

# PLATTE BASIN COALITION (PBC) MEETING

Thursday, August 1, 2024, 1:00 p.m. Central Time

Central Platte Natural Resources District  
215 Kaufman Ave, Grand Island, NE 68803  
& Virtually via Zoom Conference

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## MINUTES

### 1. Welcome/Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Kent Miller (TPNRD), Chair, at 2:45 p.m. As directed by state statute, the Open Meetings Act was displayed during the meeting.

### 2. Roll Call

PBC ILCA Representatives

Kent Miller, TPNRD	Travis Preston, NPNRD (Alternate)
Nolan Little, TBNRD (Alternate)	Lyndon Vogt, CPNRD
Galen Wittrock, SPNRD	Ryan Kelly, NeDNR (Alternate)

Others in Attendance\*

Ryan Reisdorff, SPNRD	Caitlin Kingsley, NeDNR	Jack Mensinger, NeDNR
Jesse Mintken, CPNRD	Larry Reynolds, TBNRD Director	Larry Rutt, SPNRD Director
Kevin Derry, SPNRD Producer	Jared Derry, SPNRD Producer	Arik Vossler, NeDNR
Heath Kuntz, ARI		

\*Shaded areas indicate online attendees.

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

- *North Platte Telegraph*: July 18, 2024
- *Sidney Sun-Telegraph*: July 18, 2024
- *Grand Island Independent*: July 18, 2024
- *Kearney Hub*: July 18, 2024
- *Scottsbluff Star Herald*: July 18, 2024

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

**MOTION:** *To approve the August 1, 2024, agenda.*

*Move:* Lyndon Vogt

*Second:* Galen Wittrock

*Discussion:* None.

Motion passed unanimously.

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## 5. Review and Approval of the June 6, 2024, Minutes (*Attachment 5*)

*MOTION: To approve the June 6, 2024, minutes.*

*Move: Galen Wittrock*

*Second: Ryan Kelly*

*Discussion: None.*

Motion passed unanimously.

## 6. Budget Updates

### A. General Updates

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

Caitlin Kingsley (NeDNR) updated the group on the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget. NeDNR finalized contracts for CPNRD's six decertifications approved at the April 4, 2024, PBC meeting. Each decertification has its own contract. Reimbursement amounts were adjusted based on the amounts CPNRD spent on each project. Money not spent from the approved budget in April will return to CPNRD's unobligated pool of funds.

Kent asked if their pilot program of implementing Arable sensors on pivots within their Water Data Program would qualify for remaining funds. Sensors can capture precipitation and estimate ET on a field-by-field basis, helping producers make better irrigation decisions and therefore saving water. Data derived from the program could also be used as an input for the 2027 Robust Review.

Ryan Kelly (NeDNR) stated NeDNR would like to consult internally to assess if such a project is eligible for WRCF funding and consider other funding sources. Kent reiterated he would like to bring this project before the PBC in the future to get funding.

#### a. NPNRD Ruth J. Hamilton Hooper Canal Temporary Retirement

Travis Preston (NPNRD) stated NPNRD is withdrawing this request. Caitlin clarified that this project and associated budget is currently grouped with the temporary surface water retirements under 1457 on the FY24-25 budget sheet. The budget will be adjusted to reflect this change.

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## i. Studies (*Attachment 6Aii*)

Caitlin presented updates to the Studies budget, indicated in light yellow. NeDNR received two invoices from HDR for drought plan development for \$1,165.87 and \$2,200.01.

There are new budget requests, including proposed scopes of work and draft contract language, for an updated tillage practices survey, expanded 2023 Robust Review documentation, and parcel-based modeling. The total cost of the tillage practices survey is \$95,260, and the total cost expanded 2023 Robust Review methods documentation for the COHYST area is \$56,000. The proposed cost share for the tillage practices study and the Robust Review documentation is 50% NeDNR, 50% split evenly between the COHYST area NRDs (CPNRD, TPNRD, TBNRD).

The parcel-based modeling update has a budget of \$400,000. NeDNR is planning to pay in full for Phase 1, up to \$135,000, and reassess costs for following phases.

## B. Invoices for Approval

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

a. Invoice #1200625132 (*Attachment 6Bia*)

b. Invoice #1200633960 (*Attachment 6Bib*)

**MOTION:** *To approve the HDR invoices for Drought Plan development for the totals of \$2,200.01 and \$1,165.87.*

*Move: Galen Wittrock*

*Second: Lyndon Vogt*

*Discussion: None.*

*Motion passed unanimously.*

## C. New Budget Requests

### i. Parcel-Based Modeling Updates, Robust Review 2027 (*Attachment 6Ci*)

**MOTION:** *To fund the parcel-based modeling scopes of work with TFG and ARI for a combined cost of up to \$400,000 for Phase I and Phase II. It is expected that no more than \$135,000 would be spend in Phase I between the 2 contracts. Phase I will be paid 100% by NeDNR understanding that TPNRD and UNWNRD are contributing to*

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*the work via separate contracts. As stated in the scopes of work, the deliverable from Phase I of a more detailed scope of work and costs for Phase II must be approved by PBC before work on Phase II can proceed and the same applies to Phase III.*

*Move: Ryan Kelly*

*Second: Lyndon Vogt*

*Discussion: TFG and ARI have provided methods to provide details on the SOW. The PBC would like to understand how this impacts model outputs. Ryan Kelly clarified that Phase 1 is intended to address this concern by comparing parcel-based outputs to Previous conservation efforts results to ensure that the results are comparable.*

*Motion passed unanimously.*

- ii. Conservation Study Tillage Survey – TFG Scope of Work with Costs ([Attachment 6Cii](#))

Total Project Cost	NeDNR Share (50%)	Total NRD Share (50%)	CPNRD Share (1/3 of Total NRD)	TBNRD Share (1/3 of Total NRD)	TPNRD Share (1/3 of Total NRD)
\$95,260.00	\$47,630.00	\$47,630.00	\$15,876.67	\$15,876.67	\$15,876.67

***MOTION:*** *To approve the scope of work as presented and approve the budget as shown on the agenda.*

*Move: Ryan Kelly*

*Second: Lyndon Vogt*

*Discussion: Kent reiterated that he expects TFG to work with the POAC Technical Committee to assess the individual needs of NRDs.*

*Caitlin clarified that there is currently no contract language for this project, but there is a scope of work and a cost estimate.*

*Motion is to approve the budget and cost share.*

*Motion passed unanimously.*

- iii. TFG Robust Review Expanded Methods Documentation ([Attachment 6Ciii](#))

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**MOTION:** *To approve the Expanded Methods Documentation scope of work and budget as presented.*

*Move: Lyndon Vogt*

*Second: Ryan Kelly*

*Discussion: Kent Miller expressed the expectation that TFG will work with the POAC Technical Committee to develop a list of requirements to complete the expanded methods documentation.*

Motion passed unanimously.

iv. Other budget requests

None.

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

A. NeDNR

Caitlin shared additional information regarding recent excess flows. The most recent excess flow event occurred between July 2-12, 2024. Several canals in NPNRD had excess flow appropriations approved in July. Though the DSS showed the appropriations as open, they were technically never open due to processing time. Ryan Kelly shared that NeDNR is working to streamline processes within DSS to improve processing time for appropriation users.

B. CPNRD

Lyndon mentioned most of CPNRD's funds are allocated to retention ponds, and they continue to pursue opportunities for projects. CPNRD will likely no longer retire acres. A few people contacted the NRD with an interest to retire acres, but the NRD turned them down.

C. TBNRD

Nolan shared that the Net Recharge Management Tool is coming along, but the NRD is struggling with the WaterSMART grant process.

D. TPNRD: No update.

E. NPNRD: No update.

F. SPNRD: No update.

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## **8. Public Comment**

- a. No public comment was provided.

## **9. 2024 Scheduled Meetings:**

- o October 3, 2024
- o December 5, 2024
  - i. Potential to hold virtually.

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

- a. NeDNR to finalize and distribute contract language to PBC body.

## **11. Adjourn (3:17 p.m.)**