

PLATTE RIVER BASIN COALITION (PBC) COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, December 15, 2022, 1 p.m. Central Time
Meeting held virtually via Zoom Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

1. Welcome/Call to Order

As directed by state statute, the Open Meetings Act was displayed during the meeting.

2. Roll Call

- North Platte NRD
- South Platte NRD
- Twin Platte NRD
- Central Platte NRD
- Tri-Basin NRD
- Nebraska DNR

Attendance

Jennifer Schellpeper, NeDNR	Scott Schaneman, NPNRD	*Ryan Reisdorff, SPNRD
Kent Miller, TPNRD (Chair)	John Thorburn, TBNRD	*Brandi Flyr, CPNRD
Ann Dimmitt, TPNRD	Shelly Julian, NeDNR	Arik Vossler, NeDNR
Jean Eichhorst, NeDNR	Connor Nichols, NeDNR	Caitlin Kingsley, NeDNR
Kevin Bjarnason, NeDNR	Thad Kuntz, ARI	

Bold denotes voting members

**Alternate standing-in for PBC member at this meeting*

3. Publication of Meeting Notices ([Attachment 3](#))

- *North Platte Telegraph*: December 8, 2022
- *Sidney Sun-Telegraph*: December 8, 2022
- *Grand Island Independent*: December 7, 2022
- *Kearney Hub*: December 7, 2022
- *Scottsbluff Star Herald*: December 8, 2022

4. Agenda approval ([Attachment 4](#))

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MOTION: To approve the December 15, 2022, agenda.

Move: Jennifer Schellpeper (NeDNR)

Second: Scott Schaneman (NPNRD)

Discussion: None

Motion Approved

5. Approval of the October 4, 2022, Minutes (*Attachment 5*)

MOTION: To approve the October 4, 2022, minutes.

Move: Scott Schaneman (NPNRD)

Second: Ryan Reisdorff (SPNRD)

Discussion: No further discussion

Motion approved

6. Budget Update (NeDNR)

A. General Updates

i. Years 7-9 (*Attachment 6Ai*)

- Returning unspent money: updated unspent \$4,929,328.92
 - Changes up to June 2022 have been voted on previously
- NeDNR reviewed the changes to the budget with the Committee
- Need to spend unspent years 7-9 money by April/May of 2023, NET funding will likely not roll over again.
- There were questions about the updated EPIC project (where NPNRD and NeDNR are in the process, is there a contract number, when/if PBC approved the project)
 - NeDNR and NPNRD meeting on 12/15 to discuss this project and NPNRD contracts more generally.

ii. Years 10-12 (*Attachment 6Aii*)

- Open/ongoing projects were moved to 10-12 sheet from 7-9
- There is still around 5.4M of funds to obligate and expend
- The NET grant is currently in year 12 which is the last year of the grant.
- WRCF is about to sunset and with new governor, it is uncertain whether it will be renewed – the more money spent, the better case for renewing there is.

iii. Studies (*Attachment 6Aiii*)

a. TFG – Contract 571A amendment (*Attachments 6Aiii.1 and 6Aiii.2*)

- The Flatwater Group submitted an amendment to extend the duration of contract 571A (Phase IV of the Conservation Study) to 6/30/2023

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- **MOTION:** Approve The Flatwater Group's Contract 571A Amendment to extend the contract to June 30, 2023.
Move: Scott Schaneman (NPNRD)
Second: Jennifer Schellpeper (NeDNR)
Discussion: No further discussion
Motion Approved. NeDNR will send amendment to Kent Miller (TPNRD, Committee Chair) for his signature.

B. Invoices

- i. TFG – Contract 571A 6/17/2022-11/30/2022 (*Attachment 6B*)
 - Committee seeking action on invoice – for services under contract 571A through November 2022.
 - **MOTION:** to accept The Flatwater Group's invoice for services between June 17, 2022, and November 30, 2022
Move: Jennifer Schellpeper (NeDNR)
Second: John Thorburn (TBNRD)
Motion approved with no further discussion
 - NeDNR will send invoice to NRDs for payment.

C. New Budget Requests

- i. CPNRD decertification (*Attachment 6C*)
 - 60% match for decertification – land owned by CPNRD in Dawson County
 - **MOTION:** to accept the project proposal submitted by CPNRD
Move: Ryan Reisdorff (SPNRD)
Second: Scott Schaneman (NPNRD)
Discussion: Brandi Flyr (CPNRD) asked if she needed to abstain from voting since it is a CPNRD project. The group's answer was no, unless there is a personal conflict of interest (e.g., she owned the land).
Motion approved
 - Flyr (CPNRD) and NeDNR to meet and discuss specifics for the contract for this project.

7. Ongoing Project Activities/Operations—Obligated and Remaining Expenditures

- A. CPNRD – no updates
- B. TBNRD – hoping to get Cottonwood pipeline completed within a week
- C. TPNRD – no updates
- D. NPNRD – no updates

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- E. SPNRD – no updates
- F. NeDNR – no updates

8. Other Priority Items

Let NeDNR know about your projects – get unspent money obligated by April of 2023

9. Public Comment

No public comment was given at the meeting.

10. 2023 Scheduled Meetings:

- February 2, 2023
- April 6, 2023
- June 15, 2023
- August 3, 2023
- October 5, 2023
- December 7, 2023

Up to three virtual meetings – to be determined

11. Wrap-up, questions, action items, next steps

12. Adjourn

Action items (Highlighted above):

- NeDNR to follow up with NPNRD about EPIC 2022 – meeting later 12/15
- NeDNR to reach out to CPNRD about decertification project contract specifics
- NeDNR to send Kent Miller (PBC Chair) contract 571A amendment to sign and return to NeDNR
- NeDNR will send invoice for 571A work to NRDs for payment
- NeDNR and NRDs to schedule time to discuss questions about the budget updates.
- NeDNR and NRDs will determine virtual meetings based on upcoming agendas.