

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
April 14, 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 April 14, 2016. Mr. Schilz called the meeting to order at 7:35 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
James Meismer
Robert L Petersen
Dennis Schilz
Douglas L Stack
Joe Wahlgren
Jerry Weaver
Robert Wiseman

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Dale Margritz
Judy Pederson
Shane Storer

NRCS PERSONNEL PRESENT

Mary Reece, District Conservationist

STAFF PRESENT

Bill Carhart, Grasslands Stewardship Coordinator
Ann Dimmitt, IMP Manager
Amy Mapes, Administrative Assistant
Kent Miller, General Manager

OTHERS PRESENT

Rich Walters, The Nature Conservancy

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

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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. Schilz reported that Mr. Margritz, Mrs. Pederson, and Mr. Storer notified the office that they would be absent and are therefore excused.

Information 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.

Other Announcements – None presented.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

Rich Walters, Director of Stewardship of The Nature Conservancy, presented a report on the Platte River Phragmites Control Project.

Mr. Stack moved to approve a one-time payment of \$25,000 for the Platte River Phragmites Control Project. Mr. Meismer seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #1)

Aye: Meismer, Petersen, Schilz, Stack, Weaver, Wiseman

Nay: Hansen, Wahlgren

Absent & Excused: Margritz, Pederson, Storer

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 March 10, 2016 Meeting – Mr. Schilz reported that the Minutes for the March 10, 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 March 10, 2016 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #2)

Aye: Hansen, Meismer, Petersen, Schilz, Stack, Wahlgren, Weaver,
Wiseman

Nay: None

Absent & Excused: Margritz, Pederson, Storer

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Statement - Mr. Meismer reported that the Financial Statement for March 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 March 2016 be received and placed on file for audit and to approve payment of the invoices presented on April 14, 2016 in the amount of \$54,688.18. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #3)

Aye: Hansen, Meismer, Petersen, Schilz, Stack, Wahlgren, Weaver,
Wiseman

Nay: None

Absent & Excused: Margritz, Pederson, Storer

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 May 12, 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 May 12, 2016 Board of Directors meeting.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT Land Resources SubCommittee

No report presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT Water Resources SubCommittee

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Mr. Meismer, Water Resources Subcommittee Chairperson, presented a report for the Subcommittee meeting held on April 14, 2016.

Variances – Mrs. Dimmitt reported on variance request TP-SG-16.13.

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve variance TP-SG-16.13. Mr. Wiseman seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #4)

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

Variances – Mrs. Dimmitt reported on variance request TP-TRANS-16.11.

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve variance TP-TRANS-16.11. Mr. Wiseman seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #5)

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

Variances – Mrs. Dimmitt reported on variance request TP-TRANS-16.15.

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve variance TP-TRANS-16.15. Mr. Weaver seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #6)

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

Variances – Mrs. Dimmitt reported on variance request TP-NP-16.14.

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve variance TP-NP-16.14. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #7)

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

Variances – Mrs. Dimmitt reported on variance request TP-TRANS-16.12.

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Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve variance TP-TRANS-16.12. Mr. Wiseman seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #8)

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

Violations – No report presented.

Request to Move Monitoring Well – Mrs. Dimmitt reported on a request from Mike Svoboda to move a monitoring well on land he just purchased. Mrs. Dimmitt distributed for information two maps, an email from Peter McHahon, USGS, and a cost estimate from Sargent Irrigation for moving the well. Mrs. Dimmitt reported that the monitoring well was originally established by the USGS in the NAQA Program over 30 years ago and the USGS has told the TPNRD that the monitoring well is particularly valuable because of its long-term record of water levels and water quality and the USGS would prefer to keep the well at its current location. Mrs. Dimmitt reported that the cost estimate provided by Sargent Irrigation does not include a possible conflict with NPPD power lines.

Mr. Meismer reported that the Water Resources Subcommittee agreed to request that the TPNRD staff look at the logs of the irrigation well located 80 feet from the monitoring well to determine if the monitoring well could be moved to that location. Mr. Meismer reported that the Water Resources Subcommittee agreed that an alternative would be to drill a test hole at a closer location to determine if the monitoring well could be moved to that location. Mr. Meismer reported that the Water Resources Subcommittee agreed that if the monitoring well could be moved without losing the data collected, that all the costs involved in moving the monitoring well would be the responsibility of the landowner, Mike Svoboda.

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

Mr. Meismer reported that available for the Directors’ was the IMP accounting shown on a graph and a chart.

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Offset Water - Non-Irrigated Certified Acres – Mr. Meisner reported that the Water Resources Subcommittee agreed to request the staff to prepare draft agreements and procedures for consideration by the Subcommittee for offering a program of an incentive to landowners to not irrigate certified acres beginning in calendar year 2017. Mr. Meisner reported that the Water Resources Subcommittee agreed that they would like to present a proposal to the Board late in the summer or early fall of 2016.

Offset Water – Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement Project (NCORPE) – North Pipeline – Mr. Meisner reported that on February 18, 2016, the Water Resources Subcommittee directed the TPNRD staff to proceed with construction of the north pipeline in 2016. 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 currently a required Archeological Survey is occurring.

Mr. Meisner reported that Don Blankenau, NCORPE Legal Counsel, has determined 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 the TPNRD and NCORPE or NCORPE could own that portion of the north pipeline. Mr. Meisner reported that the NCORPE NRD Managers agreed that for the north pipeline under the NCORPE property, NCORPE would own that portion of the north pipeline. Mr. Meisner reported that available for the Directors was a draft agreement between the TPNRD and NCORPE that will be considered by the NCORPE sponsors on April 20, 2016.

Offset Water - NCORPE Project – Well Field Operations – Mr. Meisner reported that originally the pumping to Medicine Creek was scheduled to begin a slow shutdown April 19 that would have taken one month. Mr. Meisner reported that due to the forecast for heavy rain this weekend, that today a rapid shutdown has begun and all the wells will be off by end of day.

Offset Water - NCORPE Project – Ground Water Levels – No report presented.

Offset Water - NCORPE Project – Sponsors Meetings – Mr. Weaver 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

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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 has purchased two big guns and one pump for one of the big gun for applying the surface water to the land. Mr. Meisner reported that the TPNRD needs to purchase one additional pump. Mr. Meisner reported that the costs for the equipment should be up to, but not exceed \$100,000 as originally estimated and that the equipment will be able to be sold when it is no longer needed.

Offset Water – Irrigation Districts – Excess Flows Water Rights – Mr. Meisner reported that Mr. Miller and John Engel met with NE DNR Permits Section on March 16, 2016.

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

Offset Water – J2 Project – No report presented.

Platte Basin Over-Appropriated Plan – Mr. Meisner 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. Meisner reported that available for the Directors' for information was a draft Upper Platte Public Participation Plan.

South Platte River Compact Coalition – 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 April 14, 2016. Mr. Petersen reported that the Subcommittee received an update on three programs, and Mr Carhart provided the following overview.

WILD NE Program – Mr. Carhart reported that two existing and previously approved WILD Nebraska sites are being improved this year with grass seedings, but there were no new action items for the Board to approve.

Corners for Wildlife Program – Mr. Carhart reported that there has been increased interest in the Corners for Wildlife program this year, and that information on the 7 new projects totaling 166.5 acres was available for the Directors' for information.

Natural Legacy Project – Mr. Carhart reported that projects are starting to come together in the Loess Canyons, and that new proposals are expected as early as this Summer.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Executive Subcommittee

No report presented.

DIRECTORS REPORTS

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD) – Board of Directors – Mr. Meisner reported that the NARD 2016 Annual Basin Tour would be of the Blue River Basin June 13-14, 2016.

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD) – Keeping Nebraska Local Video – Mr. Meisner 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. Meisner reported that the NET world premiere of the program was March 24, 2016 and it was again shown on March 27, 2016. Mr. Meisner reported that there will be more dates to come in May. Mr. Meisner reported that the program can also be viewed on a link to a website that has the “Keeping Nebraska Local” video on it for viewing at www.netNebraska.org/nrd. Mr. Meisner reported that the TPNRD also has this link on the TPNRD website and the TPNRD Facebook page.

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’.

Cost-Share Programs – District Conservation Programs – Mr. Miller reported that the monthly report was available for the Directors’. Mr. Miller reported that \$6,819.27 was available.

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

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

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NEXT MEETING

Mr. Schilz reported that the next Board of Directors meeting would be held on Thursday, May 12, 2016 at 7:30 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Jerry Weaver, Secretary