

PLATTE BASIN COALITION (PBC) MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, June 6, 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 1:12 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	Lyndon Vogt, CPNRD
Galen Wittrock, SPNRD	Sam Capps, NeDNR (Alternate)

Others in Attendance*

Jack Mensinger, NeDNR	Caitlin Kingsley, NeDNR	Travis Preston, NPNRD
Ann Dimmitt, TPNRD	Ryan Kelly, NeDNR	

*Shaded areas indicate online attendees.

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

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

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

MOTION: *To approve the June 5, 2025, agenda.*

Move: Scott Schaneman

Second: Galen Wittrock

Discussion: None

Motion passed unanimously.

5. Review and Approval of the April 3, 2025, Minutes ([Attachment 5](#))

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

Move: Sam Capps

Second: John Thorburn

Discussion: None

Motion passed unanimously.

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6. Budget Updates

A. Budget Review

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

Caitlin Kingsley (NeDNR) updated the group on the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget. Caitlin noted that there have not been many updates to the budget since the April meeting, at which point the budget was presented and approved, fulfilling the ILCA requirement to adopt a budget each fiscal year. NeDNR's preliminary contribution remains at \$1 million, a figure set earlier due to the uncertainty surrounding future legislative allocation of funds to the Water Resources Cash Fund (WRCF). Caitlin touched upon the upcoming biennium, mentioning a \$3 million transfer from the NET to the WRCF. However, there is uncertainty regarding whether the amount is in addition to currently available funds or if existing unobligated funds might be affected, potentially implying a fresh start with the \$3 million. Sam Capps (NeDNR) stated that NeDNR is seeking clarification from legal staff and Jesse Bradley (NeDNR) on the implications of this transfer and expects to have more information by the August meeting. Caitlin stated that the only budget activity since the previous PBC meeting was the activation of a fully executed contract #1604 for the Tri-Basin Net Recharge Tool. Caitlin clarified that no budget approval was required at this meeting, as the FY 2025-2026 budget was approved on April 3, 2025. The budget can be amended at a later meeting if needed.

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

Caitlin updated the group on the Studies budget. Caitlin highlighted the five Studies invoices on the agenda for approval under Agenda Item 6B: one invoice from The Flatwater Group (TFG) for the Conservation Study (contract #1574), TFG for 2023 Robust Review documentation (contract #1525), two invoices from Adaptive Resources Inc. (ARI) for Parcel-Based Modeling (contract #1524), and TFG for Parcel-Based Modeling (contract #1535).

B. Invoices for Approval

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

a. Invoice #04570 ([Attachment 6Bia](#))

b. Invoice #04607 ([Attachment 6Bib](#))

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MOTION: To approve ARI invoices #04570 and #04607 for Parcel-Based Modeling contract #1524 for the totals of \$13,867.50 and \$332.50, respectively.

Move: Sam Capps

Second: John Thorburn

Discussion: None

Motion passed unanimously.

- ii. TFG Invoice for 2023 Robust Review Documentation Contract #1525 (*Attachment 6Bii*)

MOTION: To approve TFG invoice #25-3499 for 2023 Robust Review Documentation contract #1525 for the total of \$6,562.50.

Move: Lyndon Vogt

Second: Scott Schaneman

Discussion: Caitlin reminded the group that this invoice has a cost share associated with it. NeDNR pays half (50%), and the other half (50%) is split evenly among Central Platte NRD, Tri-Basin NRD, and Twin Platte NRD.

Motion passed unanimously.

- iii. TFG Invoice for Parcel-Based Modeling Contract #1535

MOTION: To approve TFG invoice #25-3497 for Parcel-Based Modeling contract #1535 for the total of \$38,750.00.

Move: John Thorburn

Second: Scott Schaneman

Discussion: None

Motion passed unanimously.

- iv. TFG Invoice for 2025 Conservation Study Tillage Survey Contract #1574

MOTION: To approve TFG invoice #25-3498 for 2025 Conservation Study Tillage Survey contract #1574 for the total of \$9,177.50.

Move: Scott Schaneman

Second: Sam Capps

Discussion: Caitlin reminded the group that this invoice has a cost share associated with it. NeDNR pays half (50%), and the other half (50%) is split evenly among Central Platte NRD, Tri-Basin NRD, and

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Twin Platte NRD.

- v. Other invoices
None.

C. New Budget Requests

- i. Other budget requests
None.

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

A. NeDNR

Caitlin reported that there was an ongoing excess flow event. Caitlin directed the group to check the public DSS dashboard to view the status of administration on active recharge appropriations. The dashboard currently displays Tri-County Canal, Keith-Lincoln Canal, and North Platte Canal as being open for excess flow diversions.

B. CPNRD

Lyndon Vogt (CPNRD) reported that they have been trying to find some locations for possible off-canal detention but have not had any luck for about the last five years. Lyndon explained that while they had found potential locations, the problem was the proximity to housing or other issues that made them unsuitable. CPNRD would prefer not to flood a basement when attempting significant recharge. Lyndon noted that Cozad Ditch did not have interest in such projects, but 30 Mile Canal would. They have not actively sought out sellers, but have looked at properties when they come up for auction and have had some people call them willing to sell, but the sites presented issues that made them unsuitable.

C. TBNRD

John Thorburn (TBNRD) shared that Tri-Basin had been operating augmentation wells for the Platte River Program from mid-February up until the vegetation suppression flows began. He reported that excess flows are being taken by Tri-County and put into the federal wetland areas and has been receiving complaints about this. He commented that they are getting recharge, or at least a lot of water on the surface, from diversion activity.

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D. TPNRD

No update.

E. NPNRD

Travis Preston (NPNRD) reported that North Platte NRD had started diverting water into the Enterprise Recharge Pond(s) about seven days prior to the meeting. He stated that the water was being recharged quickly due to the quality of the gravel and sand underneath those ponds.

F. SPNRD

No update.

8. Public Comment

No public comment was provided.

9. 2025 Meetings:

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

10. Wrap-up & action items

NeDNR will distribute invoices to the applicable parties.

11. Adjourn at 1:27 p.m.