

OPERATING BY-LAWS
FOR
THE NEBRASKA PLATTE-REPUBLICAN CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM
(CREP)
STEERING COMMITTEE

February 2020

PURPOSE

The Nebraska Platte-Republican Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Steering Committee (Committee) is formed to meet the requirements of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the State of Nebraska and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA, Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) to implement the Nebraska Platte-Republican Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. The Steering Committee is to advise the Nebraska Governor's office on the implementation of this CREP.

STRUCTURE AND COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

The MOA currently states that the Steering Committee "will include representatives from the State technical Committee, FSA, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Nebraska Department of Agriculture, NRCS, agriculture and conservation groups and local governments." The following organizations shall be recognized as voting members of the Committee:

| | |
|--|------------|
| FSA: | 4 Members |
| Nebraska Department of Natural Resources: | 4 Members |
| Natural Resources Conservation Service: | 2 Members |
| Nebraska Game and Parks Commission: | 2 Members |
| Nebraska Department of Agriculture: | 1 Member |
| Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy | 1 Member |
| Agriculture Groups (Includes Irrigation And Power Groups): | 6 Members |
| Conservation Groups: | 1 Member |
| Local Governments: | 9 Members |
| TOTAL | 30 Members |

In addition, staff of Nebraska's congressional and senatorial representatives, the Chairman of the State Technical Committee, and the Governor's Policy Research Office shall be invited to each meeting, but shall be a non-voting member.

A staff member of the Department of Natural Resources and a staff member of the U.S.D.A. Farm Service Agency shall co-chair the committee. If both are unable to attend a scheduled meeting, they shall appoint an acting chair. A staff member of the Department of Natural Resources shall act as the Secretary.

Alternates may be appointed from any representative group. To be able to participate in a vote, the alternate shall present to a Co-Chair a letter from his/her organization saying they are to represent their organization at a specific meeting or the organization can file a letter with the Committee stating who their alternate(s) will be at future meetings.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND ROLES OF INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Each member of the Steering Committee is expected to:

- (a) Regularly attend and prepare for work sessions;
- (b) Keep the other members of his or her group informed of what is being discussed by the Committee and solicit their input on these issues
- (c) Clearly articulate and represent the interests of his/her group;
- (d) Listen to other points of view and try to understand the interests of others;
- (e) Openly discuss issues and participate in cooperative problem solving procedure to resolve differences;
- (f) Be responsible for meeting expenses (travel, per diem) per your entities reimbursement policies and procedures.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMMITTEE AS A WHOLE

The Committee as a whole will make recommendations to the Governor regarding:

- (a) Changes needed to the MOA, and
- (b) Changes needed to the Farm Bill.

The Committee as a whole will review and/or make recommendations to the Department of Natural Resources regarding:

- (a) Changes to the Water Use Contract,
- (b) Opportunities for enhancing the program,
- (c) Public Information

MEETINGS

The Committee shall meet when there are issues that need discussion. The Co-Chairs will schedule meetings. Committee members or the public may request the Co-Chairs schedule a meeting. Through electronic mail, the Secretary shall make a good faith effort to arrange a mutually agreeable date, time, and place for all meetings.

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

Official notice of meetings shall be provided electronically to all Committee members through electronic mail at least two weeks prior to the meeting. Notice shall be provided to the public by notice on the Department of Natural Resources' website at least two weeks prior to the meeting. A copy of the proposed agenda shall be included with the Notice, but as allowed under the Open Meetings Act, the agenda can change up until 24 hours before the meeting. Copies of documents that are proposed to be reviewed for action shall also be available on the website and distributed to Committee members through electronic mail at the time of notice. This does not mean that additional documents used for informational purposes cannot be distributed at the meeting. Amended documents being reviewed for action can also be distributed as long as they were available on the website 24 hours before the meeting.

DECISION MAKING

The purpose of the Committee is to advise the Governor, and thus the Department of Natural Resources, the agency that works directly for the Governor to implement the program. There may at times be differing opinions because of the wide range of interests represented on the Committee.

The Committee must operate under the Open Meetings Act (Neb. Rev. Stat. Chapter 84, Article 14). In order for the Committee to convene, there must be a quorum present. For purposes of this Committee, a quorum shall mean that there are more than 50 percent of the members present (15 members must be present.) Members who are monitoring through telephonic means shall not be counted as present and shall not be allowed to vote.

Roll call votes shall be taken and recorded on all matters. The minutes shall reflect how each member voted or whether they abstained. Prior to any vote, sufficient discussion shall be held to allow all members to understand the issues. Approval or disapproval of any motion shall be by simple majority.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

All meetings shall be open to the public. There shall be a place on the agenda for public comment. Other public participation throughout the meeting will be at the discretion of the Committee.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS

Draft minutes of the meeting shall be available on the Department of Natural Resources' website and sent through electronic mail to all Committee members within 10 days of the meeting or prior to the next convened meeting, whichever occurs earlier. Following final approval of the minutes, the CREP Coordinator(s) shall maintain the minutes in the CREP files, have it posted on the Department of Natural Resources' website, and send a copy by electronic mail to the Committee members.

POWERS AND AUTHORITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee shall have the authority to:

- (a) Form subcommittees
- (b) Enact rules that will further describe the procedures to be used by the Committee and subcommittees as long as such rules are not in conflict with existing local, state, or federal rules and regulations and the Operating By-Laws.

AMENDMENTS TO OPERATING BY-LAWS

Amendments to these Operating By-Laws can only be made upon the agreement and signature of two thirds of those present at a meeting.

Signed by all current members:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SERVICE AGENCY



DOUG KLEIN

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SERVICE AGENCY



JANA INGWERSON-LAWS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SERVICE AGENCY



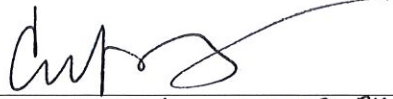
LAVAIN MOORE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SERVICE AGENCY



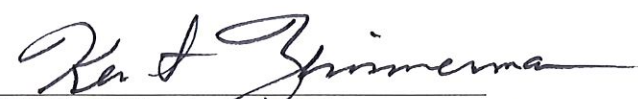
DILLON BREINIG

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES



JEFF FASSETT ~~CURT INBODY~~

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES



EMILY ROSE ~~Kent Zimmerman~~

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES



SUSAN ANN FRANCE

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES



MICHAEL THOMPSON

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION
SERVICE

(Position Open)

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS
COMMISSION




ERIC ZACH

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE



CRAIG ROMARY

CENTRAL NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER
AND IRRIGATION DISTRICT



MARCIA TROMPKE
Tyler Thulin

NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

RANDY ZACH

NEBRASKA FARM BUREAU

JORDAN DUX

CENTRAL PLATTE NATURAL
RESOURCES DISTRICT

JESSE MINTKEN

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION
SERVICE

RITCH NELSON

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS
COMMISSION

KEITH KOUPAL

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY




ELBERT TRAYLOR

BOSTWICK IRRIGATION DISTRICT


TRACY SMITH

PATHFINDER IRRIGATION DISTRICT



DENNIS STRAUCH

PHEASANTS FOREVER, INC




KELSI WEHRMAN
Andrew Houser

LOWER REPUBLICAN NATURAL
RESOURCES DISTRICT



TODD SIEL

MIDDLE REPUBLICAN NATURAL
RESOURCES DISTRICT



JACK RUSSELL *Colt Livingston*

NORTH PLATTE NATURAL
RESOURCES DISTRICT



~~JOHN BERGE~~ *Barbara S. Cross*

TRI-BASIN NATURAL
RESOURCES DISTRICT



JOHN THORBURN

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL
RESOURCES DISTRICT



GLEN BOWERS

SOUTH PLATTE NATURAL
RESOURCES DISTRICT

ROD L. HORN

UPPER REPUBLICAN NATURAL
RESOURCES DISTRICT

JASPER FANNING

NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF
RESOURCES DISTRICTS



DUSTIN WILCOX

FRENCHMAN-CAMBRIDGE IRRIGATION
DISTRICT



BRAD EDGERTON