

**North Platte Natural Resources District
Board of Directors Regular Monthly Meeting
100547 Airport Road, Scottsbluff, Nebraska
July 14, 2022**

1. Call Meeting to Order

This meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Roger Eirich. Notice of the meeting was given to the public by publishing a legal notice on July 7, 2022, in the Scottsbluff Star Herald.

2. Inform Public of Open Meetings Act

Eirich informed the meeting attendees that this meeting would be conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, which is posted by the door for public inspection.

Attendance

Board Members Present: Eirich, Henkel, Reuter, Westphal, Deines

Board Members Absent: Andreas, Darnall, Lapaseotes, Weinreis

Eirich called for a motion to excuse the absences.

A motion was made by Reuter, seconded by Henkel, to excuse the absences of Andreas, Darnall, Lapaseotes, and Weinreis. Motion passed.

Aye: Eirich, Henkel, Reuter, Westphal, Deines

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Andreas, Darnall, Lapaseotes, Weinreis

Others Present:

North Platte NRD Staff: Scott Schaneman, Travis Preston, Craig Uhrig, Amanda Shepperd, Ken Ridgeway, Todd Filipi, Seth Popp, Kyle Ann Hopkins, Danielle Schafer

Adaptive Resources, Inc. (ARI): Thad Kuntz

NRCS: Georgette Jordening

Simmons Olsen Law Firm: Megan Dockery

J.G. Elliot : Lex Larson

Documentation Provided

The following documents were made available at the meeting for the Board of Directors and public review:

1. Meeting Notice
2. Agenda
3. Minutes of the May 12, 2022, and June 9, 2022, Board of Directors Meeting
4. Treasurers Report
5. Managers' Report
6. Eittrem Crop Rotation/Residue Management/Gully Treatment (Nebraska Conservation Planning Sheet 18)
7. University of Nebraska Foundation Mesonet sponsorship letter

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Board reviewed the minutes of the May 12, 2022, regular monthly meeting.

A motion was made by Henkel, seconded by Deines, to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2022, regular monthly meeting. Motion passed.

Aye: Deines, Eirich, Henkel, Reuter, Westphal

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Andreas, Darnall, Lapaseotes, Weinreis

The Board reviewed the minutes of the June 9, 2022, regular monthly meeting.

A motion was made by Deines, seconded by Henkel, to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2022, regular monthly meeting. Motion passed.

Aye: Deines, Eirich, Henkel, Reuter, Westphal

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Andreas, Darnall, Lapaseotes, Weinreis

4. Treasurer's Report and Accounts Payable

Reuter reviewed the monthly expenses from the Treasurer's Report with the Board.

A motion was made by Henkel, seconded by Deines, to accept the Treasurer's Report and pay the bills as listed. Motion passed.

Aye: Deines, Eirich, Henkel, Reuter, Westphal

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Andreas, Darnall, Lapaseotes, Weinreis

5. Comments from the Public

Georgette Jordening (NRCS) gave an update. EQIP has finished. General and grassland CRP is ending. David Otto will start with NRCS on Monday July 18th, 2022. Soil conservationist position in Scottsbluff will be advertised. Georgette will be at the Water Expo July 16th.

6. Manager's Report

NSWCP cost share program signups began July 5th. The Staff have taken some time to review the program to be sure the practices we are concentrating our dollars on, continue to be of highest priority. After review and discussion there were a few minor changes made to the questionnaire that we would hope to allow for more positive points on surface water and co-mingled projects. We did alter a few questions that our partners at NRCS found to be confusing to producers and hopefully those changes will be clearer to those answering the questionnaire.

The Summer edition of "Your Resources Report" newsletter began hitting mailboxes in early July. It is exciting to be able to once again bring information back into our District residents' homes through print. There has been nothing but positive feedback from those that received the newsletter and are wanting to hear what the North Platte NRD is doing to protect and manage our natural resources.

The Staff has completed a draft budget for FY22/23 and are preparing to forward that on to the Budget and Personnel Committee for their review. Due to circumstances beyond our control, the Committee has had to delay meeting with Staff to discuss and are hoping to schedule a meeting in late July early August to finalize the new budget. The Committee members will have a few weeks to individually review the budget before we meet in person.

On June 29th, I attended a meeting of the Upper Platte Principals in North Platte. Once again, all the players were in the room and once again I returned without a plan being proposed for the basin to be named fully appropriated. In my view, I feel the positive momentum has come to a screeching halt. There are a few major players that still cannot decide on what fully appropriated means to them and until they do there is no wind pushing the sail of this boat. The North Platte NRD has made fantastic strides working towards the fully appropriated goal, and not one can say we ignored our obligation. It has been nice to see the efforts and success of this NRD be noticed by our downstream partners. I will

continue to do my part as your representative and hope there will be something more positive to report in the future.

To cap off the end of the 50th anniversary week of the NRD's, we will be holding our annual Water Expo. We have been planning and working hard to put on the best event ever. Attendees will notice an expansion to our kids' events, educational opportunities, tours of the greenhouse, door prizes, as well as a video shown during lunch that highlights the past 50 years of the North Platte NRD. We will read the official proclamation signed by the Governor and the Chairman of the Natural Resources Committee. We will begin the festivities at 9:00 am wrapping up at 2:00 pm. We are anticipating a large crowd and it is our goal that everyone that attends goes away with a little more understanding of what we do as an NRD and hope they had a little fun as well.

Next week on July 21st I will be in Ogallala for the annual Basin Wide meeting and another Upper Platte Principals meeting. The same day we will begin the stakeholder process of creating a basin wide drought plan. I will continue to keep you all informed as more information is provided to me.

As a reminder for anyone interested in attending the annual Chamber of Commerce water tour. It will be held on August 16th and 17th. We will be heading West to the reservoirs, spending some time at the control center, and touring the Kortess Power Station. If you are interested in going, please let me know.

7. Resources Program Presentation

Todd Filipi presented on the status of the Resource Conservation department. 45,642 trees sold and 27,362 trees have been planted in FY 2022. The North Platte NRD has sold 5,916,327 trees and planted 3,540,104 since tree sales began. Todd informed the board about grass plantings, drill rentals, and what trees are sold the most. Chemical is causing many of the landowner calls along with the dry weather. Fall free tree program continues. The department is involved with community projects including elementary schools. Buffalo grass program continues but seed prices are still high. Todd continues to act as burn boss. Two burns were performed this spring.

8. Virtual Tour of the Enterprise Recharge Project

9. Report from District Operations Committee Regarding Erosion Complaint 110 Terry Eittrien

Scott informed board of District Operations meeting and their discussion concerning the agreed upon compliance plan being presented to the board for approval.

10. Discussion and Consideration of District Operations Committee Recommendation on Erosion Complaint 110 Terry Eittrien

A motion was made by Henkel, seconded by Westphal, to accept the erosion compliance plan as presented. Motion Passed.

Aye: Deines, Eirich, Henkel, Reuter, Westphal

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Andreas, Darnall, Lapaseotes, Weinreis

11. Discussion and Consideration of Banner County Mesonet Site Sponsorship with UNL

Scott discussed the importance of Mesonet stations for modelling. Presents the proposal for a station in banner county and the requirements. The letter sent to Scott is included in the minutes.

Thad discusses the change from USGS monitoring wells to these Mesonet weather stations. Three sites have been suggested by the Mesonet team. We now must select one of those sites. Mesonet stations must be on pasture lands to ensure the accuracy of the measuring instruments.

A motion was made by Reuter, seconded by Deines, to approve the Mesonet site sponsorship.

Motion passed.

Aye: Deines, Eirich, Henkel, Reuter, Westphal

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Andreas, Darnall, Lapaseotes, Weinreis

12. Adjourn

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

A motion was made by Henkel, seconded by Reuter, to adjourn at 3:45p.m. Motion passed.

Aye: Deines, Eirich, Henkel, Reuter, Westphal

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Andreas, Darnall, Lapaseotes, Weinreis