

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
May 11, 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 May 11, 2017. Mr. Stack 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

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

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

Dana Daniels, Miller & Associates
Mike Wheeler, Sargent Irrigation

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nebraska Open Meeting Act – Mr. Stack 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. 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.

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Report of Directors Excused – Mr. Stack 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. Stack reported Mr. Schilz notified the office he would be absent and is therefore excused.

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, and the notebook is available for viewing by the public attending the meeting. Mr. Stack reported that this information is also available on the TPNRD website and internet access is available in the room.

Director Appointed to Represent Sub-District 4 – Mr. Stack introduced Mr. David Colvin who was appointed to the Board of Directors to represent Sub-District 4 for the remaining term of Mr. Dale Margritz, who resigned from the Board earlier this year. Mr. Stack reported that Mr. Colvin has signed the Oath of Office and will serve on the Land Resources Subcommittee.

Other Announcements – None presented.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Stack opened the Public Forum. There were no comments. Mr. Stack closed the Public Forum.

REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

There were no requests for assistance.

COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORT

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

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

GENERAL INFORMATION

None presented.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Minutes for the April 13, 2017 Meeting – Mr. Stack reported that the Minutes for the April 13, 2017 Board of Directors meeting were available for the Directors and he asked if there were any corrections or additions.

Mrs. Pederson moved that the Minutes of the April 13, 2017 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mr. Wiseman seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #1)

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Statement - Mr. Meismer reported that the Financial Statement for April 2017 was available for the Directors.

Accounts Payable - Mr. Meismer reported that the Accounts Payable report was available for the Directors and he had reviewed the Accounts Payable and found the report to be in order.

Mr. Meismer moved the Financial Statement for April 2017 be received and placed on file for audit and to approve payment of the invoices presented on May 11, 2017 in the amount of \$1,796,774.49. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #2)

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

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 June 8, 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 June 8, 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 May 11, 2017.

Variances – Mrs. Dimmitt reported on variance request TP-MODIFY-17.02.

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve variance TP-MODIFY-17.02. Mr. Wahlgren 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 - Non-Irrigated Certified Acres – Mr. Meismer reported that 37 landowners have signed up 1,720 acres for a cost of \$19,236. Mr. Meismer reported that most of the signups have been for 4 years.

Offset Water - Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement Project (NCORPE) Project – Wellfield Operations – Mr. Meismer reported that pumping of water to the Republican River is not presently occurring.

Offset Water - Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement Project (NCORPE) Project – North Pipeline – 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, a TPNRD News Release May 4, 2017, and a North Platte Telegraph article May 5, 2017.

Mr. Bowers show pictures of the construction. Mr. Daniels reported on the construction.

Mr. Miller reported that if any Board member would like to see the construction, they should contact Mr. Bowers at our office, and he will schedule a time to take them to the construction area. Mr. Miller reported that it is better if Board members do not attempt to go to the construction site on their own, as there is large equipment operating.

Mr. Meismer reported that one additional easement is needed along the road due to deep cuts and a lack of location to safely place material. Mr. Meismer reported that the easement will be a total of 0.22 acre at four locations. Mr. Meismer reported that it is the responsibility of the Contractor to obtain any additional easements. Mr. Meismer reported that the TPNRD has

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agreed with the landowner to pay \$500/year for 7 years for this easement, as determined at the jobsite to keep the Contractor moving. Mr. Meisner reported that the Contractor will pay for a new fence and all seeding.

Offset Water - Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement Project (NCORPE) Project – Ground Water Levels – Mr. Meisner 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 - Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement Project (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 NCORPE agreed to retain Olsson Associates to develop the model. Mr. Meisner reported on the status.

Offset Water - Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement Project (NCORPE) Project – Finances – Audits – Mr. Miller reported that available for the Directors for information was an NCORPE audit for June 30, 2016 and 2015.

Offset Water - Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement Project (NCORPE) Project – Sponsors Meetings – Mr. Weaver reported on the sponsors meeting held on April 19, 2017. Mr. Weaver reported that the NCORPE Board is continuing to consider the possibility of Wind Generation on the NCORPE property and have retained HDR to facilitate seeking developers and analyzing proposals. Mr. Weaver 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. Weaver reported that the next sponsors meeting would be on June 21, 2017 at Curtis, NE.

Offset Water – Irrigation Districts – Western – Mr. Bowers reported on the Pilot Project at the Western Irrigation District and showed pictures of the construction of new pits and the maintenance of existing pits.

Offset Water – Irrigation Districts – Cody-Dillon – Mr. Bowers reported on the Emergency repair that has been completed at the Cody-Dillon Irrigation District and showed pictures of the emergency repair. Mr. Bowers reported that 2,925 tons of crushed concrete was hauled and placed at Cody Dillon at a cost of \$35,100. Mr. Bowers reported that 2,125 tons was placed for the current Emergency Repair and 800 tons was stocked piled for future Emergency Repair. Mr. Bowers reported that Dale Margritz placed the concrete. Mr. Bowers reported that the Engineers estimate for emergency repairs was \$100,000.00. Mr. Meisner reported that as approved by the Board, the Cody-Dillon Irrigation District will reimburse the TPNRD 50% of the cost of the Emergency Repair over the next 5 years.

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Mrs. Dimmitt reported that the TPNRD is offering agreements to landowners 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. Mrs. Dimmitt reported that in 2015 there were three contracts approved for 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 surface water to 330.6 of the acres and the landowner applied surface water to 165.9 acres. Mrs. Dimmitt reported that for 2017, the TPNRD has arranged for relinquishments of 100 to 150 acres of Cody-Dillon water rights to the TPNRD, all of which the TPNRD will apply the surface water. Mrs. Dimmitt reported on the process to obtain an instream flow:

- Step 1 Work with Cody-Dillon Irrigation District to relinquish and reassign the irrigated acres in the correct locations. During 2015 to 2017, the TPNRD submitted the appropriated forms and maps to NE DNR for approval. On May 2, 2017, the NE DNR approved an Order granting approval.
- Step 2 TPNRD or landowner physically irrigates the acres that are to be leased to the TPNRD, which is on-going.
- Step 3: Apply to NE DNR to transfer the Cody-Dillon leased water right to the TPNRD for an instream flow water right.

Offset Water – Irrigation Districts – Platte Valley – Mr. Meisner reported that Mr. Bowers had arranged with the Nebraska Department of Roads to obtain concrete locally for the Platte Valley Irrigation District, at no charge to the TPNRD. Mr. Meisner reported that 250 tons of crushed concrete was hauled to the Platte Valley Irrigation District for at a cost of \$3,000 and that the Platte Valley Irrigation District will reimburse the TPNRD the \$3,000 cost.

Offset Water – Irrigation Districts – Excess Flow – Mrs. Dimmitt reported that the TPNRD is in contact with the NE DNR and the Irrigation Districts within the TPNRD, if excess flows are available this Spring for diversions into the Irrigation Districts canals and adjacent pits for ground water recharge. Mrs. Dimmitt reported that the TPNRD has obtained from NE DNR the necessary temporary permits. Mrs. Dimmitt reported that the TPNRD applications for permanent water rights is still pending at the NE DNR.

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

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. 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 – Mr. Meismer reported that available for the Directors was a report on Environmental Account releases planned for May 20 to June 20, 2017.

South Platte River Compact Coalition – No report presented.

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) – 2017 Northeast Nebraska NRD Basin Tour, June 12-13, 2017 – Mr. Meismer reported that available for the Directors was information for the NARD Northeast Nebraska NRD Basin Tour, June 12-13, 2017.

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

Sandhills Task Force – Mr. Hansen presented a report.

Requests for Authorization to Travel – No requests presented.

DISTRICT REPORT

Cost-Share Programs – NE Soil & Water Conservation Program – Mr. Miller reported the monthly report was available for the Directors, that \$3,869.85 was available, and there are no new applications to present.

Cost-Share Programs – District Conservation Programs – Mr. Miller reported that the monthly report was available for the Directors, and \$3,615.92 was available.

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

BUDGET FOR 2018 FISCAL YEAR

Preparation Schedule - Mr. Miller reported that a schedule for preparing the 2018 Fiscal Year Budget for the TPNRD was available for the Directors. Mr. Miller reported that the schedule for preparing the 2018 Fiscal Year Budget is the same schedule followed the last 18 years. Mr. Miller reported the schedule provides for Board review of the first draft of the Budget during the June Board meeting, and provides the Board four opportunities to review and discuss the Budget prior to final approval.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

NEXT MEETING

Mr. Stack reported that the next Board of Directors meeting would be held on Thursday, June 8, 2017 at 7:30 pm. Mr. Stack reminded the Directors that the July Board meeting is on the first Thursday which is one week earlier than normal.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 pm.

Jerry Weaver, Secretary