

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
July 6, 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 July 6, 2017. 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

David Colvin
Eric S Hansen
James Meisner
Judy Pederson
Robert L Petersen
Dennis Schilz
Joe Wahlgren
Jerry Weaver

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Douglas L Stack
Shane Storer
Robert Wiseman

NRCS PERSONNEL PRESENT

Mary Reece, District Conservationist

STAFF PRESENT

Ann Dimmitt, IMP Manager
Kent Miller, General Manager
Amy Oberst, Administrative Assistant
David Slattery, Conservation Programs Coordinator

OTHERS PRESENT

Jacob Fritton, The Nature Conservancy

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 and 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

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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. Stack, Mr. Storer, and Mr. Wiseman notified the office they would be absent and are therefore excused.

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 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 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

There were no requests for assistance.

COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORT

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

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Nature Conservancy Project at Western Irrigation District - Jacob Fritton, Performance Irrigation Coordinator of the The Nature Conservancy, presented a report on The Nature Conservancy Project at Western Irrigation District.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

Minutes for the June 8, 2017 Meeting – Mr. Schilz reported that the Minutes for the June 8, 2017 Board of Directors meeting were available for the Directors and he asked if there were any corrections or additions.

Mr. Petersen moved that the Minutes of the June 8, 2017 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mr. Meisner seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #1)

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Statement - Mr. Meismer reported that the Financial Statement for June 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 June 2017 be received and placed on file for audit and to approve payment of the invoices presented on July 6, 2017 in the amount of \$1,393,108.94. Mrs. Pederson seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #2)

Aye: Colvin, Hansen, Meismer, Pederson, Petersen, Schilz, Wahlgren,
Weaver

Nay: None

Absent & Excused: Stack, Storer, Wiseman

Budget Status – No report available. Mr. Miller reported that the information was in the Budget documents.

Bids/Proposals – None presented.

Bids/Proposals Scheduled to be Presented for Consideration during the August 10, 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 August 10, 2017 Board of Directors meeting.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT

Land Resources Subcommittee

Mr. Hansen, Land Resources Subcommittee Chairperson, presented a report for the Subcommittee meeting held on July 6, 2017.

Awards Program – Mr. Hansen reported that available for the Directors was the TPNRD Awards Program presentation schedule.

Awards Program – Conservation Award for 2017 – Mr. Hansen reported that available for the Directors was a list of the previous TPNRD Conservation Award winners. Mr. Hansen reported that the Subcommittee agreed to select Chuck Flaming, Saddle Cattle Company, to receive the 2017 Conservation Award for Keith/Arthur Counties.

Awards Program – Tree Award for 2017 – Mr. Hansen reported that available for the Directors was a list of the previous TPNRD Tree Award winners. Mr. Hansen reported that

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the Subcommittee agreed to select Alex Brown & Sons to receive the 2017 Tree Award for Lincoln/McPherson Counties.

Cost-Share Programs - Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program (NSWCP) – Eligible Practices – Mr. Hansen reported that available for the Directors was the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program (NSWCP) eligible practices showing the TPNRD Eligible Practices approved for the 2017 FY (July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017).

Mr. Hansen reported that the Land Resources Subcommittee agreed to recommend to the Board to continue the current TPNRD policy for NSWCP eligible practices. Mr. Meismer, chair of the Water Resources Subcommittee, reported that the Water Resources Subcommittee agreed to recommend to the Board to continue the current TPNRD policy for NSWCP eligible practices.

Mr. Schilz reported that Board action is not needed to continue the current TPNRD policy.

Cost-Share Programs - Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program (NSWCP) – Funding – Mr. Hansen reported that the TPNRD allocation for the 2018 Fiscal Year has not been received, but hope it will be like the allocation for the 2017 Fiscal Year.

Mr. Hansen reported that the Land Resources Subcommittee agreed to recommend to the Board of Directors to continue the current TPNRD policy for funding NSWCP eligible practices. Mr. Meismer, chair of the Water Resources Subcommittee, reported that the Water Resources Subcommittee agreed to recommend to the Board of Directors to continue the current TPNRD policy for funding NSWCP eligible practices.

Mr. Hansen moved to approve the Land Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board to approve the following allocation of the funds for the Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program in the TPNRD for July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018:

- For Practice NC-12, Windbreaks, 30% of available funds be reserved from July 1, 2017 to January 30, 2018
- For Practice NC-14, Planned Grazing Systems, 30% of available funds be reserved from July 1, 2017 to January 30, 2018
- For Practice NC-17, Irrigation Water Management, 30% of available funds be reserved from July 1, 2017 to January 30, 2018
- For the other eligible practices, 10% of available funds be reserved from July 1, 2017 to January 30, 2018
- Any funds available after January 30, 2018 may be used for any eligible practice.

Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #3)

Aye: Colvin, Hansen, Meismer, Pederson, Petersen, Schilz, Wahlgren, Weaver

Nay: None

Absent & Excused: Stack, Storer, Wiseman

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Water Resources Subcommittee

Mr. Meismer, Water Resources Subcommittee Chairperson, presented a report for the Subcommittee meeting held on July 6, 2017.

Variances – Mrs. Dimmitt reported on variance request TP-TRANS-17.17.

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve variance TP-TRANS-17.17. Mr. Weaver seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #4)

Aye: Colvin, Hansen, Meismer, Pederson, Petersen, Schilz, Wahlgren,
Weaver

Nay: None

Absent & Excused: Stack, Storer, Wiseman

Violations – No report presented.

Ground Water Management Plan - Red Willow Creek Basin Model – No report presented.

Ground Water Management Plan – Control Area at NCORPE – No report presented.

Ground Water Management Plan – Review of Plan – No report presented.

Cost-Share Programs - Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program - 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.

Offset Water - NCORPE Project – North Pipeline – Mr. Meismer reported that construction of the North Pipeline began April 4, 2017. Mr. Miller reported that available for the Directors’ is a map showing the construction schedule. Mr. Meismer reported that available for the Directors were an Omaha World Herald article July 3, 2017 “10-mile pipeline that will keep water flowing into Platte River during dry years is set to be completed in

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September”, a North Platte Telegraph article (Front Page) July 5, 2017 “River pipeline closes in on completion”, and a Kearney Hub article July 4, 2017 “Platte link to NCORPE under construction; Republican pumping for compact compliance less in 2017”. Mr. Meisner reported that if any Board member would like to see the construction, contact Glen Bowers at our office, and he will schedule a time to take you to the construction area. Mr. Miller reported that it is better if Board members do not attempt to go to the construction site on your own, as there is large equipment operating.

Offset Water - NCORPE Project – Wind / Solar Energy RFP – Mr. Weaver reported that available for the Directors was a NCORPE Wind / Solar Energy Request for Proposals (RFP), a NCORPE News Release, and a North Platte Telegraph news article June 24, 2017 (Front Page). Mr. Weaver reported that the NCORPE Board is continuing to consider the possibility of Wind or Solar Generation on the NCORPE property and have retained HDR to facilitate seeking developers and analyzing proposals. Mr. Weaver reported that wind/solar 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 NCORPE Board agreed that information for the public was needed prior to the NCORPE Board selecting a proposal for a Wind / Solar Energy project.

Offset Water - NCORPE Project – Wellfield Operation – Mr. Meisner reported that pumping of water to the Republican River is not presently occurring.

Offset Water - 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. Mr. Meisner reported that the staff added to the graphs, where available, ground water levels prior to the NCORPE Project beginning as requested by the Subcommittee.

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

Offset Water - NCORPE Project – Board Meetings – Mr. Weaver reported on the Board meeting held on June 21, 2017. Mr. Weaver reported that the next Board meeting would be on July 26, 2017 at Curtis, NE.

Offset Water – Irrigation Districts – Western – Mr. Meisner and Mr. Schilz reported on the status of the Western Irrigation District Pilot Project.

Offset Water – Irrigation Districts – Cody-Dillon – Mrs. Dimmitt reported that the TPNRD is offering agreements to land owners with Cody-Dillon Ditch Company 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 for 2015

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there were 3 contracts for relinquishments of 199.5 acres of Cody-Dillon water rights to the TPNRD for 30 years and the landowner applied the surface water to the land. Mrs. Dimmitt reported that for 2016 there were 15 contracts for relinquishments of 496.5 acres of Cody-Dillon water rights to the TPNRD of which 12 contracts were for 430.3 acres for 30 years and 3 contracts were for 66.2 acres for 10 years and 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 there were 2 contracts for relinquishment of 71.8 acres of Cody-Dillon water rights to the TPNRD of which one contract was for 44.2 acres for 30 years and one contract was for 27.6 acres for 10 years and the TPNRD applied the surface water to the land.

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 as of June 30, 2017, 1,815.61 acres enrolled in the temporarily not irrigate program and that the payout will be \$20,389.18 in October. Mr. Meismer reported that 13 landowners chose short term for 1 year at \$10/ac for 704.57 acres with 11.18 to 193.83 acres for each landowner. Mr. Meismer reported that 25 landowners chose long term for 4 year at \$12/ac for 1,111.04 acres with 2.00 to 124.32 acres for each landowner.

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.

Platte Basin Over-Appropriated Plan – Mr. Wahlgren reported that the last stakeholders meeting was held on May 17, 2017. Mr. Wahlgren reported that the next stakeholders meeting will be July 19, 2017 at 10:30 am at the Holiday Inn Express in North Platte, Nebraska.

Annual Report of Water Use Activities in the TPNRD – Mr. Meismer reported that available for the Directors was the 2016 Annual Report of Water Use Activities in the TPNRD. Mr. Meismer reported that each NRD in the Over Appropriated Platte River Basin presents a report during the annual Platte Basin meeting. Mr. Meismer reported that the 2017 Platte Basin meeting will be held on July 19, 2017 at 2:00 pm at the Holiday Inn Express, North Platte immediately following the bi-monthly Stakeholders meeting that day.

Platte River Recovery Implementation Program - 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 – Mr. Meismer reported on the NARD Board meeting held on June 12, 2017. Mr. Meismer reported that available for the Directors for information was a memo from Dean Edson, Executive Director, NARD, regarding the June 12, 2017 Board actions and the NRD Basin Tour June 12-13, 2017.

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.

Cost-Share Programs – District Conservation Programs – Mr. Miller reported that the monthly report was available for the Directors, and \$9,465.70 was available.

Miscellaneous Information – Mr. Miller reported that other 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 provides the Board four opportunities to review and discuss the Budget prior to final approval.

Review Draft #2 – Mr. Miller reported that draft #2 for the 2018 Fiscal Year Budget was available for the Directors. Mr. Miller reviewed draft #2 and answered questions. Mr. Miller reported that draft #2 of the 2018 Fiscal Year Budget is requesting \$528,200.00 less than the property tax dollars requested for the 2017 Fiscal Year. Mr. Miller reported that this is a 20%

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reduction for the property tax dollars request, as requested during the June 8, 2017 Board meeting. Mr. Miller reported that the estimate for the property tax levy for the 2018 Fiscal Year would be \$0.32747 which is a 23.8% reduction from the 2017 Fiscal Year property tax levy which was \$0.40968.

Review NCORPE Project Draft #1 – Mr. Miller reported that draft #1 of a NCORPE Project Budget for the 2018 Fiscal Year was available for the Directors. Mr. Miller reviewed the information for the proposed NCORPE Project Budget for the 2018 Fiscal Year. Mr. Miller reported that he is projecting that the Occupation Tax currently set at \$10.00/Irrigated Acre may be able to be reduced to \$7.00/Irrigated Acre for the 2019 Fiscal Year. Mr. Miller reported that the NCORPE Project Budget is also within the TPNRD Budget.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Water Resources Subcommittee (Continued)

South Platte River Compact Coalition - 2018FY & 2019FY Activities & Member Dues – Mr. Meismer reported that all activities of the South Platte River Compact Coalition (SPRCC) are discussed in closed session to protect the public interest and for reasons pertaining to client/attorney privileged conversation to discuss SPRCC issues.

Mr. Meismer moved that the Board go into Executive Session to protect the public interest and for reasons pertaining to client/attorney privileged conversation to discuss South Platte River Compact Coalition issues. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #5)

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

Mr. Schilz reported that the Board of Directors was going into Executive Session to protect the public interest and for reasons pertaining to client/attorney privileged conversation to discuss South Platte River Compact Coalition issues.

The Board of Directors went into Executive Session at 8:58 pm.

Mr. Schilz opened the Board meeting room at 9:29 pm

Mr. Meismer moved that the Board of Directors return to Regular Session. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #6)

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

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Mr. Meismer moved to approve TPNRD dues for the South Platte River Compact Coalition for the 2018 Fiscal Year and the 2019 Fiscal Year. Mrs. Pederson seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #7)

Aye: Colvin, Hansen, Meismer, Pederson, Petersen, Schilz, Wahlgren,
Weaver

Nay: None

Absent & Excused: Stack, Storer, Wiseman

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

NEXT MEETING

Mr. Schilz reported that the next Board of Directors meeting would be held on Thursday, August 10, 2017 at 7:30 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:31 pm.

Jerry Weaver, Secretary