

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
Board of Directors Meeting  
June 14, 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 June 14, 2018. Mr. Schilz called the meeting to order at 7:35 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

David Colvin  
Jerry Weaver

NRCS PERSONNEL PRESENT

Mary Reece, District Conservationist

STAFF PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Ken Anderson, Producer  
Lynn Frederick, Producer

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 and accessible to members of the public.

Report of Directors Excused – Mr. Schilz reported Operating Policy Number 4: BOARD OF

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DIRECTORS ABSENCES provides a Director will be considered excused if the Director notifies the office prior to the meeting he or she will be absent and the minutes will reflect whether an absent Director is excused or unexcused. Mr. Schilz reported Mr. Colvin and Mr. Weaver notified the office they would be absent and are therefore excused.

Information 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 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.

Mr. Schilz 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. Schilz stated that the Chairman may limit the time for each person speaking to the Board.

Lynn Frederick spoke regarding fencing at the NCORPE property.

Mr. Schilz 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 – Mary. Reece, NRCS District Conservationist, reported that a written report was available for the Directors and she presented a report.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

None presented.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

Minutes for the May 10, 2018 Meeting – Mr. Schilz reported the Minutes for the May 10, 2018 Board of Directors meeting were available for the Directors and he asked if there were

any corrections or additions.

Mr. Meismer moved the Minutes of the May 10, 2018 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #1)

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

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Statement - Mr. Meismer reported the Financial Statement for May 2018 was available for the Directors.

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

Mr. Meismer moved the Financial Statement for May 2018 be received and placed on file for audit and to approve payment of the invoices presented on June 14, 2018 in the amount of \$430,340.11. Mrs. Pederson seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #2)

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

Budget Status – Mr. Meismer reported the Budget Status report was available for the Directors.

Bids/Proposals – None presented.

Bids/Proposals Scheduled to be Presented for Consideration during the July 19, 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 July 19, 2018 Board of Directors meeting.

### SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT Land Resources Subcommittee

No report presented.

### SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT Water Resources Subcommittee

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Mr. Meismer, Water Resources Subcommittee Chairperson, presented a report for the Subcommittee meeting held on June 14, 2018.

Variances – Mrs. Dimmitt reported on variance request TP-TRANS-18.05.

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve variance TP-TRANS-18.05. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #3)

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

Mrs. Dimmitt reported on variance request TP-MODIFY-18.01.

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve variance TP-MODIFY-18.01. Mr. Wiseman seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #4)

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

Violations – No report presented.

Integrated Management Plan (IMP) Second Increment – TPNRD Requirements Calculated by Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NE DNR) – Mr. Meismer reported that the Subcommittee had talked with Jim Schneider, Olsson Associates, by phone from South Dakota, regarding the TPNRD offset requirements for the IMP second increment to return the Platte River to 1997 conditions that were calculated by NE DNR. Mr. Meismer reported that Mr. Schneider has reviewed the NE DNR power point presentation, which was presented to the TPNRD Board on January 11, 2018, that showed the new offset requirements for the TPNRD to return the Platte River to 1997 conditions. Mr. Meismer reported that available for the Directors were two slides from the NE DNR power point presentation showing “Change in Post - 1997 Depletions - Estimates Through 2029” and “Change in Post - 1997 Depletions - Estimates Current IMP Through 2019 & Updated Estimates Through 2019”. Mr. Meismer reported that Mr. Schneider has met with NE DNR staff to discuss the new offset requirements for the TPNRD. Mr. Meismer reported that Mr. Schneider told the Subcommittee that the new offset requirements for the TPNRD were determined from a NE DNR modeling activity and for him to analysis the NE DNR modeling, he would need to go into the model. Mr. Meismer reported that Mr. Schneider told the Subcommittee, that at this time, he is not able to determine if the new offset requirements for the TPNRD are correct and he is not able to determine if additional new data for water use and land use would be of value for the TPNRD. Mr. Meismer reported that Mr. Schneider told the Subcommittee that

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for him to go into the model he estimated he could make a preliminary determination at a cost not to exceed \$40,000.

Offset Water - Irrigation Districts - Cody-Dillon Instream Flows – Mr. Meismer reported that Mr. Schneider told the Subcommittee that he has discussed with the TPNRD staff and the NE DNR, calculating the benefits for the TPNRD for leasing water rights from land under the Cody-Dillon Irrigation District and temporally transferring those water rights to an instream flow.

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve Jim Schneider, Olsson Associates, to begin an analysis of the NE DNR model that determined the new offset requirements for the TPNRD to return the Platte River to 1997 conditions and to present a status report to the Board during the Board meeting on September 13, 2018, and to determine a recommendation for calculating the benefits for the TPNRD for leasing water rights from land under the Cody-Dillon Irrigation District and temporally transferring those water rights to an instream flow, at a cost not to exceed \$40,000. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #5)

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

Offset Water - Irrigation Districts – Western Pilot Project – Mr. Meismer reported that Mr. Schneider told the Subcommittee of a discussions he has had with NE DNR regarding the Western Pilot Project and that he was preparing a scope of work requested by NE DNR that could be funded by NE DNR and the TPNRD.

Offset Water - Irrigation Districts - K&L, Paxon-Hershey, Platte Valley, Suburban – Mr. Meismer reported that Mr. Schneider told the Subcommittee that the model is nearing completion for the K&L, Paxon-Hershey, Platte Valley, and Suburban Irrigation Districts. Mr. Meismer reported that Mr. Schneider will present the model to the TPNRD Board in September. Mr. Meismer reported that Mr. Schneider told the Subcommittee that the AEM data, that Jim Cannia obtained and recently provided to the TPNRD and the CPNRD, can now be incorporated into the models he has prepared for the TPNRD and the CPNRD. Mr. Meismer reported that Mr. Schneider told the Subcommittee that to incorporate the AEM data into all the models would cost \$150,000, which is \$50,000 for the K&L, Paxon-Hershey, Platte Valley, and Suburban Irrigation Districts areas, \$50,000 for the area in the CPNRD, and \$50,000 for the NCORPE area.

Offset Water – Channel Incision Below Lake McConaughy - Change in Ground Water Storage – Mr. Meismer reported on the North Platte River channel incision and the change in ground water in storage below Lake McConaughy and reported that he believes that an analysis needs to be done regarding the change of ground water in storage. Mr. Meismer reported that Mr. Schneider told the Subcommittee that this could be done with the model for

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the K&L, Paxon-Hershey, Platte Valley, and Suburban Irrigation Districts and the incorporation of the AEM data into the model.

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve Jim Schneider, Olsson Associates, to integrate the recently available AEM data within the model Jim Schneider prepared for the TPNRD for the K&L, Paxon-Hershey, Platte Valley, and Suburban Irrigation Districts, and as a part of this task, provide a calculation of the ground water lost due to the incision of the North Platte River below Lake McConaughy, at a cost of \$50,000. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion. The motion carried.  
(Motion #6)

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

Integrated Management Plan (IMP) Second Increment – Mr. Meismer reported that available for the Directors was an updated list of the TPNRD Stakeholders members.

Integrated Management Plan (IMP) Second Increment – Timeline – Mr. Meismer reported on the Basin NRDs Second Increment Timeline.

Integrated Management Plan (IMP) Second Increment – TPNRD Stakeholders Meetings – Mr. Meismer reported that the TPNRD Stakeholders meetings are being held at the Holiday Inn Express in North Platte at 7:00 pm Central Time and the following is the schedule for the TPNRD Stakeholders meetings:

- June 5, 2018
- August 14, 2018
- September 19, 2018
- October 2, 2018 (if needed)
- November 13, 2018
- January 15, 2019

Mr. Meismer reported that Mrs. Dimmitt and Mr. Miller are meeting monthly with NE DNR staff for planning and follow-up. Mr. Meismer reported that the plan is for the June 5 & August 14 Stakeholders meetings to be education, the September 19 & November 13 Stakeholders meetings to be discussion for recommendations, and the January 15 Stakeholders meeting to be a final review and approval of a recommended IMP. Mr. Meismer reported on the June 5, 2018 Stakeholders meeting. Mr. Meismer reported that for the August 14, 2018 Stakeholders meeting, NE DNR will have a presentation on the benefits for the TPNRD of having more precise data, there will be a COHYST model facts report, NE DNR will have a presentation on the Consumptive Irrigation Requirements (CIR) in the TPNRD, and Mrs. Dimmitt and Jennifer Schellpeper, NE DNR, will review of the current TPNRD IMP.

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Offset Water – Irrigation Districts – Cody-Dillon Instream Flows – Mr. Meisner reported that the TPNRD is working with land owners for the TPNRD to irrigate their land this summer for the TPNRD to obtain leases for the land.

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

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

Offset Water - Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement Project (NCORPE) – Model – No report presented.

Offset Water - Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement Project (NCORPE) – North Pipeline – Mr. Meisner reported that available for the Directors was an inspection report and recommendations from Jeff Nichols, NRCS, dated June 8, 2018 and an email from Chris Miller, Miller & Associates, dated June 9, 2018 regarding re-drilling of seed where the north pipeline was installed. Mr. Meisner reported that Chris Miller, Miller & Associates, reported that his inspector will contact the contractor, BRB, regarding re-drilling as soon as possible.

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

Offset Water - Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement Project (NCORPE) – 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) – Board Meetings – Mr. Meisner reported that the next NCORPE Board meeting would be on July 11, 2018 at the TPNRD office.

Offset Water – Non-Irrigated Certified Acres – Mr. Meisner reported that the program will continue to be offered and that the TPNRD is receiving new contracts.

Offset Water – J2 Project – No report presented.

Offset Water – CPNRD Agreement – No report presented.

Offset Water – Conservation Tillage Measures – No report presented.

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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.

Regulations - Mr. Meisner reported that Mr. Schneider will present the model he is preparing for southern Keith County to the TPNRD Board in September.

Platte Basin Over-Appropriated Plan – Mr. Meisner reported that the last stakeholders meeting was held on May 16, 2018. Mr. Meisner reported that the next stakeholders meeting will be September 19, 2018 at 10:30 am at the Holiday Inn Express in North Platte, Nebraska and this is scheduled to be the last Basin Stakeholders meeting.

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.

DIRECTORS REPORTS

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD) – Board of Directors – Mr. Meisner reported on the June 11, 2018 NARD Board meeting.

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 the monthly report was available for the Directors, there was \$11,387.67 available, and there were no new applications to present.

Cost-Share Programs – District Conservation Programs – Mr. Miller reported the monthly report was available for the Directors, and \$4,219.42 was available.

Information & Education – Scholarships – Mr. Miller reported that the TPNRD Policy and Budget provides for scholarships annually for the Adventure Camp for the Environment (ACE) which is a camp established by NRDs and coordinated annually by the ULNRD, the Nebraska Range Youth Camp, and the Nebraska Ranch Practicum. Mr. Miller reported that available for the Directors was a report of the scholarships awarded for 2018.

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

### BUDGET FOR 2019 FISCAL YEAR

Preparation Schedule - Mr. Miller reported a schedule for preparing the 2019 Fiscal Year Budget for the TPNRD was available for the Directors, and the schedule for preparing the 2019 Fiscal Year Budget provides the Board four opportunities to review and discuss the Budget prior to final approval.

Review Draft #1 – Mr. Miller distributed and reviewed the first draft of a budget for the 2019 Fiscal Year. Mr. Miller reported the first draft of the 2019 Fiscal Year Budget is requesting \$500,000 less in property tax dollars than was requested for the 2018 Fiscal Year, and a reduction in the Occupation Tax from \$10.00 per irrigated acre to \$6.50 per irrigated acre. Mr. Miller reported that using estimates prepared by the Nebraska Department of Revenue for valuations for the counties within the TPNRD, the property tax levy would be reduced 26% from the current levy of \$0.031386 to a levy of \$0.023239. Mr. Miller reported that reducing the Occupation Tax from \$10.00 per irrigated acre to \$6.50 per irrigated acre is a 35% reduction.

Review NCORPE Project Draft #1 – Mr. Miller distributed and reviewed the first draft of a TPNRD budget for the NCORPE Project for the 2019 Fiscal Year.

### SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT Executive Subcommittee

Mr. Schilz, Executive Subcommittee Chairman, presented a report for the Subcommittee meeting held on June 14, 2018.

Personnel Salaries for 2019 Fiscal Year – Mr. Schilz reported the Subcommittee reviewed the authorized positions, reviewed the salary schedules, reviewed the cost-of-living, and reviewed the General Manager’s salary. Mr. Schilz distributed and reviewed information available for the Directors.

Review the Authorized Positions and Determine Revisions

Mr. Stack moved to approve eliminating the Hydrologist position and eliminating the Water Programs Technician position. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #7)

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

Review the Salary Schedules and Determine Revisions

Mr. Stack moved to approve eliminating the salary schedule for a Secretary. Mrs. Pederson seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #8)

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

Mr. Meismer moved to approve adding a step 19 & 20 for all full-time positions. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #9)

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

Determine Cost of Living Adjustments for the Salary Schedules

Mr. Meismer moved to approve the Salary Schedule steps for each position be increased 2.0% for the 2019 Fiscal Year in recognition of the cost of living to maintain the value of the salary compensation. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #10)

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

Determine the Salary Adjustment for the General Manager

Mr. Schilz moved to set the General Manager salary at \$113,000.00 for the 2019 Fiscal Year. Mr. Meismer seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #11)

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

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OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

NEXT MEETING

Mr. Schilz reported that the next Board of Directors meeting would be held on Thursday, July 19, 2018 at 7:30 pm. Mr. Schilz reported that the Directors had previously agreed to change the July 2018 Board meeting to the third Thursday, which is one week later than normal.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

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Jerry Weaver, Secretary