

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

**August 9, 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, August 9, 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 August 2, 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 (arrived late, 3:03). Absent: none. Others present: John Berge, Barb Cross, Lydia Hendrickson, Scott Schaneman, Kyle Ann Hopkins, Jackie Bishop, Paula Kihlthau, Travis Preston, Carolyn Hudson, Danielle Schafer, and David Wolf, NPNRD staff; Thad Kuntz, Adaptive Resources, Inc; Steve Smith and Megean Dockery, Simmons Olson Law Firm; and Sarah Gray and Chris Jensen, Natural 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. Minutes, North Platte Natural Resources District, Board of Directors Meeting, July 12, 2018.
4. Treasurer's Report (Preliminary)

The following items were provided to the Directors at the Board Meeting:

1. Agenda
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Manager's Report
4. First Annual Water Expo Information
5. Minutes, North Platte Natural Resources District, Budget & Personnel Committee, August 2, 2018
6. Preliminary Argument Outline for Application for Water Appropriation
7. State of Nebraska Department of Natural Resources Notice of Interbasin Transfer Application A-19594.
8. References from Platte Republican Diversion, Holdrege NE, for the Application for an Interbasin Transfer Permit.
9. North Platte Natural Resources District, Policy Statement: Flow Meters
10. League Association of Risk Management 2018-19 Renewal Resolution.
11. North Platte Natural Resources District, Proposed Budget Committee Worksheet, July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019.

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

The Board reviewed the minutes of the July 12, 2018, regular Board meeting. Moved by Henkel, seconded by Eirich, to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2018 regular Board meeting.  
Motion passed.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Weinreis

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

Dave Ostdiek reviewed the Treasurer's report with the Board. Moved by Darnall  
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**

Dave Fisher offer some suggests for the District's Integrated Management Plan and what he thought should be the process for determining the allocation amount for the District.

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

John Berge report an internal staff committee of Barb Cross, Danielle Schaffer, Jackie Bishop, Kyle Ann Hopkins, Scott Schaneman and Berge have met for 15 hours on the major rules rewrite that they are hoping to get to the Water Resources and District Operations Committees at the end of August or the first week of September. After being reviewed by staff, the draft rules will go to the District's legal counsel for his review. On July 19, Berge signed contract #1070 with the Department of Natural Resources that will reimburse 60% of the EPIC payments the District made in Fiscal Year 2018. This will be a reimbursement of nearly \$172,000.

Planning continues for the 1st Annual North Platte NRD Water Expo, which will be held on September 8<sup>th</sup>. The NRD has commitments for attendance from at least four board members. If Directors plan to attend, please let Cross or Berge know. As Berge is the Chairman of the NARD Manager's Committee for 2018-2019, the NRD will be hosting the NARD Manager's

Retreat August 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>. The next meeting of the NPNRD IMP Stakeholders will be held on August 16<sup>th</sup> from 2-5 p.m. Roger Eirich and Chuck Henkel are the District's representatives on that panel. Several staff and Board Member Dave Ostdiek will be attending the Fall Conference. If you are planning or wanting to attend, please let Berge know, so they can be registered. Staff will need that information by the end of the day August 10.

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

#### **7. Report from Budget and Personnel Committee**

Dave Ostdiek reported the committee recommended to the full board to approve the one percent budget levy increase for 2019, which will be discussed later on in the meeting. Ostdiek also reported the committee discussed the FY 2019 budget, and they will bring the full budget and a recommendation to the September board meeting.

#### **8. Presentation from Adaptive Resources, Inc. on the Potential Effects of Changing to the allocation as Outlined in the April Board Recommendation**

Thad Kuntz presented on his analysis of changing the allocation from 12 acres inches per year up to 13 acre inches per year in the Pumpkin Creek Sub-basin, and adding a 14 acre inch allocation per year to the Full Appropriated (FA) portion of the District. The board requested the analysis to see if the how the changes in allocations would impact the District's Integrated Management Plan obligations. In order to see if lowering pumping in FA could help offset increases in pumping in the Pumpkin Creek Sub-basin, Kuntz analyzed the Nebraskaland area. He utilized pumping data and crop types from the two area and concluded depletions will increase in the Pumpkin Creek area, and pumping will decrease in the FA. More data is needed to determine whether the decreases in the FA will make up for the increase in pumping in Pumpkin Creek. Kuntz has reminded the Board that increase in pumping does not automatically mean more depletions and obligations for the basin, and Pumpkin Creek is heavily

dependent on precipitation for recharge and streamflow. The board recommended taking the analysis to the Water Resources Committee to discuss the findings further and to decide if any recommendations needed to be brought before the full board

**9. Consideration of Comment or Objection by NPNRD on Central Nebraska Public Power District/Platte Republican Diversion Interlocal Agreement Partners Application for Water Appropriation A-19594 Issues**

Berge reported that Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District (CNPPID) and Tri-Basin NRD have submitted an application to divert 275 cfs from the Platte River and spil 100 cfs into Turkey Creek, which is a tributary of the Republican River. The water would only be diverted if there were excess flows in the river, and CNPPID’s canal system would be utilized to deliver the water to Turkey Creek. Berge asked legal counsel to see what the options were to object to the application. Steve Smith stated the District could comment or object to the application. Staff recommended the District object to the application on the basis that the NPNRD should be able to utilize any excess flows in the Platte basin before the water is able to be transferred to another river basin. Smith provided an overview of the project, objections the Board could approve, and a draft objection letter. After much deliberation and discussion, the board decided to proceed with the objection for application A-19594. Moved by Lapaseotes, seconded by Henkel, to direct staff to work with Steve Smith on finalizing an objection notice for application A-19594 with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources. Motion passed.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

## **10. Consideration of NPNRD Flow Meter Policy**

The flow meter policy gets updated every couple of years, and some minor changes have been added to the police, which include: meter exchange program, meter maintenance program, and a flow meter has been added to the meter approved list. The policy changes need to be approved by the board. Moved by Darnall, seconded by Eirich, to approve the edits to the North Platte NRD Flow Meter Policy. Motion passed.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

## **11. Consideration of the League Association of Risk Management Renewal Resolution**

Last year, the Board decided to change insurance carrier and sign a one year contract with the League Association of Risk Management (LARM). The contract is up for renewal, and the board has a couple of options to consider. The first option is to go with another carrier. The second option is to stay with LARM. IF the board chooses to stay with LARM, the District could receive a discount on the premium if they approve a two or three year contract. LARM has saved the District money over the past year and have been very good to work with. Staff recommends staying with LARM and signing a three-year contract, which will save the District five percent on their premium. Due to LARM being an interlocal agreement between political subdivisions, a resolution needs to be approved and signed. Moved by Weinreis, seconded by Eirich, to approve a three contract with the League Association of Risk Management and sign the according resolution. Motion passed.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

## **12. Consideration of 1% Budget Levy Increase for Fiscal Year 2019**

Berge recapped the levy authorities currently available to the District. The Board has voted on the 1% increase every year, though the District is not required to use it if approved. If not used, the funds go into a restricted funding authority. The Board must have three-fourths of members present to vote on this matter and enough Directors are present. Moved by Eirich, seconded by Ostdiek, to approve the 1% increase in the budget lid for FY2019. Motion passed.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

## **13. Adjourn**

Moved by Reuter, seconded by Eirich, to adjourn at 4:15 p.m., MDT. Motion passed.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None