

Platte Basin Habitat Enhancement Project

Meeting Minutes

North Platte, NE – Twin Platte NRD

October 3, 2011

Call to Order and Attendance – With a quorum present, Chairman Kent Miller called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Sponsors and Partners in attendance were: Ron Bishop, Matt Bohnenkamp and Mark Czaplewski (Central Platte NRD), Kent Miller and Ann Dimmitt (Twin Platte NRD), Rod Horn and Kyle Liebig (South Platte NRD), John Thorburn (Tri-Basin NRD), Ron Cacek (North Platte NRD), Jesse Bradley and Jennifer Schellpeper (Nebraska Department of Natural Resources). Guests in attendance were Dean Edson (NARD) and Jerry Kenny (Platte River Recovery Implementation Program). Chairman Miller noted that the PBHEP abides by the Open Meetings Act in conducting business and that a copy of the Act was provided in the meeting room. Chairman Miller welcomed Jesse Bradley to the PBHEP Administrators group.

Meeting Notices – Chairman Miller reported that public notice of the meeting had been published in the Grand Island, North Platte and Scottsbluff newspapers as required by law.

Agenda Modifications – No changes were made to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes – Motion by Ron Bishop, second by Rod Horn to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2011, meeting as distributed in advance of the meeting. Motion passed by roll call vote with Ron Cacek abstaining.

Committee Reports –

Education and Outreach Committee – Czaplewski reported on the recent departure of Kay Grote (Committee Chair) from employment with North Platte NRD. The Committee has not made plans for her replacement as Chair at this time. Cacek noted North Platte NRD is in the process of replacing Grote and plan on replacing her on the Committee.

Habitat Management and Monitoring Committee – No report.

Water Tracking and Accounting Committee – Kyle Liebig reported the Committee hasn't met recently but plan on meeting in the next month or two, after North Platte and South Platte NRD historic data sets are finalized and ready for review by the Committee.

Financial Report – Czaplewski provided the financial report including a discussion of the PBHEP water acquisition budget spreadsheet (dated August 23, 2011) and the PBHEP Funding Summary spreadsheet (dated September 12, 2011) distributed in advance of the meeting. Changes to the water acquisition budget included funding releases related to CPNRD's Groundwater Recharge Demonstration Project (spring 2011), CPNRD's 30-Mile Canal and Cozad Canal Rehabilitation Projects, and TPNRD/SPNRD's Re-Use Pits Recharge Demonstration Project. The total PBHEP water acquisition funds used or committed are \$13,416,532.99 leaving a total of approximately \$1.6 million in all accounts.

Meeting with NET – Czaplewski reported on the September 8, 2011, meeting with NET staff and management regarding PBHEP funding for "projects" and the upcoming plans for formal request of an extension of use of NET funds for PBHEP. The meeting was attended by representatives from DNR, CPNRD and NET. The group discussed and clarified to NET the nature of projects being advanced by the PBHEP Administrators including the CPNRD Cozad and Thirty-Mile Canal Rehabilitation Projects as well

as the various conjunctive management water acquisition projects such as the DNR Groundwater Recharge Demonstration Projects, TBNRD North Dry Creek Flow Augmentation Project and TPNRD/SPNRD Re-Use Pits Recharge Demonstration Projects. Such Projects are anticipated both in the original PBHEP grant application to NET as well as the PBHEP ILCA. It was explained that DNR and the NRD's involved believe such conjunctive management water acquisition projects, in addition to conservation easements, are an effective means of enhancing Platte River flows, and provide direct benefits to the wildlife species that rely on the Platte.

Procedural details related to requesting an extension of use of NET's PBHEP funds were discussed. Any extension requires formal action by the NET Board and must be requested in writing. Normally, extensions are granted for one year, but they will entertain requests for two years. Czaplewski noted that the current grant runs out in June of 2012. The next NET Board meetings are scheduled for November 8, 2011, and February 2, April 5, and July 19, 2012. Czaplewski asked for input regarding the time period of extension the Administrators wished to request. After discussion of the matter, motion by Cacek, second by Horn to request from the NET a one year extension of the use of PBHEP funding in advance of the June 2012 deadline noting to NET the expected additional need for a second year's extension. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Consideration of Release of Funds to South Platte NRD – Czaplewski reviewed budgetary details provided in advance of the meeting regarding an oversight related to funding changes made at the August 18, 2011, meeting. With the inclusion of water acquisition funds for the TPNRD/SPNRD Re-use Pits Demonstration Project, funds related to last spring's DNR GW Recharge Projects, and funding and release of funds related to CPNRD's Groundwater Recharge Demonstration Projects, 30-Mile Canal Rehab, and Cozad Canal Rehab, the budget for South Platte NRD went negative, to a combined total of -(\$67,851.62). Czaplewski noted that if adjustments are made by releases from the three NRD's with funds remaining in their Water Acquisition Budgets (Twin Platte, Tri-Basin and North Platte NRD's), then South Platte NRD's budget could again be made "whole". Motion by Thorburn, second by Miller to release funds to South Platte NRD from the NRD's with water acquisition budget's remaining (i.e., North Platte, Tri-Basin and Twin Platte NRD's) proportionate to their respective PBHEP water acquisition budget shares with costs of \$67,851.62 in order to reconcile a funding shortage related to funding decisions made at the August 18 meeting. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Platte Basin Water Management Action Initiative Update – Jennifer Schellpeper reported on the recent submission of the PBWMAI grant application to NET as directed by LB 229 requesting \$9.9 million.

Update on DNR Ground Water Recharge Demonstration Projects – Schellpeper and Bradley reported on plans to repeat the Groundwater Recharge Demonstration Project this fall. DNR and the NRD's have been working on finalizing some 20 contracts with irrigation districts throughout the basin, including a couple of districts that did not participate last spring. Some have already begun making diversions and most are planning diversions by mid-October. DNR anticipates funding levels similar to spring levels. Reporting related to details of recharge amounts are being prepared and should be completed by the end of the year. Proof of payments related to last spring's effort need to be provided to Czaplewski for submittal to NET for reimbursement.

TPNRD/SPNRD Re-Use Pits Recharge Demonstration Project – Ann Dimmit briefed the group on the actions taken during the spring implementation of the Project and plans for repeating the demonstration this fall. A repeat of the Project this fall is estimated to cost approximately the same as the spring (i.e., \$6,500.00). Liebig noted that an additional estimated \$4,500.00 would be needed for flow meters and data

loggers planned to be installed in a couple of locations to better calculate recharge. South Platte NRD will provide the group with additional details on the equipment and installation plans. Motion by Horn, second by Bishop to support funding of the fall 2011 implementation of the Twin Platte/South Platte NRD Re-use Pits Recharge Demonstration Project estimated to cost \$11,000.00. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Motion by Horn, second by Thorburn to release funds to South Platte NRD for the fall 2011 implementation of the Re-use Pits Recharge Demonstration Project (estimated at \$5,500.00 - \$1,000 share of \$6,500 plus \$4,500 for equipment) and release funds to South Platte NRD and Central Platte NRD for the fall 2011 implementation of the DNR Groundwater Recharge Demonstration Projects (estimated at \$3,600.00 and \$73,000.00 respectively) from the NRD's with water acquisition budget's remaining (i.e., North Platte, Tri-Basin and Twin Platte NRD's) proportionate to their respective PBHEP water acquisition budget shares. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Other – Dean Edson provided the group with an update on work being conducted on LR314 and requested input on PBHEP funding levels being reported in LR314 reports. Czaplewski and the NRD managers will work with Edson to reconcile the numbers.

With the end of the summer quarter, Czaplewski requested all cash and in-kind contributions be reported to him by mid-October. Thorburn noted the planned submission for reimbursement of additional funds incurred during the July 1-September 30, 2011, time period (\$3,421.58) related to ongoing work on the North Dry Creek Flow Augmentation Project.

Next Meetings- The start times for future meetings to be held on January 11, March 6, May 1, and July 11, 2012, were all changed to 10:30 a.m. Central time.

Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 10:59 a.m.