

MEMORANDUM

TO THE BOARD:

SUBJECT: General Manager’s Report

DATE: June 11, 2018 - UPDATED

FROM: John Winkler, General Manager



A. INFORMATION/EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS:

- 1. The Information and Education Department hired Kaylyn Kelly as its new Natural Resources Educator. Kaylyn was previously Program Assistant for the NRD and NRCS. Please welcome Kaylyn to her new office just a few yards further south of the building!
- 2. Kyra Peterson has been hired as District Accountant on Barb Sudrla’s retirement in May. Kyra’s first day of employment with the District was May 14. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Wyoming and MBA from the University of Phoenix, bringing with her a wide range of accounting and administrative experience. We are glad to have Kyra on the P-MRNRD team!
- 3. The Department is also gearing up to launch a comprehensive PR campaign for the grand opening of Dam Site 15A, which takes place on June 27 at 10:30 a.m. Additional highlights for the month of May 2018 are attached.

B. PERSONNEL/MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:

- 1. I was honored to be invited by the Lower Niobrara NRD and the Sandhill’s Cattle Association to be the keynote speaker at their annual conference in Valentine, Nebraska last week. I truly enjoyed it and received most gracious feedback from Cheryl Lovejoy, Director of the Lower Niobrara NRD and past President of the Sandhills Cattle Association. Cheryl’s email is attached. In addition, a resulting article will appear on social media and print media throughout the Sandhill’s Region and several publications of the Farm and Ranch Industry in several Midwestern states. Attached is the article that appeared in Nebraska Farmer.
- 2. Four candidates are moving on to the general election for two open seats on the Papio NRD Board of Directors. The candidates are Kevyn Sopinski and Terry Dale in Subdistrict 10, and Barb Nichols and Tim McCormick in Subdistrict 4. A break-down of the number of votes and percentages is attached.

C. REPORT ON PURCHASES – CONSTRUCTION SERVICES, PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AND PERSONAL PROPERTY:

Pursuant to Board direction, the report indicating construction services, professional services and personal property purchases from the month of May 2018 is attached for your review. Please review this report and contact me if you have any questions.

- D. **CURRENT AND ON-GOING PROJECTS – P-MRNRD LEGAL COUNSEL**: A copy of current and on-going projects for District Legal Counsel, Husch Blackwell, as of May 14, 2018, is attached for your review. I would ask each Director to review this report. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.
- E. **PAPILLION CREEK WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP REPORT**: The Papillion Creek Watershed Partnership Subcommittee meeting took place on May 24, 2018. The minutes are attached.



ONE OF SEVERAL SPONSORED PRIZES FOR
DAM SITE 15A CAMPAIGN CONTEST

GRAND OPENING

JUNE 27, 2018

10:30 A.M.

INFORMATION & EDUCATION REPORT

JUNE 14, 2018



From: lovejoyranch <lovejoyranch@threeriverwb.net>
Sent: Saturday, June 2, 2018 1:43 PM
Subject: THANK YOU
To: Winkler, John <jwinkler@papionrd.org>

John...

And a thank you for attending and presenting to the Sandhills Cattle Association your study and statistics. In the ensuing time since, I have heard so many positive remarks, really bringing to attention on a world wide basis, our natural resources.

My good neighbor Bud Reece, whom I believe visited with you afterward, was most complimentary.

The invitation is always open anytime you can visit these Sandhills and Valentine. It was a pleasure to socialize with you and Mike, we usually manage to have some laughs and great conversation.

Again my appreciation, and I have passed onto Bailey and Sydney your thanks.

I look forward to seeing you at the fall conference in Kearney.

Cherryl



REGULATORY > WATER

Does Nebraska take water for granted?

Slideshow: Convention speaker warns of complacency and advises to manage resources carefully.

Curt Arens | Jun 04, 2018

Nebraska is rich with water. In today's world, where a water crisis is a major source of global conflict, that makes the state's resource doubly important.

"Nebraska is located in the third-largest watershed in the world," John Winkler, general manager at the Papio Missouri River Natural Resources District, told

ranchers at the Sandhills Cattle Association convention held recently in Valentine. “Water is the new oil; there is no doubt about it.”

The Papio Missouri River NRD is involved with building and maintaining river levees protecting crucial national security assets like the Offutt Air Force Base near Omaha. Because of this, Winkler was appointed by then-U.S. Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James and the Department of Defense to attend the National Security Forum at the Air War College at Maxwell AFB in Alabama.

The experience of sitting at the table with military personnel and security policymakers from around the world opened Winkler’s eyes on the value of each drop of water. It also made him think about where Nebraska fits into the global picture.

“If you can go to your faucet and turn on the water, you are better off than two-thirds of the world’s population,” Winkler said. “Where there is water scarcity, that equals food scarcity,” he said. “Where there is food scarcity, that equals migration away from that location, which equals conflict.”

That’s why water overuse is considered by international military and policy leaders as the biggest threat to global security, he said.

“We in Nebraska take water for granted,” Winkler said. “We are the irrigation leader and have plenty of water resources.”

Scarcity and social unrest

Winkler cited numerous examples of how water and food scarcity have been leading factors in almost every place of social unrest and conflict around the globe, although these factors have been underreported.

“Everyone is concerned about water,” he said. “There is either too much or not enough. In the U.S., floods are the most frequent national disaster.”

Lack of water and therefore, the ability to produce food, is just as concerning. “The U.S. is the only country in the world that produces enough food right now to feed the population without importing food. That’s a huge global advantage,” Winkler said. “However, by 2025, it is projected that this will no longer be the case, so we will lose that advantage.”

Water catastrophes are expected by 2050 for the Middle East, China, India and the Western U.S.

“Complacency is the greatest threat to our country and to the world,” Winkler noted.

With its water resources, Nebraska is in an enviable position, compared to other states, he said. Looking at current global conflicts, migration will originate from areas without enough water and food to places that do.

To combat complacency, Winkler advised to proactively prepare and manage resources carefully down the road. “What if we had several years of drought in a row like California?” he asked. These are the types of concerns that should spur Nebraskans to take great care in water use, he said.

Technology can help

Technology leads the way in wise water management. Nebraska center-pivot irrigation systems and the move to subsurface drip irrigation are examples of water saving technologies, Winkler said, as well as “precision agriculture, which incorporates soil moisture sensors and nutrient management technology.”

“Our use of super computers and high-tech computer models to perform state-of-the-art predictive water usage and water balances, and using modern technology to predict the interaction between surface and groundwater help us to actually devise a strategy to determine the best management practices during drought and floods,” Winkler said. “We can also model the extents of our aquifers to determine volume and quality of water.

“The Nebraska system of water management is truly the gold standard in resource management,” Winkler said. “Nebraska water law, hybrid seeds, well metering, irrigation efficiencies, conjunctive management, coordination of state and local water efforts, aquifer mapping, flood control, drought mitigation, and modern farming and ranching practices are all examples of the Nebraska way.”

Winkler said that events in other parts of the world, whether it is in the Middle East, Africa, Asia or Russia, all have a direct and profound impact on the U.S. and Nebraska. “If it is immigration, trade or conflict and war, the world has never been smaller and our role as Nebraskans has never been bigger in it.”

Winkler spoke, along with Chuck Schroeder, founding executive director of the Rural Futures Institute, at the morning sessions of the 79th annual SCA convention and trade show at the Cherry County Fairgrounds. Along with the speakers, ranchers participated in a pen-of-three cattle show and a membership meeting and election of new directors for the SCA board. Learn more at sandhillscattle.com .



1. WATER, WATER

Nebraska is the country's leading irrigation state because of ample supplies of groundwater. This places Nebraska in an enviable position not only in the U.S., but also in the world. Many global conflicts today result from water and food scarcity.



2. STRAIGHT TALK

John Winkler, general manager at the Papio Missouri River NRD, speaks at the Sandhills Cattle Association convention. He said after attending a National Security Forum, he realized the value of Nebraska's water resources in the context of global security.



3. NEBRASKA RIVERS

The Niobrara River, which flows across the northern section of the state, is one of the water resources valued by Nebraskans, including ranchers, farmers, environmentalists and those seeking recreation.



4. PEN OF 3

During the SCA convention, ranchers could vote for the “People’s Choice” at the annual Zoetis pen-of-three cattle show.



5. FRIENDS GATHER

Besides attending the informational sessions, many at SCA like the social aspect of the event, such as visiting with others in the cattle industry.



6. BIG STEER

The Wright family put this longhorn steer up for bidding at the SCA convention, with proceeds supporting the Howard Wright Memorial Scholarship.



7. REACHING RANCHERS

6/5/2018

Does Nebraska take water for granted?

Vendors and exhibitors of all kinds brought their products to the SCA convention at the Cherry County Fairgrounds in Valentine.



8. CATCHING UP

Vendors inside and outside were able to visit with ranchers throughout the SCA convention.



9. HERE'S YOUR SIGN

Organized in the 1930s, the Sandhills Cattle Association brings ranchers and cattle feeders together to celebrate the beef industry in Nebraska and to promote cattle and the unique resources of the Sandhills through education, marketing, communications and member services. Each May, they hold the organization's annual convention and trade show, with this year's meeting gathering in Valentine.

Source URL: <http://www.nebraskafarmer.com/water/does-nebraska-take-water-granted>



Papio Missouri River NRD

Share

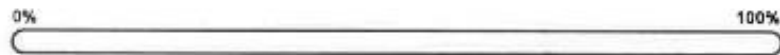
Search Races

Last updated at 7:51 AM on May 16, 2016.

Showing 2 of 2 races.

Papio NRD Subdistrict 10

Candidate	Party	Votes	Percentage
Kevyn Sopinski		3,302	41%
Terry Dale		3,090	38%
Royce Sheibal		1,700	21%
Total		8,092	



0% Reporting 0 of Precincts

Papio NRD Subdistrict 4

Candidate	Party	Votes	Percentage
Barb Nichols		3,341	40%
Tim McCormick		2,837	34%
Sean Fennessy		1,283	15%
Mark Raffety		965	11%
Total		8,426	



0% Reporting 0 of Precincts



Updated: May 14, 2018

Current and On-Going Projects P-MRNRD Legal Counsel

☛ = Top Priority
F = Future Work – No Assignment
N = New Assignment
O = Others Handling
W = Work in Progress
P = Counsel Portion Completed
B = Next Board Meeting

- **Little Papio:** (Cleveland)
 - ☛ License (3) for additional USACE NFM Project ROW (W)
- **Big Papio:** (Cleveland)
 - ☛ Thompson Creek – Transfer Stepanek ROW to La Vista (W)
 - Licenses for Phase 2 Culvert Rehab Project (F)
- **West Branch:** (Cleveland)
 - Land Exchange with Sarpy Co. (96th St.) (P)
 - Bank Stabilization Project Construction Contract (96th) (W)
- **Western Sarpy Dike:** (Cleveland/Petermann)
 - ☛ NRDs/NE-ARNG Interlocal Addendum for Camp Ashland Property (W)
- **Floodway Purchase Program:** (Laster/Grint)
 - Arlington Purchase Agreements, Deeds, etc. (P)
- **Trail Projects:** (Williams)
 - ☛ West Papio Trail, Giles to Millard – Amendment to Quest License Agreement (B)
 - MoPac Trail, Chalco to Hwy 50 – Amendment to LRA Professional Services Contract (F)
- **Missouri River Corridor Project:** (Becic)
 - ☛ Purchase Agreement with Reserved Easement for MUD (Platte River/Missouri River) (B)

- **USDA PL 566 Projects, Silver Creek and Pigeon/Jones Watershed:** (Schumacher/Cleveland/Grint)
 - ⊗ Papio PL 566 Sites S-21/Lincoln Road Easements to Sarpy County (P)
 - ⊗ Documents for Sale of Silver Creek Wetland Bank Credits to So. Sioux City (B)
- **Papio Watershed Dam Sites:** (Grint/Laster/Williams)
 - ⊗ ROW Acquisition Documents for WP6 & WP7 (B)
 - ⊗ City of Omaha Interlocal Agreement for ZB-2 (W)
 - ⊗ WP6 & WP7 Interlocal Agreement with Papillion and Sarpy Co. (W)
 - ⊗ DS15A ROW Transfer to City of Omaha/Douglas County (W)
 - ⊗ WP4 Purchase Agreement w/McCune (B)
 - ⊗ WP1 Purchase Agreement w/Celebrity (B)
- **Papio Creek Watershed Partnership (Stormwater):** (Grint)
 - ⊗ Amendment to HDR Papio Watershed Study Contract (B)
- **Southern Sarpy Watershed Partnership (Stormwater):** (Laster)
- **Missouri River R-613 and R-616 Levees:** (Cleveland/Woodward)
 - ⊗ Offutt AFB Storm Sewer Outlets O&M Agreement (W)
 - ⊗ ROW Acquisition Documents (W)
- **Rural Water Projects:** (Nelson)
- **Other:**
 - ⊗ Elk/Pigeon IPA NDOT Elk Creek easement for culvert near Jackson (Nelson) (P)



Meeting Minutes
May 24, 2018 – 10:00 AM – Board Room
Natural Resource Center, 8901 S 154th Street, Omaha, NE

Attendants:

See attached sign-in sheet.

Purpose

A meeting of the Partnership was held on the above date in order to discuss topics stated in the attached agenda. The meeting began at 10:05 am.

1. Introductions

- An agenda and handouts were distributed. Marlin Petermann facilitated introductions.

2. MS4 Update

- Jim Kee stated that the small MS4 stormwater Management Plans (SWMP) were put on a 30-day public notice June 8-16. Amanda Grint stated that as a group we will start drafting and discussing on SWMP elements next month.

3. Implementation Plan Update

- Marlin Petermann stated that the current Partnership Implementation Plan and Interlocal Agreement only go through July 2019. Both documents will need to be updated.
- The NRD recommends that HDR's contract be amended to prepare an update to the Watershed Management Plan and Implementation Plan. This should be completed by January 1, 2019 so that the Interlocal Agreement can be updated and adopted prior to July 1, 2019.
- Laurie Carrette Zook with HDR reviewed the scope of services for the Implementation Plan Update.
- John Kottmann asked if the process will include evaluating dues for the Partnership to make sure dues covering expenses for Omaha's compliance inspections.
- The Partnership members present voted and approved the scope and fee. The contract will be presented to NRD board in June.



4. Partnership Budget

- Lori Laster provided a summary of the Partnership Fund and projected expenses through the end of the current interlocal agreement.

5. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held June 28, 2018 at 10 am at the NRC building.

7. Adjourn

- The meeting adjourned at 11:07 am. An agenda and the handouts passed out at the meeting are available upon request.

Please contact Lori Laster at 444-6222 regarding any questions or comments concerning these meeting minutes.