

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
January 11, 2018

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 January 11, 2018. Mr. Stack called the meeting to order at 3:01 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

David Colvin
Eric S Hansen
James Meisner
Judy Pederson
Robert L Petersen
Douglas L Stack
Shane Storer
Joe Wahlgren
Jerry Weaver
Robert Wiseman

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Dennis Schilz

NRCS PERSONNEL PRESENT

Nick Coffey, Range Technician
Mary Reece, District Conservationist

STAFF PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Marvin Knoll, Producer	Kirk Olson, Producer
Andy Olson, Producer	Mike Wheeler, Sargent Irrigation

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nebraska Open Meeting Act – Mr. Stack reported the Nebraska Open Meeting Act requires public bodies to make available at least one current copy of the Open Meeting Act to 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 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 Operating Policy Number 4: BOARD OF DIRECTORS ABSENCES provides a Director will be considered excused if the Director notifies the office prior to the meeting he will be absent and the minutes will reflect whether an absent Director is excused or unexcused. Mr. Stack reported Mr. Schilz notified the office he would be absent and is therefore excused.

Board Meeting Information Available for the Public – Mr. Stack reported on the table along the north wall of the meeting room is a notebook containing information each Board member has electronically. Mr. Stack reported the notebook is available for viewing by the public attending the Board of Directors meeting, this information is also available on the TPNRD website, and internet access is available in the room.

Other Announcements – None presented.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Stack opened the public forum.

Mr. Stack stated that the public is provided an opportunity to speak to the Board during the public forum at the beginning of each Board meeting and the public is only allowed to speak during the Public Forum. Mr. Stack stated that the Chairman may limit the time for each person speaking to the Board.

Kirk Olson, Marvin Knoll, and Andy Olson all spoke regarding that they would like to see the NCORPE land sold.

Mr. Stack closed the public forum.

REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

None requested.

COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORT

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

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) – Brule Watershed – Mrs. Reece reported that information was available for the Directors.

GENERAL INFORMATION

NE DNR Offset Water Requirements for NRDs to Return to 1997 Conditions - Jesse

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Bradley, NE DNR, presented a power point presentation using Go To Meeting and Speaker Phone from his Lincoln office. Mr. Bradley reported that the presentation was regarding new offset water requirements NE DNR has calculated using updated computer models. Mr. Bradley reported that the new depletions estimate (2019) for the TPNRD for returning the Platte River to 1997 conditions was 21,000 ac-ft annually which is an increase of 14,200 ac-ft compared to the current IMP (2019) amount of 6,800 ac-ft. Mr. Bradley reported that the difference is mainly due to the previous use of a recharge factor that reduced the requirement about 33% and the new amount is approximately 3 times the previous amount.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

Minutes for the December 14, 2017 Meeting – Mr. Stack reported the Minutes for the December 14, 2017 Board of Directors meeting were available and he asked if there were any corrections or additions.

It was reported that the draft minutes needed to be corrected to add that Marvin Knoll and Kirk Olson were present at the December 14, 2017 Board of Directors meeting.

Mr. Wahlgren moved the Minutes of the December 14, 2017 Board of Directors meeting be approved as corrected. Mrs. Pedersen seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #1)

Aye: Colvin, Meisner, Pederson, Petersen, Stack, Wahlgren, Wiseman
Nay: None
Abstain: Storer, Weaver
Absent & Excused: Schilz
Out of Room: Hansen

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Statement - Mr. Meisner reported the Financial Statement for December 2017 was available for the Directors.

Accounts Payable - Mr. Meisner reported the Accounts Payable report was available and he had reviewed the Accounts Payable and found the report to be in order.

Mr. Meisner moved the Financial Statement for December 2017 be received and placed on file for audit and to approve payment of the invoices presented on January 11, 2018 in the amount of \$60,879.93. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #2)

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

Budget Status – Mr. Meisner reported the Budget Status report was available.

Bids/Proposals – None presented.

Bids/Proposals Scheduled to be Presented for Consideration during the February 8, 2018 Board of Directors Meeting – Mr. Miller reported the District Policy provides “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 no bids/proposals would be presented for the February 8, 2018 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 January 11, 2018.

Variance Request - Mr. Meismer asked Mrs. Dimmitt to report on the requests for variances.

Variance Request – TP-TRANS-18.01 – Mrs. Dimmitt reported on variance request TP-TRANS-18.01.

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve variance TP-TRANS-18.01. Mr. Wiseman seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #3)

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

Violations – No report presented.

Offset Water - Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement Project (NCORPE) - Sale of Land – Mr. Wahlgren reported that the TPNRD is listening to the folks requesting that the NCORPE land be sold and returned to private ownership. Mr. Wahlgren reported that the Subcommittee is seeking information from the bond holders regarding limitations by the mortgage backing the bonds and the Subcommittee is considering the issues regarding separating the land and the water. Mr. Wahlgren reported that the Subcommittee did not have a recommendation, at this time, for a TPNRD policy regarding selling the NCORPE land.

Offset Water - NCORPE Project – Land Taxes – Mr. Meismer reported that Senator Hughes has introduced Legislative Bill 758 that would allow NCORPE to pay in lieu of taxes. Mr. Meismer reported that the Legislature’s Natural Resources Committee will hold a hearing for

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LB 758 on January 17, 2018.

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors that the TPNRD support LB 758. Mr. Weaver seconded the motion. The motion carried.

(Motion #4)

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

Offset Water - NCORPE Project – North Pipeline – Mr. Meismer reported that the TPNRD has received, or has been approved to receive, \$5,072,606.71 from the State of NE Water Resources Cash fund of which \$922,500.00 was for the land purchase and \$4,150,106.71 was for construction of the North Pipeline.

Offset Water - NCORPE Project – Wellfield Operation – Mr. Meismer reported that pumping of water to the Republican River is not presently occurring. Mr. Meismer reported that Kansas will not call for water before October 2018 and pumping may not be needed in 2018.

Offset Water - NCORPE – 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 – Board Meetings – Mr. Weaver reported that the next NCORPE Board meeting would be a phone conference on January 16, 2018 with locations at each NRD office. Mr. Weaver reported that the next regular NCORPE Board meeting would be on January 31, 2018 at Alma, NE. Mr. Weaver reported that the NCORPE Board has determined to meet every other month alternating between NRDs and Curtis.

Offset Water - TPNRD Integrated Management Plan (IMP) Second Increment – No report presented.

Offset Water – Irrigation Districts – Western Pilot Project – Mr. Meismer reported that the model being prepared by Jim Schneider, Olsson Associates, will be presented to the TPNRD Board & NE DNR on January 24, 2018 in Lincoln during the NARD Legislative Conference.

Mr. Miller reported that Olsson Associates are developing a Ground Water Evaluation Tool (GET) for models Olsson Associates are preparing. Mr. Miller reported that the tool is begin set up for the models Olsson Associates are preparing for the TPNRD (Western Model, North Platte Canals Model, Southern Keith County Model) at no additional costs as the TPNRD models will be the first to use GET. Mr. Miller reported that the tool will allow the current TPNRD staff to input data and run the models when they are completed. Mr. Miller reported that the annual fee for the TPNRD is \$7,500 which is being waived for first year. Mr. Miller reported that Olsson Associates will be doing presentations during the NARD Legislative

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Conference and he urged Directors to attend the session. Mr. Miller reported that the TPNRD Board will be shown how it works for the Western Model during the presentation on January 24th at Olsson Associates.

Offset Water – Irrigation Districts – Cody-Dillon Instream Flows – No report presented.

Offset Water – Irrigation Districts – K&L, Paxon-Hershey, Platte Valley, Suburban – No report presented.

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

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

Offset Water – Non-Irrigated Certified Acres – Mr. Meismer reported that the program will continue to be offered.

Offset Water – J2 Project – No report presented.

Offset Water – CPNRD Agreement – No report presented.

Offset Water – Conservation Tillage Measures – 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 (2016FY Budget)
- 2 N-CORPE Project (2016FY Budget)
- 3 CPNRD Agreement (2016FY Budget)
- 4 J-2 Project (2016FY Budget)
5. Non-Irrigated Certified Acres (2016FY Budget)
- 6 Conservation tillage measures (2016FY Budget)
- 7 South Platte River Compact Coalition (2016FY Budget)

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

Regulations - No report presented.

Platte Basin Over-Appropriated Plan – Mr. Wahlgren reported that the last stakeholders meeting was held on September 20, 2017. Mr. Wahlgren reported that the next stakeholders meeting will be January 17, 2018 at 10:30 am at the Best Western in North Platte, Nebraska.

Platte River Recovery Implementation Program – No report presented.

South Platte River Compact Coalition – No report presented.

Brule Watershed – NRCS Special Investigation - Mr. Meisner reported that the NRCS is working to fund design and construction at no cost for 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 – No report presented.

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD) – Legislative Conference, January 23-24, 2018 – Mr. Meisner reported the NARD annual Legislative Conference will be held January 23-24, 2018 in Lincoln, Nebraska, and a tentative conference schedule was available.

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

Sandhills Task Force – No report presented.

Board of Director’s Elections 2018 – Mr. Stack reported that the following TPNRD Directors seats are up for election in 2018:

Subdistrict 1	Eric S Hansen
Subdistrict 2	Joe Wahlgren
Subdistrict 3	Douglas L Stack
Subdistrict 4	David Colvin
Subdistrict 5	James Meisner
At Large	Judy Pederson

Mr. Stack reported that the deadline for Incumbents filing for re-election is February 15, 2018 and the deadline for Non-Incumbents filing for election is March 1, 2018. Mr. Stack reported that information for the election sub-districts was available for the Directors.

Requests for Authorization to Travel – No requests presented.

DISTRICT REPORT

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Cost-Share Programs – NE Soil & Water Conservation Program – Mr. Miller reported the monthly report was available for the Directors, \$50,935.77 was available, and there were four new applications to present.

Mr. Wiseman moved to approve the January 11, 2018 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>
18.013	NC-12	Trees	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,400.00
18.014	NC-12	Trees	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,400.00
18.015	NC-12	Trees	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,400.00
18.016	NC-12	Trees	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,400.00
Total Amount of New Contracts				\$ 5,600.00
FUNDS AVAILABLE				\$ 45,335.77

Mrs. Pederson seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #5)

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

Cost-Share Programs – District Conservation Programs – Mr. Miller reported the monthly report was available for the Directors, and \$6,045.37 was available.

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

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Stack asked Mr. Miller to Chair the meeting for the election of officers

Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer – The Board agreed they would like to consider a motion to elect the current Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Mr. Petersen moved to elect Mr. Schilz Chairperson, Mr. Stack Vice-Chairperson, Mr. Weaver Secretary, and Mr. Meismer Treasurer. Mr. Wiseman seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #6)

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

Mr. Stack resumed chairing the meeting.

SELECTION OF NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION
OF RESOURCES DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Petersen moved the TPNRD 2018 Representative for the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Board of Directors be Mr. Meismer. Mrs. Pederson seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #7)

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

SUBCOMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Stack announced that Mr. Schilz would make appointments for the Subcommittees for 2018 during the February 8, 2018 Board meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

NEXT MEETING

Mr. Stack reported the next Board of Directors meeting would be held on Thursday, February 8, 2018 at 3:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Jerry Weaver, Secretary