

PLATTE BASIN COALITION (PBC) MEETING

Thursday, April 4, 2024, 1:00 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 1:00 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	Ryan Kelly, NeDNR (Alternate)

Others in Attendance*

Brandi Flyr, CPNRD	Jack Mensinger, NeDNR	Avery Dresser, NeDNR
Travis Preston, NPNRD	Brooke Mott, NeDNR	Brian Flynn, NeDNR
Caitlin Kingsley, NeDNR	Arik Vossler, NeDNR	Margeaux Carter, NeDNR

*Shaded areas indicate online attendees.

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

- *North Platte Telegraph*: March 21, 2024
- *Sidney Sun-Telegraph*: March 21, 2024
- *Grand Island Independent*: March 21, 2024
- *Kearney Hub*: March 21, 2024
- *Scottsbluff Star Herald*: March 23, 2024

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

MOTION: *To approve the April 4, 2024, agenda.*

Move: Scott Schaneman

Second: Galen Wittrock

Discussion: None.

Motion passed unanimously.

5. Review and Approval of the February 1, 2024, Minutes ([Attachment 5](#))

MOTION: *To approve the February 1, 2024, minutes.*

Move: Ryan Kelly

Second: Scott Schaneman

Discussion: None.

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Motion passed unanimously.

6. Budget Updates

A. General Updates (NeDNR)

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

Caitlin Kingsley (NeDNR) presented on the budgets. The last active project (contract #1339) has been moved from the Years 7-9 to the proposed FY 24-25 budget, so there are no longer active projects on 7-9. Approval will be to retire this budget sheet.

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

Caitlin stated there have been no updates to this budget since February; it has been provided for reference. FY 2023-2024 will be retired and replaced with the FY 2024-2025 budget, also up for approval.

iii. Studies (*Attachment 6Aiii*)

Caitlin stated that invoices for contract #1365 for the Western Water Use Management Model (WWUMM) were added to show remaining totals for the contract. There are two new invoices from HDR for drought plan development to be approved today, shown as beige lines on handout.

B. Invoices for Approval

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

a. Invoice #1200598495 (*Attachment 6Bia*)

b. Invoice #1200606785 (*Attachment 6Bib*)

MOTION: To approve the HDR invoices for Drought Contingency Plan development for the amounts of \$20,394.34 and \$19,115.59.

Move: John Thorburn

Second: Lyndon Vogt

Discussion: Caitlin stated these are invoices from February and March. The handout package also includes a status report which summarizes expenditures in terms of task series included in the scope of work.

John Thorburn (TBNRD) asked if NeDNR has looked through the Drought Plan and if they had any comments. Caitlin stated the communication plan has some room for growth but HDR has addressed comments.

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Motion passed unanimously.

C. New Budget Requests

i. CPNRD – groundwater irrigation decertifications (*Attachment 6Ci*)

Name	Total Project Cost	NRD Share (40% of Total)	WRCF Share (60% of Total)
Griffith Brothers Farm LLC	\$28,963.95	\$11,585.58	\$17,378.37
James E Guither, Dawn E Daly, Jerry S Herron & Carol E Guither	\$38,891.40	\$15,556.56	\$23,334.84
R & J Wahlgren General Partnership and Carleton G Spence and Connie K Spence trustees of the Connie Kay Spence Revocable Trust UTA	\$73,621.55	\$29,448.62	\$44,172.93
Charles J Volk & Beverly J Volk	\$88,706.55	\$35,482.62	\$53,223.93
Clayton D Nitsch	\$475,959.41	\$190,383.76	\$285,575.64
R & S Farms Inc	\$517,901.70	\$207,160.68	\$310,741.02
Total	\$1,224,044.56	\$489,617.82	\$734,426.73

MOTION: *To approve the CPNRD budget request for the six (6) decertification projects summarized in the table above, understanding that they must be reviewed under the PBC protocol document. The total WRCF reimbursement requested is \$734,426.73 of the total \$1,224,044.56 project cost.*

Move: Scott Schaneman

Second: John Thorburn

Discussion: Lyndon Vogt (CPNRD) stated the budget requests are for groundwater decertifications completed over the last few years but have not yet been turned in for reimbursement. The attachment breaks the price down by acre and acre-foot.

Motion passed unanimously.

ii. TPNRD – Platte-Valley Recharge Pits (#1482) budget amendment (*Attachment 6Cii*)

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	Total Project Cost	NRD Share (40% of Total)	WRCF Share (60% of Total)
Contract Amount	\$174,010.00	\$69,604.00	\$104,406.00
Amendment Amount	\$38,358.90	\$15,343.56	\$23,015.34
Amended Amount	\$212,368.90	\$84,947.56	\$127,421.34

***MOTION:** To approve the TPNRD – Platte-Valley Recharge Pits (#1482) total budget amendment of \$38,358.90, bringing the total WRCF reimbursement to \$127,421.34 and the total project cost to \$212,368.90.*

Move: Lyndon Vogt

Second: Scott Schaneman

Discussion: Kent Miller (TPNRD) stated these budget requests are a result of additional costs in the construction of the pits, previously approved. These pits are large sandpits that were connected together and to the canal to increase opportunity for excess flows. John T. asked if TPNRD owns the pits or if payment is made to the pit owners or the irrigation districts.

Kent stated TPNRD pays the irrigation district who pay pit owners as excess flows come in. There is a retainer payment each year to the irrigation districts so that when there are excess flows, they make ditches available and then are paid for the amount of recharge received.

John T. asked if TPNRD pays the pit owner. Kent stated they pay the irrigation district who decides how to pay the owners.

Motion passed unanimously.

- iii. TPNRD – Suburban Recharge Pits (#1481) budget amendment (*Attachment 6Ciii*)

	Total Project Cost	NRD Share (40% of Total)	WRCF Share (60% of Total)
Contract Amount	\$25,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$15,000.00
Amendment Amount	\$3,549.24	\$1,419.70	\$2,129.54
Amended Amount	\$28,549.24	\$11,419.70	\$17,129.54

***MOTION:** To approve the TPNRD – Suburban Recharge Pits (#1481) total budget amendment of \$3,549.24, bringing the total WRCF*

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reimbursement to \$17,129.54 and the total project cost to \$28,549.24.

Move: Scott Schaneman

Second: Ryan Kelly

Discussion: None.

Motion passed unanimously.

iv. Other budget requests

None.

D. Budget Presentation and Approval

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

See motion and discussion below.

ii. FY 24-25 (*Attachment 6Dii*)

See motion and discussion below.

iii. Studies (*Attachment 6Aiii*)

MOTION: *To retire the Years 7-9 budget and to approve the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget and Studies budget.*

Move: Ryan Kelly

Second: John Thorburn

Discussion: Ryan Kelly (NeDNR) stated the Years 7-9 budget can be retired as there will be no new funds expended or added to this budget. Ryan stated the FY 23-24 was included for comparison to the FY 24-25. Caitlin Kingsley (NeDNR) stated this budget includes the new budget requests that are up for approval.

Motion passed unanimously.

iv. Operations - Plummer Insurance Invoices (*Attachment 6Div*)

a. Invoice #256426

b. Invoice #256427

MOTION: *To approve the Plummer Liability Insurance invoices for the amounts of \$350.00 and \$4,224.00.*

Move: Scott Schaneman

Second: Lyndon Vogt

Discussion: Caitlin stated the liability invoices were received from SPNRD for the 2024-2025 operations budget. The memo is an explanation of the invoices for the insurance. Galen Wittrock (SPNRD) stated the insurance is broken into two invoices with general liability and errors and omissions, when previously the costs were combined. Includes regular

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approximate 4% increase per year. SPNRD will send participants individual invoices.

Caitlin stated the cost is consistent with previous years.

Motion passed unanimously.

SPNRD will send out individual entity breakout invoices for the Plummer Liability Insurance.¹

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

A. NeDNR – There was a 10-day opening for excess flows between February 2-12. Tri-County Canal was allowed to divert 200 cfs for recharge into Phelps Canal, Cottonwood Ranch, and E65 Canal to deliver to Victor and Cottonwood Waterfowl Production Areas.

John asked if there were currently excess flows. Heard that there was cutting back on releases from Lake McConaughy but may just be preparing for excess flows at this time. Group concurred there were likely none right now.

B. CPNRD – Would like to find recharge possibilities for CPNRD-owned portion of Thirty Mile Canal. Interested in purchasing lands without the possibility of flooding residential areas. Looking at potential study investigating how much credit may be received for leaving water in the river instead of diverting and what water is available if needed at a later time.

C. TBNRD – PRRIP Cottonwood well field is operational, but TBNRD is not operating their augmentation wells.

D. TPNRD – No updates.

E. NPNRD – Continuing to work with canal companies regarding a leasing arrangement to recharge portion of their water when opportunities arise; still in the early stages. The NRD has piloted Seametrics AG3000 flow meters for 2 years in the field but have had some failures. While there are issues with this new model, such as batteries and liners getting water into components, the company is responsive in correcting these issues.

F. SPNRD – No updates.

8. Public Comment

No public comment was provided.

9. 2024 Scheduled Meetings:

- June 6, 2024

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

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

A. Action Items

1. SPNRD will send out send out individual NRD breakouts for the Plummer Liability Insurance invoices.

11. Adjourn at approximately 1:25 p.m. CT