

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
October 10, 2013

The Twin Platte Natural Resources District (TPNRD) Board of Directors meeting was held at the Great Western Bank Meeting Room, Second Floor, 111 South Dewey Street, North Platte, Nebraska on October 10, 2013. Mr. Schilz called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm. A legal notice of the meeting was published in the NORTH PLATTE TELEGRAPH. A news release containing the agenda for the meeting and including the time and place was sent to the news media in the District.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Eric S Hansen
Dale Margritz
James Meisner
Robert L Petersen
Dennis Schilz
Shane Storer
Jerry Weaver
Robert Wiseman

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Douglas L Stack
Joe Wahlgren
John W Williams

NRCS PERSONNEL PRESENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

Ann Dimmitt, IMP Manager
Amy Mapes, Administrative Assistant
Kent O Miller, General Manager

OTHERS PRESENT

Nick Brozovic, University of Illinois
Jeff Shafer, NPPD
Richael Young, University of Illinois

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nebraska Open Meeting Act – Mr. Schilz reported that the Nebraska Open Meeting Act requires public bodies to make available at least one current copy of the Open Meeting Act which may be posted in the meeting room at a location accessible to members of the public, and at the beginning of the meeting the public shall be informed about the location of the posted information. Mr. Schilz reported that the current Open Meeting Act was on the wall in the back of the meeting room which is accessible to members of the public.

Report of Directors Excused – Mr. Schilz reported that Operating Policy Number 4: BOARD

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OF DIRECTORS ABSENCES provides that a Director will be considered excused if the Director notifies the office prior to the meeting that he will be absent and that the minutes will reflect whether an absent Director is excused or unexcused. Mr. Schilz reported that Mr. Wahlgren and Mr. Williams notified the office that they would be absent and are therefore excused. Mr. Stack is unexcused.

Information Packet and Notebook available for the Public – Mr. Schilz reported that on the shelf in the back of the room is a copy of the Board Meeting Notebook and the Board Meeting Information Packet that each Board member has that are available for viewing by the public attending the Board of Directors meeting.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Schilz opened the Public Forum. There were no comments. Mr. Schilz closed the Public Forum.

GENERAL INFORMATION

None presented.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

Minutes for the September 12, 2013 Meeting – Mr. Schilz reported that the Minutes for the September 12, 2013 Board of Directors meeting was available for the Directors’ and he asked if there were any corrections or additions.

Mr. Petersen moved that the Minutes of the September 12, 2013 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mr. Margritz seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #1)

Aye: Margritz, Meismer, Petersen, Schilz, Weaver, Wiseman
Nay: None
Absent & Excused: Wahlgren, Williams
Absent & Unexcused: Stack
Abstain: Storer
Out of Room: Hansen

REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

None presented.

COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORT

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) – District Conservationist Report – No report presented due to the Federal Government shutdown.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Land Resources SubCommittee

No report presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Water Resources SubCommittee

Mr. Meismer, Water Resources Subcommittee Chairperson, presented a report for the Subcommittee meeting held on October 10, 2013.

Ground Water Management – Certified Irrigated Acres - Online Trading – Richael Young, University of Illinois Graduate Student, and Nick Brozovic, University of Illinois Professor, reported on the status of their development of online trading for certified irrigated acres within the TPNRD. Ms. Young reported that they plan to be back for the November 14, 2013 Board meeting to show a near final version of the online website.

Ground Water Management – Variances – Sutherland Public Schools – Mr. Meismer reported that the TPNRD received a request for a variance from Sutherland Public Schools. Mr. Meismer asked Mrs. Dimmitt to report on the request.

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve granting a variance to the Sutherland Public Schools for a new well permit in the NENW Section 29, Township 14 North, Range 33 West, Lincoln County. Mr. Wiseman seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #2)

Aye: Hansen, Margritz, Meismer, Petersen, Schilz, Storer, Weaver, Wiseman
Nay: None
Absent & Excused: Wahlgren, Williams
Absent & Unexcused: Stack

Ground Water Management – Variances – Bob & Betty Pearman - Mr. Meismer reported that the TPNRD received a request for a variance from Bob & Betty Pearman. Mr. Meismer asked Mrs. Dimmitt to report on the request.

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve granting a variance to Bob & Betty Pearman to transfer 22.5 acres from the NE¼ Section 35, Township 13 North, Range 28 West, and the SW¼ Section 26, Township 13 North, Range 28 West to a new swing arm pivot in the E½ Section 27, Township 13 North, Range 28 West, Lincoln County. Mr. Wiseman seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #3)

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Aye: Hansen, Margritz, Meisner, Petersen, Schilz, Storer, Weaver,
Wiseman
Nay: None
Absent & Excused: Wahlgren, Williams
Absent & Unexcused: Stack

Ground Water Management – Violations – No report presented.

Ground Water Management – Management Plan – No report presented.

Integrated Management Plan - Offset Water - Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement Project (N-CORPE) – Mr. Weaver reported that available for the Directors’ was the Litigation Memorandum and Order dated September 24, 2013. Mr. Weaver reported that available for the Directors’ was the minutes for the sponsors meeting held on September 18, 2013 and he reported on the sponsors meeting.

Mr. Miller reported that available for the Directors’ were a draft letter to Irrigated Landowners in the TPNRD in regard to the occupation tax approved September 12, 2013, an N-CORPE information fact sheet to send with the letter, a timeline of the development of the TPNRD IMP that began in 2004 to send with the letter, and a listing of frequently asked questions about the Occupation Tax and the N-CORPE Project to send with the letter. Mr. Miller reported that the letter will be mailed in October prior to the landowners receiving their tax assessment.

Mrs. Dimmitt reported that she has been to Arthur County, Keith County, and McPherson County to meet with the Commissioners to provide information about the N-CORPE Project and to deliver to the County Treasurers the TPNRD Resolution 4-091213 approved September 12, 2013 for the occupation tax. Mrs. Dimmitt reported that she has also delivered the resolution to the Lincoln County Treasurer. Mrs. Dimmitt reported that Dan Smith, General Manager of the MRNRD, and Mr. Miller had previously met with the Lincoln County Commissioners to provide information about the N-CORPE Project.

Integrated Management Plan – Offset Water – TPNRD Variance Application – No report presented.

Integrated Management Plan – Offset Water – Conjunctive Management of Ground Water and Surface Water – CPNRD & TPNRD Proposal – Mr. Meisner reported on the status of activities in regard to the CPNRD & TPNRD proposal. Mr. Meisner reported that information was available for the Directors’.

Integrated Management Plan – Offset Water – J2 Re-regulating Reservoir – Mr. Meisner reported on the status of the J2 Re-regulating Reservoir.

Integrated Management Plan – Offset Water – CPNRD – No report presented.

Integrated Management Plan – Offset Water – Platte Basin Coalition Conservation Study – No report presented.

Integrated Management Plan – Offset Water – Excess Flows – Mrs. Dimmitt reported that on March 8, 2013, the Board of Directors approved the TPNRD entering into agreements with the Platte Valley, Paxton-Hershey, Suburban, and Keith-Lincoln Irrigation Districts on the North Platte River and the Western Irrigation District on the South Platte River and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, for the irrigation districts to divert some of the current high river flows into the irrigation districts canals and the TPNRD using the water that seeps into the ground for offset water for river flows required by the TPNRD Integrated Management Plan, and to authorize the General Manager to execute the agreements.

Mrs. Dimmitt reported that during the recent flooding on the South Platte River, the TPNRD entered into agreements with the Platte Valley Irrigation District and the Paxton-Hershey Irrigation District on the North Platte River and the Western Irrigation District on the South Platte River, and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, for the irrigation districts to divert some of the high river flows into the irrigation districts canals. Mrs. Dimmitt reported that the purpose of the agreements were to reduce the flood flows and for the TPNRD to benefit from the water that seeps into the ground for offset water for river flows required by the TPNRD Integrated Management Plan. Mrs. Dimmitt reported that the benefits of reducing the flood flows volume by the Western Irrigation District were in the South Platte River and Platte River and the benefits of reducing the flood flows volume by the Platte Valley Irrigation District and the Paxton-Hershey Irrigation District were in the Platte River.

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve the TPNRD entering into agreements with the Irrigation Districts on the North Platte River and the Western Irrigation District on the South Platte River, and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, for the irrigation districts to divert excess flows, whenever available, into the irrigation districts canals, for the TPNRD to use the water that seeps into the ground for offset water for river flows required by the TPNRD Integrated Management Plan, and to authorize the General Manager to execute the agreements. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #4)

Aye: Hansen, Margritz, Meismer, Petersen, Schilz, Storer, Weaver, Wiseman

Nay: None

Absent & Excused: Wahlgren, Williams

Absent & Unexcused: Stack

Data and Modeling - North Platte River below Lake McConaughy – XRI GEO Proposal – No report presented.

Water Funding Task Force - Mr. Meismer reported on the status of the Water Funding Task Force.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee

No report presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Executive Subcommittee

No report presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Statement - Mr. Meismer reported that the Financial Statement for September 2013 was available for the Directors’.

Accounts Payable - Mr. Meismer reported that the Accounts Payable report was available for the Directors’ and that he had reviewed the Accounts Payable and found the report to be in order.

Mr. Meismer moved that the Financial Statement for September 2013 be received and placed on file for audit and to approve payment of the invoices presented on October 10, 2013 in the amount of \$65,426.27. Mr. Wiseman seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #5)

Aye: Hansen, Margritz, Meismer, Petersen, Schilz, Storer, Wiseman
Nay: None
Abstain: Weaver
Absent & Excused: Wahlgren, Williams
Absent & Unexcused: Stack

Budget Status – Mr. Meismer reported that the Budget Status report was available for the Directors’

Bids/Proposals – None presented.

Bids/Proposals Scheduled to be Presented for Consideration during the November 14, 2013 Board of Directors Meeting – Mr. Miller reported that the District Policy provides that “The staff will notify the Board during the Board meeting immediately prior to the Board meeting at which bids will be presented for consideration”. Mr. Miller reported that no bids/proposals would be presented for the November 14, 2013 Board of Directors meeting.

DIRECTORS REPORTS

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD) – Board of Directors – No report presented.

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD) – Annual Conference – September 23-24, 2013 – Mr. Meisner reported that available for the Directors’ was the business session minutes.

Sandhills Resources, Conservation & Development Council – No report presented.

Requests for Authorization to Travel – No requests presented.

DISTRICT REPORT

Water Programs – Integrated Management Plan – No report presented.

Water Programs – Regulatory – No report presented.

Brule Watershed – No report presented.

Conservation Programs - Trees –No report presented.

Conservation Programs - Regulatory – No report presented.

Cost-Share Programs – NE Soil & Water Conservation Program – Mr. Miller reported that the monthly report was available for the Directors’. Mr. Miller reported that \$58,995.27 was available. Mr. Miller reported that there were no new applications to present.

Cost-Share Programs – District Conservation Programs – Mr. Miller reported that the monthly report was available for the Directors’. Mr. Miller reported that \$6,934.28 was available.

Habitat Programs – No report presented.

Information & Education Programs – No report presented.

Requests for Authorization to Travel – No requests presented.

Meetings and Dates of Interest – Mr. Miller reported that various items of information were available for the Directors’.

Mr. Miller requested that the February 2014 Board of Directors meeting be changed from February 13 to February 6. There were no objections. Mr. Schilz reported that the February 2014 Board of Directors meeting would be held on February 6, 2014.

Miscellaneous Information – Mr. Miller reported that various items of information were available for the Directors’.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

NEXT MEETING

Mr. Schilz reported that the next Board of Directors meeting would be held on Thursday, November 14, 2013 at 3:00 pm in the Great Western Bank Center located at 111 South Dewey Street in North Platte, Nebraska.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Jerry Weaver, Secretary