

**North Platte Natural Resources
District Board of Directors Meeting**

January 9, 2020

The regular meeting of the North Platte Natural Resources District (NRD) Board of Directors was called to order at 3:00 p.m. MST, January 9, 2020, by Kent Andreas at the North Platte NRD Conference room, 100547 Airport Road, Scottsbluff, Nebraska (Agenda item #1). Notice of the meeting was given to the public by publishing a legal notice in the January 2, 2020, 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 (Agenda item #2).

Board members present: Kent Andreas, Gary Darnall, Roger Eirich, Chuck Henkel, Pete Lapaseotes, Ryan Reuter, and Absent: Dave Deines, Dan Weinreis, and Mark Westphal. Others present: Barb Cross, Danielle Schafer, Lydia Hendrickson, Paula Kihlthau, Scott Schaneman, Susie Kaufman, Renay Smith, Carolyn Hudson, of NPNRD staff; Thad Kuntz, Adaptive Resources, Inc; Megan Dockery and Steve Smith, Simmons Olson Law Firm; Sarah Gray, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

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

1. Meeting Notice
2. Agenda
3. Treasurer's Report (Preliminary)
4. Minutes, North Platte Natural Resources District, December 12, 2019.
5. Accounting Procedures Manual

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

1. Agenda

2. Minutes, North Platte Natural Resources District, District Board of Director's Meeting, December 12, 2019.
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Manager's Report
5. Legislative Update
6. NPNRD Accounting Procedures Manual

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Board reviewed the minutes of the December 12, 2019, regular Board meeting.

Moved by Henkel, seconded by Darnall, to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2019 regular Board meeting. Motion passed.

Ayes: Andreas, Darnall, Henkel, Lapaseotes, Reuter

Nay: None

Abstain: Eirich

Absent: Deines, Weinreis, Westphal

4. Treasurer's Report and Accounts Payable

Ryan Reuter reviewed the Treasurer's report with the Board. Motion made by Darnall, seconded by Henkel, to accept the Treasurer's report and pay the bills as listed. Motion passed.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Deines, Weinreis, Westphal

5. Comments from the Public

None

6. Manager's Report

General Manager John Berge highlighted his report as follows:

Administration:

*W-4 Update -

The Federal Government has changed the W-4 forms. All employees will need to fill out a new form.

* 2020 Election –

Board members up for election are Dan Weinreis, Dave Deines, Roger Eirich and Chuck Henkel. The filing period for incumbents is Dec. 2, 2019 – February 18, 2020. Filings are done with the Secretary of State.

*Board Reorganization –

At January's meeting last year, the board voted to reorganize every two years. All officers and committee assignments will be retained until January of 2021.

Projects and Programs:

*Contract Updates –

The EPIC Reimbursement Agreement was reimbursed in December for \$173K. The Excess Flows Reimbursement Agreement is in the process of being signed. The Schaneman Recharge Reimbursement Agreement has been signed by NRD and is awaiting signature from The Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The two contracts extending #1023 are still pending.

*High Capacity Wells in Laramie County, Wyoming –

There is a proposal to expand groundwater withdrawals on the Wyoming side of the border in the Albin/Hillsdale area. There is concern from neighboring farmers and ranchers that this expansion, totaling 4,600 a/f per year could potentially have

a lasting and detrimental effect on domestic, stock and irrigation wells, including in Nebraska. We have been contacted by some Banner County residents to discuss the matter, and it has been requested that we participate in the March hearing. We have told those that have contacted us that we would consider it, but it appears that we do not have standing and that this is an issue between the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources and the Wyoming State Engineers Office. We will keep you apprised. There is a news article about this issue labeled 6b in the packet.

Outreach:

*NARD Legislative Conference -

Ryan Reuter, Barb Cross, and I will be participating in the Legislative Conference January 27-29 in Lincoln, and will be meeting with several senators while we are there.

7. Legislative Update

Berge reviewed the NWRA/NSIA phone call with updates to this year's Legislature. LB368 is a Hughes bill to eliminate references to "over appropriated" in state statute. LB 134 is Stinner's 3 cent levy authority bill. The bill didn't make it out of committee last session but there is some talk about bringing it back up for consideration. The NARD will also be seeking Senators to introduce bonding authority.

8. Picture Tour and Review of the Schaneman Recharge Project

Scott Schaneman went over the development of the pits. He showed pictures of the inlet and outlet structures and how they will be measured. The function of the pits should be operationally friendly. Thad Kuntz went over the design of the structures. Because the structures are close to the river, recharge will be excellent. We will receive an average of

316.9 AF of credit each year. Schaneman stated that pit construction will be around \$150,000.00. All dollars spent are under a 60% reimbursement contract with DNR.

The NRD currently has three leases on the Enterprise Canal with the following:

Doris L. Rush Living Trust – 67.4 acres - \$17,847.50 annually; LRK Farms Inc. -52.9 acres – \$10,315.50 annually, Conrad Steve Schaneman – 25.1 acres - \$4,894.50 annually. Carolyn Hudson asked about soil erosion on the project and Berge indicated that grass will be seeded this spring.

9. Administrative Staff Report on Quick Books Connect Conference

Each member of the Administrative Staff discussed the trip they took to San Jose for the Quick Books Connect Conference. This is an annual conference with approximately 5000 people attending. Paula went over the sessions she attended. Renay discussed some solutions she discovered for being more productive. She also indicated that multitasking isn't a good thing and that to be productive, you need to concentrate on one task at a time. She also learned a lot more about QuickBooks and it's making her job easier. Susie discussed how impressed she was by Ashton Kutcher, the keynote speaker. He's a huge advocate against sex-trafficking. All three indicated that they felt the conference was a good bonding experience for the entire department. Danielle attended sessions in using different applications to streamline our processes. Also, on how to keep the General Ledger and use app's together. The QuickBooks software also allows our accountants direct access. They will be able to print reports at any time during the year. The switch from Sage to QuickBooks has saved the District approximately \$40,000.00 per year.

10. Consideration of NPNRD's Accounting Procedures Manual

Berge went over the changes in the manual. The biggest change is that there will be a cutoff date for when bills will be paid. Currently, bills are paid up until the board

meeting. Vendors will be contacted and informed that bills not received by the 5th of the month will not be paid until the following month's board meeting. The second change is that there will now be a 2% late fee imposed for late charges. Billings will be adjusted with new language to support charging the fee.

Darnall made a motion to accept the updates to the Accounting Procedures Manual. Henkel second the motion. Motion Approved.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Deines, Weinreis, Westphal

11. Adjourn

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

Motion made by Eirich, seconded by Reuter to adjourn at 3:55 p.m., MST. Motion passed.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Deines, Weinreis, Westphal