

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
August 10, 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 August 10, 2017. Mr. Schilz 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
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

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Dana Daniels, Miller & Associates
John McCall, Producer
Chris Miller, Miller & Associates
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 that is 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 table in the middle

of the meeting room which is accessible to members of the public.

Report of Directors Excused – Mr. Schilz reported Operating Policy Number 4: BOARD OF DIRECTORS ABSENCES provides that 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 Mr. Weaver notified the office that he would be absent and is therefore excused.

Information available for the Public – Mr. Schilz reported on the table in the middle 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 Board of Directors meeting. Mr. Schilz reported this information is also available on the TPNRD website, and internet access is available in the room.

Other Announcements – Mr. Miller reported the District received a thank you from the Range Youth Camp scholarship recipients.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Schilz opened the Public Forum.

John McCall addressed the Board regarding his fence and land along the road where the NCORPE North Pipeline was installed. Mr. McCall stated that his fence and land had been damaged by dirt on his fence and his land during the installation of the pipeline and that he is requesting that a new fence be installed along his property for 2 miles. Mr. McCall stated that a new fence would compensate him for the damage to his fence and the damage to his land.

Chris Miller, Miller & Associates, reported that the dirt has been removed from Mr. McCall's land and that Mr. McCall's fence has been repaired.

Mr. Schilz reported that Miller & Associates is the TPNRD representative during construction of the NCORPE North Pipeline and that Mr. McCall should work with Miller & Associates.

Mr. McCall stated that other than his issue with his damaged fence and land, that he believes that the contractor has done a good job and that he appreciates the rebuilt road which is now in the best condition that he has ever seen the road.

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 reported that a written report was available for the Directors and she presented a report.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Minutes for the July 6, 2017 Meeting – Mr. Schilz reported that the Minutes for the July 6, 2017 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 July 6, 2017 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mrs. Pederson seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #1)

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Statement - Mr. Meismer reported the Financial Statement for July 2017 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 the report to be in order.

Mr. Meismer moved the Financial Statement for July 2017 be received and placed on file for audit and to approve payment of the invoices presented on August 10, 2017 in the amount of \$1,264,127.17. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #2)

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

Budget Status – 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 September 14, 2017 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 September 14, 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 August 10, 2017.

Offset Water - NCORPE Project – North Pipeline – Chris Miller, Miller & Associates, reported on the status of the construction of the NCORPE North Pipeline. Chris Miller reported that all the pipe is in the ground and the contractor is installing air relief valves and connecting the pipe to the outlet structure.

Variances – Mrs. Dimmitt reported on variance request TP-SG-17.20.

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve variance TP-SG-17.20. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #3)

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

Variances – Mrs. Dimmitt reported on variance request TP-TRANS-17.19.

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve variance TP-TRANS-17.19. Mr. Wiseman seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #4)

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

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 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

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – August 10, 2017

which no transfer of certified acres may be commenced. Mr. Meisner 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. Meisner reviewed the TPNRD Guidelines for Designating Closed Areas. Mr. Meisner 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. Meisner reviewed a map of the TPNRD showing the percent change in water levels (Spring 2006/2007/2008 Average compared to Spring 2015/2016/2017 Average) compared to saturated thickness of aquifer.

Mr. Meisner 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. Meisner reported that the Board approved for the 2016 calendar year and the 2017 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. Meisner moved the Water Resources Subcommittee's recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve for 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. Wahlgren seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #5)

Aye: Colvin, Hansen, Meisner, Pederson, Petersen, Schilz, Stack, Storer, Wahlgren, Wiseman

Nay: None

Absent & Excused: Weaver

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – August 10, 2017

Ground Water Management Plan – Red Willow Creek Basin Model – Mr. Meisner reported that the MRNRD has invited the TPNRD to participate in the Red Willow Creek Basin Model, as 4.96% of the area is within the TPNRD. Mr. Meisner reported that the total cost for the MRNRD for the Scope of Work is \$284,918.00 and the TPNRD 4.96% cost would be \$14,131.93. Mr. Meisner reported that the Subcommittee agreed that the TPNRD not participate in the Red Willow Creek Basin Model.

Ground Water Management Plan – Control Area at NCORPE – Mr. Meisner reported that the TPNRD Board of Directors on June 8, 2017 approved that the TPNRD begin the process of setting an allocation for the wells in the TPNRD at NCORPE, similar to the MRNRD planned allocation for the wells in the MRNRD at NCORPE, that will implement for the TPNRD the original intent of the TPNRD participating in NCORPE which was to provide water for the implementation of the TPNRD IMP, while maintaining the historical consumptive use of all of the originally irrigated acres over all of the NCORPE area. Mr. Meisner reported that the Middle Republican Natural Resources District (MRNRD) is doing the same. Mr. Meisner reported that the staff has begun the process and that the TPNRD Legal Counsel, Harriet Hageman, is reviewing what the TPNRD needs to do.

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

Brule Watershed – Inspection - Mr. Meisner reported that available for the Directors was a NE DNR July 6, 2017, Inspection Report for the Brule Watershed conducted by the NE Department of Natural Resources on June 6, 2017.

Brule Watershed – NRCS Request for Funds for Remediation - Mr. Meisner reported that the NRCS in 2015 prepared a Site Assessment of the Brule Watershed and that the assessment showed a need for a full rehabilitation. Mr. Meisner reported that the NRCS currently, at the national level, has funds available for Watershed remediation and the NRCS Nebraska State Office has requested funding for remediation of the Brule Watershed.

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.

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – August 10, 2017

Offset Water - NCORPE Project – North Pipeline – Mr. Miller reported on the funding the TPNRD is receiving from the Water Resources Cash Fund (60%). Mr. Miller reported that the following is what the TPNRD will receive for Years 1-3 and Years 4-6 funding and what the TPNRD may receive as additional funds for Year 6.

	<u>TPNRD (40%)</u>	<u>NE DNR (60%)</u>	<u>Total</u>
Years 1-3 (Land Purchase)	\$615,000.00	\$922,500.00	\$1,537,500.00
Sub-Total	<u>\$615,000.00</u>	<u>\$922,500.00</u>	<u>\$1,537,500.00</u>
Years 4-6 (N Pipeline)	\$1,730,071.10	\$2,595,106.65	\$4,325,177.75
Year 6 Added (N Pipeline)	\$1,036,666.67	\$1,555,000.00	\$2,591,666.67
Sub-Total	<u>\$2,766,737.77</u>	<u>\$4,150,106.65</u>	<u>\$6,916,844.42</u>
Total	\$3,381,737.77	\$5,072,606.65	\$8,454,344.42

Offset Water - NCORPE Project – Wind / Solar Energy RFP – Mr. Meisner reported that the NCORPE Board is continuing to consider the possibility of Wind and/or Solar Generation on the NCORPE property and have retained HDR to facilitate seeking developers and analyzing proposals. Mr. Meisner reported that NCORPE has requested proposals for Wind / Solar Energy development at NCORPE and that no proposals were received by the deadline. Mr. Meisner 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.

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 – Model – No report presented.

Offset Water - NCORPE Project – Legislative Hearing October 16, 2017 – Mr. Miller reported that the Legislature’s Natural Resources Committee is planning a hearing on October 16, 2017 in Curtis regarding the NCORPE Project.

Offset Water - NCORPE Project – Board Meetings – Mr. Meisner reported that the next NCORPE Board meeting would be on August 16, 2017 at Curtis, NE.

Offset Water – Irrigation Districts – Western – No report presented.

Offset Water – Irrigation Districts – Cody-Dillon – No report presented.

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. Meisner 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. Meisner 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. Meisner 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. Meisner reported that the last stakeholders meeting was held on July 19, 2017. Mr. Meisner reported that the next stakeholders meeting will be September 20, 2017 at 10:30 am at the Holiday Inn Express in North Platte, Nebraska.

Platte River Recovery Implementation Program – Mr. Miller reported that the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (PRRIP) has been working for the goal of achieving a North Platte River capacity of 3,000 cfs at the City of North Platte. Mr. Miller reported that the focus is now on options that may provide a basis for the NWS to increase flood stage from the existing 6.0 feet (capacity of approximately 1,560 cfs) to 6.5 feet (capacity of approximately 2,400 cfs). Mr. Miller reported that the PRRIP personnel has met with the City of North Platte and Lincoln County regarding potential flood-proofing projects since the fall of 2011. Mr. Miller reported that two projects came out of the meetings with the City and County. Mr. Miller reported the Whitehorse Creek Drainage alternative to drain high ground water to the east has been completed. Mr. Miller reported that the PRRIP has approved a land purchase and funding to re-activate the State Channel to direct high flows from the North River Road Channel into the State Channel, reducing flood impacts to structures along North River Road.

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) – Annual Conference – Mr. Meisner reported that the NARD Annual Conference will be held in Kearney on September 25-26, 2017 and that information for the conference was available for the Directors.

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, and \$61,520.64 was available.

Cost-Share Programs – District Conservation Programs – Mr. Miller reported that the monthly report was available for the Directors, and \$8,391.40 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 TPNRD Budget - General Fund – Mr. Miller reported that Draft #3 for the 2018 FY General Fund Budget was available for the Directors. Mr. Miller reported that the 2018 FY Draft Budget #3 has a Property Tax dollar request of \$2,004,850.00 which is 23.84% less than the 2017 FY Budget dollar request. Mr. Miller reported that the 2018 FY Draft Budget #3 has as estimated Property Tax levy of \$0.031202 which is 27.40% less than the 2017 FY Budget levy which was \$0.042978.

Mr. Miller reviewed the information for the proposed General Fund Budget for the 2018 FY.

Review TPNRD Budget - NCORPE Project – Mr. Miller reported that Draft #2 of the 2018 FY NCORPE Project Budget was available for the Directors. Mr. Miller reported that the NCORPE Project Budget is included in the TPNRD Budget. Mr. Miller reported that the NCORPE Project 2018 FY Draft Budget #2 continues the Occupation Tax at \$10.00 / Irrigated Acre for the 2018 FY. Mr. Miller reported that current estimates are that the Occupation Tax may be able to be reduced to \$6.50 / Irrigated Acre for the 2019 FY pending receipt of estimated state funds during the 2018 FY and operating costs during the 2018 FY.

Mr. Miller reviewed the information for the proposed TPNRD NCORPE Project Budget for the 2018 FY.

Approval for Public Hearings and Set Public Hearings Date, Time, and Location

Mr. Meisner moved to

- Approve for Public Hearing a 2017-2018 Fiscal Year Budget for the TPNRD General Fund as proposed in Draft #3 with a property tax request of \$2,004,850.00 for the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year which is a 23.84 % reduction from the property tax funds requested to fund the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year Budget.
- Approve for Public Hearing a 2017-2018 Fiscal Year Budget for the TPNRD NCORPE Project as proposed in Draft #2 with an occupation tax levy of \$10.00 per irrigated acre for the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year
- Set the Public Hearing for the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year Budget for September 14, 2017 to be held at 7:30 pm in the Great Western Bank Center Meeting Room located at 111 South Dewey Street in North Platte, Nebraska for the Board of Directors to hear and consider public comments prior to action for approval of a 2017-2018 Fiscal Year Budget for the General Fund, for approval of a 2017-2018 Fiscal Year Budget for the NCORPE Project, for setting the final property tax for the TPNRD for the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year, and for setting the final occupation tax for the TPNRD for the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year.

Mrs. Pederson seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #6)

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

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – August 10, 2017

NEXT MEETING

Mr. Schilz reported that the next Board of Directors meeting would be held on Thursday, September 14, 2017 at 7:30 pm in North Platte, NE.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm.

Jerry Weaver, Secretary