

PLATTE BASIN COALITION (PBC) MEETING

Thursday, June 6, 2024, 1:00 p.m. Central Time

Twin Platte Natural Resources District

111 S Dewey St., North Platte, NE 69101

& Virtually via Zoom Conference

MINUTES

1. Welcome/Call to Order

Called to order by Kent Miller (TPNRD), Chair, at 1:10 p.m. CT. As directed by state statute, the Open Meetings Act was displayed during the meeting. While this meeting was conducted virtually, Twin Platte NRD's regular meeting space remained open for the public.

2. Roll Call

PBC ILCA Representatives

Kent Miller, TPNRD	Travis Preston, NPNRD (Alternate)
John Thorburn, TBNRD	Lyndon Vogt, CPNRD
Galen Wittrock, SPNRD	Jennifer Schellpeper, NeDNR

Others in Attendance

Ryan Reisdorff, SPNRD	Ann Dimmitt, TPNRD	Brandi Flyr, CPNRD
Ryan Kelly, NeDNR	Caitlin Kingsley, NeDNR	Avery Dresser, NeDNR
Jack Mensinger, NeDNR	Arik Vossler, NeDNR	Brian Flynn, NeDNR
Margeaux Carter, NeDNR		

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

- *North Platte Telegraph*: May 25, 2024
- *Sidney Sun-Telegraph*: May 23, 2024
- *Grand Island Independent*: May 25, 2024
- *Kearney Hub*: May 25, 2024
- *Scottsbluff Star Herald*: May 23, 2024

4. Agenda Review and Approval ([Attachment 4](#))

MOTION: To approve the June 6, 2024, agenda.

Move: Galen Wittrock

Second: Jennifer Schellpeper

Discussion: None.

Motion passed unanimously.

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5. Review and Approval of the April 4, 2024, Minutes (*Attachment 5*)

MOTION: To approve the April 4, 2024, minutes.

Move: Lyndon Vogt

Second: Jennifer Schellpeper

Discussion: None.

Motion passed unanimously.

6. Budget Updates

A. General Updates (NeDNR)

i. FY 2024-2025 (*Attachment 6Ai*)

Caitlin Kingsley (NeDNR) updated the group on the FY 2024-2025 budget updates since the April 4 meeting. NeDNR has recently reimbursed several contracts, including 1243, 1486, 1496, and 1497; those amounts are reflected in the "NeDNR Amount Paid" column. Tri-Basin's project proposal, coming up on the agenda for approval, was also added to the budget and highlighted in yellow.

a. NPNRD Ruth J. Hamilton Hooper Canal Temporary Retirement

No discussion.

ii. Studies (*Attachment 6Aii*)

i. Caitlin shared that three new invoices have been added to the Studies budget and highlighted yellow. Two of the invoices are from HDR for Drought Plan development, and the other invoice is from The Flatwater Group (TFG) for the 2023 Robust Review.

B. Invoices for Approval

i. HDR Invoices for Drought Plan Development (1287/1377)

(*Attachment 6Bi*)

a. Invoice #1200609584 (*Attachment 6Bia*)

b. Invoice #1200622277 (*Attachment 6Bib*)

MOTION: To approve the HDR invoices for Drought Contingency Plan development for the amounts of \$9,645.91 and \$5,477.39.

Move: Jennifer Schellpeper

Second: John Thorburn

Discussion: None.

Motion passed unanimously.

ii. TFG Invoice

a. Contract #571-C, Invoice #24-3341 (*Attachment 6Biia*)

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MOTION: To approve the TFG invoice for Robust Review work for the amount of \$5,600.00.

Move: Lyndon Vogt

Second: Jennifer Schellpeper

Discussion: Caitlin clarified that this is the final invoice for contract #571-C. NeDNR has another contract with TFG to cover additional costs associated with the Robust Review.

Motion passed unanimously.

C. New Budget Requests

i. TBNRD Net Recharge Management Tool Project (*Attachment 6Ci*)

Total Project Cost	USBR WaterSMART Grant Share	NRD Share (40% of non-federal share)	WRCF Share (60% of non-federal share)
\$400,000	\$300,000	\$40,000	\$60,000

MOTION: To approve the TBNRD budget request for the Net Recharge Management Tool project. The total WRCF reimbursement requested is \$60,000 of the total \$400,000 project cost.

Move: Lyndon Vogt

Second: Galen Wittrock

Discussion: TBNRD received a WaterSMART grant to create an interface for the COHYST model to estimate gains and losses on a township basis and effects to supply. This tool will increase the effectiveness of excess flow timings. Anticipated completion date is October 2026.

Lyndon asked about the complication of applying for funds through the WaterSMART grant program. John commented that there will likely be many hoops to jump through, but that is still to come.

Ryan Kelly (NeDNR) reminded the group that NeDNR's involvement in the WaterSMART process for the drought contingency plan is ongoing, and at the end of the process, USBR will check all progress and financial documents. Grants can pose various complications, including changes with grant officers during the process. Ryan offered to sit down with TBNRD and other NRDs doing WaterSMART projects to discuss tips and best practices during the opening and closing of a

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WaterSMART grant.
Motion passed unanimously.

- ii. Other budget requests
No other budget requests were presented.

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

A. NeDNR

There have been no excess flow openings since February.

B. CPNRD

Lyndon reminded the group of CPNRD's final retirements request sent to NeDNR. NeDNR is still working on the technical review of those retirements. CPNRD recently received reimbursement for some other retirements under NeDNR contracts #1496 and 1497.

C. TBNRD

John shared that the PRRIP augmentation wells are continuing to run.

D. TPNRD

No updates.

E. NPNRD

Travis shared that the Enterprise project will be ongoing through irrigation season. NPNRD has heard that some irrigation districts will not be sending out water.

F. SPNRD

No updates.

8. Public Comment

- a. No public comment was offered.

9. 2024 Scheduled Meetings:

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

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

- a. Approved invoices will be posted to ShareFile.

11. Adjourn (1:25 pm)