



North Platte Valley Conservation District
February 15, 2024, Meeting Minutes
USDA Service Center

Chairman Dave Cushman called the regular meeting to order at 11:07am. Supervisors present were Dave Cushman, Treasurer Kaye McKee, Bum Baumgardner and Duane Keller. Employees in attendance were Programs Coordinator Bill Simmons and District Manager Jamie Phipps. Dave asked the Supervisors if there were any additions or corrections to the agenda, seeing none, Duane motioned to approve the agenda as presented, Kaye seconded. Motion carried. The board then briefly reviewed the January minutes, Duane motioned to approve the minutes as read, Kaye seconded. Motion passed.

Kaye gave her Treasurer's Report, mentioning that district financials were in good standing, she made a motion to approve the report, Duane seconded. Motion carried. In the absence of Samantha, Jamie provided the review of the Tree Account profit and loss report and cash balance. This prompted discussion concerning an equipment purchase schedule, weather and scheduling challenges and ways to improve efficiency in planting.

The discussion prompted Bill to move into his report, Bill passed out his projected cost/income spreadsheet, he commented that NPV's planting list is currently full and he is now starting to move interested customers to next year's waitlist. He is optimistic about the amount of plantings, hoping the weather and equipment will cooperate. Duane commented that the only improvement he would like to see on Bill's spreadsheet is a labor column to better comprehend the projected labor cost. He also stated that he is interested in observing a planting so he can better understand the process, the board agreed. The conversation segued into whether or not to resume radio advertising in March, considering that the planting list is full and the budget constraints it was agreed by consensus to utilize alternative free methods.

Jamie then gave her report. She stated that Jenna contacted SAREC about the registration sponsorships and that she had heard it advertised on the radio. SAREC will only invoice NPVCD for the sponsorships used. Jamie then informed the board that she had finished and started advertising the eight Conservation Classroom Resource Kits and is very excited to have that project completed. Jamie then produced a letter, congratulating NPVCD and SGCD on being awarded the Rural Living Workshop Grant. Jamie hopes to have a modern homestead themed workshop planned for June. She gave a brief recap of the Domestic Water Well Testing program. Altogether 21 kits were driven to Analytical Labs in Laramie, 11 of them from NPV. Jamie then asked the board their thoughts on the Soil Test Program. She commented that the general reaction from both boards was concern about the Ward Laboratories' Soil Health Assessment as it was different than the Haney test used in year's past, there was also concern about the amount of community interest in the program. The board requested that Jamie do some research on if Haney soil tests are still accessible and conduct a survey through Facebook and the website to gauge interest in the program. The board will decide on the future of the program at the next meeting.

During Old Business the board discussed the quotes on the tree tractor repairs. Duane moved to have Titan perform the repairs, Bum seconded. Motion passed. Moving into New Business, Jamie passed around a thank you letter from Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom

and a dues request letter from the National Association of Conservation District. The agreed by consensus to not pay the membership dues. Next was the annual insurance review. Jamie produced the Glatfelter renewal quote. The board discussed the declaration pages and decided to add the drill to the Inland Marine section for \$50,000. Duane moved to have NPV and the Tree Program pay the invoice 50/50 as the property and liability and inland marine sections cover both entities. Dave asked to add the topic of the Goshen County Fair to New Business. He requested that the board start thinking about drawing and promotional items. Dave recommended a drawing for the composter and rain barrel and purchasing travel mugs with the logo for a promotional item. The board asked Jamie to research quotes within the budget for the next meeting.

Dave adjourned the meeting at 1:07pm. Next meeting will be on March 21, 2024.


Chairman

3-21-24
Date


Treasurer