

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

**September 10, 2020**

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, 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 September 3, 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, Dave Deines, Roger Eirich, Chuck Henkel, Pete Lapaseotes, Ryan Reuter, and Mark Westphal. Board members absent: Gary Darnall and Dan Weinreis.

Chairman Andreas called for a motion to excuse Darnall and Weinreis from the meeting.

*Motion made by Eirich, seconded by Henkel to excuse board members Darnall and Weinreis from the meeting. Motion passed.*

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

Nay: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Darnall, Weinreis

Others present: John Berge, Barb Cross, Danielle Schafer, Paula Kihlthau of NPNRD staff; Thad Kuntz, Adaptive Resources, Inc; Steve Smith, Simmons Olson Law Firm.

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

1. Meeting Notice

2. Agenda - Draft
3. Minutes, North Platte Natural Resources District, August 13, 2020
4. Preliminary Treasurers Report
5. Manager's Report
6. Insurance Cost Estimates – 3 forms
7. 2021 Proposed Budget Spreadsheet
8. Directors Per Diem Vouchers

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

1. Agenda - Final
2. Minutes, North Platte Natural Resources District, District Board of Director's Meeting, August 13, 2020.
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Manager's Report
5. Insurance Cost Estimates and Memo to the Board
6. 2021 FY Budget Spreadsheet

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

The Board reviewed the minutes of the August 13, 2020, regular Board meeting.

*Moved by Eirich, seconded by Henkel, to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2020 regular Board meeting. Motion passed.*

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

Nay: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Darnall, Weinreis

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

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

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

Nay: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Darnall, Weinreis

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

None

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

General Manager John Berge indicated that the report was submitted to members before the meeting and asked if there were any questions. No questions were asked.

#### **7. Discussion of Health Benefits Costs**

Berge reviewed a memo to the Board entitled Employee Insurance Benefits. The memo spells out our requirements to provide employee insurance. NPNRD spends approximately \$40,000 every year for employees who do not need insurance but are required to have it. NARD has used the same insurance for two decades. For the same coverage that employees are receiving now (i.e. Co-pay, office visits, prescriptions, deductible), NPNRD could save approximately \$99,000.00 per FY in costs even if insurance was still provided to all employees. A savings of \$150,000.00 per FY could be obtained if we went with other insurance with a higher deductible.

Risk pool committee board members and committee members make the decision on what insurance is provided for employees. Costs have gone up approximately \$100,000.00 per FY since Berge has become the General Manager. A risk pool, pools all of the premiums paid by

employees and pays claims from that. Currently, reserves in the risk pool are down approximately four million. For two out of the last three years, the pool has run in a deficit. If we cancel this health insurance, we are out of the pool.

There is a 1.7-million-dollar budget for the 5 employees at NARD. They administer health, vision, and dental insurance. This budget also pays for a lobbyist, Legislative Conference, an Annual Conference and Managers Meetings.

Berge indicated that there are two options to think through. 1. Formally break the alliance with NARD, or 2. Reuter, or a group, submit a resolution or make a pitch for the insurance risk pool to go out for bids. The only personnel related cost that went up in the 2021 FY budget was health care costs. NPNRD has also looked at Flex Spending and Health Savings Accounts.

It was recommended by Lapaseotes that the Budget Committee meet before the next board meeting to make recommendations to the full board.

## **8. Adoption of Proposed FY-2021 Budget**

*A motion was made by Westphal and seconded by Reuter to adopt the FY-2021 Budget as submitted.*

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

Nay: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Darnall, Weinreis

## **9. Adoption of the Final Tax Request**

Berge indicated that approved budget sets the levy for FY 2021 at 0.049161.

*Moved by Henkel, seconded by Reuter to adopt the final tax request at .049161.*

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

Nay: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Darnall, Weinreis

## **10. Adjourn**

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

*Motion made by Deines, seconded by Westphal to adjourn at 3:40 pm., MDT. Motion passed.*

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

Nay: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Darnall, Weinreis