

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

December 12, 2019

The regular meeting of the North Platte Natural Resources District (NPNRD) Board of Directors was called to order at 3:00 p.m. MST, December 12, 2019, 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 December 5, 2019, Scottsbluff *Star-Herald*. Andreas informed meeting attendees that this meeting would be conducted in accordance with the Open Meeting Act, a copy of which is posted in the meeting room for public inspection (Agenda item #2).

Board members present: Kent Andreas, Gary Darnall, Dave Deines, Chuck Henkel, Pete Lapaseotes, Ryan Reuter, and Mark Westphal. Absent: Roger Eirich and Dan Weinreis. Others present: John Berge, Danielle Schafer, Lydia Hendrickson, Carolyn Hudson, Jordan Neuwirth, Seth Popp, Kyle Ann Hopkins, Scott Schaneman and Craig Uhrig of NPNRD staff; Thad Kuntz, Adaptive Resources, Inc; Megan Dockery, Simmons-Olson Law Firm; Sarah Gray, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Xin Qiao and Bijesh Maharjan of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Panhandle Research & Extension Center.

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 Board of Directors Meeting, November 14, 2019

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

1. Agenda
2. Minutes, North Platte Natural Resources District Board of Director's Meeting, November 14, 2019
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Manager's Report
5. Discussion of Fraud Attempt
6. Proposal from Ryan Golten, Consensus Building Institute, Inc., regarding collaborative approaches to Water Resources Management in Western communities
7. PowerPoint Presentation from Xin Qiao and Bijesh Maharjan with the University of Nebraska on Speed-Controlled Variable Rate Irrigation System for Crop Production in Western NE
8. Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program (NSWCP) Cost List for 2020

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Board reviewed the minutes of the November 14, 2019, regular Board meeting. Moved by Deines, seconded by Reuter, to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2019 regular Board meeting. Motion passed.

Ayes: Andreas, Darnall, Deines, Lapaseotes, Reuter, Westphal

Nay: None

Abstain: Henkel

Absent: Eirich, Weinreis

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, Deines, Henkel, Lapaseotes, Reuter, Westphal

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Eirich, Weinreis

5. Comments from the Public

None

6. Manager's Report

Berge highlighted the following items from his report:

* Insurance costs to the District – a state survey that was provided to District staff showed that the District's cost and staff's cost of health and dental insurance, in comparison to other entities in Nebraska, is much higher. This is something that should be discussed in the future.

* Election Year – We have four (4) Board members who are up for re-election this year. Those Board members are eligible to file for re-election now.

* Discussion with Hannah Birge from the Nature Conservancy – there is a possibility of collaborating with TNC and the Field to Market consortium on a project regarding water use reduction for feed. Projects typically range between \$375,000 - \$1,000,000.

* 1099 Information – Landowners who we have done permanent retirements with have received a 1099-S for the full amount of their contract payment versus a 1099-MISC for the installment amount. Those who receive a 1099-S should consult their tax professional regarding this form as there is a form 6252 that should be filed to ensure that income taxes are only paid on the installment amount they received during the tax filing year.

* Legislative Conference – This year's legislative conference will be held from January 27-29. John Berge and Barb Cross from the District staff and Ryan Reuter of the Board of Directors are all planning on attending. If any other Board members would like to go, please let John know by December 13th.

* W-4 changes – this was not a part of the Manager’s Report, but John advised the Board that for income tax year 2020, the federal W-4 tax form has changed, and the State of Nebraska has put out a W-4N. The Board members should fill out new W-4 forms for 2020, and forms will be made available at the next Board meeting.

7. Discussion of Attempted Fraud

John advised the full Board that there was recently an attempt from a third-party to defraud the District of a large amount via email. It is advised that everyone be aware of this issue and be cautious with their emails in the future. District staff will be trained to detect spam and fraudulent emails in the future. The District contacted the Sheriff’s office regarding this incident, and they have been provided copies of the emails from this third-party.

8. Discussion of Proposal from Consensus Building Institute on 2020 Master Planning Project

John advised the Board that the District reached out to Ryan Golten of the Consensus Building Institute regarding facilitation of internal meetings for updating the Master Plan. Ms. Golten submitted a bid for \$10,893.00. The District budgeted \$5,000.00 this fiscal year for this project. John would like to pursue this arrangement if we can negotiate with Ms. Golten and possibly obtain grant funding to help with the cost.

9. Presentation from Dr. Xin Qiao on Joint NPNRD/UNL Variable Rate (Speed) Irrigation Study

Xin Qiao provided a presentation to the Board on the VRI study that UNL has been working on. Xin discussed the benefits of VRI and different the different locations of the fields used in the study. Xin provided information on how to determine the problem areas in these fields and how they determine which areas to study. Xin discussed results from this year’s study and how the yields differ from the control area to the treated area. Diagrams and graphs were shown to compare

the soil water content and nitrate leaching between the control and treated areas. There was less nitrate leaching in the treated areas, which shows that treatment can help decrease nitrate leaching.

10. Consideration of Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program Cost-Share List

John advised the Board that there is not much variation in these costs from last year, and the Board normally approves these costs every year. Motion made by Andreas, seconded by Reuter to approve the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program Cost-Share List. Motion passed.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Eirich, Weinreis

11. Adjourn

There being no further business, the Chairman called for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Westphal, seconded by Henkel to adjourn at 4:12 p.m., MST. Motion passed.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Eirich, Weinreis