. They have decided to meet at the end of August to finish up. Staff will then review the document and pass it on to the Water Resources Committee for review. Zayac stressed that the plan will be brought before full before board for them to decide on to approve it or not.

9. Update on North Platte NRD Legal Advisors

Cross reported Smith, Snyder, Pettit, Hofmeister, & Snyder will be dissolved and Smith and some of the staff will be moving to Simmon Olson Law Firm. Smith wanted to let the District know of the move and that he would be decreasing his work load. He will continue focusing on water issues. The board expressed their support of Smith.

10. Presentation on the "Perceptions of Water Use and Management in the North Platte NRD" Study

Elizabeth Miller provided an update on her study. She has interviewed 33 people, and the results were divided into five perspectives. The perspectives included: bring the prairie to the city, agriculture, healing ties (social connections to nature), modern conservation, and it's all necessary. The interviews also included topical considerations which included NRD action and regulations, politics, and how to change water use practices. Miller also explained the partnership with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Policy Center. The policy center has offered to help review the Q sort and look at her methodology to make sure that it is accurate. The Board will review and vote on the agreement later in the meeting.

11. End of the Year Report for Information and Education Department

Wolf reported on youth outreach for the past school year. Wolf provided the number of students presented to for the past five years and demonstrated a sharp increase in in-class presentations. Over 4200 students. He also reported on the topics of the presentations were given and the goals for the upcoming year.

12. Consideration of Revised Q Methodology Contract with this University of Nebraska Public Policy Center

As mentioned in item 10, the District has contacted the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center to revise the agreement to review Miller's Q methodology. The purpose is to make sure that the methodology is sound and provide additional guidance to Miller as she continues with her research. Moved by Lapaseotes, seconded by Henkel, to approve the revised

Q Methodology Contact with the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center. Motion passed.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: Ostdiek

Absent: None

13. Adjourn

Moved by Lapaseotes, seconded by Eirich, to adjourn at 4:04 p.m., MDT. Motion passed.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None