

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
Board of Directors Meeting  
February 9, 2017

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 February 9, 2017. Mr. Schilz called the meeting to order at 3:05 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 Meisner  
Judy Pederson  
Dennis Schilz  
Douglas L Stack  
Shane Storer  
Joe Wahlgren  
Jerry Weaver

NRCS PERSONNEL PRESENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Mike Wheeler, Sargent Irrigation

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Robert L Petersen  
Robert Wiseman

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 that Mr. Wiseman had notified the office that he would be absent and is therefore excused. Mr. Petersen 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, and the notebook is available for viewing by the public attending the meeting. Mr. Schilz reported this information is also available on the TPNRD website, and that internet access is available in the room.

Director Vacancy – Mr. Schilz reported that he has received a letter, dated January 24, 2017, from Dale Margritz, who represents Sub District 4 on the TPNRD Board of Directors, that he is resigning from the Board of Directors, as he has changed his legal residence to Cape Coral, Florida. Mr. Schilz reported that available for the Directors’ was a report for the Board of Directors that includes the Nebraska Statutes of what needs to occur when a vacancy occurs on an NRD Board. Mr. Schilz reported that following the Board meeting today, a notice in writing will be sent to the Secretary of State and a legal notice will be published in the North Platte Telegraph. Mr. Schilz reported that the TPNRD Policy provides that the Executive Subcommittee will seek persons interested in filling the vacated Director position and recommend one or more persons to the Board of Directors to fill the vacancy. Mr. Schilz reported that the Executive Subcommittee will meet prior to the March 9, 2016 Board meeting to begin the process of filling the vacancy.

Mr. Wahlgren moved the TPNRD Board of Directors acknowledgement declaring that the Sub District 4 seat on the TPNRD Board of Directors of Dale Margritz, who was elected to the seat through the end of December 2018, is vacant due to Mr. Margritz changing his legal residence to the State of Florida. Mr. Weaver seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #1)

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

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

None presented.

### COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORT

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) – District Conservationist Report – Mr. Miller reported that a written report prepared by Mary Reece, District Conservationist, was available for the Directors’.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) – Brule Watershed – No report presented.

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

Water Management Calculator – Mr. Miller reported that on February 18, 2016 the Board approved Jim Schneider, Olsson Associates, to set 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. Miller reported that this was needed for the offset water required by the TPNRD IMP that may be available from Irrigation Districts within the TPNRD.

Mrs. Dimmitt presented a report on the calculator.

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Minutes for the January 12, 2017 Meeting – Mr. Schilz reported that the Minutes for the January 12, 2017 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 January 12, 2017 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mr. Storer seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #2)

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

#### FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Statement - Mr. Meismer reported that the Financial Statement for January 2017 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 January 2017 be received and placed on file for audit and to approve payment of the invoices presented on February 9, 2017 in the

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amount of \$26,095.04. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #3)

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

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 March 9, 2017 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 March 9, 2017 Board of Directors meeting.

Capitalization Policy – Mr. Miller reported that during the January 12, 2017 Board Meeting, Bob Meyer, RJ Meyer & Associates, and TPNRD Auditor, recommended that the TPNRD adopt a Capitalization Policy. Mr. Miller reported that available for the Directors’ was a draft Capitalization Policy recommended by Mr. Meyer.

Mr. Meismer moved to approve the Capitalization Policy. Mr. Weaver seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #4)

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

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 February 9, 2017.

Variances – Mrs. Dimmitt reported on variance request TP-TRANS-17.06.

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of

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Directors to approve variance TP-TRANS-17.06. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #5)

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

Violations – No report presented.

Offset Water – Irrigation Districts – Excess Flows – Mr. Meismer reported that the TPNRD Board approved on March 12, 2015 to offer Lease Agreements with Keith–Lincoln Irrigation District, Platte Valley Irrigation District, Suburban Irrigation District, Western Irrigation District, and Paxton-Hershey Irrigation District for leasing the use of their canals and laterals with the TPNRD to divert available flows in the non-irrigation season and such other times as flows are available from the Platte River for ground water recharge and stream flow enhancement to enhance the flows of water to the Platte River, as required by the TPNRD Integrated Management Plan, through means of ground water recharge to induce return flows. Mr. Meismer reported that the agreements provide that the TPNRD would obtain the necessary and appropriate water rights/appropriations from the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Meismer reported that the TPNRD paid the Irrigation Districts an incentive to enter into this Lease Agreement and when the TPNRD obtains the necessary and appropriate water rights/appropriations, the TPNRD agrees to pay an annual retainer and \$31.00 per acre-foot of recharge that occurs during the preceding year. Mr. Meismer reported that no additional payments have occurred since the Lease Agreements were executed as the TPNRD is waiting for the NE DNR to approve the applications. Mr. Meismer reported that the TPNRD currently has in place through 2017 temporary agreements with each of these Irrigation Districts and the NE DNR and we expect the NE DNR to continue these temporary agreements until such time as a permanent water right is approved. Mr. Meismer reported that the Irrigation Districts are reporting to the TPNRD how they have spent the funds they have received from the TPNRD. Mr. Meismer reported that the Engineering analysis being prepared by HDR for the TPNRD for the Irrigation Districts is nearing completion.

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve for the Lease Agreements with Keith–Lincoln Irrigation District, Platte Valley Irrigation District, Suburban Irrigation District, Western Irrigation District, and Paxton-Hershey Irrigation District, that on March 1, 2017 and each year thereafter, TPNRD agrees to pay

- To the Keith – Lincoln Irrigation District a sum of \$2,100.00 as an annual retainer and an additional sum of \$2,100.00 as a prepayment related to recharge and on January 1 of each year thereafter, TPNRD agrees to pay \$31.00 per acre-foot of recharge that occurs during the preceding year less the total of the prepayment sum related to recharge

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- To the Paxton – Hershey Irrigation District a sum of \$2,600.00 as an annual retainer and on January 1 of each year thereafter, TPNRD agrees to pay \$31.00 per acre-foot of recharge that occurs during the preceding year
- To the Platte Valley Irrigation District a sum of \$5,100.00 as an annual retainer and on January 1 of each year thereafter, TPNRD agrees to pay \$31.00 per acre-foot of recharge that occurs during the preceding year
- To the Suburban Irrigation District a sum of \$2,000.00 as an annual retainer and on January 1 of each year thereafter, TPNRD agrees to pay \$31.00 per acre-foot of recharge that occurs during the preceding year
- To the Western Irrigation District a sum of \$4,200.00 as an annual retainer and on January 1 of each year thereafter, TPNRD agrees to pay \$31.00 per acre-foot of recharge that occurs during the preceding year

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

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

Offset Water – Irrigation Districts – Management Agreements – No report presented.

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

Offset Water – Irrigation Districts – Instream Flows – Mrs. Dimmitt reported that the TPNRD is offering in 2017 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. Mrs. Dimmitt reported that in 2015 there were three contracts approved for long-term 30 years relinquishments of 199.5 acres of Cody-Dillon water rights to the TPNRD and the landowner applied the surface water to the land. Mrs. Dimmitt reported that in 2016 there were 15 contracts approved for relinquishments of 496.5 acres of Cody-Dillon water rights to the TPNRD. Mrs. Dimmitt reported that the TPNRD applied the surface water to the land for 330.6 acres and the landowner applied the surface water to the land for 165.9 acres.

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

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

Offset Water - NCORPE Project – North Pipeline – Mr. Miller reported that a preconstruction meeting will be held in March at the TPNRD offices and that the landowners will be invited.

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Offset Water - NCORPE Project – Financing – Mr. Weaver reported that the NCORPE Board has agreed that an audit will be done from the beginning of the project.

Offset Water - NCORPE Project – Wellfield Operation – Mr. Weaver reported that pumping began in December 2016 and that 20,000 AF is needed for the Republican River. Mr. Weaver reported that approximately 5,000 AF will be from agreements with Irrigation Districts in the Republican Basin, approximately 5,000 AF will be from Rock Creek, and approximately 10,000 AF will be from NCORPE.

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 – Model – 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 NCORPE agreed to retain Olsson Associates (Jim Schneider) to develop the model. Mr. Weaver and Mr. Meismer reported on an update meeting they had attended with Jim Schneider.

Offset Water - NCORPE Project – Sponsors Meetings – Mr. Weaver reported on the sponsors meeting held on January 26, 2016. Mr. Weaver reported that the next sponsors meeting would be on February 22, 2016 at Curtis.

Offset Water - Storage 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.

Ground Water Management Plan – 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.

Platte Basin Over-Appropriated Plan –Mr. Meismer reported that the next stakeholders meeting will be March 15, 2017 at 10:30 am at the Holiday Inn Express in North Platte, Nebraska.

Platte River Recovery Implementation Program – No report presented.

South Platte River Compact Coalition – No report presented

Legislative Bill 218 – Mr. Meismer reported that the hearing on LB218 by the Legislature’s Natural Resources Committee would be on February 15, 2017. Mr. Meismer reported that Mr. Miller plans to attend the hearing and testify for the TPNRD. Mr. Meismer reported that the Subcommittee agreed that the TPNRD testimony should be in opposition.

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. Meismer reported on the NARD Board of Directors meeting held on January 23, 2017.

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD) – Legislative Conference, January 24-25, 2017 – Mr. Meismer reported on the NARD annual Legislative Conference that was held January 24-25, 2017 in Lincoln, Nebraska.

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’. Mr. Miller reported that \$45,584.81 was



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available. Mr. Miller reported that there were six new applications to present.

Mr. Wahlgren moved to approve the February 9, 2017 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>
17.016	NC-12	Trees	\$ 1,380.00	\$ 1,380.00
17.017	NC-12	Trees	\$ 1,035.00	\$ 1,035.00
17.018	NC-12	Trees	\$ 1,380.00	\$ 1,380.00
17.019	NC-10	Range Seeding	\$ 2,600.10	\$ 2,600.10
17.020	NC-12	Trees	\$ 1,380.00	\$ 1,380.00
17.021	NC-12	Trees	\$ 1,380.00	\$ 1,380.00
Total Amount of New Contracts				\$ 9,155.10

FUNDS AVAILABLE

\$ 36,429.71

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

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

Cost-Share Programs – District Conservation Programs – Mr. Miller reported that the monthly report was available for the Directors’. Mr. Miller reported that \$6,688.92 was available.

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

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

NEXT MEETING

Mr. Schilz reported that the next Board of Directors meeting would be held on Thursday, March 9, 2017 at 3:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:04 pm.

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Jerry Weaver, Secretary