

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
Board of Directors Meeting  
November 14, 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 November 14, 2013. Mr. Schilz called the meeting to order at 3:04 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  
Douglas L Stack  
Shane Storer  
Joe Wahlgren  
Jerry Weaver  
John W Williams  
Robert Wiseman

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

None

NRCS PERSONNEL PRESENT

Traci Bates

STAFF PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Eric Brown, Producer  
Tim Foster, Imperial College, London (University of Illinois)  
Brad Johnson, Sargent Irrigation  
Jeff Shafer, NPPD  
Mike Wheeler, Sargent Irrigation  
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,

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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 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 all Directors were present.

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.

Other Announcements - Mr. Miller reported that the Board meeting this month will probably be short. Mr. Miller reported that the staff has arranged for a tour of the N-CORPE project construction following the Board meeting for any Director who would like to see the construction. Mr. Miller reported that construction is currently occurring for the well field, the pipelines within the well field, and the pipeline south to Medicine Creek. Mr. Miller reported that while on the tour, participants would also see some of the pivots that now have a cover crop and will be planted to native grass. Mr. Miller reported that Glen Bowers would lead the tour and the staff would have NRD pickups available for travel. Mr. Miller reported that the tour would take about 1 ½ hours. Directors indicated if they would be going on the tour.

### PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Schilz opened the Public Forum. Eric Brown spoke to the Board in regard to the N-CORPE Project.

Mr. Schilz closed the Public Forum.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

None presented.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

Minutes for the October 10, 2013 Meeting – Mr. Schilz reported that the Minutes for the October 10, 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 October 10, 2013 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mr. Margritz seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #1)

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

REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

None presented.

COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORT

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) – District Conservationist Report –  
Traci Bates distributed and presented a report.

Mr. Miller reported that a letter from Craig Derickson, State Conservationist, dated October 23, 2013, was available for the Directors’.

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 November 14, 2013.

Ground Water Management – Certified Irrigated Acres - Online Trading – Mr. Meismer reported that Richael Young, University of Illinois Graduate Student, reported on the status of the development of online trading for certified irrigated acres within the TPNRD. Mr. Meismer reported that Ms. Young first presented to the Water Resources Subcommittee on June 26, 2013. Mr. Meismer reported that Ms. Young would be returning in December to discuss with the Subcommittee a near final version of the online website. Mr. Meismer reported that Ms. Young plans to have a presentation on the final version of the online website to present to the Board of Directors on January 9, 2013. Mr. Meismer reported that the Subcommittee agreed that the TPNRD would distribute a newsletter following the January 9, 2013 Board meeting with an article about the online website for online trading of certified irrigated acres within the TPNRD.

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

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Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve granting a variance to Roger Wahlgren to transfer 21.7 acres from six different locations within the SW¼ Section 6 Township 11 North, Range 26 West; the NE¼ & SE¼ Section 7, Township 11 North, Range 26 West; and the NE¼ Section 11, Township 11 North, Range 27 West; to a new wiper pivot and an existing pivot in the NW¼ Section 11, Township 11 North, Range 27 West, Lincoln County. Mr. Weaver seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #2)

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

Ground Water Management – Variances – Jason Bode - Mr. Meismer reported that the TPNRD received a request for a variance from Jason Bode. 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 Jason Bode to transfer 11.79 acres from the SE¼ Section 25, Township 13 North, Range 41 West, Keith County, to the SE¼ Section 16, Township 13 North, Range 32 West, Lincoln County, conditioned on there being permanent stops in place before irrigation begins next spring so that the pivot cannot physically walk over dryland crops. Mr. Wiseman seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #3)

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

Ground Water Management – Variances – Pete Baumgartner - Mr. Meismer reported that the TPNRD received a request for a variance from Pete Baumgartner. 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 Pete Baumgartner to transfer 48.0 acres from the NE¼ Section 8, Township 16 North, Range 27 West, Lincoln County, to within the NW¼ in the same section. Mr. Wiseman seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #4)

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

Ground Water Management – Violations – No report presented.

Integrated Management Plan - Offset Water - Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement Project (N-CORPE) – Mr. Weaver reported presented a status report. Mr. Weaver reported that available for the Directors’ was a construction update prepared by Chris Miller, Miller & Associates.

Mrs. Dimmitt reported on the procedure for obtaining the occupation tax. Mrs. Dimmitt reviewed some of the response to the letter to irrigated landowners in the TPNRD mailed in October. Mrs. Dimmitt reported that the letter was sent prior to the landowners receiving their tax assessment. Mrs. Dimmitt reported that the letter included an N-CORPE fact sheet, an IMP timeline, and frequently asked questions about the Occupation Tax and 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 – Mr. Miller reported that available for the Directors’ was a letter from Don Kraus, CNPPID General Manager, dated October 9, 2013, to Lyndon Vogt, CPNRD General Manager and Mr. Miller. Mr. Miller reported that Lyndon Vogt and he have a meeting scheduled with Don Kraus.

Integrated Management Plan – Offset Water – J2 Re-regulating Reservoir – No report presented.

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 South Platte River – Mrs. Meismer reported that available for the Directors’ was preliminary information in regard to the amount of water diverted during the recent high river flows in the South Platte River.

Mrs. Dimmitt reported that 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 Western Irrigation District also divert the high river flows into pits. 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.

South Platte River Compact Coalition – Mr. Schilz reported on the current activities of the South Platte River Compact Coalition.

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

UNL Publications - Water Atlas – Meismer asked the Directors who would like the new 2013 Water Atlas. Directors indicated if they wanted the 2013 Water Atlas.

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 October 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 October 2013 be received and placed on file for audit and to approve payment of the invoices presented on November 14, 2013 in the amount of \$40,022.70. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #5)

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

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 December 10, 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 December 10, 2013 Board of Directors meeting.

### DIRECTORS REPORTS

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD) – Board of Directors – Mr. Meismer reported on NARD activities.

Mr. Williams moved to approve a \$1,000 donation to the NARD Foundation for a building on the State Fair property in Grand Island, NE if the project moves forward and there is support from other NRDs. Mr. Meismer seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #6)

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

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 – Mr. Miller reported that the TPNRD annual inspection of the Brule Watershed occurred on October 1, 2013 and that the inspection report was available for the Directors’.

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 two new applications to present.

Mr. Margritz moved to approve the November 14, 2013 report and to approve the following new contracts:

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<u>Cont#</u>	<u>Practice</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>App Amt</u>	<u>Prop Amt to Fund</u>
14.003	NC-1	Terraces	\$ 3,827.20	\$ 3,827.20
14.004	NC-14	Planned Grazing	\$ 5,701.41	\$ 5,701.41
		Total Amount of New Contracts		\$ 9,528.61
		FUNDS AVAILABLE		\$ 49,466.66

Mr. Storer seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #7)

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

Cost-Share Programs – District Conservation Programs – Mr. Miller reported that the monthly report was available for the Directors’. Mr. Miller reported that \$6,534.28 was available.

Habitat Programs – No report presented.

Information & Education Programs – Mr. Miller reported that a Grassland Award was presented to the Brosius Ranch (Robert & Jennifer Brosius) on November 4, 2013 by Mr. Schilz. Mr. Miller reported that a Tree Award will be presented to Gerald and Jan Spurgin on December 10, 2013 during the TPNRD Awards Banquet and Christmas Dinner at the Haythorn Ranch.

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’.

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 Tuesday, December 10, 2013 at 4:30 pm MT at Haythorn Ranch.



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS TOUR

Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement Project (N-CORPE) – Members of the Board of Directors toured the N-CORPE Project.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.

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Jerry Weaver, Secretary