

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

**July 12, 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, July 12, 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 July 5, 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, Roger Eirich, Chuck Henkel, Pete Lapaseotes, Dave Ostdiek, Ryan Reuter, and Dan Weinreis. Absent: none. Others present: John Berge, Barb Cross, Lydia Hendrickson, Scott Schaneman, Kyle Ann Hopkins, Danielle Schafer, and David Wolf, NPNRD staff; Thad Kuntz, Adaptive Resources, Inc; and Sarah Gray and Chris Jensen, National Resource Conservation Service.

The following items of informational material were made available to the Directors electronically prior to the Board Meeting:

1. Meeting Notice
2. Agenda
3. 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 14, 2018.
3. Treasurer's Report

4. Manager's Report
5. Agreement effective June 27, 2018 by and between the North Platte Natural Resources District, and the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska for and on behalf of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and its Panhandle Research & Extension Center. Regarding a project to explore technologies such as speed-controlled variable rate irrigation and soil moisture sensors to compare water use efficiency.
6. Map for the North Platte Natural Resources District Water Expo 2018.
7. Events Schedule for the North Platte Natural District Water Expo 2018.
8. Maps of the North Platte Natural Resources Districts Dam Structures.

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

The Board reviewed the minutes of the June 14, 2018, regular Board meeting. Moved by Eirich, seconded by Reuter, to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2018 regular Board meeting.  
Motion passed.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: Andreas, Henkel, Weinreis

Absent: None

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

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

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

**5. Comments from the Public**

There were no comments from the public.

**6. Manager's Report**

John Berge introduced Danielle Schafer as the new office manager. She will replace Jackie Bishop, who has served the District for 25 years and will be moving out of state. Staff has made several modifications to the budget over the last several weeks. As it stands today, the property tax asking has dropped (assuming flat valuations) by \$1.2 million. This will drop the mill levy to .035 from .057 (again assuming flat valuations). This is subject to change based on the wishes of the committee and any adjustments that need to be made prior to the September Board meeting.

Staff evaluations will be completed by the end of July. Schafer is currently drafting rules based on previous committee discussions for the Water Resources and the District Operations Committees to consider at their respective upcoming meetings. Berge has also reported that Thad Kuntz has completed his analysis on Pumpkin Creek and will provide the results at the next board meeting.

The rest of the managers report was submitted in the Board packet.

**7. Presentation on Agreement between the University of Nebraska-Panhandle Research and Extension Center and the North Platte NRD Pertaining to Speed Controlled Variable Rate Irrigation and Soil Moisture Sensors**

Berge reported on the agreement between the District and the University of Nebraska Panhandle Research and Extension Center to study the impact of water technologies on reducing consumptive use and improving irrigation efficiencies of the water users in our district. The

study will focus on variable rate irrigation systems and soil moisture probes for groundwater users. The study will be for two years and is working with two local vendors, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Equipment and Crop Metrics.

**8. Update on the North Platte NRD Water Expo 2018**

Berge reported the District will host its first Water Expo on September 8<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the expo is to help educate the public on water issues, NRD water programs, and infuse some fun while learning about water. The expo will include stations for attendees to explore, demonstrations, classes, a kid’s zone, games, and a tour of NRD projects. The expo will be a great way to expose the public to NRD projects and programs.

**9. Presentation on District Flood Control Issues**

Last month, Dave Christian updated the staff on the myriad of problems with dams and drains throughout the District. Berge updated the Board that the problem is bigger than first reported. Many of these structures do not have owners or the original organizations that built the structures no longer exists, so maintenance is no longer occurring. In Scotts Bluff County, there are 99 unmanaged structures and in Morrill County, there are 83. Berge went over some options for the board to consider at another time: (1) staff have already added \$150,000 to the budget for flood control mitigation; (2) the District could assess a special assessment for flood control structures in that area; or (3) the board could also increase the amount budgeted for flood control mitigation. Berge wanted the Board to be aware of the issue.

**10. Adjourn**

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None