

PLATTE BASIN COALITION (PBC) MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 3, 2025, 1:00 p.m. Central Time

Twin Platte Natural Resources District

3021 E Philip Ave, North Platte, NE 69101

MINUTES

1. Welcome/Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Kent Miller (TPNRD) at 1:41 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	Scott Schaneman, NPNRD
John Thorburn, TBNRD	Brandi Flyr, CPNRD (alternate)
Galen Wittrock, SPNRD	Jennifer Schellpeper, NeDNR

Others in Attendance*

Jack Mensinger, NeDNR	Caitlin Kingsley, NeDNR	Katie Hickle, NDEE
Travis Preston, NPNRD	Ann Dimmitt, TPNRD	Sam Capps, NeDNR
Ryan Kelly, NeDNR		

*Shaded areas indicate online attendees.

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

- *North Platte Telegraph*: March 22, 2025
- *Sidney Sun-Telegraph*: March 20, 2025
- *Grand Island Independent*: March 22, 2025
- *Kearney Hub*: March 22, 2025
- *Scottsbluff Star Herald*: March 22, 2025

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

MOTION: *To approve the April 3, 2025, agenda.*

Move: Galen Wittrock

Second: John Thorburn

Discussion: None

Motion passed unanimously.

5. Review and Approval of the February 6, 2025, Minutes ([Attachment 5](#))

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

Move: John Thorburn

Second: Scott Schaneman

Discussion: None

PLATTE BASIN COALITION (PBC) MEETING MINUTES

Motion passed unanimously.

6. Budget Updates

A. Budget Review and Approval

i. FY 2025-2026 ([Attachment 6Ai](#))

- a. Caitlin Kingsley (NeDNR) reminded the PBC of the ILCA requirement to adopt a budget each fiscal year, which runs from July 1st to June 30th. The draft budget for FY 2025-2026 reflects a preliminary NeDNR contribution of \$1 million. This adjusted amount is due to the uncertainty surrounding future Legislative allocation of funds to the Water Resources Cash Fund (WRCF).

Caitlin clarified that if the Legislature appropriates additional funds later, the budget amount could be adjusted via an amendment at a later meeting. The contribution breakdown by NRD will remain consistent using the established percentages. The new money is added to the current obligations from FY 2024-2025 to determine the total for FY 2025-2026. The 60/40 split for project funding will also be maintained. Caitlin stated that all contractual obligations up to this point have been maintained, and NeDNR expects to contribute \$1 million in new funds, with the possibility of amendment if there is a new appropriation.

ii. Studies ([Attachment 6Aii](#))

Caitlin stated that the main changes to this budget were the addition of two new invoices from TFG (#25-3464 under contract #1574 and #25-3463, under contract #1535) and two new invoices from ARI (#04522 and #04544 under contract #1524 paid by NeDNR). Caitlin stated that Phase 2 of the Parcel-Based Modeling will require PBC approval once its scope of work is defined. John Thorburn (TBNRD) asked about upcoming studies and initiatives. Jennifer Schellpeper (NeDNR) further elaborated on potential upcoming initiatives, including Parcel-Based Modeling, the 2027 Robust Review, and the early discussion of a new "No Harm" metric for the Fully Appropriated (FA) designation. Finally, Caitlin clarified that the funding for studies typically comes from a different source than the Water Resources Cash Fund (WRCF).

iii. Operations ([Attachment 6Aiii](#))

PLATTE BASIN COALITION (PBC) MEETING MINUTES

Caitlin presented a memo (Attachment 6Aiii) detailing PBC's liability insurance invoices to be distributed by SPNRD.

MOTION: *To approve the Fiscal Year 2025-2026, Studies, and Operations budgets as presented.*

Move: Scott Schaneman

Second: Galen Wittrock

Discussion: No discussion.

Motion passed unanimously.

B. Invoices for Approval

i. ARI Invoices for Parcel-Based Modeling Contract #1524

a. Invoice #04522 (Attachment 6Bia)

b. Invoice #04544 (Attachment 6Bib)

MOTION: *To approve ARI invoices #04522 and #04544 for Parcel-Based Modeling Contract #1524 for \$8,707.50 and \$3,332.50, respectively.*

Move: John Thorburn

Second: Scott Schaneman

Discussion: Caitlin stated that the invoices cover Phase 1 activities, which are paid in full by NeDNR but are approved by the PBC.

Motion passed unanimously.

ii. TFG Invoice for Conservation Study Tillage Practices Survey Update Contract #1574 (Attachment 6Bii)

MOTION: *To approve TFG invoice #25-3464 for the Conservation Study Tillage Practices Survey Update Contract #1574 for \$3,910.00.*

Move: Brandi Flyr

Second: John Thorburn

Discussion: None

Motion passed unanimously.

iii. TFG Invoice for Parcel-Based Modeling Contract #1535 (Attachment 6Biii)

MOTION: *To approve TFG invoice #25-3463 for the Parcel-Based Modeling Project Contract #1535 for \$21,173.75.*

Move: Scott Schaneman

Second: Galen Wittrock

Discussion: None

PLATTE BASIN COALITION (PBC) MEETING MINUTES

Motion passed unanimously.

C. New Budget Requests

i. Other budget requests

None.

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

A. NeDNR

Caitlin reported that there had been no recent excess flows. She also mentioned that NeDNR's IT division is currently working on an NCORPE dashboard.

B. CPNRD

No updates.

C. TBNRD

John stated that the Cottonwood well field has 8 wells running. TBNRD's augmentation wells are not running.

D. TPNRD

No update.

E. NPNRD

No update.

F. SPNRD

No update.

8. Public Comment

No public comment.

9. 2025 Meetings:

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

10. Wrap-up & action items

NeDNR will distribute invoices to each applicable NRD for payment.

11. Adjourn 1:56 pm