

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
March 10, 2016

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 March 10, 2016. Mr. Stack called the meeting to order at 3:05 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

James Meisner
Judy Pederson
Robert L Petersen
Douglas L Stack
Jerry Weaver
Robert Wiseman

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Eric S Hansen
Dale Margritz
Dennis Schilz
Shane Storer
Joe Wahlgren

NRCS PERSONNEL PRESENT

Mary Reece, District Conservationist

STAFF PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Jeff Shafer, NPPD
Mike Wheeler, Sargent Irrigation

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nebraska Open Meeting Act – Mr. Stack 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. Stack 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. Stack 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 or she will be absent and that the minutes will reflect whether an absent Director is excused or unexcused. Mr. Stack reported

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that Mr. Margritz, Mr. Schilz, Mr. Storer, and Mr. Wahlgren notified the office that they would be absent and are therefore excused. Mr. Hansen is unexcused.

Information Packet and Notebook available for the Public – Mr. Stack 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. Stack reported that the notebook is available for viewing by the public attending the Board of Directors meeting. Mr. Stack reported that this information is also available on the TPNRD website, and that internet access is available in the room.

Other Announcements – None presented.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

None presented.

GENERAL INFORMATION

None presented.

COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORT

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) – District Conservationist Report – Mary Reece reported that information was available for the Directors’ and she presented a report.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Minutes for the February 18, 2016 Meeting – Mr. Stack reported that the Minutes for the February 18, 2016 Board of Directors meeting were available for the Directors’ and he asked if there were any corrections or additions.

Mr. Meismer moved that the Minutes of the February 18, 2016 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #1)

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Statement - Mr. Meismer reported that the Financial Statement for February 2016 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 February 2016 be received and placed on file for audit and to approve payment of the invoices presented on March 10, 2016 in the amount of \$38,897.90. Mr. Wiseman seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #2)

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

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 April 14, 2016 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 April 14, 2016 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 March 10, 2016.

Variances – Mrs. Dimmitt reported on variance request TP-NP-16.03.

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve variance TP-NP-16.03. Mr. Wiseman seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #3)

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

Variations – Mrs. Dimmitt reported on variance request TP-NP-16.04.

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve variance TP-NP-16.04. Mr. Weaver seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #4)

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

Variations – Mrs. Dimmitt reported on variance request TP-NP-16.05.

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve variance TP-NP-16.05. Mr. Wiseman seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #5)

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

Variations – Mrs. Dimmitt reported on variance request TP-NP-16.07.

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve variance TP-NP-16.07. Mr. Wiseman seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #6)

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

Variations – Mrs. Dimmitt reported on variance request TP-NP-16.06.

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve variance TP-NP-16.06. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #7)

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

Variations – Mrs. Dimmitt reported on variance request TP-NP-16.09.

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve variance TP-NP-16.09. Mr. Wiseman seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #8)

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

Variations – Mrs. Dimmitt reported on variance request TP-NP-16.08.

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve variance TP-NP-16.08. Mr. Wiseman seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #9)

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

Variations – Mrs. Dimmitt reported on variance request TP-NP-16.10.

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve variance TP-NP-16.10. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #10)

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

Violations – No report presented.

Data – Hydrogeologic Framework Project for Aquifer Management – Interlocal Agreement CPNRD & TPNRD – Mr. Miller reported that available for the Directors’ was a draft Interlocal Agreement between the Central Platte Natural Resources District (CPNRD) and the

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TPNRD for implementation of the CPNRD and the TPNRD Hydrogeologic Framework Project for Aquifer Management. Mr. Miller reported that also available for the Directors' was the application submitted by the CPNRD and the TPNRD to the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) for the project that was recently approved by the NET.

Mr. Miller reported that available for the Directors' was a report of a previous Airborne Geophysics Project for Ground Water Models and Management in the North Platte Natural Resources District (NPNRD), the South Platte Natural Resources District (SPNRD), and the TPNRD that is completed.

Mr. Miller reported that Jared Abraham, XRI GEO and Jim Cannia, XRI GEO presented a report to the Board of Directors on September 12, 2013 on the Airborne Geophysics Project for Ground Water Models and Management in the NPNRD, the SPNRD, and the TPNRD, and on the CPNRD and the TPNRD Hydrogeologic Framework Project for Aquifer Management.

Mr. Miller reported that the TPNRD Board on July 11, 2013, approved an application by the CPNRD and the TPNRD for the Hydrogeologic Framework Project for Aquifer Management to be submitted to the NE Environmental Trust (NET). Mr. Miller reported that the application was not approved in 2013. Mr. Miller reported that the application was again submitted to the NET in 2014, and 2015. Mr. Miller reported that the NET approved the application in January 2016 for full funding of a grant of \$760,000.00, which is 70% of the project costs over two years.

Mr. Miller reported that the project is a combination of geophysical, geologic, remote sensing, and geographic information system (GIS) technologies applied to construct a hydrogeologic framework of the Platte River basin area within the TPNRD and the CPNRD. Mr. Miller reported that the data collection will include airborne electromagnetic (AEM) surveys to supplement existing test hole information and will be used to develop new, highly detailed hydrogeologic stratigraphic units for the aquifer. Mr. Miller reported that in the TPNRD, the project will include 790 Kilometers in the North Platte River valley, the South Platte River valley, and the Platte River valley which is 65% of the area in the TPNRD, and 440 Kilometers in the NCORPE Project area which is 35% of the area in the TPNRD.

Mr. Miller reported that the NCORPE area will include a dense flight block of AEM flight lines centered on the core area of water well production. Mr. Miller reported that the new framework geology will provide aquifer material information on a finer scale than now exist and supports base inputs to water management planning and modeling. Mr. Miller reported that Mr. Shaw and Jim Schneider, Olsson Associated, who are preparing a regional ground water model for the NCORPE area, will coordinate with this project to determine the desired AEM flight lines in the NCORPE area.

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Mr. Miller reported that the TPNRD Costs are \$163,600 for the project with \$83,700 in the first year, which is budgeted, and \$79,900 in the second year. Mr. Miller reported that NCORPE will be requested to reimburse TPNRD 35% (\$57,260) of the total cost.

Mr. Meisner moved the Water Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve the Interlocal Agreement between the CPNRD and the TPNRD for the Hydrogeologic Framework Project for Aquifer Management and authorize the General Manager to execute the Interlocal Agreement for the TPNRD. Mrs. Pederson seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #11)

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

Data – NRD Web-Based GIS Application for Data – Mr. Meisner reported that the TPNRD is cooperating with other NRDs and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources in developing a standardized Web-Based GIS Application for Data.

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

- 1 Irrigation Districts in TPNRD
- 2 N-CORPE Project
- 3 CPNRD Agreement
- 4 J-2 Project
5. Non-Irrigated Certified Acres
- 6 Conservation tillage measures
- 7 South Platte River Compact Coalition

Offset Water – Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement Project (NCORPE) – North Pipeline – Mr. Meisner reported that requests for bids for the north pipeline would be sent out later this summer for construction in the late fall or early winter of 2016. Mr. Meisner reported that the TPNRD will own the north pipeline, as the NCORPE Interlocal Agreement provides that all the costs for a north pipeline are the responsibility of the TPNRD and that all the easements and agreements for constructing the north pipeline are in the name of the TPNRD. Mr. Meisner reported that Mr. Miller had met with Don Blankenau, NCORPE Legal Counsel, and he advised that an agreement for the north pipeline would be needed between the TPNRD and NCORPE for conveying NCORPE water and for the operations of the north pipeline, and that for the north pipeline under the NCORPE property, there could be an easement between TPNRD and NCORPE or NCORPE could own that portion of the north pipeline. Mr. Meisner reported that the NCORPE NRD Managers agreed that Mr. Blankenau should prepare an agreement between the TPNRD and NCORPE for the north pipeline conveying NCORPE water and for the operations of the north pipeline, and that for the north pipeline under the NCORPE property, NCORPE would own that portion of the north pipeline.

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Offset Water - NCORPE Project – Well Field Operations – Ground Water Model – Mr. Miller reported that the NCORPE Board agreed that NCORPE needed to prepare a Sub-regional model for managing the water use at the NCORPE Project and the NCORPE agreed to retain Olsson Associates (Jim Schneider) to work with Mr. Shaw to develop the model. Mr. Miller reported that when the model is completed, Mr. Shaw will maintain and operate the model. Mr. Miller reported that available for the Directors’ for information was the NCORPE Sub-regional Model Work plan prepared March 2, 2016 by Mr. Schneider and Mr. Shaw.

Offset Water - NCORPE Project – Ground Water Levels – Mr. Miller 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 - NCORPE Project – Sponsors Meetings – Mr. Meisner reported that the next sponsors meeting would be on April 20, 2016 in Curtis, NE.

Offset Water – Irrigation Districts – Instream Flows – Mr. Meisner reported that the TPNRD is offering agreements to land owners with Cody-Dillon Irrigation District water rights for long-term 30 years relinquishments of Cody-Dillon water rights to the TPNRD for \$510.00 / acre and for short-term 10 years relinquishments of Cody-Dillon water rights to the TPNRD for \$110.00 / acre. Mr. Meisner reported that the landowner or TPNRD applies surface water to the land for one year prior to approval of a contract. Mr. Meisner reported that in 2015 there were three contracts approved for long-term 30 years relinquishments of 199.03 acres of Cody-Dillon water rights to the TPNRD for which the landowner applied the surface water to the land. Mr. Meisner reported that the TPNRD is currently working with several landowners for relinquishments of approximately 300 acres of Cody-Dillon water rights to the TPNRD, all of which the TPNRD will need to apply the surface water to the land in 2016. Mr. Meisner reported that the TPNRD staff is currently looking for two or three big guns and pumps for each big gun for applying the surface water to the land. Mr. Meisner reported that the Subcommittee discussed the costs for the equipment. Mr. Meisner reported that the staff is looking for good used equipment, but that there are not many available. Mr. Meisner reported that the Subcommittee agreed that they were OK with costs up to, but not exceeding \$100,000, as they recognize that the equipment will be able to be sold when it is no longer needed.

Offset Water – Irrigation Districts – Excess Flows Water Rights – No report presented.

Offset Water – Irrigation Districts – Engineering Analysis – No report presented.

Offset Water – J2 Project – Mr. Miller reported that available for the Directors’ was the Quarterly Report for December 2015 – February 2016 prepared by the CNPPID.

TPNRD Ground Water Management Plan – No report presented.

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Platte Basin Over-Appropriated Plan – Mr. Meismer reported that discussions have begun between the NRDs in the Platte Basin and NE DNR for reviewing, and revisions as needed, for the Platte Basin Over-Appropriated Plan, required to be completed by August 2019. Mr. Meismer reported that available for the Directors’ for information was a draft Upper Platte Public Participation Plan.

Joint Meeting CPNRD, TBNRD, TPNRD – Mr. Meismer reported that Mrs. Dimmitt, Mr. Miller, and he attend the annual joint meeting of Water Resources Subcommittees of the CPNRD, TBNRD, and TPNRD that was held on February 29, 2016 at the CPNRD in Grand Island, NE, and reported on the meeting.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee

No report presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Executive Subcommittee

No report presented.

DIRECTORS REPORTS

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD) – Board of Directors – Mr. Meismer reported on March 7, 2016 NARD Board meeting.

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD) – Keeping Nebraska Local Video – Mr. Meismer reported that the Nebraska Education Television (NET) network, in cooperation with the NARD and most NRDs, including the TPNRD, have produced a program titled “Keeping Nebraska Local”. Mr. Meismer reported that the program will be first aired on NET2 on March 24, 2016 at 8:00 pm. Mr. Meismer reported that the program will also air on NET 2 on March 27, 2016 at 1:30 pm and there will be more dates to come in May.

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

Sandhills Task Force – No report presented.

Requests for Authorization to Travel – No requests presented.

DISTRICT REPORT

Cost-Share Programs – NE Soil & Water Conservation Program – Mr. Miller reported that the monthly report was available for the Directors’. Mr. Miller reported that \$71.97 was returned to the State on February 29, 2016.

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Cost-Share Programs – District Conservation Programs – Mr. Miller reported that the monthly report was available for the Directors'. Mr. Miller reported that \$7,619.27 was available.

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. Stack reported that the next Board of Directors meeting would be held on Thursday, April 14, 2016 at 7:30 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:07 pm.

Jerry Weaver, Secretary