

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
August 13, 2015

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 August 13, 2015. Mr. Schilz called the meeting to order at 3:02 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
Judy Pederson
Robert L Petersen
Dennis Schilz
Douglas L Stack
Joe Wahlgren

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Shane Storer
Jerry Weaver
Robert Wiseman

NRCS PERSONNEL PRESENT

Mary Reece, District Conservationist

STAFF PRESENT

Bill Carhart, Grasslands Stewardship Coordinator
Ann Dimmitt, IMP Manager
Amy Mapes, Administrative Assistant
Kent O Miller, General Manager
Dave Slattery, Conservation Programs Coordinator

OTHERS PRESENT

Jon Engel, HDR Engineering
Jeff Shafer, NPPD
Rich Walters, Nature's Conservancy
Mike Wheeler, Sargent Irrigation

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 front 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 Mr. Storer, Mr. Weaver, and Mr. Wiseman notified the office that they would be absent and are therefore excused.

Information Packet and Notebook available for the Public – Mr. Schilz reported that on the table along the north wall of the meeting room is a notebook containing information that each Board member has electronically. Mr. Schilz reported that the notebook is available for viewing by the public attending the Board of Directors meeting. Mr. Schilz reported that this information is also available on the TPNRD website and that internet access is available in the room.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Schilz opened the public forum. There were no comments. Mr. Schilz closed the public forum.

REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

Phragmites Infestation in the Platte River – Rich Walters, The Nature Conservancy, reported on the phragmites infestation in the Platte River. Mr. Walters requested the TPNRD to provide \$25,000.00 annually to assist with the removal of the phragmites infestation in the Platte River.

COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORT

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) – District Conservationist Report – Mrs. Reece distributed information and presented a report.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Urban Forestry Program – Dave Slattery, Conservation Programs Coordinator, presented a report on the Urban Forestry Program.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

Minutes for the July 16, 2015 Meeting – Mr. Schilz reported that the Minutes for the July 16, 2015 Board of Directors meeting were available for the Directors' and he asked if there were any corrections or additions.

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Mr. Petersen moved that the Minutes of the July 16, 2015 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mrs. Pederson seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #1)

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Statement - Mr. Meismer reported that the Financial Statement for July 2015 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 July 2015 be received and placed on file for audit and to approve payment of the invoices presented on August 13, 2015 in the amount of \$113,002.73. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #2)

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

Budget Status – No report available.

Bids/Proposals – None presented.

Bids/Proposals Scheduled to be Presented for Consideration during the September 10, 2015 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 September 10, 2015 Board of Directors meeting.

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 August 13, 2015.

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Variance Request – TP-TRANS-15.40 – Mr. Meisner asked Mrs. Dimmitt to report on the requests for variances.

Mrs. Dimmitt reported on variance request TP-TRANS-15.40.

Mr. Meisner moved the Water Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve variance TP-TRANS-15.40. Mrs. Pederson seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #3)

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

Variance Request – TP-NP-15.41 – Mr. Meisner asked Mrs. Dimmitt to report on the requests for variances.

Mrs. Dimmitt reported on variance request TP-NP-15.41.

Mr. Meisner moved the Water Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve variance TP-NP-15.41. Mrs. Pederson seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #4)

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

Violations – No report presented.

Offset Water - Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement (NCORPE) Project – North Pipeline Construction – No report presented.

Offset Water - Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement (NCORPE) Project – LR323 Hearing September 21, 2015 – Mr. Meisner reported that available for the Directors’ was Legislative Resolution 323.

Offset Water - Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement (NCORPE) Project – Ground Water Levels – Mr. Meisner reported that available for the Directors’ was an aerial photo of the NCORPE property showing the locations of ground water monitoring wells, and graphs for the monitoring wells.

Offset Water - Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement (NCORPE) Project – Sponsors Meetings – Mr. Meisner reported on the July 15, 2015 meeting of the sponsors.

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Offset Water – Irrigation Districts – Engineering Analysis – Mr. Meismer reported that the Subcommittee held a work session with John Engel, HDR Engineering, during the July 16, 2015 Subcommittee meeting to develop a scope of work for an analysis of the infrastructure and maintenance needs of the Irrigation Districts within the TPNRD. Mr. Meismer reported that during the workshop on July 16, 2015, Mrs. Dimmitt reported that she had met with each Irrigation District to report that the TPNRD is considering funding an engineering analysis, and to request the Irrigation District to prepare an initial list of needs in a priority ranking for the TPNRD. Mr. Meismer reported that the Subcommittee met with John Engel again today and he asked Mr. Engel to present the scope of work the Subcommittee is recommending to the Board of Directors.

John Engel presented and reviewed the scope of work and fees.

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve the scope of work presented by HDR Engineering for an analysis of the infrastructure and maintenance needs of the Keith–Lincoln, Paxton-Hershey, Platte Valley, Suburban, & Western Irrigation Districts within the TPNRD at a cost not to exceed \$40,000.00 and to authorize the General Manager to execute an agreement for the services to be provided by HDR Engineering. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #5)

Aye: Hansen, Margritz, Meismer, Pederson, Petersen, Schilz, Wahlgren
Nay: Stack
Absent & Excused: Storer, Weaver, Wiseman

Offset Water - Irrigation Districts – Excess Flows – Water Rights Applications / Lease Agreements - No report presented.

Offset Water – Irrigation Districts – Instream Flows – No report presented.

Offset Water – J-2 Re-regulating Reservoir – Mr. Meismer reported that available for the Directors’ was an article on the J-2 Re-regulating Reservoir in the CNPPID Spring 2015 Communicator newsletter.

Offset Water – CPNRD Agreement – No report presented.

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

Offset Water – Conjunctive Management of Ground Water & Surface Water – No report presented.

Subcommittee Priorities – Mr. Meismer reported that the following is the current list of the Subcommittee priorities for offset water.

- 1 Irrigation Districts in TPNRD
- 2 N-CORPE Project

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- 3 CPNRD Agreement
- 4 J-2 Project
5. Non-Irrigated Certified Acres
- 6 Conservation tillage measures
- 7 South Platte River Compact Coalition

Mr. Meisner reported that the priorities are funded in the Draft TPNRD 2016FY Budget.

Mrs. Meisner reported that an IMP Accounting shown on a graph and a chart is available for the Directors’.

Brule Watershed Rehabilitation Program – Mr. Miller reported that available for the Directors’ was a TPNRD letter, July 31, 2015, to Craig Derickson, State Conservationist, NRCS, requesting planning, design, and construction to complete a full rehabilitation for Brule Creek 1-A Watershed for the 2016 Watershed Rehabilitation Program funding request. Mr. Miller reported that also available for the Directors’ was a NRCS letter, July 31, 2015, to NRCS regarding Watershed Rehabilitation Program FY2016 funding request and an Inspection Report for the Brule Creek 1-A Watershed, June 2,2015, by NE DNR.

Tri-Basin NRD Proposed Project to Transfer Platte River Excess Flows to Republican River – Mr. Meisner reported that information was available for the Directors’ for a proposal by the Tri-Basin NRD to divert Platte River water to a Republican River tributary, and a proposal by the Tri-Basin NRD to pump ground water to the Platte River.

CNPPID Water Leasing Agreement with the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program - Mr. Meisner reported that information was available for the Directors’ for a proposal by CNPPID for a water leasing agreement with the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program.

Resources Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Grant - No report presented.

South Platte River Compact Coalition – No report presented.

The Nature Conservancy Project – No report presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee

Mr. Petersen, Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee Chairperson, presented a report for the Subcommittee meeting held on August 13, 2015.

Urban Forestry Program - Program Report – Mr. Petersen reported that information was available for the Directors’ for TPNRD Urban Forestry Program.

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Urban Forestry Program - Approved Community Programs & Applications for Community Programs – Mr. Petersen reported that the current three-year program for Sutherland began July 1, 2014 and continues to June 30, 2017. Mr. Petersen reported that the current three-year programs for Ogallala and North Platte began July 1, 2012 and expired June 30, 2015. Mr. Petersen reported that Ogallala and North Platte have each submitted a written request for a new three-year program.

Mr. Petersen moved the Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee recommendation to the Board of Directors to authorize \$428.00 for funding the Sutherland Urban Forestry Program July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, to approve a new Ogallala Urban Forestry Program for fiscal years 2016, 2017 and 2018 and to authorize \$2,000.00 for funding the Ogallala Urban Forestry Program July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, and to approve a new North Platte Urban Forestry Program for fiscal years 2016, 2017 and 2018 and to authorize \$2,000.00 for funding the North Platte Urban Forestry Program July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. Mr. Meisner seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #6)

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Executive Subcommittee

No report presented.

DIRECTORS REPORTS

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD) – Board of Directors – Mr. Meisner presented a report. Mr. Meisner reported that information was available for the Directors’ on the Nebraska Educational TV NRD Video Project

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD) – Annual Conference – Mr. Meisner reported that the NARD Annual Conference will be held in Kearney, NE on September 28-29, 2015.

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

Sandhills Task Force – Mr. Hansen presented a report.

Requests for Authorization to Travel – No requests presented.

DISTRICT REPORT

Cost-Share Programs – NE Soil & Water Conservation Program – Mr. Miller reported that

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the monthly report was available for the Directors’. Mr. Miller reported that \$71,605.33 was available, and there were two new applications to present.

Mr. Petersen moved to approve the August 13, 2015 report and to approve the following new contracts:

<u>Cont#</u>	<u>Practice</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>App Amt</u>	<u>Prop Amt to Fund</u>
16.001	NC-14	Planned Grazing	\$ 7,306.05	\$ 7,306.05
16.002	NC-17	Irrig Water Mgt	\$ 652.66	\$ 652.66
		Total Amount of New Contracts		\$ 7,958.71

FUNDS AVAILABLE \$ 63,646.62

Mrs. Pederson seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #7)

Aye: Hansen, Margritz, Meismer, Pederson, Petersen, Schilz, Stack, Wahlgren

Nay: None

Absent & Excused: Storer, Weaver, Wiseman

Cost-Share Programs – District Conservation Programs – Mr. Miller reported that the monthly report was available for the Directors’. Mr. Miller reported that \$8,680.00 was available.

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

BUDGET FOR 2016 FISCAL YEAR

Preparation Schedule – Mr. Miller reported that a schedule for preparing the 2016 Fiscal Year Budget for the TPNRD was available for the Directors’. Mr. Miller reported that the schedule provides the Board four opportunities to review and discuss the Budget prior to final approval.

General Fund Budget - Review Draft #3 – Mr. Miller reported that the third draft of a General Fund Budget for the 2016 Fiscal Year was available for the Directors’. Mr. Miller reviewed the information for the proposed General Fund Budget for the 2016 Fiscal Year.

NCORPE Project Budget - Review Draft #3 – Mr. Miller reported that the third draft of a NCORPE Project Budget for the 2016 Fiscal Year was available for the Directors’. Mr. Miller reviewed the information for the proposed NCORPE Project Budget for the 2016 Fiscal Year.

Approval for Public Hearings and Set Public Hearings Dates, Times, and Location

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Mr. Wahlgren moved to approve for Public Hearing a 2015-2016 Fiscal Year Budget for the TPNRD General Fund as proposed in Draft #3 with a property tax request of \$2,632,300.00 for the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year which is \$530,000.00 less than the property tax funds requested to fund the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year Budget, to approve for Public Hearing a 2015-2016 Fiscal Year Budget for the TPNRD N-CORPE Project as proposed in Draft #3 with an occupation tax levy of \$10.00 per irrigated acre for the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year, and to set the Public Hearing for the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year Budget for September 10, 2015 to be held at 7:30 pm in the Great Western Bank Center Meeting Room located at 111 South Dewey Street in North Platte, Nebraska for the Board of Directors to hear and consider public comments prior to action for approval of a 2015-2016 Fiscal Year Budget for the General Fund, for approval of a 2015-2016 Fiscal Year Budget for the N-CORPE Project, for setting the final property tax for the TPNRD for the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year, and for setting the final occupation tax for the TPNRD for the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #8)

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

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

NEXT MEETING

Mr. Schilz reported that the next Board of Directors meeting would be held on Thursday, September 10, 2015 at 7:30 pm.

BOARD DINNER

A Board Dinner was held at Mr. Wahlgren's cabin at Jeffrey Reservoir. No discussions regarding the TPNRD occurred.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Jerry Weaver, Secretary