

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

January 11, 2018

The regular meeting of the North Platte Natural Resources District (NRD) Board of Directors was called to order at 3:00 p.m. MDT, January 11, 2018, 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 January 4, 2018, 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, Chuck Henkel, Pete Lapaseotes, Dave Ostdiek, and Dan Weinreis. Absent: Gerald Dillman and Roger Eirich. Others present: John Berge, Barb Cross, Tracy Zayac, Lydia Hendrickson, Kyle Ann Hopkins, Seth Popp, Craig Uhrig, Travis Preston, Scott Schaneman, Carolyn Hudson, and David Wolf, NPNRD staff; Sarah Gray and Chris Jensen, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 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 14, 2017.
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 14, 2017.
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Manager's Report
5. Bytes Premium Managed Service Solution Proposal, dated December 18, 2017.
6. Memo from Platte Basin Administrators to North Platte NRD, dated January 8, 2018, regarding Water Resources Cash Fund for 2018 Update.
7. Summary of North Platte Natural Resources District, and Ducks Unlimited Surface Water Recharge Project.
8. Agenda for the NRDs 2018 Legislative Conference, January 22nd-24th.
9. Articles of Interest.
10. Article Links regarding the North Platte Natural Resources District Greenhouse Project, and Education Area.
11. Multiple Legislative Updates, regarding LB 98.

12. DRAFT - Agreement between the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, to provide assistance to the North Platte Natural Resources District, for the remedial repair construction of Gering Valley Watershed, Yensen Drain under Watershed Flood Prevention Operations.
13. Consideration of Integrated Management Planning Proposals, Logistics and Dates for Adopting Rules and IMP, dated September 8, 2014.
14. Consideration of Board Reorganization
15. Climate Updates.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Board reviewed the minutes of the December 14, 2017, regular Board meeting. Moved by Henkel, seconded by Ostdiek, to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2017, regular Board meeting. Motion passed.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Dillman, Eirich

4. Treasurer's Report and Accounts Payable

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

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Dillman, Eirich

5. Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

6. Manager's Report

Berge reported the annual Staff Appreciation Dinner will be held on January 19th at 6 p.m. at the Gering Civic Center. The event will begin with a cash bar reception, followed by dinner. The District will forgo collecting rent from Keep Scottsbluff/Gering Beautiful (KSGB) as one of their expected funding sources for this fiscal year is unavailable. Berge also information KSGB staff to contact me early in the year to discuss fiscal needs from the NPNRD for our joint projects and ensure that the NRD is providing enough resources. The District has recently purchased a used Ford F-150 to be used by season tree planting staff and our intern programs in the field.

As Berge mentioned in the December Board Meeting, the District has been approached by another firm to do IT work and received a bid from them. In turn, the NRD also received an updated proposal from Bytes to continue their services. The District will continue to work the Bytes and will continue to review this important

work on an annual basis. The cost will come down substantially each month as the NRD entered into this agreement to ensure that routine equipment purchases/upgrades are paid for over time rather than one-time large fees. Staff has been working on a manual for new and existing board members that will be used for orientation and desk reference. Berge will share a draft of that document with Kent Andreas and the executive committee for comment next month and will hopefully have it completed shortly after.

Berge informed the board that applications for cost-share will end February 16th and will be scored on the 20th. Announcements to landowners will be made on February 22nd. Installation of the next phase of telemetry will be starting in March of 2018 and will involve much of the field staff. After this phase, the NRD will have 831 unites in the field. Todd Filipi, Brian Caudill, and Berge recently met with the NGP Fisheries Manager on the Wildhorse Dam Project that the NPNRD previously owned. Berge was interested in getting a briefing from him on what went wrong, and why the NRD ultimately sold the property, rather than continueing to develop it for a recreation project.

Dave Ostdiek, Tracy Zayac, and Berge started discussions on reworking the Drought plan for future consideration by the Board. The NRD will be hosting a meeting with interested parties on January 30th at the NRD to discuss a more permanent plan for maintenance for Brown's Canyon. The meeting will likely include

Gering Fort Laramie, Scotts Bluff County, and State Roads Department. Berge has submitted a request for the PBC administrators to consider a February 7th meeting to expand our EPIC allocation buy down program. The request was for \$120,000 of WRCF dollars and would be matched by \$80,000.

7. Legislative Update

Berge reported Senator Stinner has been working with other senators trying to increase the support for LB 98. Staff will also be meeting with various senators during the NARD Legislative Conference, trying to increase support for the bill. Another bill Berge wants the board to know about is LB997, which caps the pay of administrative staff at five percent of the budget. The bill was introduced by Senator Murante. He will keep the board updated when new information becomes available.

8. Presentation from Travis Preston on Velosys Project – Telemetry Dashboard

Preston updated the board on the Velosys project. The project will provide the secure dashboard the NRD has promised landowners for our telemetry program. Preston also demonstrated how the dashboard will work.

9. Discussion of Agreement with USDA-NRCS Regarding Drain Repair Work

Berge reported the repairs to Yensen Drain were temporary, and they need to be permanent. The Board budgeted \$200,000 to \$250,000 to complete the repairs. Chris Jensen, with NRCS, reviewed the repairs that are needed, and he informed us the NRCS has secured a federal grant that will pay 100 percent of the costs, up to \$425,000. The

money that was budgeted for the repairs will be utilized in other water management projects.

Steve Smith has reviewed the agreement for the repairs and will have to go through the bid process due to the use of federal funds. All the repairs can be completed in 2018.

10. Discussion of Basin Wide Planning Efforts

At the last basin-wide meeting, the NRDs were asked to provide cost information for existing and past projects. The intent was to show stakeholders in what the NRDs are investing money in and the results of those investments. The good news for the NPNRD is that it has a great story to tell, because they have invested the District's money in projects and programs that have produced great results. The District has surpassed their goal for the first increment by almost 300 percent.

11. Consideration of Requesting Proposals from Qualified Candidates to Facilitate the Integrated Management Planning Process Beginning in 2018

Berge reported last time the NRD went through the process of developing the Integrated Management Plan, Tina Kurtz was available to facilitate that process. Due to the fact that very few people are still on staff that went through the process, Berge recommends hiring an outside facilitator. Moved by Lapaseotes, seconded by Deines, to approved staff for sending out requests for facilitators to help in the Integrated Management Process. Motion passed.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Dillman, Eirich

12. Consideration of Board Reorganization

Last month, the board was asked to consider any changes they might want to make regarding board organization. After some discussion and consideration, the board decided to keep the officers the same. Berge also reminded directors that are up for reelection that they need to file by February 15th, if they intend to run for reelection.

Moved by Darnall, seconded by Henkel, to keep the officers the same as they were in 2017. Motion passed.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Dillman, Eirich

13. Adjourn

Moved by Henkel, seconded by Ostdiek, to adjourn at 3:52 p.m., MDT. Motion passed.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Eirich, Henkel