

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
July 7, 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 July 7, 2016. Mr. Schilz called the meeting to order at 7:37 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

Dale Margritz
James Meisner
Judy Pederson
Robert L Petersen
Dennis Schilz
Shane Storer
Joe Wahlgren
Jerry Weaver
Robert Wiseman

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Eric S Hansen
Douglas L Stack

NRCS PERSONNEL PRESENT

Devin Heusinkvelt, Intern
Mary Reece, District Conservationist

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 that is 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

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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 notified the office that he would be absent and is therefore excused. Mr. Schilz reported that Mr. Hansen 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

Information & Education Program - Water Trailer – Mrs. Dimmitt presented information and a demonstration of the water trailer.

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 June 9, 2016 Meeting – Mr. Schilz reported that the Minutes for the June 9, 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 June 9, 2016 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mrs. Pederson seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #1)

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Statement - Mr. Meismer reported that the Financial Statement for June 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 June 2016 be received and placed on file for audit and to approve payment of the invoices presented on July 7, 2016 in the amount of \$534,165.86. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #2)

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

Budget Status – There was no budget status report to present.

Bids/Proposals – None presented.

Bids/Proposals Scheduled to be Presented for Consideration during the August 11, 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 August 11, 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 July 7, 2016.

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Variations – No report presented.

Violations – No report presented.

Offset Water - N-CORPE Project – North Pipeline – Water Service Agreement – 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. Mr. Meismer reported that the NCORPE Board approved the agreement between the TPNRD and NCORPE on June 15, 2016. Mr. Meismer reported that available for the Directors was the agreement between the TPNRD and NCORPE.

Mr. Meismer moved the recommendation from the Water Resources Subcommittee to the Board of the Directors to approve the Water Service Agreement between the TPNRD and NCORPE and to authorize the General Manager to sign the agreement for the TPNRD. Mrs. Pederson seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #3)

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

Offset Water - NCORPE Project - North Pipeline – Construction – Mr. Meismer reported that requests for bids for the north pipeline construction would be ready to go in September and the contractor could start at the end of September or first of October. Mr. Meismer reported that if the contractor is full, construction could start in the spring.

Offset Water - NCORPE Project - North Pipeline – Design – Mr. Meismer reported that the Water Resources Subcommittee had been told that a representative from the Upper Republican NRD may attend the Board meeting today to speak to the Board during the Public Forum requesting that the TPNRD support a Sustainability Fund application for funds to build an NCORPE north pipeline with the capability to move excess Platte River water to the Republican River Basin. Mr. Miller reported that Nate Jenkins requested, in a phone call late yesterday that he would like to speak to the Water Resources Subcommittee and the Board today in regard to the TPNRD support for a Sustainability Fund application for funding a reversing north pipeline. Mr. Miller reported that he told Mr. Jenkins that was not an option to speak to the Subcommittee due to a full agenda for the Subcommittee. Mr. Miller reported that the URNRD Board on Tuesday requested that they again ask the TPNRD to support a reversing north pipeline. Mr. Miller reported that the URNRD wants to submit a Sustainability Fund application that is due in July.

Mr. Miller reported that the TPNRD previously considered in late 2015 a request from the Republican Basin NRDs to support a Sustainability Fund application for building the

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NCORPE north pipeline with features to move excess Platte River water to the Republican River Basin and on December 17, 2015, suspended discussions with the Republican Basin NRDs for building the NCORPE north pipeline with features to move excess Platte River water to the Republican River Basin. Mr. Miller reported that the decision to suspend discussions was due to the additional cost for the pump station, and the Republican Basin NRDs not being willing to provide a part of the funding for the required 40% match for a Sustainability Fund grant for the additional cost of the pump station. Mr. Miller reported at that time, the Republican Basin NRDs proposal for a Sustainability Fund application for a reversing north pipeline would have reduced the TPNRD costs \$2,200,000.00 and the Republican Basin NRDs would have been reimbursed \$700,000.00.

Mr. Miller reported that Jasper Fanning and Mr. Jenkins recently reported to the NCORPE Board that they were considering a Sustainability Fund application for funds to build an NCORPE north pipeline with the capability to move excess Platte River water to the Republican River Basin and that the Sustainability Funds would reduce the TPNRD costs for the north pipeline \$3,400,000.00 and the Republican Basin NRDs would pay some of the costs. Mr. Miller reported that Mr. Weaver, and Mr. Meismer told the NCORPE Board that the TPNRD would not support a reversing north pipeline.

Mr. Miller reported that the previous proposal the TPNRD considered was for a water right in the Platte Basin for excess flows being diverted to the Republican Basin that would always be junior to future water rights in the Platte Basin. Mr. Miller reported that the NE DNR Director has told him that such a water right was possible. Mr. Miller reported that the LRNRD representative on the NCORPE Board, during a recent NCORPE Board meeting, stated that the Republican Basin would want a water right with a current date.

Mr. Meismer reported that the Subcommittee agreed that they were opposed to excess flows being diverted to the Republican Basin from the Platte Basin. Mr. Meismer reported that the Subcommittee agreed that they would like to discuss this with the Board, whether or not a representative from the Upper Republican NRD attends the Board meeting, to determine if the Board supports or opposes excess flows being diverted to the Republican Basin from the Platte Basin.

The Board members all stated that they were opposed to excess flows being diverted to the Republican Basin from the Platte Basin.

Offset Water - NCORPE Project – Well Field Operations – No report presented.

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.

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Offset Water - NCORPE Project – Sponsors Meetings – Mr. Weaver reported on the sponsors meeting held on June 15, 2016. Mr. Weaver reported that the next sponsors meeting would be on July 20, 2016 in Curtis, NE.

Offset Water - NCORPE Project – Model – Mr. Meisner 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 Landon Shaw to develop the model. Mr. Meisner reported that when the model is completed, Mr. Shaw will maintain and operate the model. Mr. Meisner reported that Mr. Shaw presented in report to the Subcommittee on the development of the model.

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. Mrs. Dimmitt 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 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 – No report presented.

Offset Water – Irrigation Districts – Calculator – No report presented.

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

Offset Water - Non-Irrigated Certified Acres – 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.

Ground Water Management Plan – No report presented.

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

Mr. Meisner reported that the priority is noted on the Board meeting agenda. Mr. Meisner reported that available for the Directors’ was the IMP accounting shown on a graph and a chart.

COHYST – Mr. Meisner reported that Mr. Shaw is working on an analysis of the Keith & Lincoln Irrigation District using the COHYST model. Meisner reported that the COHYST sponsors have agreed that there will be no additional revisions in the COHYST model and that data will continue to be updated for the COHYST model.

Platte Basin Over-Appropriated Plan – Mr. Meisner reported that the first stakeholders meeting for reviewing, and revisions as needed, for the Platte Basin Over-Appropriated Plan was held on June 16, 2016 and he reported on the stakeholders meeting. Mr. Meisner reported that the next stakeholders meeting will be July 20, 2016 at 10:30 am at the Holiday Inn Express in North Platte, Nebraska.

South Platte River Compact Coalition – No report presented.

Data – AEM Flights – Mr. Meisner reported that available for the Directors’ was a map showing the flight lines and that data was currently being collected in the TPNRD.

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 available for the Directors’ was a reported prepared by Dean Edson for the NARD Board meeting held on June 13, 2016 and the NARD Blue Basin tour held on June 13-14, 2016. Mr. Meisner reported that he participated in the NARD Blue Basin Tour.

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD) – NET Platte River Time Lapse Video Project – Mr. Meisner reported that available for the Directors’ was information on the Nebraska Education Television (NET) network Platte River Time Lapse Video Project. Mr. Meisner reported that the NARD Board is recommending that the NRDs support the NET network Platte River Time Lapse Video Project. Mr. Meisner reported that the NARD is requesting that each NRD contribute \$1,800.00 per NRD/year for the next three years to participate in the development of the educational materials and the NARD Board has approved up to \$2,000.00/year for the next three years.

Mr. Meisner moved to approve TPNRD contributing \$2,000.00 per year for the next three years to participate in the development of the educational materials for the NET Platte River Time Lapse Video Project. Mrs. Pederson seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #4)

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

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD) – Keeping Nebraska Local Program – Mr. Meisner that the Nebraska Education Television (NET) network, in cooperation with the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD) and most NRDs have produced a program titled “Keeping Nebraska Local”. NRDs, including the TPNRD, contributed to the funding for this project. Mr. Meisner reported that the NET World (NET2) will air the “Keeping Nebraska Local” Program again on the following dates (Central Time)

- Thursday, July 7 - 7:00 PM CT
- Sunday, July 10 – 1:00 PM CT
- Thursday, July 21 - 8:00 PM CT
- Sunday, July 24 – 1:00 PM CT
- Thursday, Aug. 4 – 7:00 PM CT
- Sunday, August 7, 1:00 PM CT
- Thursday, Aug. 18 – 7:00 PM CT
- Sunday, August 21, 1:00 PM CT

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 – No report presented.

Cost-Share Programs – District Conservation Programs – Mr. Miller reported that the monthly report was available for the Directors'. Mr. Miller reported that \$9,740.00 was available.

Miscellaneous Information – 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 #2 – Mr. Miller reported that draft #2 for the 2017 Fiscal Year Budget was available for the Directors'. Mr. Miller reviewed draft #2 and answered questions. Mr. Miller reported that the draft #2 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.

Review NCORPE Project Draft #2 – Mr. Miller reported that draft #2 of a NCORPE Project Budget for the 2017 Fiscal Year was available for the Directors'. Mr. Miller reviewed the information for the proposed NCORPE Project Budget for the 2017 Fiscal Year. Mr. Miller reported that he is projecting that the Occupation Tax currently set at \$10.00/Irrigated Acre may be able to be reduced to \$6.25/Irrigated Acre for the 2020 Fiscal Year. Mr. Miller reported that the NCORPE Project Budget is also within the TPNRD Budget.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

NEXT MEETING

Mr. Schilz reported that the next Board of Directors meeting would be held on Thursday, August 11, 2016 at 3:00 pm Mountain Time at the Lake McConaughy Visitor's Center in Keith County, Nebraska.

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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:49 pm.

Jerry Weaver, Secretary