

North Dakota Natural Resources Trust
Board of Directors Meeting
November 8, 2021
Zoom Video Conference & NDNRT Conference Room

Attendees: Board members Randy Renner, Duane Hauck, Gene Veeder, Jerry Doan, Dave Dittloff and Marshall Johnson were present. Ex-officio representative Scott Peterson, Deputy Director of ND Game and Fish Department, was present for Director Jeb Williams Trust staff present were Keith Trego, Terry Allbee, Jesse Beckers, Eric Rosenquist, Rick Warhurst and Brenda Newton.

10:00am

Marshall called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken. Marshall asked for any announcements or changes to the agenda. He then asked for a motion **“to approve the agenda.”** **Jerry moved and Duane seconded. All were in favor, motion carried.** Randy asked if there was any news from Paul Myerchin regarding Trust funds and public meetings. Brenda let the board know that Paul had met with Terry and Brenda, and decided he needed more information from the Trust before discussing his findings with the Board.

Keith presented to the Board the status of a strategic planning RFP. The Trust investigated sample RFP from other entities. Keith presented a document that he put together that summarized a list of possible consultants and their websites. He reviewed each consultant in the document, their strengths and if he’s contacted them or not. The consultants listed were Odney, KK Bold, Riverwinds Consulting, SKS Consulting Group and Rachel Gooen Consulting. Dave, Marshall and Randy mentioned they visited the consultant websites provided in the document and which ones they preferred. The Board discussed the difference between the consultants, and which would be the best fit for the Trust. Many Board members mentioned it would be good to have a consultant that has a good understanding of natural resources and the type of work the Trust does. The Board further discussed strengths and weaknesses between each of the listed consultants.

Marshall proposed that in the next month, the Board should come up with a list of questions to ask potential consultants and set up interviews with two or three of them that the Board are interested in. Gene noted that the board should determine a budget before conducting any interviews. Terry mentioned that it would then be included in the 2022 budget. The Board and staff discussed more about their own experiences with some of the consultants. Dave said that once we talk with some candidates, their references should be checked to help determine if they would be a good fit for the Trust. Randy noted that an RFP should start to be worked up, to determine what questions should be asked in an interview. Dave mentioned that an RFP is more for a larger bid process. The Board agreed that some type of one-page document needs to be developed before talking to any consultant. It was then discussed what that one-page document should contain. Keith noted that we should include the current strategic plan and point out specific areas that the Board would like to address. Duane noted the big picture question should be asked of how the role of the Trust is different or related to other conservation agencies. Randy and Dave agreed and feel that other conservation agencies should be

interviewed to address this question. Keith suggested that the Board address this question first before bringing it to a consultant. Jerry agreed and noted that maybe each board member or a small group give input to help lend direction to a potential consultant. Marshall asked for any more discussion. He then suggested that Keith, himself and any others develop a document that lays out the stages of the strategic planning process. Possible stages could include a 360 review with partners and a session that defines what the Trust is uniquely good at. Scott was able to join in and said he would send out an email reviewing the last time the Trust took a deep dive into strategic planning.

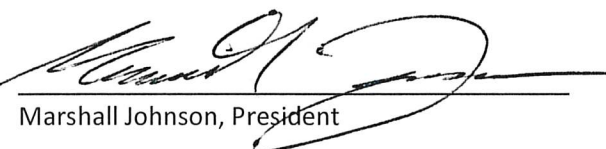
Marshall noted two consultants that the Board should investigate deeper and interview. Dave asked if the next steps should be to create the discussed one-page document in the next few weeks, then send to the two mentioned consultants and have discussions with them. Marshall agreed. Dave also mentioned that we come up with a set of questions to ask in the interviews and said he could help with that. Marshall suggested that the small group of Keith, Dave and Marshall come up with the one-page document and questions. The Board agreed.

Once the one-page document has been created, it was determined that Brenda will send out a Doodle poll to decide the next meeting date. Marshall asked the Board if any new business needs to be discussed. Randy asked about the changes to the Bylaws, that the staff sent out earlier, and if action needs to be taken on those now or at the next Board meeting. Marshall asked if Brenda could send out the suggested changes to the Bylaws again and action on them will be taken at the next Board meeting. Brenda asked for comments to be sent back to staff to compile for discussion at the next Board meeting.

Marshall called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Jerry moved "to adjourn the meeting at 11:04am." Dave seconded. All were in favor, motion carried.**

Submitted by  _____
Keith Trego, Executive Director

Dated 1/25/22

Approved by  _____
Marshall Johnson, President

Dated 1/24/22