

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
April 13, 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 April 13, 2017. Mr. Schilz called the meeting to order at 7:30 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
Robert L Petersen
Dennis Schilz
Douglas L Stack
Shane Storer
Joe Wahlgren
Robert Wiseman

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Jerry Weaver

NRCS PERSONNEL PRESENT

Mary Reece, District Conservationist

STAFF PRESENT

Glen Bowers, Water Programs Field Coordinator
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 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 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 a Director will be considered excused if the Director

notifies the office prior to the meeting that he or she will be absent and the minutes will reflect whether an absent Director is excused or unexcused. Mr. Schilz reported that Mr. Weaver notified the office he would be absent and is therefore excused.

Information Packet and Notebook available for the Public – Mr. Schilz reported on the table along the north wall of the meeting room is a notebook containing information each Board member has electronically. Mr. Schilz 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. Schilz opened the Public Forum. There were no comments. Mr. Schilz closed the Public Forum.

REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

Platte River Phragmites Control Project - Mr. Miller reported that Rich Walters, Director of Stewardship of The Nature Conservancy, requests that the TPNRD again contribute funds, as the TPNRD did last year, for the Platte River Phragmites Control Project. Mr. Miller reported that Mr. Walters could not attend the board meeting this evening. Mr. Miller reported that available for the Directors was the information Mr. Walters presented to the Board on April 14, 2016. Mr. Miller reported that the TPNRD Board on April 14, 2016 approved a one-time payment of \$25,000 for the Platte River Phragmites Control Project. Mr. Miller reported that Mr. Walters is again requesting that the TPNRD contribute \$25,000 for the Platte River Phragmites Control Project. Mr. Miller reported that the TPNRD current Budget provides for contributing \$25,000 this Fiscal Year for the Platte River Phragmites Control Project if the Board desires.

Mr. Meismer moved to approve a one-time payment of \$25,000 for the Platte River Phragmites Control Project. Mrs. Pederson seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #1)

Aye: Meismer, Pederson, Petersen, Schilz, Stack
Nay: Hansen, Storer, Wahlgren, Wiseman
Absent & Excused: Weaver

Lake Maloney Trail - Mrs. Pederson reported on the Lake Maloney Trail. Mrs. Pederson reported that the TPNRD contributed \$14,000 for Phase 1, which was completed a couple of years ago, and has budgeted \$14,000 for the current Fiscal Year for Lake Maloney Trail Phase 2. Mrs. Pederson reported that Phase 2 is nearing completion and that the contractor has time to go on to Phase 3, which would be to extend the trail from the end of Phase 2. Mrs. Pederson requested the TPNRD contribute funds for the Lake Maloney Trail Phase 3.

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Mr. Miller reported that the current Fiscal Year TPNRD Budget provides for \$14,000 for the Lake Maloney Trail Phase 2 and \$14,000 for City of North Platte trails. Mr. Miller reported that he does not know of any requests coming for trail projects in the City of North Platte during this Fiscal Year. Mr. Miller reported that the Board could use the \$14,000 budgeted in the current Fiscal Year for trails in the City of North Platte, for the Lake Maloney Trail.

Mr. Meismer moved to approve a \$14,000 contribution to the Lake Maloney Trail Phase 3 Project. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #2)

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

GENERAL INFORMATION

None presented.

COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORT

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) – District Conservationist Report –
Mary Reece presented a report.

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Minutes for the March 9, 2017 Meeting – Mr. Schilz reported that the Minutes for the March 9, 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 March 9, 2017 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mr. Stack seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #3)

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Statement - Mr. Meismer reported that the Financial Statement for March 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

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order.

Mr. Meismer moved that the Financial Statement for March 2017 be received and placed on file for audit and to approve payment of the invoices presented on April 13, 2017 in the amount of \$463,736.31. Mrs. Pederson seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #4)

Aye: Hansen, Meismer, Pederson, Petersen, Schilz, Stack, Storer, Wahlgren, Wiseman

Nay: None

Absent & Excused: Weaver

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 May 11, 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 May 11, 2017 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 April 13, 2017.

Variances – Mrs. Dimmitt reported on variance request TP-NP-17.15.

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve variance TP-NP-17.15. Mr. Wiseman seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #5)

Aye: Hansen, Meismer, Pederson, Petersen, Schilz, Stack, Storer, Wahlgren, Wiseman

Nay: None

Absent & Excused: Weaver

Variances – Mrs. Dimmitt reported on variance request TP-TRANS-17.16.

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

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Directors to approve variance TP-TRANS-17.16. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #6)

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

Violations – No report presented.

Offset Water – Irrigation Districts – Western – Pilot Project – Mr. Meismer reported that the TPNRD has an opportunity for Offset Water in the Western Irrigation District, as the NE DNR offered on April 3, 2017, to do a Pilot Project at the Western Irrigation District during 2017. Mr. Schilz reported that the hope is that this could become permanent.

Mr. Miller reported that the Platte Basin Coalition has approved a \$100,000 project from the Water Resources Cash Fund, of which 60% is from the Water Resources Cash Fund and 40% is matched by the TPNRD. Mr. Miller reported that these funds would be used to clean sediment from existing pits and establish new pits. Mr. Miller reported that the Pilot Project is to determine if ground water recharge can occur throughout the irrigation season within an Irrigation District from the Irrigation District's surface water diversion that is not used for irrigation. Mr. Miller reported that if the Western Irrigation District water right is available 50% of the time during the irrigation season, from April 1 to October 15, and assuming a 30% recharge factor, the estimate of the water that the TPNRD could place as recharge to the ground water at the Western Irrigation District is 12,311 AF during the Pilot Project. Mr. Miller reported that the existing Lease Agreement the TPNRD has with the Western Irrigation District provides that the TPNRD will pay the Western Irrigation District \$31/AF for water that is recharged to the ground water. Mr. Miller reported that if the TPNRD would receive 12,311 AF during the Pilot Project, the estimated cost for the TPNRD is \$381,647. Mr. Miller reported that the TPNRD desire has been to provide funds to Irrigation Districts, for offset water, that they could use to maintain and improve their District. Mr. Miller reported that was why the TPNRD contacted with HDR to prepare an Engineering analysis of Irrigation Districts within the TPNRD.

Mr. Miller reported that the TPNRD now needs a tool to calculate the benefit to the River for this Pilot Project. Mr. Miller reported that previously, when there were excess flows in the Spring or Fall that were passed through an Irrigation Districts for ground water recharge, the offset water for the TPNRD would be calculated by Landon Shaw, the former TPNRD Hydrologist, using spreadsheets to determine the benefit to the river. Mr. Miller reported that Duane Woodward would do the same for the CPNRD. Mr. Miller reported that Landon Shaw is no longer with the TPNRD and Duane Woodward is planning to retire later this year. Mr. Miller reported that the CPNRD has retained Olsson Associates (Jim Schneider) to prepare a tool to calculate the benefit to the River from excess flows. Mr. Miller reported that he requested last week and received a proposal from Olsson Associates yesterday. Mr. Miller reported that the tool could be expanded to all the Irrigation Districts within the TPNRD to

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calculate the benefit to the river from Excess Flows. Mr. Miller distributed the proposed Scope of Services received from Olsson Associates. Mr. Miller reported that the cost for the scope of work is \$71,000. Mr. Miller reported that the tool is a Sub-Regional Ground Water Model, that would be developed from COHYST, that would be prepared such that anyone could run the model as conditions change by simply making changes or additions in a spreadsheet. Mr. Miller reported that he asked the NE DNR yesterday if the Water Resources Cash Fund could be used for the work with Olsson Associates to fund 60% of the cost, but that he does not have an answer now.

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve the Pilot Project for the Western Irrigation District Canal and the proposed Scope of Services with Olsson Associates. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #7)

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

Offset Water – Irrigation Districts – Cody-Dillon - Emergency Repair – Mr. Meismer reported that the TPNRD has had, and expects to continue, agreements with the Cody-Dillon Irrigation District for the opportunity to transfer a portion of their water rights to an Instream Water Right. Mr. Meismer reported that high water is expected this spring on the North Platte River and there is an extreme level of concern that the high water would damage the Cody-Dillon Irrigation District facilities for the diversion of the North Platte River such that Cody-Dillon Irrigation District would not be able to divert water. Mr. Meismer reported that last month Tom Riley from Flatwater reported to the Board his recommendation for emergency repairs that were estimated to cost approximately \$100,000.00. Mr. Meismer reported that last month, the Board approved, Emergency Repairs along the North Platte River adjacent to the Cody-Dillon Irrigation District Canal with 50% reimbursement from the Cody-Dillon Irrigation District over the next five years.

Mrs. Dimmitt reported that Glen Bowers has been working with the Nebraska Department of Roads and has determined that a large amount of broken concrete is available locally, at no charge, to the TPNRD. Mrs. Dimmitt reported that Mr. Bowers has also been working with a local contractor for crushing and hauling the concrete to the Cody-Dillon site. Mrs. Dimmitt reported that Flatwater has viewed the available broken concrete and has determined that it is acceptable and has provided the TPNRD recommendations for placement of the broken concrete. Mrs. Dimmitt reported that the cost for the TPNRD for crushing and hauling the broken concrete is \$10/ton. Mrs. Dimmitt reported that 1,000 tons are needed for Phase 1 Emergency repairs and that 1,500 tons are needed for Phase 2 Emergency repairs. Mrs. Dimmitt reported that if Cody-Dillon can find storage sites for additional broken concrete, it will be obtained, as the cost is substantially less than the estimated \$100,000. Mrs. Dimmitt reported that Dale Margritz will place the broken concrete at no charge.

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Offset Water – Irrigation Districts - Cody-Dillon – Instream Flows – Mrs. Dimmitt 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.

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 in 2016 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. Mrs. Dimmitt reported that for 2017 the TPNRD has arranged for 100 to 150 acres.

Offset Water – Irrigation Districts – Excess Flow – Spring 2017 – Mr. Meismer reported that the TPNRD is in contact with the NE DNR and the Irrigation Districts within the TPNRD and if excess flows are available this Spring, the TPNRD will arrange for diversions into the Irrigation Districts canals and adjacent pits for ground water recharge and offset water will be available for the TPNRD from the ground water recharge.

Offset Water – Irrigation Districts – Excess Flows – Water Rights Application – Mr. Meismer reported that the TPNRD water rights application is still pending at the NE DNR.

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

Offset Water – Non-Irrigated Certified Acres – Mrs. Dimmitt reported on the acres signed up for this program.

Offset Water - NCORPE Project – North Pipeline - Construction – Mr. Meismer reported that construction of the North Pipeline began April 4, 2017. Mr. Meismer reported that available for the Directors’ is a map showing the construction schedule and the agenda and minutes for the Pre-construction Conference for the North Pipeline held on March 16, 2017. Mr. Bowers showed pictures and a video of the construction.

Offset Water - NCORPE Project – Financing – Series 2017 Bonds – Mr. Meismer reported that a Bond reissue has occurred.

Mr. Meismer reported that Mr. Weaver prepared the following information for the Board:

- *Bond reissue - average 3.72% replaces 5.5%. Completed on 3-22-2017.*
- *Projected total savings - \$13,231,000.*
 - *MRNRD- \$4,200,000 in last 3 years ending in 2035*
 - *TPNRD - \$4,000,000 in last 3 years ending in 2035*

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- *URNRD \$112,000 per year – totaling \$2,400,000*
- *LRNRD \$113,000 per year totaling \$2,600,000*
- *Insurance cost to get to AA rating \$1,123,000*
 - *Project this saved 11 bases points or \$2,200,000 over the cost of insurance.*

Offset Water - NCORPE Project – Wellfield Operation – Mr. Meisner reported that the current pumping of water to the Republican River has ended.

Offset Water - NCORPE Project – Ground Water Levels – Mr. Miller showed on the screen the aerial photo of the NCORPE property showing the locations of ground water monitoring wells, and the graphs for the monitoring wells.

Offset Water - NCORPE Project – Model – No report presented.

Offset Water - NCORPE Project – Sponsors Meetings – Mr. Meisner reported on the sponsors meeting held on March 14, 2017. Mr. Meisner reported that the NCORPE Board is continuing to consider the possibility of an agreement with a development company for Wind Generation on the NCORPE property. Mr. Meisner reported that wind generation on the property would provide for tax payments that would be more than the tax payments lost when NCORPE purchased the land and would provide payments to NCORPE that could be used for payments on the bonds made by each of the NRDs. Mr. Meisner reported that the next sponsors meeting would be on April 19, 2017 at Curtis, NE.

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

Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) Data - GeoCloud Interlocal Agreement – Mr. Miller reported that all 10 NRDs have signed the Interlocal Agreement.

Platte Basin Over-Appropriated Plan - NRDs Meeting – Mr. Schilz reported on an NRDs meeting held on April 3, 2017.

Platte Basin Over-Appropriated Plan - Stakeholders Meeting – Mr. Wahlgren reported on the stakeholders meeting held March 15, 2017. Mr. Wahlgren reported that the next stakeholders meeting will be May 17, 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.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee

No report presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Executive Subcommittee

Mr. Schilz, Executive Subcommittee Chairperson, presented a report for the Subcommittee meeting held on April 13, 2017.

Director Vacancy – Mr. Schilz reported, that as provided by the TPNRD Policy, the Executive Subcommittee had been seeking persons interested in filling the vacated Sub-District 4 Director position. Mr. Schilz reported that the Subcommittee considered four individuals and is recommending David Colvin.

Mr. Meismer moved the Executive Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors to appoint David Colvin to represent the Sub-District 4 position on the Board of Directors to fill a vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term which expires at the end of calendar year 2018. Mr. Wiseman seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #8)

Aye: Hansen, Meismer, Pederson, Petersen, Schilz, Stack, Storer, Wahlgren, Wiseman

Nay: None

Absent & Excused: Weaver

DIRECTORS REPORTS

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD) – Board of Directors – Mr. Meismer reported on Legislative Bills the NARD is working on.

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

Sandhills Task Force – Mr. Hansen reported on grants the Sandhills Task Force has received.

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 \$897.00 was available, and 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 \$4,815.92 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, May 11, 2017 at 7:30 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 pm.

Jerry Weaver, Secretary