

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
May 12, 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 May 12, 2016. Mr. Schilz called the meeting to order at 7:38 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
Joe Wahlgren

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Douglas L Stack
Shane Storer
Jerry Weaver
Robert Wiseman

NRCS PERSONNEL PRESENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

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 or she will be absent and that the minutes will reflect whether an absent Director is excused or unexcused. Mr. Schilz reported

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that Mr. Storer, Mr. Weaver, and Mr. Wiseman notified the office that they would be absent and are therefore excused. Mr. Schilz reported that Mr. Stack is unexcused.

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

There were no requests for assistance.

GENERAL INFORMATION

None presented.

COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORT

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) – District Conservationist Report – Mr. Miller reported that information was available for the Directors’.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Minutes for the April 14, 2016 Meeting – Mr. Schilz reported that the Minutes for the April 14, 2016 Board of Directors meeting were available for the Directors’ and he asked if there were any corrections or additions.

Mr. Petersen moved that the Minutes of the April 14, 2016 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mrs. Pederson seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #1)

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Statement - Mr. Meismer reported that the Financial Statement for April 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 April 2016 be received and placed on file for audit and to approve payment of the invoices presented on May 12, 2016 in the amount of \$647,412.26. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #2)

Aye: Hansen, Margritz, Meismer, Pederson, Petersen, Schilz, Wahlgren
Nay: None
Absent & Excused: Storer, Weaver, Wiseman
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 June 9, 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 June 9, 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 May 12, 2016.

Variiances – Mrs. Dimmitt reported on variance request TP-NP-16.19.

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Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve variance TP-NP-16.19. Mr. Hansen seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #3)

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

Variances – Mrs. Dimmitt reported on variance request TP-TRANS-16.18.

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve variance TP-TRANS-16.18. Mr. Margritz seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #4)

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

Variances – Mrs. Dimmitt reported on variance request TP-NP-16.17.

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve variance TP-NP-16.17. Mrs. Pederson seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #5)

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

Variances – Mrs. Dimmitt reported on variance request TP-TRANS-16.16.

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve variance TP-TRANS-16.16. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #6)

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

Violations – 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. Meismer reported that the priority is noted on the Board meeting agenda. Mr. Meismer reported that available for the Directors' was the IMP accounting shown on a graph and a chart.

Offset Water - Non-Irrigated Certified Acres – No report presented.

Offset Water - NCORPE Project – North Pipeline – Mr. Meismer 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. Meismer reported that a required Archeological Survey has been completed and no cultural resources were found and construction can proceed.

Mr. Meismer 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. Meismer 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. Meismer reported that available for the Directors was a draft revised agreement between the TPNRD and NCORPE that will be considered by the NCORPE sponsors on June 15, 2016. Mr. Meismer reported that Don Blankenau, Legal Counsel for NCORPE, has fixed a couple of small issues he noticed and added paragraph 5 as requested by NCORPE.

Offset Water - NCORPE Project – Well Field Operations – Mr. Meismer reported that the current pumping to the Republican River is scheduled to end by May 31, 2016.

Mr. Meismer 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 that NCORPE agreed to retain Olsson Associates to work with Landon Shaw to develop the model. Mr. Meismer reported that when the model is completed, Mr. Shaw will maintain and operate the model.

Offset Water - NCORPE Project – Ground Water Levels – Mr. Meismer 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. Meismer reported that the next sponsors meeting would be on June 15, 2016 in Curtis, NE

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Offset Water – Irrigation Districts – Instream Flows – Mr. Meisner reported that on February 18, 2016 the Board approved the Water Resources Subcommittee recommendation for Olsson Associates, to assist Mr. Shaw in setting up an analysis procedure for calculation of the benefits for instream flows by retiring surface irrigated acres and/or converting surface irrigated acres to ground water irrigation, and to assist the TPNRD in developing the procedure for submitting instream flows applications to NE DNR. Mr. Meisner reported that this was needed for the offset water required by the TPNRD IMP that are available from Irrigation Districts within the TPNRD.

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 321.7 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 for applying the surface water to the land. 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 – Mr. Meisner reported that the staff is preparing agreements with the Western Irrigation District on the South Platte River and the Keith-Lincoln Irrigation District, the Paxton-Hershey Irrigation District, the Platte Valley Irrigation District, and the Suburban Irrigation District on the North Platte River to divert anticipated excess flows for ground water recharge which will provide offset water for the TPNRD. Mr. Meisner reported that the TPNRD has not yet been approved for a permanent water right for excess flows, so the staff is preparing agreements for a temporary diversion. Mr. Meisner reported that for the Western Irrigation District, the agreement is \$15,000.00 due to their sand dam and for the Keith-Lincoln Irrigation District, the Paxton-Hershey Irrigation District, the Platte Valley Irrigation District, and the Suburban Irrigation District, the agreements will be \$2,500.00 per week with a minimum payment of the \$5,000.00 for each District. Mr. Meisner reported that there will be agreements with several landowners for diverting excess flows from the Irrigation District canals into reuse pits.

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

Offset Water – Irrigation Districts – CPNRD & TPNRD Analysis – No report presented.

Offset Water – J2 Project – No report presented.

Offset Water – CPNRD Agreement – No report presented.

Offset Water – Conservation Tillage Measures – No report presented.

Aerial Photography – Mr. Meisner reported that the TPNRD primarily uses aerial photography for certified irrigated acres for processing requests for variances and for determining if there are violations. Mr. Meisner reported that the aerial photography is also used in many of the other programs for the TPNRD. Mr. Meisner reported that the last time Cornerstone Mapping was contracted to provide aerial photography for the TPNRD was in 2010. Mr. Meisner reported that since that time, the TPNRD has been using aerial photography available every other year from the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA), which was last available in 2014 and will be available again in 2016. Mr. Meisner reported that available for the Directors’ was a proposal from Cornerstone Mapping to provide aerial photography for the TPNRD in 2015 and can be used for 2016. Mr. Meisner reported that the Water Resources Subcommittee agreed to not recommend to the Board to obtain aerial photography from Cornerstone Mapping in 2016.

Platte Basin Over-Appropriated Plan – Mr. Meisner reported that he had attended a water conference in Imperial, Nebraska that was organized by the Upper Republican Natural Resources District and that during the conference that Jennifer Schellpeper, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, reported that during the stakeholders meetings for consideration of revisions for the Platte Basin Over-Appropriated Plan that there would be discussions of an option for diverting excess flows in the Platte River Basin to the Republican River Basin.

South Platte River Compact Coalition – No report presented.

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. 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” which was first shown by NET on March 24, 2016. Mr. Meisner reported

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that there will be more dates to come and it can also be viewed on a link to a website at www.netNebraska.org/nrd. Mr. Meismer reported that the TPNRD also has this link on the TPNRD website and the TPNRD Facebook page.

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD) – 2016 Blue Basin Tour, June 13-14, 2016 – Mr. Meismer reported that available for the Directors was information for the NARD Blue Basin Tour, June 13-14, 2016.

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 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 \$2,559.74 was available. Mr. Miller reported that there was one new application to present.

Mr. Meismer moved to approve the May 12, 2016 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>
16.031	NC-1	Terraces	\$ 1,483.59	\$ 1,483.59
		Total Amount of New Contracts		\$ 1,483.59

FUNDS AVAILABLE \$ 1,076.15

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

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

Cost-Share Programs – District Conservation Programs – Mr. Miller reported that the monthly report was available for the Directors’. Mr. Miller reported that \$5,619.27 was available.

Miscellaneous Information – Mr. Miller reported that available for the Directors’ was the spring 2016 newsletter. Mr. Miller reported that available for the Directors’ was a report for the spring tree planting. Mr. Miller reported that other various items of information were available for the Directors’.

BUDGET FOR 2017 FISCAL YEAR

Preparation Schedule - Mr. Miller reported that a schedule for preparing the 2017 Fiscal Year Budget for the TPNRD was available for the Directors'. Mr. Miller reported that the schedule for preparing the 2017 Fiscal Year Budget is the same schedule followed the last 17 years. Mr. Miller reported that the schedule provides for Board review of the first draft of the Budget during the June Board meeting, and provides the Board four opportunities to review and discuss the Budget prior to final approval.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

NEXT MEETING

Mr. Schilz reported that the next Board of Directors meeting would be held on Thursday, June 9, 2016 at 7:30 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm.

Jerry Weaver, Secretary