

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

October 13, 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 October 6, 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, Roger Eirich, Ryan Reuter, Kent Andreas, Chuck Henkel

Board Members Absent: Gary Darnall, Pete Lapaseotes, Mark Westphal, Dan Weinreis

Others Present:

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

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 September 8, 2022, Board of Directors meeting
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Manager's Report
6. NPNRD Audit Report from Dana F. Cole & Company LLP

**3. Consideration of Absences**

Eirich called for a motion to excuse absences.

*A motion was made by Deines, seconded by Henkel, to excuse absences. Motion Passed*

*Aye: Deines, Eirich, Reuter, Andreas, Henkel*

*Nay: None*

*Abstain: None*

*Absent: Darnall, Lapaseotes, Westphal, Weinreis*

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

The Board reviewed the minutes of the September 8, 2022, regular monthly meeting.

*A motion was made by Reuter, seconded by Deines, to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2022, regular monthly meeting. Motion passed.*

*Aye: Deines, Eirich, Reuter, Andreas, Henkel*

*Nay: None*

*Abstain: None*

*Absent: Darnall, Lapaseotes, Westphal, Weinreis*

#### **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 Andreas, seconded by Henkel, to accept the Treasurer's Report and pay the bills as listed. Motion passed.*

*Aye: Deines, Eirich, Reuter, Andreas, Henkel*

*Nay: None*

*Abstain: None*

*Absent: Darnall, Lapaseotes, Westphal, Weinreis*

#### **6. Comments from the Public**

There were no comments from the public

#### **7. Manager's Report**

On September 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> Ryan Reuter, Kyle Ann Hopkins, Lydia Hendrickson, Travis Preston, and I attended the Fall NARD Conference in Kearney. We had the opportunity to attend several particularly good sessions as well as attend the daily business sessions. The referendum proposed by Tri-Basin NRD regarding sustainable agriculture was voted on and the referendum failed by a vote of sixty opposed and fifty-five in favor. Overall, this was a very good conference, one of the best I have been to in several years.

After much discussion with Mike Blomenkamp, the Staff believes we will be able to move forward with this transfer in a way that satisfies our rules and regulations as well as satisfies the wishes expressed by Mike Blomenkamp. This transfer application will be buttoned up in the next few weeks by the Staff and then will be forwarded to the Water Resources Committee for their discussion and consideration. If the transfer is deemed acceptable by the Water Resources Committee, it will be scheduled for public hearing at the December Board of Directors meeting.

Travis and I have attended two Upper Platte Principals meetings in the last thirty days. The group has found new traction in the pursuit of a fully appropriated basin. The group is awaiting a detailed proposal by CNPPID and NPPD. That proposal should be delivered at the October 31<sup>st</sup> meeting in North Platte. The five NRD's met at the last PBC meeting in North Platte to discuss the processes with DNR and get a feel for what goals and objectives needed to be achieved once the proposal has been presented from CNPPID and NPPD. It was the consensus of the group to hold fast and wait for the proposal and then take some time to discuss the proposal together as a group as well as with each NRD's Board of

Directors.

On September 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> the Data and Outreach Department along with several of our partners hosted several tree planting celebrations across the district, celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Arbor Day. The plantings were held in Oshkosh, Bridgeport, Gering, Harrisburg, as well as the NRD office.

Several Staff members from the Water Department, Travis and I had the opportunity to listen to a presentation made by Frank Lusetto and Greta Birch from Westco regarding a pivot converted to autonomous operation. This pivot is controlled by a sensor mounted on the pivot that takes continual moisture readings in the canopy and the soil. The speed of the pivot is adjusted according to the data retrieved by the sensor. It was an interesting presentation and demonstrated that there are several companies really diving deep into the realm of soil moisture monitoring and speed control through other means than just intrusive probes.

Last week the NRD hosted the WET event here at our campus. Close to two hundred area fifth graders were here to learn more about water and natural resources. This year was the first time we have hosted the event, and we look forward to hosting it from now on at our facility.

Next week, designated representatives from each NRD region will be gathering at a Kaizen event to discuss concerns that have been outlined regarding the lack of communication and understanding of responsibilities between NRD's and NDEE. Our representative is Pat O'Brien from Upper Niobrara White

NRD. It is the hope of both entities that a better relationship is achieved through this Kaizen event.

Sometime in the next couple of weeks, several NRD managers will be meeting to discuss our concerns with the continual decline of funds obligated for the NSWCP program. A committee was formed at the last managers meeting to begin discussions and develop a plan to propose to the Natural Resource Commission regarding the future funding of the program. I am a member of this committee and will provide updates as I get them.

As many of you are aware, Jenifer Sauter resigned her position as Special Projects Coordinator effective September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Kirstee Moore has been hired to replace Jen and has been doing spectacular work in the greenhouse with lots of fresh new ideas. If Kirstee is available, I will ask her to introduce herself at the Board meeting.

## **8. Flowmeter Reading Update – Kyle Ann Hopkins**

Kyle Ann presented the ArcGIS dashboard made by Lydia. 2,150 meters still need to be read including telemetry. About 1,000 meters have been read and there are about 1,000 still to read. Meter maintenance is about half done. About five hundred extra meters to read this year after removing telemetry.

Kyle Ann has noticed some increases in water usage while reviewing meter readings. Kyle Ann is Hoping to have water use reports out by December 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **9. Service Award Presentation – Kyle Ann Hopkins**

Service awards were presented to Craig, Renay, and Gary Darnall for 20+ years of service to the NRD. Awards were presented by Kyle Ann.

## **10. Discussion and Consideration of an Award for Recognition of Service for Tom Hayden**

Scott asked the board what their thoughts were on presenting an award to Tom. The board was appreciative of Tom's service and felt comfortable with leaving the award type and presentation up to the NRD staff. The award will be presented to Tom Hayden at a later date.

## **11. Audit Report Presentation**

Kevin Sylvester presented the 2022 audit report.

## **12. Discussion and Consideration of FY21-22 Audit Report**

Eirich asked if there is any discussion following the audit report. There being none, Eirich asked for a motion to accept the audit report.

*A motion was made by Reuter, seconded by Andreas, to accept the auditor report. Motion Passed.*

*Aye: Deines, Eirich, Reuter, Andreas, Henkel*

*Nay: None*

*Abstain: None*

*Absent: Darnall, Lapaseotes, Westphal, Weinreis*

## **13. Model and Robust Review – Thad Kuntz, Adaptive Resources Inc.**

Thad Kuntz presented on the WWUMM. Updates will be made to the watershed model, hydrogeology, elevation data, convert model to Modflow 6, begin using unstructured grids, land use, automation, and command line interface program. Recalibration of the model will be required with all the updates.

## **14. Adjourn**

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

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

*Aye: Deines, Eirich, Reuter, Andreas, Henkel*

*Nay: None*

*Abstain: None*

*Absent: Darnall, Lapaseotes, Westphal, Weinreis*