

PLATTE BASIN COALITION

MEETING MINUTES

June 1, 2021, 1 p.m.

Meeting conducted via Zoom conference

CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE (*ATTACHMENT A*)

Shelly Meyer	NeDNR	Dan Sternkopf	NeDNR
Lyndon Vogt	CPNRD	John Thorburn	TBNRD
Thad Kuntz	ARI	Ann Dimmitt	TPNRD
Rod Horn	SPNRD	Jennifer Schellpeper	NeDNR
John Berge	NPNRD	Ryan Reisdorff	SPNRD
Travis Glanz	SPNRD	Barb Hoehn	NPNRD
Brandi Flyr	CPNRD	Jesse Mintken	CPNRD
Ryan Kelly	NeDNR	Mike Drain	CNPPID
Jeff Shaefer	NPPD	Jesse Bradley	NeDNR

The meeting agenda is *ATTACHMENT B*.

1. **WELCOME:** The meeting was opened by chair Kent Miller, at 1 p.m. who noted there was a copy of the Open Meetings Act present at the TPNRD office. Ryan Kelly called everyone to roll. All members of the PBC were present.
2. **PUBLICATION OF MEETING NOTICES (*ATTACHMENT C*)**
 - A. North Platte Telegraph: 5/22/2021
 - B. Sidney Sun Telegraph: 5/19/2021
 - C. Grand Island Independent: 5/21/2021
 - D. Kearney Hub: 5/20/2021
 - E. Scottsbluff Star Herald: 5/19/2021
3. **APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA (*Attachment B*):**

There were no suggested changes to the June 1, 2021 PBC meeting agenda.

MOTION: To approve the June 1, 2021, PBC meeting agenda.

 - Schellpeper motioned. Horn seconded.
 - Agenda approved with all ayes.
4. **APPROVAL OF APRIL 6, 2021 PBC MEETING MINUTES (*ATTACHMENT D*):**

MOTION: To approve the April 6, 2021, PBC meeting minutes.

 - Berge motioned. Thorburn seconded.
 - Minutes approved with all ayes

5. BUDGET UPDATE (NeDNR)

A. GENERAL UPDATES

i. YEARS 7-9

Meyer presented a memo that described how NET Grant 18-107 was given a one-year extension for the final time and that all remaining funds need to be obligated, contracted, and expended by June 30, 2022 (ATTACHMENT E). The memo highlighted the current status of funds for each NRD. Schellpeper reported on the importance of NRD projects that can spend the remaining funds over the course of the next year and added that it would be best if the funds were spent before 5/1/2022 in order to give NeDNR enough time to process the invoices. If necessary, funds can be transferred from one NRD to another in order to ensure everything is spent and can get redistributed accordingly for Years 10-12. NRDs seeking to have their funds redistributed should bring any requests to the PBC as soon as possible, preferably by the August 3, 2021 PBC meeting. If an NRD has not identified a project for their funds by the end of this calendar year, the PBC will need to determine how to redistribute those funds. For any NRD who has funds redistributed, it is understood that in years 10 -12 of the grant, those funds will be returned to that NRD. Schellpeper also stated that for the NRDs seeking to get a reimbursement processed before the end of the current fiscal year, the reimbursements should be sent to NeDNR before 6/3/2021.

ii. YEARS 10-12

Meyer presented on a budget spreadsheet with a new format summarizing Year 10 funds broken down for each NRD (ATTACHMENT F). The NRDs were supportive of the new format.

iii. STUDIES

a. CONSERVATION STUDY INVOICE (CONTRACT #1153)

Conservation Study Phase III - #1153	\$ 11,895.67			\$ 11,895.67	\$ 11,895.67	\$ 35,687.00	\$ 35,688.00	\$ 71,375.00
Flatwater - Focused Eval of Tillage Practices	CPNRD	NPNRD	SPNRD	TBNRD	TPNRD	NRD Total	NeDNR	Total
Invoice # 21-2774	\$ 477.08			\$ 477.08	\$ 477.08	\$ 1,431.25	\$ 1,431.25	\$ 2,862.50
Total	\$ 7,626.25	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,626.25	\$ 7,626.25	\$ 22,878.75	\$ 22,878.75	\$ 45,757.50
Remaining totals by Contributor	\$ 4,269.42	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,269.42	\$ 4,269.42	\$ 12,808.25	\$ 12,809.25	\$ 25,617.50

Meyer reported the need to approve the Conservation Study Invoice (Contract #1153), the invoice total being \$2,862.50 (ATTACHMENT G).

MOTION: To approve payment of the Conservation Study Invoice (Contract #1153).

- Schellpeper motioned. Thorburn seconded.
- Invoice approved with all ayes.

B. ANNUAL BUDGET OVERVIEW

i. ADOPTION OF ANNUAL BUDGET

The annual budget was adopted during the 4/6/2021 PBC meeting. However, Meyer reported on a memo regarding the adoption of the operations and studies budget, including a 4% increase each year (*ATTACHMENT H*).

MOTION: To approve the estimated budgets for Operation and Studies in years 10-12 with the understanding that this is an estimate and that will be updated at a minimum each April in accordance with the ILCA and as needed with official PBC actions at future meetings.

- Thorburn motioned. Schellpeper seconded.
- The Operations and Studies in years 10-12 budget approved with all ayes.

6. WATERSMART GRANT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Kelly reported that NeDNR had a successful meeting with HDR to cover the different phases of developing the drought contingency plan. Using an excerpt from the WaterSMART Grant application, Kelly stated that the 1st phase will be being putting together stakeholders, which will result in the formation of a drought task force (*ATTACHMENT I*). Primary stakeholders will be members of the PBC, secondary stakeholders will be irrigation districts, the National Drought Mitigation Center, and other entities similar to the Basin-Wide IMP stakeholder group, and the third tier will consist of the general public. The 1st phase is developing a work plan, getting it approved by the BoR and forming the drought task force. The 1st phase should be completed in late summer of 2021, when the drought contingency plan will begin being drafted. NeDNR will be meeting with BoR in late June and would like to have the taskforce assembled beforehand.

Schellpeper reported that the initial contract with HDR was for the grant application and that an additional contract will be needed for HDR to develop the work plan, which will need PBC approval.

¹ NeDNR will email each NRD regarding drought taskforce membership and contingency plan engagement timeline.

² NRDs will determine who will participate in the drought taskforce.

7. ILCA RENEWAL DISCUSSION

Kelly reported that the ILCA has been extended to 7/1/2023.

8. ONGOING PROJECT ACTIVITIES/OPERATIONS

A. CPNRD

i. CPNRD RECHARGE PITS/DETENTION PONDS (CONTRACT IN PROGRESS)

CPNRD will look to submit some study contracts to NeDNR for reimbursement.

ii. CPNRD GEIKERN-ROWE/ COZAD DEV CORP-CONSERVATION EASEMENTS (1235)

No updates.

iii. CPNRD SCHROEDER PROPERTY PROJECT

No updates.

B. TPNRD

i. TPNRD SIGNED AND COMPLETED CANAL MOAs (1010 - 1014)

No updates.

ii. TPNRD STREAMFLOW AUGMENTATION PIPELINE (N-CORPE)(778)

The project pumped in April and pumping is anticipating pumping for June. The project has pumped when state protected flows are short.

C. NPNRD

i. EPIC PROGRAM (NPNRD) (1226)

Sign up for 2021 has been successful. For the 2020 FY, NPNRD has submitted reimbursement to NeDNR.

ii. NPNRD SCHANEMAN RECHARGE PROJECT (1160)

NPNRD is in their 3rd week of noticing for transfer permit applications. Once approved, the project will be able to begin operation.

iii. NPNRD CERTIFIED ACRE REIMBURSEMENTS (1156) PERMANENT AND (1157) TEMPORARY

The projects have been completed and reimbursement is ongoing.

D. TBNRD

i. RAINWATER BASIN JOINT VENTURE (TBNRD) (1021)/ EXCESS FLOW DIVERSIONS (1190)/ OBSERVATION WELLS (1192)

TBNRD has worked with CNPPID to divert excess flows twice this spring to USFWS wetland areas. The most recent diversion ended the week of 5/24/2021.

ii. TBNRD PHASE II AUGMENTATION - NORTH DRY CREEK (597)

The well has operated for roughly a week when TBNRD was short on target flows at the end April/ early May.

iii. TBNRD WATER CONSERVATION INCENTIVE PROGRAM (CONTRACT IN PROGRESS)

TBNRD is seeking to sign up CNPPID customers to use their canal water. Roughly 3,500 acres have been signed up for the comingled option.

E. NeDNR

i. J-2 REGULATING RESERVOIR (NeDNR) (574)

There are no updates.

ii. EXCESS FLOW DIVERSION UPDATES

Jeremy Gehle of NeDNR sent out an email on 6/1/2021 communicating that conditions have changed from dry to normal. Target flows have increased and excess flows are no longer available.

9. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** No comments.

10. **OTHER ITEMS**

A. ANNUAL REPORT – UPPER PLATTE BASIN-WIDE MEETING

Miller advocated for the meeting to occur virtually and Horn agreed. The meeting will occur virtually. Kelly reported that all NRD annual reports have been received by NeDNR.

B. PROJECT REPORTS FOR UPPER PLATTE BASIN-WIDE MEETING

NPNRD will be prepared to present on their EPIC Program, TBNRD will be prepared to present on their Cottonwood Ranch Project, and NeDNR will be prepared to present on their Acreage Reserve Program.

11. **NEXT MEETING:** AUGUST 3, 2021, AT 1 P.M.

12. **ADJOURN:** 1:30 p.m. (CT)

ACTION ITEM LIST

¹ NeDNR will email each NRD regarding drought taskforce membership and contingency plan engagement timeline.

² NRDs will determine who will participate in the drought taskforce.