

Platte Basin Habitat Enhancement Project

Meeting Minutes

North Platte, NE – Twin Platte NRD

April 1, 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 and Mark Czaplewski (Central Platte NRD), Rod Horn, Travis Glanz and Ryan Reisdorff (South Platte NRD), John Thorburn (Tri-Basin NRD), John Berge (North Platte NRD), and Jennifer Schellpeper and Melissa Mosier (Nebraska Department of Natural Resources). Guests present were: Jerry Kenny (Platte River Recovery Implementation Program) 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 February 3, 2014, 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 February 24, 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.

Cozad and Thirty-Mile Canal Rehabilitation Project Updates – Czaplewski provided a status report and handout covering both canal rehab projects. Significant progress has been made on the Cozad Canal rehabilitation this winter and early spring with anticipated completion in early May. Thirty-Mile Canal work is also progressing rapidly with project completion projected for mid-late April. Czaplewski noted that Central Platte NRD has visited with NET personnel with regard to PBHEP funding and understand that NET is able to reimburse canal rehab expenditures at a higher percentage than the normal 20% share, so long as the appropriate match is met in the end. Consequently, Central Platte NRD is intending to submit this past quarter's expenditures for both canals for approximately 34% reimbursement from NET which will exhaust their remaining PBHEP funding. Central Platte NRD will submit the usual reimbursement request of 40% of expenditures from the DNR for the quarter.

Following up on discussions at the February meeting, Central Platte NRD offered to conduct a tour of the rehabilitated Cozad, Thirty-Mile and Orchard-Alfalfa canals after the June 2 administrators meeting. Plans were made to conduct the tour starting around 1:00 p.m. on June 2nd departing from the offices of Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District in Gothenburg.

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 alignment of the pipeline north to the Platte River has been determined and a verbal agreement has been reached with NPPD to empty the pipeline into their supply canal west of Lake Maloney. Meetings with affected landowners have commenced. Hearings related to financial matters are planned.

Next Meetings – The next meeting of the PBHEP Administrators is scheduled for June 2 starting at 10:30 a.m. Central time at the offices of The Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District in Gothenburg, Nebraska. Subsequent meetings scheduled for August 5, October 6, and December 1, are set to start at 10:30 a.m. Central time either via teleconference or at the offices of Twin Platte NRD in North Platte.

Public Comments – None

Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 12:44 p.m.