

PLATTE BASIN COALITION (PBC) MEETING

Thursday, February 6, 2025, 1:00 p.m. Central Time

Twin Platte Natural Resources District
3021 E Philip Ave, North Platte, NE 69101
and Virtual via Zoom Conference

1. Welcome/Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Kent Miller (TPNRD) at 1:00 p.m. 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	Scott Schaneman, NPNRD
John Thorburn, TBNRD	Sam Capps, NeDNR (alternate)
Galen Wittrock, SPNRD	Brandi Flyr, CPNRD (alternate)

Others in Attendance*

Caitlin Kingsley, NeDNR	Jack Mensinger, NeDNR	Ryan Kelly, NeDNR
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*Shaded areas indicate online attendees.

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

- *North Platte Telegraph*: January 30, 2025
- *Sidney Sun-Telegraph*: January 30, 2025
- *Grand Island Independent*: January 29, 2025
- *Kearney Hub*: January 30, 2025
- *Scottsbluff Star Herald*: January 30, 2025

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

MOTION: *To approve the February 6, 2025, agenda.*

Move: Scott Schaneman

Second: Brandi Flyr

Discussion: None.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

MOTION: *To approve the December 5, 2024, minutes.*

Move: Sam Capps

Second: Scott Schaneman

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Discussion: None.

Motion passed unanimously.

6. Budget Updates

A. General Updates

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

Caitlin Kingsley (NeDNR) presented formatting improvements that had been made to both budgets. The addition to the current fiscal year budget (*Attachment 6Ai*) is a new request by TPNRD to add additional recharge sites along the Keith-Lincoln Canal.

ii. Studies (*Attachment 6Aii*)

Caitlin reviewed the new Studies invoices highlighted in yellow on *Attachment 6Aii*: an invoice from TFG for the Robust Review expanded methods documentation (contract #1525) and an invoice from ARI for parcel-based modeling (contract #1524). NeDNR will be paying the contract #1524 invoice in full, but the invoices must still be approved by PBC as #1524 is a PBC contract. The entire Studies sheet has been updated to reflect when each invoice was approved by PBC and distributed to the relevant parties for payment.

B. Invoices for Approval

i. ARI Invoice #04489 for Parcel-Based Modeling Contract #1524 (*Attachment 6Bi*)

MOTION: To approve ARI invoice #04489 for the Parcel-Based Modeling Project (contract #1524) for the total of \$8,600.00.

Move: John Thorburn

Second: Brandi Flyr

Discussion: None.

Motion passed unanimously.

ii. TFG Invoice #24-3438 for Robust Review Documentation Contract #1525 (*Attachment 6Bii*)

MOTION: To approve TFG invoice #24-3438 for Robust Review Documentation (contract #1525) for the total of \$25,336.25.

Move: John Thorburn

Second: Brandi Flyr

Discussion: None.

Motion passed unanimously.

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C. New Budget Requests

i. TPNRD Keith-Lincoln Canal Additional Recharge Pits (Attachment 6Ci)

	NRD Share (40% of Total)	WRCF Share (60% of Total)	Total Project Cost
Site #1	\$16,440.00	\$24,660.00	\$41,100.00
Site #2	\$14,000.00	\$21,000.00	\$35,000.00
Site #3	\$13,600.00	\$20,400.00	\$34,000.00
Site #4	\$14,520.00	\$21,780.00	\$36,300.00
Site #5	\$14,000.00	\$21,000.00	\$35,000.00
Site #6	\$14,520.00	\$21,780.00	\$36,300.00
Loggers	\$3,168.00	\$4,752.00	\$7,920.00
Total	\$90,248.00	\$135,372.00	\$225,620.00

MOTION: *To approve the budget request as presented.*

Move: Scott Schaneman

Second: Galen Wittrock

Discussion: Kent clarified that the request is for 6 new recharge pits to add to the 4 previously budgeted.

Motion passed unanimously.

ii. Other budget requests

None.

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

A. NeDNR

Caitlin reported that this year's excess flow variances are being submitted through the Decision Support System (DSS). Scott Schaneman (NPNRD) indicated that while the process of uploading to DSS had some initial minor issues, the most significant challenge is the need to obtain annual sign-off from all irrigation districts. Scott suggested exploring longer-term agreements. Brandi Flyr (CPNRD) noted recurring difficulties in completing the variance forms. Ryan Kelly (NeDNR) offered to meet with CPNRD to address and resolve the issues with the variance forms.

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B. CPNRD
No update.

C. TBNRD
No update.

D. TPNRD
Kent shared that the Meadowlark Project fertilizer plant in Gothenburg is seeking green energy and proposed studying a 7,000-acre solar panel development to the NCORPE Board. Previously the NCORPE Board was against the development of wind projects but has reconsidered its stance for potential solar projects. Ryan asked if the energy would remain within the Nebraska power grid, and Kent affirmed that it would.

E. NPNRD
Scott updated the group about a renewable energy project being considered in Scotts Bluff County; the permit was denied once but has been revised and is open for discussion. The project would cover 3,500 acres. There is another project of similar size being considered in Banner County currently. Kent added that the County has the final say and can stop the projects through zoning.

F. SPNRD
No update.

8. Public Comment

None.

9. 2025 Meetings:

- a. April 3, 2025
- b. June 5, 2025
- c. August 7, 2025 (Basin-wide meeting at TBNRD)
- d. October 2, 2025
- e. December 4, 2025

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10. Wrap-up, action items, next steps

- a. NeDNR will distribute invoices to be paid.

11. Adjourn 1:19 p.m.