

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

September 8, 2022
3:00 P.M.

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 September 1, 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: Dave Deines, Gary Darnall, Roger Eirich, Ryan Reuter, Pete Lapaseotes, Kent Andreas, Chuck Henkel, Mark Westphal, Dan Weinreis

Board Members Absent: None

Others Present:

North Platte NRD Staff: Craig Uhrig, Danielle Madden, Scott Schaneman, Kyle Ann Hopkins, Travis Preston, Todd Filipi

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 August 11, 2022, Board of Directors meeting
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Manager's Report
6. NARD Resolution 2022-1
7. Minutes of the July 10, 1980, Board of Directors meeting
8. Minutes of the August 25, 2022, Water Resources Committee meeting
9. Minutes of the August 25, 2022, Budget, and Personnel Committee meeting
10. FY23 Proposed Budget

3. Consideration of Absences

No board members were absent.

4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Board reviewed the minutes of the August 11, 2022, regular monthly meeting.

A motion was made by Reuter, seconded by Weinreis, to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2022, regular monthly meeting. Motion passed.

Aye: Deines, Darnall, Eirich, Reuter, Lapaseotes, Andreas, Henkel, Westphal

Nay: None

Abstain: Weinreis

Absent: None

5. 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 Reuter, to accept the Treasurer's Report and pay the bills as listed. Motion passed.

Aye: Deines, Darnall, Eirich, Reuter, Lapaseotes, Andreas, Henkel, Westphal, Weinreis

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

6. Comments from the Public

Georgette Jordening informed the board of CRP contracts finishing. A few people have turned applications in for NSWCP projects. Supply issues may be why more applications are not coming in. NRCS has money for grazing contracts to help those affected by the Carter Canyon fire. Dave Cook retired two weeks ago. Currently his position is open and will close on the 21st. NRCS is preparing for range judging.

7. Manager's Report

On August 16th and 17th Travis and I had the opportunity to guide the Scottsbluff/Gering United Chamber of Commerce Water Tour of the Reservoirs in Wyoming. The Tour was slightly lighter in participants than in years past, but I believe all those in attendance had a wonderful time. It is always awe inspiring to visit those dams and contemplate all the planning, the visions, and the hard work those people involved offered. We will decide this Winter on whether the tour will go West to the reservoirs again or if we will run the tour East like we did in 2021.

Danielle, Travis, and I had an opportunity to visit with Kevin Sylvester from Dana Cole and Company about our ending fiscal year audit. Kevin provided us some information in which we could implement to make future audits much easier for both the auditors as well as the staff. Kevin will attend our next Board meeting to give his annual audit report to the directors.

Last week I attended a manager's meeting in Alma hosted by the Lower Republican NRD. After reports were given by different agencies, most of the discussion revolved around different issues related to ground water quality as well as other topics. We had the chance to discuss the NSWCP cost share program and the funding that accompanies it. It was mentioned that NSWCP funds have dropped a little more than two million dollars over the last several years and we are potentially looking at another funding decrease again. It was the opinion of the managers to survey all the districts and begin compiling information to bring to the Natural Resource Commission. The

managers formed a committee in which I am part, to begin the survey work with NARD.

It is with sorrow to report that Jenifer Berge has submitted her resignation as Special Projects Coordinator. Jenifer has been a tremendous asset to this NRD, and she will most certainly be missed. Her hard work and dedication have made our greenhouse a template of success. Travis has begun the interview process and has started to narrow down the candidate field. It is our hope, as well as Jenifer's, to have someone in place before her departure which is September 22nd.

The NARD Fall Conference will be held on September 26th and 27th in Kearney. I as well as a few other Staff members will be in attendance. There is one resolution from the Tri-Basin NRD to the NARD body that will be considered regarding sustainable agriculture. I have included this resolution in your packet for your review.

The Area 1 District Range Judging contest will be held on September 14th here in the North Platte NRD District. The Staff have been working hard in preparation for this contest and we anticipate good student participation.

On the same note, State Land Judging will be held on October 19th in the North Platte NRD District. It is always a privilege and honor to be able to host the State events. We will be working hard to showcase our District as well as putting on the best contest possible.

District Staff are preparing for end of the water year flow meter readings, which will begin the first week in October. The Staff will also be preparing for Fall static water level measurements as well. Those measurements will take place from mid-October thru the end of October. The resources department have been planning and are preparing for the fall tree planting season. Todd has some nice plantings planned and we are all hoping for some moisture this Fall to help those new trees get established.

8. Discussion and Consideration of Tree Prices FY22/23

Todd Filipi informed the board prices are going up on nursery trees and therefore a 10% increase is necessary to keep up. Pete asked if trees are available. Todd said there are trees available, but we will reduce the number of nurseries we utilize.

A motion was made by Reuter, seconded by Deines, to raise the cost of trees by 10%. Motion passed.

Aye: Deines, Darnall, Eirich, Reuter, Lapaseotes, Andreas, Henkel, Westphal, Weinreis

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

9. Discussion and Consideration of Unassigned Funds

Scott informed the board about funds that were assigned for a special project sinking fund. Scott asked the board to unassign those funds and place them back into the General Fund.

A motion was made by Darnall, seconded by Henkel, to unassign funds and move them to the General Fund. Motion Passed.

Aye: Deines, Darnall, Eirich, Reuter, Lapaseotes, Andreas, Henkel, Westphal, Weinreis

Nay: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

10. Report from the Water Resources Committee meeting

Scott informed the board about the WRC meeting on August 25th. Items discussed were the Blomenkamp transfer, Seametrics pilot study, nutrient management rules and implementation timeline, and Bill Griffiths reconfiguration. Currently, the Seametrics pilot study has thirty-three meters as part of the project. Extending the project for another year was approved by the committee. Seametrics agrees to extend the project for another year as well. Implementation of new nutrient management rules and regulations is waiting until the next allocation period. Thad Kuntz is running a new analysis on the Blomenkamp transfer. There is a possible one to one transfer with a 14-acre inch allocation. The Griffith's potential cease and desist order is no longer necessary. He has signed the paperwork and we will not have to move forward.

11. Report from the Budget and Personnel Committee meeting

Reuter explains some last-minute moves after receiving valuation. Due to a lower valuation the NRD budget had to be cut in several areas to ensure the levy remained flat.

12. Consideration of 1% Increase in Budget Authority

A motion was made by Reuter, seconded by Henkel, to approve the 1% increase in budget authority. Motion Passed.

Aye: Deines, Darnall, Eirich, Reuter, Lapaseotes, Andreas, Henkel, Westphal, Weinreis
Nay: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

13. Adoption of Proposed FY-2023 Budget

A motion was made by Reuter, seconded by Weinreis, to adopt the FY-2023 budget as proposed. Motion Passed.

Aye: Deines, Darnall, Eirich, Reuter, Lapaseotes, Andreas, Henkel, Westphal, Weinreis
Nay: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

14. Adoption of Final Tax Request

A motion was made by Reuter, seconded by Andreas, to request the final tax request as stated in the hearing. Motion Passed.

Aye: Deines, Darnall, Eirich, Reuter, Lapaseotes, Andreas, Henkel, Westphal, Weinreis
Nay: None
Abstain: None

Absent: None

15. Adjourn

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

A motion was made by Andreas, seconded by Darnall, to adjourn at 3:37p.m. Motion passed.

Aye: Deines, Darnall, Eirich, Reuter, Lapaseotes, Andreas, Henkel, Westphal, Weinreis

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None