

Platte Basin Habitat Enhancement Project

Meeting Minutes

North Platte, NE – Twin Platte NRD

December 2, 2013

Call to Order and Attendance – With a quorum present, Chairman Kent Miller called the meeting to order at 12:44 p.m. Sponsors in attendance were: Kent Miller and Ann Dimmitt (Twin Platte NRD), Lyndon Vogt, Duane Woodward, Jesse Mintken, and Mark Czaplewski (Central Platte NRD), Rod Horn, Ryan Reisdorff and Travis Glanz (South Platte NRD), John Thorburn (Tri-Basin NRD), John Berge and Tina Kurtz (North Platte NRD), and Jesse Bradley, Heather Stream, Melissa Mosier and Amy Wright (Nebraska Department of Natural Resources). Guests present were: Dustin Wilcox (NARD), Tyler Thulin (CNPPID) and Jeff Shafer (NPPD). Chairman Miller noted that the PBHEP abides by the Nebraska Open Meetings Act in conducting business and that a copy of the Act was provided in the meeting room. Chairman Miller reported that the North Platte NRD has formally designated John Berge as their PBHEP Administrator and Central Platte NRD has formally designated Lyndon Vogt as their Administrator.

Meeting Notices – Chairman Miller reported that public notice of the meeting has 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 Berge, second by Thorburn to approve the minutes of the August 6, 2013, meeting as distributed in advance of the meeting. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Financial Report – Czaplewski provided the financial report including a discussion of the PBHEP Funding Summary spreadsheet (dated November 15, 2013) distributed in advance of the meeting. Total PBHEP funds spent and committed are \$15,000,000.00 leaving no remaining balance. Czaplewski noted that the spreadsheet includes updates on funds expended and reimbursements requested for the Cozad and Thirty-Mile Canal Rehabilitation Projects. He also noted that funds committed to two other items listed in the summary (i.e., Tri-Basin NRD Water Lease from CNPPID and DNR/CNPPID Groundwater Recharge Project) may be reassigned during items to be addressed later on the day's agenda.

Cozad and Thirty-Mile Canal Rehabilitation Project Updates and Discussion of Construction Schedule – Mintken provided a status report on both canal rehab projects. Currently, two contractors are working on the Cozad Canal rehab noting that high flows and wet conditions along portions of the canal have been something of an obstacle to progress this fall. Work on the Thirty-Mile Canal has just recently again gotten underway. Construction activities on the remaining portions of both canals are scheduled to be completed by May 2014, but Czaplewski noted that high fall river flows, wet canal conditions and winter weather could cause construction delays as we near the end of the current contract extension of PBHEP funding from NET. Central Platte NRD will know more on the possibility of scheduling delays by the end of January and will keep the Administrators posted when they next meet. Czaplewski briefly discussed the recent 2014 operational planning meetings held with DNR and canal personnel in accordance with the Central Platte NRD/DNR Project Contracts.

Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement (N-CORPE) Project Update – Miller provided an update on the N-CORPE Project. Litigation with the Frenchman-Cambridge and Bostwick Irrigation Districts has been concluded and thus is no longer affecting Project bonding and construction

scheduling. The pipeline south to the Republican River is mostly completed and with partial completion of the Project's wellfield facilities, could be moving water by the end of the year. The construction of the pipeline north to the Platte is scheduled to commence next summer.

Tri-Basin NRD/DNR 2013 Excess Flow Ground Water Recharge Projects – Thorburn and Bradley reviewed the joint DNR/Tri-Basin NRD Project proposal memo distributed in advance of the meeting. The proposal requests the transfer of funds from existing approved but as yet unspent PBHEP projects to cover costs associated with the diversion of Platte River flood water that occurred in the fall of 2013 in accordance with contracts executed between DNR, Tri-Basin NRD and CNPPID. Motion by Thorburn, second by Vogt to support the DNR/Tri-Basin NRD Fall 2013 Groundwater Recharge and Flood Mitigation Project as described in the November 25, 2013, memo from Bradley and Thorburn to the PBHEP Administrators and agree to commit funds as described in table 1 of the memo. Calculations of recharged Project water and calculations/modeling of accretions to the Platte River will be performed by the Platte Overappropriated Area Committee. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote. This action will result in the defunding of the “TBNRD Water Lease from CNPPID” and “DNR CNPPID GW Recharge Project (fall 2012 to spring 2013)” PBHEP projects and transfer of those funds to this Project (i.e., contracts #622 and #623). The action allows \$377,500.00 to be transferred to the current balance for contracts #622 and #623, which is \$657,998.34. The remaining balance of \$280,498.34 will be covered by Platte Basin Coalition funds.

Next Meetings – Future meetings are scheduled for February 3, April 1, June 2, August 5, October 6, and December 1, 2014. The PBHEP meetings are scheduled to start at 12:30 p.m. Central time either via teleconference or at the offices of Twin Platte NRD in North Platte.

Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.