

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

November 8, 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, November 8, 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 November 1, 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, Dave Deines, Chuck Henkel, Pete Lapaseotes, Dave Ostdiek, and Ryan Reuter. Absent: Gary Darnall, Roger Eirich, and Dan Weinreis. Others present: Barb Cross, Danielle Schafer, Lydia Hendrickson, Carolyn Hudson, Jody Fiscus, Scott Schaneman, Seth Popp, Jordan Neuwirth, Craig Uhrig, and David Wolf, NPNRD staff; Thad Kuntz, Adaptive Resources, Inc; Steve Smith, Simmons Olson Law Firm; and Matt Steffl, Nebraska Game and Parks.

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

1. Meeting Notice
2. Agenda (Draft)
3. Minutes, North Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors Meeting, October 11, 2018.
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, October 11, 2018.
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Manager's Report
5. Well Nitrate Graphs 2018
6. PowerPoint Presentation, Western Water Use Management Modeling, Hydrogeology of Western Nebraska Project Completion, and Current Modeling Update, Extension, Recalibration by Thad Kuntz, P.G.
7. PowerPoint Presentation, Western Water Use Management Modeling, Joint Water Sustainability Fund Grant Application for the next WWUMM Update, by Thad Kuntz, P.G.
8. Update on Greener Gardens Greenhouse Energy Production Reports, Generated by Barb Cross.
9. Information Flyer, regarding Science on Screen, December 6, 2018, 12:30 pm, Midwest Theater, "*Feeding A Growing World*" student matinee.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Board reviewed the minutes of the October 11, 2018, regular Board meeting. Moved by Henkel, seconded by Ostdiek, to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2018 regular Board meeting. Motion passed.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Darnall, Eirich, Weinreis

4. Treasurer's Report and Accounts Payable

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

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Darnall, Eirich, Weinreis

5. Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

6. Manager's Report

Barb Cross reported the administrative staff are considering modifying our Payroll and Accounting System in order to save costs and streamline process. Danielle Schafer, John Berge, and herself will be meeting with Dave Ostdiek who sits on the risk pool committee for NARD to discuss the astronomical cost of our health plans and discuss ways that staff might approach the committee with recommendations to improve the situation.

The next stakeholder meeting of the Integrated Management Planning Process will be held on November 15 at our office. Berge and Cross will participate in an IMP Writing Workshop with DNR on December 4. The District will be moving forward with providing drafts of the Basin Wide Plan to the Board in the early part of next week.

Berge met with Rick Preston of GFL and Dennis Strauch of Pathfinder to discuss a proposal that they intend to take to the NSIA Board on raising money for water infrastructure needs statewide through a \$20 per taxpayer fee. The District has submitted an amended request to DNR for reimbursement of the EPIC lease contract #1070 and are awaiting word on its

processing. They also have a path forward in finalizing the reimbursement request under #1023 for several surface water lease projects.

Berge participated in a University of the Arctic Climate Resiliency Workshop in Alaska last month. University of the Arctic is a consortium of colleges and universities around the country that work on climate issues. The NRD hosted an annual bean day and food donation day on October 30 and donated more than 7,000 pounds of food to the local food bank and the Cat Pack Program. Berge spoke to the Scotts Bluff County Lions Club October 31 to discuss ongoing programs at the NRD and participated in the Nebraska Water Center Advisory Board Meeting last week.

Berge will be speaking to the annual meeting of the Colorado Ag Water Association on December 12. Dave Wolf and Berge will be attending the NWRA/NSIA joint conference on November 19 in Kearney.

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

7. Nitrate Levels Presentation

Carolyn Hudson provided a report on the nitrate levels across the District. She highlighted wells in the Lisco, Oshkosh, Lewellen area; Sheep Creek; and Pumpkin Creek. She exhibited problem areas and some areas that were doing well.

8. Presentation on the Western Water Use Management Model/Hydrogeology of Western Nebraska Project

Thad Kuntz updated the Board on the Hydrogeology of Western Nebraska Project. The project took old gas and oil logs and incorporated them into the Western Water Use Management Model (WWUMM). Kuntz stated that the project changed how we perceived the Brule formations by

providing more information on where the fractures were. It will help the model give a more accurate analysis for future inquires and water management questions.

Kuntz also provided an update on the WWUMM. They will be adding in the laterals and will update the data to 2016.

9. Presentation on the Joint Water Sustainability Fund (NPNRD/SPNRD) Grant Application for the Next Western Water Use Management Model Update

Kuntz presented on a proposal for a joint Water Sustainability grant to help with the next model update. Some of the needs that could be addressed with the grant are: reevaluate some of the cells in Pumpkin Creek and Lodgepole Creek, because the model seems to be inaccurately calculating the flows, change grid sizes, layering grids, and others.

10. Presentation on Energy Costs of the Greener Garden Greenhouse

Cross reported the energy outputs and costs for the Greener Garden Greenhouse. She provided a report for each day. She said there were some initial problems with the solar panel, and that explains some of the holes in the report. It will be interesting to see the energy use as the weather gets colder. She will keep the board updated.

11. Consideration of “Science on the Screen” Sponsorship

Cross reported the NRD will be involved in two panel discussions with the “Science on the Screen” program at the Midwest Theater. The topics will be water sustainability and food scarcity. The programs will run in December of 2018 and April of 2019. The program targets middle school aged kids. They are looking for sponsorships to help with the costs of the programs. Motion by Henkel, seconded by Ostdiek, to sponsor the “Science on the Screen” program at the \$600 level. Motion passed.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Darnall, Eirich, Weinreis

12. Staff Spotlight: Danielle Schafer

Schafer provided an overview of her job responsibilities and a little bit about herself. She worked for Steve Smith previously to joining the NRD and has taken over for Jackie Bishop as office manager and some of Tracy Zayac's policy advisor roles.

13. Adjourn

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

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Darnall, Eirich, Weinreis