

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
Board of Directors Meeting  
June 9, 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 June 9, 2016. Mr. Schilz called the meeting to order at 7:33 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  
Shane Storer  
Jerry Weaver  
Robert Wiseman

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Douglas L Stack  
Joe Wahlgren

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  
Dave Slattery, Conservation Coordinator

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.

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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 that Mr. Stack and Mr. Wahlgren 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

There were no requests for assistance.

GENERAL INFORMATION

None presented.

COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORT

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Minutes for the May 12, 2016 Meeting – Mr. Schilz reported that the Minutes for the May 12, 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 May 12, 2016 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mrs. Pederson seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #1)

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Statement - Mr. Meismer reported that the Financial Statement for May 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 May 2016 be received and placed on file for audit and to approve payment of the invoices presented on June 9, 2016 in the amount of \$81,855.99. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #2)

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

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 July 7, 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 July 7, 2016 Board of Directors meeting.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT  
Land Resources SubCommittee

Mr. Hansen, Land Resources Subcommittee Chairperson, presented a report for the Subcommittee meeting held on June 9, 2016.

Awards Program – Mr. Hansen reported that available for the Directors’ was the schedule for the TPNRD presentation of awards.

Awards Program – Grassland Award for 2016 – Mr. Hansen reported that available for the Directors’ was a list of the previous TPNRD Grassland Award winners. Mr. Hansen reported that the Subcommittee agreed to select the Waits Family (Vernon, Mike, and Steve) to receive the 2016 Grassland Award for Lincoln / McPherson Counties.

Awards Program – Tree Award for 2016 – Mr. Hansen reported that available for the

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Directors’ was a list of the previous TPNRD Tree Award winners. Mr. Hansen reported that the Subcommittee agreed to select Mike Armstrong to receive the 2016 Tree Award for Keith / Arthur Counties.

Cost-Share Programs - Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program (NSWCP) – Eligible Practices – Mr. Hansen reported that available for the Directors’ was the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program (NSWCP) eligible practices showing the TPNRD Eligible Practices approved for the 2016 FY (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016). Mr. Hansen reported that the Land Resources Subcommittee agreed to recommend to the Board of Directors to continue the current TPNRD policy for NSWCP eligible practices. Mr. Meismer, chair of the Water Resources Subcommittee, reported that the Water Resources Subcommittee agreed to recommend to the Board of Directors to continue the current TPNRD policy for NSWCP eligible practices.

Mr. Schilz reported that Board of Directors action is not needed to continue the current TPNRD policy.

Cost-Share Programs - Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program (NSWCP) – Funding – Mr. Hansen reported that the TPNRD allocation for the 2017 Fiscal Year has not been received, but we hope it will be similar to the allocation for the 2016 Fiscal Year. Mr. Hansen reported that the Land Resources Subcommittee agreed to recommend to the Board of Directors to continue the current TPNRD policy for funding NSWCP eligible practices. Mr. Meismer, chair of the Water Resources Subcommittee, reported that the Water Resources Subcommittee agreed to recommend to the Board of Directors to continue the current TPNRD policy for funding NSWCP eligible practices.

Mr. Hansen moved to approve the Land Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve the following allocation of the funds for the Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program in the TPNRD for July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017:

- For Practice NC-12, Windbreaks, that 30% of available funds be reserved from July 1, 2016 to January 30, 2017
- For Practice NC-14, Planned Grazing Systems, that 30% of available funds be reserved from July 1, 2016 to January 30, 2017
- For Practice NC-17, Irrigation Water Management, that 30% of available funds be reserved from July 1, 2016 to January 30, 2017
- For the other eligible practices that 10% of available funds be reserved from July 1, 2016 to January 30, 2017
- Any funds available after January 30, 2017 may be used for any eligible practice.

Mr. Margritz seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #3)

Aye: Hansen, Margritz, Meismer, Pederson, Petersen, Schilz, Storer, Weaver, Wiseman

Nay: None

Absent & Excused: Stack, Wahlgren

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT  
Water Resources SubCommittee

Mr. Meismer, Water Resources Subcommittee Chairperson, presented a report for the Subcommittee meeting held on June 9, 2016.

Variances – Mrs. Dimmitt reported on variance request TP-TRANS-16.20.

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve variance TP-TRANS-16.20. Mrs. Pederson seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #4)

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

Variances – Mrs. Dimmitt reported on variance request TP-TRANS-16.21.

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve variance TP-TRANS-16.21. Mr. Wiseman seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #5)

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

Violations – No report presented.

Rules & Regulations for Ground Water Management Area and Integrated Management Sub-Area – Consideration for Designation of a Closed Area – Mr. Meismer reviewed the TPNRD Rules & Regulations for Ground Water Management Area and Integrated Management Sub-Area, Section 3.4.2.3.7 that provides that the Board will determine by July 1 of each year those areas that will be designated as “closed” for the upcoming calendar year within which no transfer of certified acres may be commenced. Mr. Meismer reported that Section 3.4.2.3.7 provides that the criteria used by the Board shall be contained in the District’s Guidelines for Designating Closed Areas. Mr. Meismer reviewed the TPNRD Guidelines for Designating Closed Areas. Mr. Meismer reported that Section 3.4.2.3.7 provides that the TPNRD will not allow a transfer of certified irrigated acres into a closed area.

Mr. Meismer reviewed a map of the TPNRD showing the percent change in water levels (Spring 2006/2007/2008 Average compared to Spring 2014/2015/2016 Average) compared to saturated thickness of aquifer.

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Mr. Meismer reported that in June 2015, the Board approved closing a township when anywhere within the township there are both of the following;

- A saturated thickness of the aquifer less than 250 feet.
- A percent decline of 2.0% or greater of the saturated thickness of the aquifer, determined from the spring data from the TPNRD monitoring wells, when comparing the average ground water levels change for 2006/2007/2008 and the most recent three years, to the saturated thickness of the aquifer.

Mr. Meismer reported that in June 2015, the Board approved for the 2016 calendar year the following townships within the TPNRD are designated closed;

- Township 12 North, Range 35 West
- Township 12 North, Range 36 West
- Township 12 North, Range 37 West
- Township 12 North, Range 38 West
- Township 12 North, Range 39 West
- Township 12 North, Range 40 West

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve designating the closing of a township within the TPNRD, for which no transfer of certified acres will be allowed into the township, when anywhere within the township there are both of the following;

- A saturated thickness of the aquifer less than 250 feet;
- A percent decline of 2.0% or greater of the saturated thickness of the aquifer, determined from the spring data from the TPNRD monitoring wells, when comparing the average ground water levels change for 2006/2007/2008 and the most recent three years, to the saturated thickness of the aquifer;

and for the 2017 calendar year the following townships within the TPNRD are designated closed;

- Township 12 North, Range 35 West
- Township 12 North, Range 36 West
- Township 12 North, Range 37 West
- Township 12 North, Range 38 West
- Township 12 North, Range 39 West
- Township 12 North, Range 40 West

Mr. Weaver seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #6)

Aye: Hansen, Margritz, Meismer, Pederson, Petersen, Schilz, Storer,  
Weaver, Wiseman

Nay: None

Absent & Excused: Stack, Wahlgren

Offset Water - Irrigation Districts - Emergency Repair – No report presented.

Offset Water - Irrigation Districts – Management Agreement – No report presented.

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 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.

Offset Water – Irrigation Districts – Excess Flows – Mr. Meisner reported that the TPNRD has 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 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 TPNRD has 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 the TPNRD has agreements with several landowners for diverting excess flows from the Irrigation District canals into reuse pits and depressions.

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

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

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

Offset Water - N-CORPE Project – North Pipeline – 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. Mr. Meisner reported that available for the Directors was a revised agreement between the TPNRD and NCORPE. Mr. Meisner reported that Mr. Blankenau has fixed a couple of small issues he noticed and added paragraph 5 as requested by the NCORPE Board. Mr. Meisner reported that the NCORPE Board will again consider the agreement on June 15, 2016.

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Mr. Meismer reported that requests for bids for the north pipeline construction would be sent out late summer or early in the fall for construction in the late fall or early winter of 2016.

Offset Water - NCORPE Project – Well Field Operations – Mr. Meismer reported that pumping to the Republican River ceased June 1, 2016.

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

Offset Water – J2 Project – Mr. Meismer reported that available for the Directors’ was the Quarterly report for March – May 2016.

Offset Water – CPNRD Agreement – No report presented.

Offset Water – Conservation Tillage Measures – No report presented.

Cost-Share Programs - Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program (NSWCP) – 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
- 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.

Platte Basin Over-Appropriated Plan – Mr. Meismer reported that the first stakeholders meeting for reviewing, and revisions as needed, for the Platte Basin Over-Appropriated Plan will be June 16, 2016 at 1:00 pm at the Monsanto Learning Center south of Gothenburg, Nebraska.

South Platte River Compact Coalition – No report presented.



Annual Report of Water Use Activities in the TPNRD – Mr. Meisner reported that available for the Directors’ was the 2015 Annual Report of Water Use Activities in the TPNRD. Mr. Meisner reported that each NRD in the Over Appropriated Platte River Basin presents a report during the annual Platte Basin meeting. Mr. Meisner reported that the 2016 Platte Basin meeting will be held on June 16, 2016 at 10:30 am at the Monsanto Learning Center south of Gothenburg, Nebraska.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT  
Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee

No report presented.

DIRECTORS REPORTS

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD) – Board of Directors – Mr. Meisner reported that he participated in the NARD Blue Basin Tour, June 13-14, 2016.

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 \$15,196.95 was available. Mr. Miller reported that there were no new applications to present.

Cost-Share Programs – District Conservation Programs – Mr. Miller reported that the monthly report was available for the Directors’. Mr. Miller reported that \$5,596.37 was available.

Information & Education – Scholarships – Mr. Miller reported that information was available for the Directors’ for the scholarships the TPNRD provides annually.

Miscellaneous Information – Mr. Miller reported that information was available for the Directors’ for the Loess Canyon Rangeland Alliance Prescribed Fire Tour which will be held June 16, 2016. 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 provides the Board four opportunities to review and discuss the Budget prior to final approval.

Review Draft #1 – Mr. Miller distributed and reviewed the first draft of a budget for the 2017 Fiscal Year. Mr. Miller reported that the first draft of the 2017 Fiscal Year Budget is requesting the same property tax dollars for the 2017 Fiscal Year that was requested for the 2016 Fiscal Year.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT

Executive Subcommittee

Mr. Schilz, Executive Subcommittee Chairman, presented a report for the Subcommittee meeting held on June 9, 2016.

Personnel Salaries for 2017 Fiscal Year – Mr. Schilz reported that the Subcommittee reviewed the authorized positions, reviewed the salary schedules, reviewed the cost-of-living, and reviewed the General Manager's salary.

Mr. Schilz distributed and reviewed information available for the Directors'.

Mr. Meismer moved to approve the following:

- The Salary Schedule steps for each position be increased 1.5% for the 2017 Fiscal Year in recognition of the cost of living to maintain the value of the salary compensation
- New Salary Schedule for GIS Manager

GIS Manager *	46,000.00	70,000.00	18
GIS Manager **	47,000.00	71,500.00	18

  - \* Employees Receiving Extended Medical Insurance
  - \*\* Employees NOT Receiving Extended Medical Insurance
- Phil Heimann's position be changed to GIS Manager effective July 1, 2016 and set Mr. Heimann's salary for the 2017 Fiscal Year at Step 5 on the GIS Manager Salary Schedule.
- Revise the IMP Manager Salary Schedule

IMP Manager *	53,000.00	76,500.00	18
IMP Manager **	54,000.00	78,000.00	18

  - \* Employees Receiving Extended Medical Insurance
  - \*\* Employees NOT Receiving Extended Medical Insurance
- Set Ann Dimmitt's salary for the 2017 Fiscal Year at Step 11 on the IMP Manager Salary Schedule.
- Set the General Manager salary at \$107,000.00 for the 2017 Fiscal Year

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

Aye: Hansen, Margritz, Meismer, Pederson, Petersen, Schilz, Storer,  
Weaver, Wiseman

Nay: None

Absent & Excused: Stack, Wahlgren

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

NEXT MEETING

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

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

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Jerry Weaver, Secretary