N-CORPE

***Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement Project***

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**Board Meeting**

Wednesday November 20th, 2024 at 10am Central Time

at the Twin Platte NRD office

at 111 S. Dewey, North Platte, NE

**Draft Version**

Agendas were sent to board members and others requesting agendas. Agendas were posted at [www.ncorpe.org](http://www.ncorpe.org) and in the following offices: Twin Platte NRD; Lower Republican NRD, Middle Republican NRD; and Upper Republican NRD.

**Board Members Present:** Dean Large (URNRD); Benjie Loomis (MRNRD), Jerry Weaver (TPNRD); Tim Kahrs (LRNRD)

**Others Present:** Kyle Shepherd (NCORPE); Jasper Fanning (URNRD); Nate Jenkins (URNRD); Jack Russell (MRNRD); Troy Fletcher (LRNRD); Mike Keller (NCORPE); Steve Vaughn (NCORPE); Kent Miller (TPNRD); Rishi Bhakar (JWC); Ellen Kreifels (BWJ Law); Joshua Westling (JWC); Jon Lechtenberg (ARC Group)

**Information Sent to Board Members:** Notice, Agenda, Minutes of the October 16th Board Meeting, Accounts Payable

Dean Large called the meeting to order at 10:05am and designated NCORPE’s General Manager Kyle Shepherd to chair the meeting. Shepherd pointed out that the Open Meetings Act was posted.

Roll call was taken. Voting representatives from the Upper Republican NRD (Dean Large); Twin Platte NRD (Jerry Weaver); Middle Republican NRD (Benjie Loomis); Lower Republican NRD (Tim Kahrs).

**Public Forum**

Shepherd opened the Public Forum. No members of the public commented.

**Approval of the minutes of the October 16th, 2024 Meeting**

Shepherd presented the draft minutes of the October 16th meeting to the board.

Weaver moved to approve the minutes of the October 16th, 2024 meeting. The motion was seconded by Loomis.

Roll Call: Upper Republican NRD – Yes; Middle Republican NRD – Yes; Lower Republican NRD – Yes; Twin Platte NRD – Yes. Vote 4 – Yes, 0 – No. Motion approved.

**Payables**

Shepherd presented the payables to the board. Several questions were discussed.

Weaver moved to approve the payables and was seconded by Loomis.

Roll Call: Upper Republican NRD – Yes; Middle Republican NRD – Yes; Lower Republican NRD – Yes; Twin Platte NRD – Yes. Vote 4 – Yes, 0 - No. Motion approved.

**Project Update**

**Managers Reports**

Shepherd discussed the fire that damaged the NCORPE property that was started by Bruce McDermott south of the NCORPE property, insurance claims due to the fire, thank you to the fire departments and volunteers that helped in the response, clean up and repairs due to the fire and continued mowing of tumbleweeds.

**Property Management/Operations**

**Potential Land Lease – Josh Westling, Meadowlark Project**

Westling presented to the board about the possibility of a renewable energy project at NCORPE that would complement the Meadowlark Project in Gothenburg. The SSP process was discussed. Acres and types of generation were also discussed.

**Pasture, Rangeland, Forage (PRF) Insurance – Jon Lechtenberg, ARC Group**

PRF insurance was discussed as a tool to protect revenue in times of low precipitation.

Kahrs moved to approve Vaughn and staff to work with the ARC Group to secure a policy and was seconded by Large.

Roll Call: Upper Republican NRD – Yes; Middle Republican NRD – No; Lower Republican NRD – Yes; Twin Platte NRD – No. Vote 2 – Yes, 2 - No. Motion failed.

Discussion continued with questions about weather stations and problems/advantages of NCORPE using the program.

Weaver moved to approve Vaughn and staff to work with the ARC Group to find the best coverage and secure a policy and was seconded by Kahrs.

Roll Call: Upper Republican NRD – Yes; Middle Republican NRD – No; Lower Republican NRD – Yes; Twin Platte NRD – Yes. Vote 3 – Yes, 1 - No. Motion approved.

**Legislative Update**

The NRD Legislative Conference was mentioned as being scheduled for January 28th – 29th.

**Upcoming Conferences**

Shepherd reported he would be attending several upcoming conferences including the NARD conference along with the Legislative Conference.

**Executive Session**

Large moved to go into executive session for contract negotiations at 11:52am and was seconded by Loomis.

Roll Call: Upper Republican NRD – Yes; Middle Republican NRD – Yes; Lower Republican NRD – Yes; Twin Platte NRD – Yes. Vote 4 – Yes, 0 - No. Motion approved.

Kahrs moved to come out of executive session at 1:17pm and was seconded by Weaver.

Roll Call: Upper Republican NRD – Yes; Middle Republican NRD – Yes; Lower Republican NRD – Yes; Twin Platte NRD – Yes. Vote 4 – Yes, 0 - No. Motion approved.

The upcoming meeting schedule was discussed with the next planned meeting to be held on December 2nd at 10am in North Platte.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:17pm.

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Benjie Loomis, Board Secretary Date