

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

September 13, 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, September 13, 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 September 6, 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, Pete Lapaseotes, Dave Ostdiek, Ryan Reuter, and Dan Weinreis. Absent: Chuck Henkel. Others present: John Berge, Barb Cross, Lydia Hendrickson, Scott Schaneman, Kyle Ann Hopkins, Jackie Bishop, Paula Kihlthau, Jody Fiscus, Danielle Schafer, and David Wolf, NPNRD staff; Thad Kuntz, Adaptive Resources, Inc; Steve Smith, Simmons Olson Law Firm; Sarah Gray, Natural Resource Conservation Service; and Dave Fisher.

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)
4. Minutes, North Platte Natural Resources District, Budget & Personnel Committee, August 2, 2018.

5. Minutes, North Platte Natural Resources District, Budget & Personnel Committee, June 7, 2018.
6. Notice of North Platte Natural Resources District Budget Hearing & Budget Summary, and Notice of Special Hearing to Set Final Tax Request.
7. Minutes, North Platte Natural Resources District, Board of Directors Meeting, August 9, 2018.

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, August 9, 2018.
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Manager's Report
5. Minutes, North Platte Natural Resources District, Budget & Personnel Committee, June 7, 2018.
6. Minutes, North Platte Natural Resources District, Budget & Personnel Committee, August 2, 2018.
7. Notice of North Platte Natural Resources District Budget Hearing & Budget Summary, and Notice of Special Hearing to Set Final Tax Request.
8. State of Nebraska North Platte Natural Resources District Budget Form 2018-2019.
9. Email regarding Budget Updates, dated August 23, 2018.
10. Budget Timeline Worksheet
11. North Platte Natural Resources District, Public Hearing – FY 2019 Budget, September 13, 2018.

12. North Platte Natural Resources District, Public Hearing – FY 2019 Property Tax Request,
September 13, 2018.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Board reviewed the minutes of the August 9, 2018, regular Board meeting. Moved by Eirich, seconded by Ostdiek, to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2018 regular Board meeting. Motion passed.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Henkel

4. Treasurer's Report and Accounts Payable

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

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Henkel

5. Comments from the Public

Dave Fisher offer a proposal for the Platte Basin's Integrated Management Plan and shared that with the board.

6. Manager's Report

John Berge reported staff will be hosting a retirement party for Jackie Bishop on September 26th. There will be a grill-out at noon that day, and everyone is invited. Directors should have

received a “Save the Date” in your email a few weeks ago. Staff would love to have a nice crowd for Jackie. The District is in the process of amending our surface water lease contracts with both the irrigation districts and landowners under Enterprise Irrigation District and Minatare Canal Company where we are seeking reimbursement from DNR through the PBC. The amendment will include language that will not require us to seek transfer permits for these leases in order to seek consumptive use credit for drying up those acres.

Staff is continuing conversations with UNL Extension and WNCC on a potential Horticulture Program that would include work through the Geothermal Greenhouse. Barb Cross and Jenifer Sauter Berge are working on a white paper proposal for those two entities. The Internal Rules Review Committee has all but completed their work on the rules changes/recommendations and will be bringing those to the District Operations and Water Resources Committees after legal review by Steve Smith. It is our hope that the committees will act, and the full board will set a hearing date for some time in the spring.

As Chairman of the NARD Manager’s Committee, the District hosted all 23 NRDs and countless agencies in Scottsbluff/Gering for the annual NARD manager’s retreat. This retreat included many discussions related to potential legislation, agency reports, an industry tour and a projects tour. Everyone was quite impressed with our operation. The NRD hosted the first annual Water Expo at the NRD on September 8th. Nearly 350 people walked through the gates and participated in classroom exercises, demonstrations and visited the exhibitors from across the District. The Expo had 28 sponsors/exhibitors and raised over \$7,000 to offset the cost of the event. Kent Andreas, Dave Ostdiek, Chuck Henkel and Ryan Reuter were all in attendance and grilled hamburgers and hot dogs for attendees. The Expo received very good reviews on the content and the event itself and will look forward to this becoming an annual event.

Jackie Bishop, Danielle Schafer, Lydia Hendrickson and Barb Cross will be attending the NARD Fall Conference as well as Dave Ostdiek as a representative from the Board. Following the SEEDS event, Kyle Ann Hopkins and Berge will be participating in the Regional Water Symposium, sponsored by the Nebraska Water Center at the University and partially sponsored by the Global Water for Food Institute. The Final Basin-Wide Plan Meeting will be held on September 19th where staff anticipates that stakeholders will vote up or down on the draft plan that is now in its 41st month of development. As soon as the plan is adopted, Berge will send a copy to the board members as the Board will take this up at a future meeting for consideration.

Berge will be presenting to the Groundwater Conservation Workshop in Yuma, Colorado to discuss our strategies for groundwater management in the NPNRD. Travel will be covered by the Colorado Ag Water Association. He will also be presenting to the Climate Resilience Conference in Anchorage, AK October 15th - 17th to discuss our groundwater management portfolio and how that might benefit resilience in a changing climate. Travel will be covered by the Nature Conservancy and the University of Nebraska. Barb Cross will be attending the POAC/PBC meeting on October 2nd.

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

7. Discussion of Board Meeting Schedule and locations for FY-19

In the past, the board has met at alternative locations for their monthly board meetings. Since the topic was brought up at a producer roundtable, Berge wanted to get the Director's input. After some discussion, the board decided they will continue to meet at the NRD office in Scottsbluff, unless an issue that is specific to a county or area arises.

8. Consideration of Replacing Jackie Bishop with Danielle Schafer for the Purpose of Administering North Plate NRD's Credit Card Accounts at Platte Valley Bank

Since Schafer is taking over Office Manager duties for Bishop, she will need to have access to the District's credit card administration. Berge has asked the Board to make the switch. Moved by Darnall, seconded by Eirich, to replace Jackie Bishop with Danielle Schafer for the purpose of administering North Platte NRD's credit card accounts at Platte Valley Bank. Motioned passed.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Henkel

9. Report from the Budget Committee

Ostdiek reported that the Budget Committee has meet twice in the past four months and have been working in between meetings with staff on the FY 2019 budget. They were able to decrease spending and tax asking considerably, which includes a \$1 million decrease in spending over the past two years. Berge added that due to the Nebraska's Legislature inability to pass the levy authority for overappropriated and fully appropriated NRDs, the District had to drastically cut back on their water management programs.

10. Public Hearing on Proposed FY19 Budget

The public hearing on the proposed North Platte NRD FY19 budget was opened at 3:33 p.m., MDT, by Hearing Officer Dave Ostdiek. Notice of this hearing was published in the Scottsbluff Star-Herald on Thursday, September 6, 2018. Berge reviewed the reductions in the proposed budget, compared to FY18, along with the total proposed property tax asking and mill levy. No one offered testimony on the proposed FY19 budget. The hearing was closed at 3:35 p.m., MDT.

11. Public Hearing on Setting Final Tax Request

The public hearing on the proposed North Platte NRD tax request for the FY19 budget was opened at 3:36 p.m., MDT, by Hearing Officer Dave Ostdiek. Notice of this hearing was published in the Scottsbluff Star-Herald on Thursday, September 6, 2018. No one offered testimony. The hearing was closed at 3:37 p.m., MDT.

12. Adoption of Proposed FY19 Budget

Berge reported that there were errors on the beginning balance from the budget that was proposed, due some unexpected money coming in to help reimburse the District's water management programs. Berge said the error does not affect the final spending or tax asking numbers. The District will also publish the corrected notice as soon as they can. Moved by Weinreis, seconded by Ostdiek, to approve the amended FY19 budget. Motion passed.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Henkel

13. Adoption of Final Tax Request

Moved by Ostdiek, seconded by Eirich, to set the North Platte NRD property tax request at \$2,597,118.69 for FY19. Motion passed.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Henkel

14. Adjourn

Moved by Eirich, seconded by Reuter, to adjourn at 3:39 p.m., MDT. Motion passed.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Henkel