

# **Platte Basin Habitat Enhancement Project**

Meeting Minutes

Gothenburg, NE – Offices of Central NPP&ID

June 2, 2014

**Call to Order and Attendance** – With a quorum present, and in the absence of Chairman Miller and Vice-Chair Horn, PBHEP Coordinator Czaplowski called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. Sponsors in attendance were: Ann Dimmitt and Landon Shaw (Twin Platte NRD), Lyndon Vogt, Duane Woodward, Marcia Lee, Jesse Mintken and Mark Czaplowski (Central Platte NRD), Travis Glanz and Ryan Reisdorff (South Platte NRD), John Thorburn (Tri-Basin NRD), John Berge and Tina Kurtz (North Platte NRD), and Jennifer Schellpeper, Melissa Mosier, Jessie Wietjes (Nebraska Department of Natural Resources). Guests present were: Jerry Kenny (Platte River Recovery Implementation Program), and Jeff Shafer and Randy Zach (NPPD). Czaplowski 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** – Czaplowski 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 Vogt to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2014, meeting as distributed in advance of the meeting. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

**Financial Report** – Czaplowski provided the financial report including a discussion of the PBHEP Funding Summary spreadsheet (dated May 21, 2014) distributed in advance of the meeting. Total PBHEP funds spent and committed are \$15,000,000.00 leaving no remaining balance. Czaplowski noted that the spreadsheet includes updates on funds expended and reimbursements requested for the Cozad and Thirty-Mile Canal Rehabilitation Projects. He noted that Central Platte NRD would soon be able to calculate final costs associated with the Cozad Canal rehabilitation and thus know precisely what amount was available to transfer to the Thirty-Mile Canal rehab project. Likewise, once the Thirty-Mile Canal costs are finalized, the use of Platte Basin Water Project Coalition funds set aside for PBHEP cost over-runs will be known. Recent Central Platte NRD requests for reimbursement from NET have completed use of all NET PBHEP funds. Czaplowski reported that he is in the process of drafting the final PBHEP report to the NET and would send out a draft for Sponsor review and comment prior to sending it to the NET in late July.

**Cozad and Thirty-Mile Canal Rehabilitation Project Updates** – Mintken provided a status report covering both canal rehab projects. But for some fine tuning of the SCADA control system, work on the Cozad Canal has been completed. Other than the installation of a gate just below the Thirty-Mile Canal diversion, work on the Thirty-Mile Canal is also complete. Both canals are currently running water. A tour of the rehabilitated Cozad, Thirty-Mile and Orchard-Alfalfa canals is to be conducted later in the day.

**Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement (N-CORPE) Project Update** – Dimmitt reported on the status of the N-CORPE Project. Twin Platte NRD is working with the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality on SRF funding. They continue to work with NPPD on an agreement to discharge N-CORPE water flowing north to the Platte River into the NPPD supply canal west of Lake Maloney. Meetings with affected landowners are ongoing and pipeline easement acquisitions

have commenced. American burying beetle studies have been initiated.

**Next Meetings** – The next meetings of the PBHEP Administrators are scheduled for August 5, October 6, and December 1, starting at 1:30 p.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 10:41 a.m.