

PLATTE BASIN COALITION (PBC) MEETING

Thursday, December 7, 2023, 1:30 p.m. Central Time

Twin Platte Natural Resources District
111 S Dewey St., North Platte, NE 69101

MINUTES

1. Welcome/Call to Order

Called to order by Kent Miller (TPNRD), Chair, at approximately 1:32 p.m. CT.
As directed by state statute, the Open Meetings Act was displayed during the meeting.

2. Roll Call

PBC ILCA Representatives

Kent Miller, TPNRD	Scott Schaneman, NPNRD
John Thorburn, TBNRD	Lyndon Vogt, CPNRD
Galen Wittrock, SPNRD	Jennifer Schellpeper, NeDNR

Others in Attendance

Ann Dimmitt, TPNRD	Caitlin Kingsley, NeDNR	Arik Vossler, NeDNR
Brandi Flyr, CPNRD	Avery Dresser, NeDNR	Jean Eichhorst, NeDNR
Ryan Reisdorff, SPNRD	Brooke Mott, NeDNR	Brian Flynn, NeDNR
Ryan Kelly, NeDNR	Travis Preston, NPNRD	Shelly Julian, NeDNR

Shaded areas indicate online attendees.

3. Publication of Meeting Notices (*Attachment 3*)

- *North Platte Telegraph*: November 18, 2023
- *Sidney Sun-Telegraph*: November 23, 2023
- *Grand Island Independent*: November 18, 2023
- *Kearney Hub*: November 18, 2023
- *Scottsbluff Star Herald*: November 18, 2023

4. Agenda Review and Approval (*Attachment 4*)

MOTION: *To approve the December 7, 2023, agenda.*

Move: Jennifer Schellpeper

Second: Galen Wittrock

Discussion: None.

Motion Passed

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5. Review and Approval of the October 5, 2023 Minutes (*Attachment 5*)

MOTION: To approve the October 5, 2023, minutes.

Move: Scott Schaneman

Second: Lyndon Vogt

Discussion: None.

Motion Passed.

NeDNR will distribute the final minutes to the group and post them on the website.¹

6. Budget Update (NeDNR)

A. General Updates

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

Two of the projects that were previously active, #1382 CPNRD groundwater decertification and #1341 NPNRD permanent retirement, have been paid out and moved to expended projects.

ii. FY 2023-2024 (*Attachment 6Aii*)

Changes are highlighted in yellow on handout. There is a request, seen later in the agenda, from TPNRD to increase budget of Platte-Valley recharge sites previously approved on October 5, 2023. Also, new request from NPNRD for EPIC fiscal year 2023 will be discussed in this meeting.

iii. Studies (*Attachment 6Aiii*)

There are three invoices for approval today. One from The Flatwater Group (TFG) under #571C, two invoices from HDR for the UPDCP. Both are highlighted in beige on handout.

B. Aging Reports & Outstanding Invoices

i. HDR – 1287/1377 for Drought Plan Development (*Attachment 6Bi*)

DNR received updated reports from TFG on #571C and HDR for UPDCP. On the report from HDR, invoices highlighted in yellow are still listed as outstanding. NeDNR is working on getting their respective invoices paid. CPNRD still has outstanding as well. Contact NeDNR with any inconsistencies in the invoices. Lyndon Vogt (CPNRD) stated that they believed they had been previously paid invoices but will double check as they did not have anything outstanding a month ago. One of their invoices previously had an incorrect invoice number and will check their records. HDR did not provide a date for the report but it was included with invoices submitted a week ago to NeDNR. CPNRD will check their

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records and report to NeDNR. NeDNR will speak with HDR about outstanding invoices if needed.

ii. TFG – 571-C (*Attachment 6Bii*)

Those highlighted on first page in the handout are outstanding. TPNRD has one outstanding invoice and will check their records for the outstanding balance. TPNRD will contact DNR if an invoice needs to be reissued. DNR will send breakout invoices for each NRD's outstanding invoices. Ann Dimmitt (TPNRD) stated that the outstanding invoice may have been from the time when they were unable to view incoming invoices. The new system seems to be working but is more difficult to access. NeDNR will look into alternative approaches if any issues persist.

The group will contact NeDNR with any inconsistencies found in the outstanding invoices.²

CPNRD will report to NeDNR about outstanding invoices and if they were previously paid.³

NeDNR will contact HDR about any issues with the current outstanding invoices.⁴

TPNRD will contact NeDNR if any invoices need to be reissued.⁵

NeDNR will send outstanding invoices with break out portion for each NRD.⁶

NeDNR will investigate alternative approaches for TPNRD invoices if problems persist.⁷

C. Invoices for Approval

i. HDR Invoices (1287/1377)

a. Invoice #1200560156 (*Attachment 6Cia*)

b. Invoice #1200571233 (*Attachment 6Cib*)

MOTION: *To approve the HDR invoices for development of the Upper Platte Drought Contingency Plan for the amounts of \$9,348.82 and \$17,671.89.*

Move: Jennifer Schellpeper

Second: Galen Wittrock

Discussion: NeDNR will send out invoices via ShareFile which are separated per NRD cost which is shown in the handout.

ii. TFG Invoice:

a. Invoice #23-3270 (#571C) (*Attachment 6Ciaa*)

MOTION: *To approve TFG invoice #23-3270 for Robust Review work for the amount of \$23,757.50.*

Move: Jennifer Schellpeper

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Second: John Thorburn

Discussion: Invoice is also included on studies budget page broken down by per NRD cost.

NeDNR will distribute breakout invoices (showing cost per entity) via ShareFile.⁸

D. New Budget Requests

i. NPNRD EPIC FY23 (*Attachment 6Di*)

Total Project Cost	NPNRD Share (40% of Total)	WRCF Share (60% of Total)
\$136,758.30	\$54,703.32	\$82,054.98

MOTION: To approve the NPNRD budget request for the EPIC 2023 program summarized in the table above. The total amount of WRCF reimbursement requested is \$82,054.98 of the total \$136,758.30 project cost.

Move: Lyndon Vogt

Second: Jennifer Schellpeper

Discussion: Scott Schaneman (NPNRD) stated this project is an allocation buy back project which has been running for 6-7 years. These are the totals for fiscal year 2023. This project affects 1228.73 acres with a total of 141 inches over those acres. Most of the participating landowners, around 60-70%, sold most or all their allocation back.

ii. TPNRD Platte-Valley Recharge Sites Budget Update (*Attachment 6Dii*)

Platte-Valley (North Platte Canal) Recharge Pits	Total	TPNRD Share (40%)	WRCF Share (60%)
Project Budget – Approved October 5, 2023	\$154,010.00	\$61,604.00	\$92,406.00
Additional Costs	\$20,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$12,000.00
Updated Project Budget	\$174,010.00	\$69,604.00	\$104,406.00

MOTION: To approve the updated TPNRD budget request for the Platte-Valley recharge site project summarized in the table above. The total additional amount of WRCF reimbursement

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requested is \$12,000.00 of the amended total \$174,010.00 project cost.

Move: Scott Schaneman

Second: Lyndon Vogt

Discussion: Ann Dimmitt (TPNRD) stated that work had started on the pits earlier this year but ran into an issue. TPNRD is requesting additional funding for structural concrete material needed for one of the pits. Ryan Kelly (NeDNR) wanted to confirm that this was not changing the scope of work, it is the same end goal but just has an issue that requires an increase in budget. Caitlin Kingsley (NeDNR) clarified that the original proposal and budget, notes from contractor, and the amended budget are included in the handout.

iii. Other Budget Requests

E. NeDNR Budget Update Request

Jennifer Schellpeper (NeDNR) stated that as discussed with Jesse Bradley, NeDNR would like to put together updated estimates of total project cost for contracts or projects currently in place or planned for near-term requested implementation from PBC. This includes any new projects that NRDs expect to bring this fiscal year or the next, including timelines for spending. Each NRD should email NeDNR by the end of the year about projected expenditures for existing projects or planned projects within the next 18 months (through the end of Fiscal Year 2025). NeDNR will send a reminder email.

Kent Miller (TPNRD) asked if information on a project is not sent by the end of the year, then it is not eligible to be brought to the group later.

Jennifer Schellpeper (NeDNR) stated that if they're not notified of a project in that period of time, it does not mean it can't be brought later but they want to gain an idea of what everyone is planning to spend so there are enough funds.

NeDNR to send a reminder email requesting information on any existing projects or projects to be proposed within the next 18 months.⁹

The Group to send an email with information on any projects within the 18 months to NeDNR by the end of the year.¹⁰

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7. Contracts #1377 and Phase II PBC-HDR Extension for Approval

a. #1377: NeDNR-PBC contract (*Attachment 7a*)

MOTION: To approve the amended contract #1377 for development of the Upper Platte Drought Contingency Plan.

Move: Galen Wittrock

Second: Jennifer Schellpeper

Discussion: Caitlin Kingsley (NeDNR) stated that in October, draft amendments were sent to the group for review and confirmation of language. This is a contract for the cost-sharing agreement for development of the UPDCP. The amendment includes language on withholding until the completion of the UPDCP and extends the term until December 31, 2024.

b. PBC-HDR contract (*Attachment 7b*)

MOTION: To approve the amended PBC-HDR agreement for Phase II work on the development of the Upper Platte Drought Contingency Plan.

Move: Scott Schaneman

Second: Jennifer Schellpeper

Discussion: Caitlin Kingsley (NeDNR) stated this amendment applies to agreement for engineering services from HDR for the UPDCP development. After receiving confirmation from the group in October, it was sent to HDR who signed.

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

- A. CPNRD – No updates.
- B. TBNRD – No updates.
- C. TPNRD – No updates.
- D. NPNRD – No updates.
- E. SPNRD – No updates.
- F. NeDNR – Have not opened for excess flows since September 28, 2023.

9. Public Comment

No public comment was provided.

10. 2024 Scheduled Meetings:

- February 1, 2024

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- April 4, 2024
- June 6, 2024
- August 1, 2024 (Basin-Wide Meeting at CPNRD)
- October 3, 2024
- December 5, 2024

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

A. Action Items

1. NeDNR will distribute a final copy of the minutes to the group and post them on the website.
2. The group will contact NeDNR with any inconsistencies found in the outstanding invoices.
3. CPNRD will report to NeDNR about outstanding invoices and if they were previously paid.
4. NeDNR will contact HDR about any issues with the current outstanding invoices.
5. TPNRD will contact NeDNR if any invoices need to be reissued.
6. NeDNR will send outstanding invoices with break out portion for each NRD.
7. NeDNR will investigate alternative approaches for TPNRD invoices if problems persist.
8. NeDNR will distribute breakout invoices (showing cost per entity) via ShareFile.
9. NeDNR to send a reminder email requesting information on any existing projects or projects to be proposed within the next 18 months.
10. The Group to send an email with information on any projects within the 18 months to NeDNR by the end of the year.

12. Adjourned at approximately 1:57 p.m. CT.