

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

**September 12, 2019**

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 12, 2019, 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 7, 2019, 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, and Ryan Reuter. Absent: Dan Weinreis & Mark Westphal. Others present: John Berge, Barb Cross, Paula Kihlthau, Danielle Schafer, and Travis Preston NPNRD staff; Thad Kuntz, Adaptive Resources, Inc; Steve Smith & Megan Dockery, 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, September 4, 2019.
5. Notice of North Platte Natural Resources District Budget Hearing & Budget Summary and Notice of Special Hearing to Set Final Tax Request.

6. Minutes, North Platte Natural Resources District, Board of Directors Meeting, August 8, 2019.

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 8, 2019.
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Manager's Report
5. Copy of Memo from Dave Fisher
6. Minutes, North Platte Natural Resources District, Budget & Personnel Committee, September 4, 2019.
7. Talking Points for 2020 FY Budget
8. Notice of North Platte Natural Resources District Budget Hearing & Budget Summary and Notice of Special Hearing to Set Final Tax Request.
9. State of Nebraska North Platte Natural Resources District Budget Form 2019-2020.
10. North Platte Natural Resources District, Public Hearing Script– FY 2020 Budget, September 12, 2019.
11. North Platte Natural Resources District, Public Hearing Script – FY 2020 Property Tax Request, September 12, 2019.
12. Resolution setting the Property Tax Request
13. Donation Request from SB-Gering Chamber Ag Safety Day

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

The Board reviewed the minutes of the August 8, 2019, regular Board meeting. Moved by Deines, seconded by Darnall, to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2019 regular Board meeting. Motion passed.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Weinreis, Westphal

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

Ryan Reuter 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, Reuter

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Weinreis, Westphal

### **5. Comments from the Public**

Dave Fisher discussed the letter that he sent to the board members by e-mail. He went over the two items that were addressed and thanked the Board for their time.

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

Berge reviewed the highlights of his report. He discussed the Bytes bill and the AMCi charges, reviewed the election procedures for incumbent board members, and discussed the Master Plan and the meetings that will be scheduled this winter for board members. Ted Free from Bridgeport Ethanol will be meeting with John and Scott to discuss overages on their

baseline. Berge met with Senator Stinner and Senator Erdman about water infrastructure issues.

## **7. Report from the Budget Committee**

Reuter reported that the Budget and Personnel Committee met on Wednesday, Sept. 4th to reconsider their previous recommendation to the board for budget approval. Berge recommended to the committee an update made by the staff for possible OA/FA contingencies.

Reuter stated that it was important to note that the district has lowered the tax levy from a high of 6.3 cents down to below 5 cents over the last three years and has reduced expenses by \$1.2 million prior to FY20. The request in front of the committee would result in a total reduction in budgeted expenses by nearly \$700,000 beyond those cuts already completed over the past three years. The total budgeted expenses are \$4,760,588.37.

Due to an anticipated shift in revenues because several state and federal grants have expired, this budget would also result in a slight increase in total property tax asking of \$73,482.03, an adjustment of .00092 in the mill levy over Fiscal Year 2019. The resulting mill levy would be 0.049302 and total property tax asking would be \$2,670,600.72.

After a motion by Danny Weinreis and a second by Chuck Henkel, the committee voted unanimously to present the budget request that includes the previously approved numbers with an added \$100,000.00 of OA/FA contingency funding expense and the minor changes in line items proposed by the staff. This results in budgeted expenses of \$4,760,588.37 and a property tax asking of \$2,670.600.72, and a mill levy of .049302.

## **8. Public Hearing on Proposed FY20 Budget**

The public hearing on the proposed North Platte NRD FY20 budget was opened at 3:22 p.m., MDT, by Hearing Officer Ryan Reuter. Notice of this hearing was published in the Scottsbluff Star-Herald on Saturday, September 7, 2019. Berge reviewed the reductions in the

proposed budget, compared to FY19, along with the total proposed property tax asking and mill levy. No one offered testimony or comment on the proposed FY20 budget. The hearing was closed at 3:23 p.m., MDT.

## **9. Public Hearing on Setting Final Tax Request**

The public hearing on the proposed North Platte NRD tax request for the FY20 budget was opened at 3:23 p.m., MDT, by Hearing Officer Ryan Reuter. Notice of this hearing was published in the Scottsbluff Star-Herald on Saturday, September 7, 2019. No one offered testimony or comment. The hearing was closed at 3:24 p.m., MDT.

## **10. Consideration of Proposed FY20 Budget**

Berge went over the talking points for the FY20 budget. Darnall asked about increasing the budget slightly more for OA/FA contingencies but agreed to the current numbers.

*. Moved by Reuter, seconded by Henkel, to approve the FY20 budget. Motion passed.*

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Weinreis, Westphal

## **11. Consideration of Final Tax Request and Budget Resolution**

*Moved by Eirich, seconded by Reuter, to set the North Platte NRD property tax request at \$2,670,600.72 for FY20. Motion passed.*

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Weinreis, Westphal

**12. Consideration of a Donation to the Progressive Agriculture Safety Day Sponsored by the  
Scottsbluff-Gering United Chamber of Commerce Agribusiness Committee**

Berge discussed what Ag Safety Day is and stated that this year it will include 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grades from St. Agnes and Community Christian schools, and Mitchell 4<sup>th</sup> graders.

Moved by Deines, seconded by Darnall to donate \$100.00 to the Ag Safety Day program.

Motion Passed.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Weinreis, Westphal

**13. Adjourn**

There being no further business, the Chairman called for a motion to adjourn.

Moved by Henkel, seconded by Eirich, to adjourn at 3:30p.m., MDT. Motion passed.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Weinreis, Westphal