

# **Platte Basin Habitat Enhancement Project**

Meeting Minutes

North Platte, NE – Twin Platte NRD

February 3, 2014

**Call to Order and Attendance** – With a quorum present, Chairman Kent Miller called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. Sponsors in attendance were: Kent Miller and Ann Dimmitt (Twin Platte NRD), Duane Woodward, Jesse Mintken, and Mark Czaplewski (Central Platte NRD), Rod Horn and Ryan Reisdorff (South Platte NRD), John Thorburn (Tri-Basin NRD), John Berge and Tina Kurtz (North Platte NRD), and Jennifer Schellpeper, Melissa Mosier and Jessie Winter (Nebraska Department of Natural Resources). Guests present were: 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.

**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 Thorburn, second by Schellpeper to approve the minutes of the December 2, 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 January 27, 2014) 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, in keeping with decisions made at the December 2013 administrators meeting, funds previously committed to the Tri-Basin NRD Water Lease from CNPPID and DNR/CNPPID Groundwater Recharge Project have been reassigned to the Tri-Basin NRD/DNR 2013 Excess Flow Ground Water Recharge Projects.

**Cozad and Thirty-Mile Canal Rehabilitation Project Updates and Discussion of Construction Schedule** – Mintken provided a status report on both canal rehab projects. Significant progress has been made on the Cozad Canal rehabilitation this winter with work focusing on tree removal, final grading and work on wasteways. Work on the Thirty-Mile Canal restarted in late December and has focused on tree clearing, construction of structures and spillways. Weather permitting, both projects are scheduled to be completed by late April. Czaplewski noted that even though both projects are anticipated to be completed on time this spring, construction delays as a result of winter weather could occur as the end of the PBHEP contract with NET approaches. Central Platte NRD will know more on the possibility of scheduling delays by the next administrators meeting in early April. Should significant delays be realized this winter, Czaplewski suggested that a fallback position to current funding plans could involve the use of PBHEP funds for the Orchard-Alfalfa Canal Rehabilitation Project (currently funded by Platte Basin Coalition) given that all these canal rehab projects only involve funds dedicated to Central Platte NRD. Such a funding swap, if needed, would facilitate the completion of the PBHEP funding sources and termination of the PBHEP by the end of this June. A possible summer tour of the canal rehab projects was discussed.

**Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement (N-CORPE) Project Update** – Miller recalled his detailed update on the N-CORPE Project provided earlier in the day at the meeting of the Platte Basin Water Project Coalition administrators. The pipeline south to the Republican River is essentially completed while work on the well field continues. With the completion of work on a few pressure relief valves, water could be flowing south in the near future. The alignment of the pipeline north to the Platte has been determined and is hoped to empty into NPPD’s supply canal a few miles west of the inlet to Lake Maloney. Twin Platte NRD hopes to finalize an agreement to discharge into the supply canal with NPPD in the near future.

**Next Meetings** – Future meetings are scheduled for 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 12:37 p.m.