

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
July 19, 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 July 19, 2018. Mr. Schilz called the meeting to order at 7:32 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
Robert L Petersen
Dennis Schilz
Douglas L Stack
Shane Storer
Joe Wahlgren
Jerry Weaver
Robert Wiseman

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Judy Pederson

NRCS PERSONNEL PRESENT

Mary Reece, District Conservationist

STAFF PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Shelly Kelly, Sandhills Task Force
Kyle Shepherd, NCORPE Manager

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.

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Report of Directors Excused – Mr. Schilz reported 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 Mrs. Pederson notified the office she would be absent and is 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, 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 – Mr. Schilz passed around the Board table thank you's received from students who received TPNRD scholarships to attend the ACE Camp.

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.

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

GENERAL INFORMATION

Sandhills Task Force – Shelly Kelly of the Sandhills Task Force, presented a report on projects the organization has been working on.

NCORPE Project Update Report - Kyle Shepherd, General Manager - NCORPE, presented a project update.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

Minutes for the June 14, 2018 Meeting – Mr. Schilz reported the Minutes for the June 14, 2018 Board of Directors meeting were available for the Directors and he asked if there were any corrections or additions.

Mr. Petersen moved the Minutes of the June 14, 2018 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mr. Meismer seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #1)

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

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

Mr. Meismer moved the Financial Statement for June 2018 be received and placed on file for audit and to approve payment of the invoices presented on July 19, 2018 in the amount of \$147,490.91. Mr. Wiseman seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #2)

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

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

Bids/Proposals – Mr. Miller reported that the TPNRD 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 the staff would like the Board to consider bids for a new copier at this time. Mr. Miller reported that he did not notify the Board during the June 14, 2018 Board meeting that bids would be presented for a new copier on July 19, 2018, as our current copier was still working OK. Mr. Miller reported that during the last few months we have had to have more frequent service calls. Mr. Miller reported that the TPNRD has a service agreement, so the additional service calls were not an additional expense. Mr. Miller reported that earlier this summer the copier was down for a week while a part was obtained and following the June 14th Board meeting, we have had more down time and service calls. Mr. Miller reported that the copy machine we have is a

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Konica Minolta C353, that is 10 years old and has been a great copier. Mr. Miller reported that that the staff has obtained bids for a new copier, that are available now for the Board’s consideration, or the Board can wait till the August 9, 2018 Board meeting to consider the bids. Mr. Miller reported that bids were received from Eakes Office equipment and Konica Minolta. Mr. Miller reported that Eakes was requested to bid a Konica Minolta, which they chose not to, and we then contacted Konica Minolta, who has a store in Lincoln, and they provided a bid. Mr. Miller reported that the TPNRD would purchase the copier and have a service agreement, as we have currently. Mr. Miller reported that for a Konica Minolta copier, Eakes would provide the service and the service agreement billing would be through Konica Minolta. Mr. Miller reported that the budgets, since the 2017 Fiscal Year, have included \$9,000.00 each year for a copy machine.

Mr. Miller reported that the following are the bids received:

<u>Vender</u>	<u>Brand</u>	<u>Model</u>	<u>Price</u>
Konica Minolta	Konica Minolta	C368	\$6,335.95
Eakes	Sharp	MX-3570V	\$7,989.00
Eakes	Ricoh	MPC4504EX	\$9,970.75

Mr. Miller reported the staff recommended the low bid for a copier from Konica Minolta for \$6,335.95.

Mr. Wahlgren moved to approve accepting the low bid from Konica Minolta of \$6,335.95 for a new office copier. Mr. Storer seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #3)

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

Bids/Proposals Scheduled to be Presented for Consideration during the August 9, 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 August 9, 2018 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 19, 2018.

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

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Awards Program – Conservation Award for 2018 – Mr. Hansen reported that the Subcommittee agreed to not present a Conservation Award for 2018.

Awards Program – Grassland Award for 2018 – Mr. Hansen reported that available for the Directors was a list of the previous TPNRD Grassland Award winners. Mr. Hansen reported that the Subcommittee agreed to select Two Bar Two Ranch to receive the 2018 Grassland Award for Keith/Arthur 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 2018 FY (July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018).

Mr. Hansen reported 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 the Water Resources Subcommittee agreed to recommend to the Board to continue the current TPNRD policy for NSWCP eligible practices.

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

Cost-Share Programs - Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program (NSWCP) – Funding – Mr. Hansen reported the TPNRD allocation for the 2019 Fiscal Year has not been received but hope it will be similar to the allocation for the 2018 Fiscal Year.

Mr. Hansen reported 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 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, 2018 – June 30, 2019:

- For Practice NC-12, Windbreaks, 30% of available funds be reserved from July 1, 2018 to January 31, 2019
- For Practice NC-14, Planned Grazing Systems, 30% of available funds be reserved from July 1, 2018 to January 31, 2019
- For Practice NC-17, Irrigation Water Management, 30% of available funds be reserved from July 1, 2018 to January 31, 2019
- For the other eligible practices, 10% of available funds be reserved from July 1, 2018 to January 31, 2019
- Any funds available after January 31, 2019 may be used for any eligible practice.

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Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #4)

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

Planting Cedar Trees in the TPNRD – Mr. Hansen reported that available for the Directors was a Cedar Trees Fact Sheet titled “Cedar Spread at Tipping Point”, that was prepared by the University of Nebraska. Mr. Hansen reported on the cedar tree infestations throughout the TPNRD.

Mr. Hansen moved the Land Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors that the TPNRD will no longer plan for the installation of Eastern Red Cedar (ERC) trees in the TPNRD and will not provide cost-share assistance for ERC tree stock, machine planting, or associated practices such as drip-line or mulch, and the TPNRD will allow the sale of ERC trees for farmer hand-plant trees only. Mr. Stack seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #5)

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

DISTRICT REPORT

Brule Watershed - Channel Maintenance – Mr. Miller reported that available for the Directors was the original work plan project map for the Brule Watershed. Mr. Miller reported that recent heavy precipitation events had cause a large amount of debris in the Brule Watershed channels below that dam which needed to be cleaned out of the channel below the dam to Highway 30 on the west edge of the Village of Brule and the channel from Highway 30 to the South Platte River southeast of the Village of Brule. Mr. Slattery showed the Board pictures of the contractor cleaning the channels.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Water Resources Subcommittee

Mr. Meismer, Water Resources Subcommittee Chairperson, presented a report for the Subcommittee meeting held on July 19, 2018.

Variances – No variances presented.

Violations – No report presented.

Rules & Regulations for Ground Water Management Area and Integrated Management Sub-Area - Consideration for Designation of a Closed Area – Mr. Meismer reviewed the TPNRD

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Ground Water Management Area and Integrated Management Sub-Area Rules & Regulations, Section 3.4.2.3.7, that provides that the Board will determine by July 1 of each year those areas that will be designated as “closed” for the upcoming calendar year within which no transfer of certified acres may be commenced. Mr. Meismer reported that Section 3.4.2.3.7 provides that the criteria used by the Board shall be contained in the District’s Guidelines for Designating Closed Areas. Mr. Meismer reviewed the TPNRD Guidelines for Designating Closed Areas. Mr. Meismer reported that Section 3.4.2.3.7 provides that the TPNRD will not allow a transfer of certified irrigated acres into a closed area. Mr. Meismer reviewed a map of the TPNRD showing the percent change in water levels (Spring 2006/2007/2008 Average compared to Spring 2016/2017/2018 Average) compared to saturated thickness of aquifer.

Mr. Meismer reported that in June 2015, the Board approved closing a township when anywhere within the township there are both of the following:

- A saturated thickness of the aquifer less than 250 feet.
- A percent decline of 2.0% or greater of the saturated thickness of the aquifer, determined from the spring data from the TPNRD monitoring wells, when comparing the average ground water levels change for 2006/2007/2008 and the most recent three years, to the saturated thickness of the aquifer.

Mr. Meismer reported that the Board approved for the 2016 calendar year, the 2017 calendar year, and the 2018 calendar year the following townships within the TPNRD are designated closed:

- Township 12 North, Range 35 West
- Township 12 North, Range 36 West
- Township 12 North, Range 37 West
- Township 12 North, Range 38 West
- Township 12 North, Range 39 West
- Township 12 North, Range 40 West

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve for the 2019 calendar year the following townships within the TPNRD are designated closed;

- Township 12 North, Range 35 West
- Township 12 North, Range 36 West
- Township 12 North, Range 37 West
- Township 12 North, Range 38 West
- Township 12 North, Range 39 West
- Township 12 North, Range 40 West

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

Aye: Colvin, Hansen, Meismer, Petersen, Schilz, Stack, Storer, Wahlgren, Weaver, Wiseman

Nay: None

Absent & Excused: Pederson

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Cost-Share Programs - Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program - No report presented.

Integrated Management Plan (IMP) Second Increment – Timeline – Mr. Meismer reported that available for the Directors was a Basin NRDs Second Increment Timeline and a chart showing the NRDs Stakeholders meetings.

Integrated Management Plan (IMP) Second Increment – TPNRD Stakeholders Meetings – Mr. Meismer reported that available for the Directors was an updated list of the TPNRD Stakeholders members. 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 for the August 14, 2018 Stakeholders meeting, NE DNR will have a presentation on the benefits for the TPNRD of having more precise data, will have a COHYST model facts report, and will have a presentation on the Consumptive Irrigation Requirements (CIR) in the TPNRD. Mr. Meismer reported that NE DNR (Jennifer Schellpeper) and Mrs. Dimmitt will do a joint presentation for a review of the current TPNRD IMP.

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 - NE Water Resources Cash Fund – Mr. Meismer reported that the following are the estimates each NRD in the Over Appropriated Upper Platte River Basin will receive from the Water Resources Cash Fund for the 2019FY, 2020FY, 2021FY:

- TPNRD - \$ 6,147,900
- CPNRD - \$ 2,732,400
- TBNRD - \$ 465,300
- NPNRD - \$ 277,200
- SPNRD - \$ 277,200

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Offset Water - NCORPE Project – North Pipeline – Mr. Meisner reported that Jeff Nichols, Resource Conservationist, NRCS, met with the North Pipeline Seeding Contractor, Mike Keller (NCORPE employee), and Glen Bowers (TPNRD employee) this morning and viewed the seeding that occurred during construction of the North Pipeline. Mr. Nichols reported that his observations are as follows:

- No re-drilling had occurred since the last site visit on June 8th.
- Weed pressure still pretty light. Some Russian thistle, mares tail, annual sandbur and downy brome. Others in minor amounts. No weeds are heavy enough to be adversely affecting the stand of native grasses.
- The number of native seedlings evident has improved slightly from the June 8th site visit. Still far less than one would expect for the seeding rate utilized, but adequate and likely to improve if continued favorable moisture continues.
- We did not evaluate the entire length as we did on the June 8th site visit.

Mr. Nichols reported that his recommendations are as follows:

- It is too late now to do any re-drilling in thin areas during this growing season.
- Wait now and see how the existing stand of native seedlings comes along through the rest of this growing season. Re-evaluate in late September or October after frost and dormancy. Native seedlings are distinguishable at that time and will take on a yellow-tan or reddish color.
- Mow or shred areas along pipeline in late August to knock down Russian thistle before they dislodge and become tumble weeds off site. Do not mow other areas where Russian thistles are not an issue, as those weeds are providing site stability and filtered shade for the seedlings present. No herbicide recommended.
- Re-evaluate and monitor establishment progress in June of 2019.

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.

Offset Water - NCORPE Project – NE Supreme Court Decision on NRD Augmentation Projects – Mr. Meisner reported that available for the Directors was the Nebraska Supreme Court decision on the tax status of NRD Augmentation Projects. Mr. Meisner reported that the case, Upper Republican NRD v. Dundy County Board of Equalization, involves the Rock Creek Augmentation project and the decision was released June 15, 2018.

Offset Water - NCORPE Project – Board Meetings – Mr. Meisner reported on the NCORPE Board meeting held on July 11, 2018. Mr. Weaver reported that the next NCORPE Board meeting would be on August 15, 2018 at 10:00 am at the MRNRD in Curtis. Mr. Weaver reported that the NCORPE Board has determined to meet every other month alternating between NRDs and Curtis, NE.

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Offset Water – Irrigation Districts – Western Pilot Project - Model – No report presented.

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 – K&L, Paxon-Hershey, Platte Valley, Suburban – Model - Presentation to Board September 13, 2018 – No report presented.

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

Offset Water - Channel Incision Below Lake McConaughy – Change in Ground Water Storage – No report presented.

Offset Water – Non-Irrigated Certified Acres – Mr. Meisner reported that the program will continue to be offered and that the staff 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.

Regulations – No report presented.

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.

Annual Report of Water Use Activities in the TPNRD – Mr. Meisner reported that available for the Directors was the 2017 Annual Report of Water Use Activities in the TPNRD. Mr. Meisner reported that each NRD in the Over Appropriated Platte River Basin presents a report during the annual Platte Basin meeting. Mr. Meisner reported that the 2018 Platte Basin meeting was held on July 18, 2018.

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

No report presented.

DIRECTORS REPORTS

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD) – Board of Directors – Mr. Meisner reported that available for the Directors was a June Board action report.

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD) – Annual Conference – Mr. Meisner reported that the NARD annual conference will be held September 24-25, 2018 in Kearney, Nebraska. Mr. Meisner reported that available for the Directors was a NARD Letter dated July 12, 2018 regarding the annual conference.

Sandhills Task Force – Report previously presented.

Requests for Authorization to Travel – No requests presented.

DISTRICT REPORT (Continued)

Cost-Share Programs – NE Soil & Water Conservation Program – No monthly report available.

Cost-Share Programs – District Conservation Programs – Mr. Miller reported the monthly report was available for the Directors, and \$8,800.00 was available.

Personnel – Mr. Miller reported the I&E position advertising didn't result in any qualified candidates. Mr. Miller reported that the staff is re-thinking the job description to focus on media and communications and plan to re-advertise in early September.

Miscellaneous Information – Mr. Miller reported that other 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.

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Review Draft #2 – TPNRD Budget – Mr. Miller distributed and reviewed the second draft of a budget for the 2019 Fiscal Year. Mr. Miller reported that changes from Draft #1 are in BOLD print. Mr. Miller reported the second draft of the 2019 Fiscal Year Budget is requesting \$500,000 less in property tax dollars than was requested for the 2018 Fiscal Year, the same as the first draft, which is a 25.19% reduction. 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 25.96% from the current levy of \$0.031386 to a levy of \$0.023239. Mr. Miller reported that the NCORPE Project Budget is included in the TPNRD Budget (Expenses & Revenue). Mr. Miller reported that a separate NCORPE Project Budget is prepared for the Occupation Tax and each item is color highlighted the same.

NCORPE Project Budget – Mr. Miller distributed and reviewed the second draft of a TPNRD budget for the NCORPE Project for the 2019 Fiscal Year. Mr. Miller reported that changes from Draft #1 are in BOLD print. Mr. Miller reported the second draft of the 2019 Fiscal Year NCORPE Project Budget is projecting a reduction in the Occupation Tax from \$10.00 per irrigated acre to \$6.50 per irrigated acre, the same as the first draft. Mr. Miller reported that reducing the Occupation Tax from \$10.00 per irrigated acre to \$6.50 per irrigated acre is a 35% reduction. Mr. Miller reported that the NCORPE Project Budget is included in the TPNRD Budget (Expenses & Revenue). Mr. Miller reported that a separate NCORPE Project Budget is prepared for the Occupation Tax and each item is color highlighted the same.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

NEXT MEETING

Mr. Schilz reported the next Board of Directors meeting would be held on Thursday, August 9, 2018 at 4:00 pm MDT at the Lake McConaughy Visitor’s Center, located at 1475 Nebraska Highway 61 North on Highway 61, north of Ogallala.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 pm.

Jerry Weaver, Secretary