

# PLATTE BASIN COALITION (PBC) MEETING

Thursday, December 5, 2024, 1:00 p.m. Central Time

Twin Platte Natural Resources District

111 S. Dewey St., Second Floor, North Platte, NE 69101

& Virtually via Zoom Conference

## MINUTES

### 1. Welcome/Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Jennifer Schellpeper (NeDNR) at 1:05 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

|                                |                             |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Ann Dimmitt, TPNRD (Alternate) | Scott Schaneman, NPNRD      |
| John Thorburn, TBNRD           | Jennifer Schellpeper, NeDNR |
| Galen Wittrock, SPNRD          | Lyndon Vogt, CPNRD          |

#### Others in Attendance\*

|                         |                       |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Sam Capps, NeDNR        | Jack Mensinger, NeDNR | Ryan Kelly, NeDNR     |
| Caitlin Kingsley, NeDNR | Katie Hickle, NDEE    | Travis Preston, NPNRD |
| Ryan Reisdorff, SPNRD   |                       |                       |

\*Shaded areas indicate online attendees.

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

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

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

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

*Move:* Galen Wittrock

*Second:* Lyndon Vogt

*Discussion:* None.

Motion passed unanimously.

### 5. Review and Approval of the October 3, 2024, Minutes ([Attachment 5](#))

**MOTION:** *To approve the October 3, 2024, minutes.*

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Move: John Thorburn  
Second: Scott Schaneman  
Discussion: None.  
Motion passed unanimously.

## 6. Budget Updates

### A. General Updates

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

Caitlin Kingsley (NeDNR) described updates to the 2024-2025 budget summary (Attachment 6Ai). A status column has been added to indicate whether contracts are in effect (“Active”), paid out (“Completed”), have been approved by PBC (“Approved”), or are awaiting PBC approval (“New Request”). A new project proposal from Twin Platte NRD is highlighted and identified as a New Request. Tri-Basin NRD’s contract #1190 had money remaining but is expired, so it has been marked Completed and the unspent money returned to TBNRD’s pool to be recommitted.

#### 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 two invoices from ARI for parcel-based modeling (contract #1524) were included. NeDNR will be paying the two contract #1524 invoices 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.

#### iii. Invoice Payment Request Form and Checklist for PBC Invoice Payment Requests (*Attachment 6Aiii*)

**MOTION:** *To approve the Invoice Payment Request Form and contract-specific Checklist for PBC Invoice Payment Requests for PBC contracts.*

Move: Galen Wittrock  
Second: John Thorburn

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*Discussion:* Sam Capps (NeDNR) Proposed invoice payment request forms and a contract-specific checklist would be included as an attachment to each PBC contract going forward.

Motion passed unanimously.

## B. Invoices for Approval

### i. TFG Invoice for Robust Review Expanded Methods Documentation (#1525)

#### a. Invoice #24-3423 (*Attachment 6Bi*)

**MOTION:** *To approve the TFG invoice for 2023 Robust Review documentation for the total of \$24,100.00.*

*Move:* Scott Schaneman

*Second:* Lyndon Vogt

*Discussion:* None.

Motion passed unanimously.

### ii. ARI Invoices for Parcel-Based Modeling (#1524)

#### a. Invoice #04434 (*Attachment 6Biia*)

#### b. Invoice #04446 (*Attachment 6Biib*)

**MOTION:** *To approve ARI invoices #04434 and #04446 for Parcel-Based Modeling for the totals of \$6,602.50 and \$7,847.50, respectively.*

*Move:* Lyndon Vogt

*Second:* Galen Wittrock

*Discussion:* Caitlin clarified that the total amount due listed on the second invoice (#04446) included the balance from the first invoice (#04434) and new work completed during the billing period.

Motion passed unanimously.

## C. New Budget Requests

### i. TPNRD Keith-Lincoln Canal New & Modified Recharge Pits (*Attachment 6Ci*)

|         | NRD Share<br>(40% of Total) | WRCF Share<br>(60% of Total) | Total Project<br>Cost |
|---------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Site #1 | \$10,600.00                 | \$15,900.00                  | \$26,500.00           |

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|              |                    |                    |                     |
|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Site #2      | \$13,800.00        | \$20,700.00        | \$34,500.00         |
| Site #3      | \$13,800.00        | \$20,700.00        | \$34,500.00         |
| Site #4      | \$6,400.00         | \$9,600.00         | \$16,000.00         |
| Loggers      | \$2,112.00         | \$3,168.00         | \$5,280.00          |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>\$46,712.00</b> | <b>\$70,068.00</b> | <b>\$116,780.00</b> |

**MOTION:** To approve the TPNRD budget request for the Keith-Lincoln Canal New & Modified Recharge Pits project. The total WRCF reimbursement requested is \$70,068.00 of the total \$116,780.00 project cost.

Move: John Thorburn

Second: Scott Schaneman

Discussion: Ann Dimmitt (TPNRD) shared that the project is similar to previous TPNRD canal projects. Ann anticipates TPNRD is likely to apply for reimbursement for additional recharge sites on the Keith-Lincoln Canal in the future. TPNRD planned to submit a request for 12 sites, but only 4 were ready for this meeting.

Jennifer asked if the proposal and budget incorporates all fees to build and implement. Ann confirmed and explained that the budget includes concrete structures and devices for two existing pits and all new equipment and structures for two new pits.

Motion passed unanimously.

- ii. Other budget requests  
None.

## 7. Contract Amendments

- a. PBC-HDR Contract for Drought Plan Development

**MOTION:** Agree to amend the PBC-HDR contract for drought plan development to:

- i. Extend the term to December 31, 2025,
- ii. Withhold a final payment of \$20,000.00 from HDR until a USBR approved Drought Plan is completed,
- iii. Add a condition to provide that PBC will pay invoices submitted by HDR upon PBC's determination that satisfactory work products have been completed by HDR.

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- iv. *Require HDR to submit the Invoice Payment Request Form for PBC contracts and all items listed in the checklist for invoice payment requests to receive payment under this Agreement.*

*NeDNR will finalize amendment language and distribute electronically for review and approval before December 31, 2024.*

*Move:* Scott Schaneman

*Second:* Galen Wittrock

*Discussion:* Sam clarified that the provided language is a sample sourced from existing contracts. NeDNR will work with legal staff to prepare the final amendment language and distribute for review.

Motion passed unanimously.

- b. #1377: NeDNR-PBC Cost-Sharing Agreement for Drought Plan Development

***MOTION:*** *Agree to amend contract #1377 to:*

- i. *Extend the term to December 31, 2025,*
- ii. *Withhold a final payment of \$20,000.00 from HDR until a USBR approved Drought Plan is completed, and*
- iii. *Add a condition to provide that PBC will pay invoices submitted by HDR upon PBC's determination that satisfactory work products have been completed by HDR.*

*NeDNR will finalize amendment language and distribute electronically for review and approval before December 31, 2024.*

*Move:* Lyndon Vogt

*Second:* John Thorburn

*Discussion:* None.

Motion passed unanimously.

- c. #1525: 2023 Robust Review Expanded Documentation (*Attachment 7C*)

***MOTION:*** *To approve the amendment to contract #1525 to extend to June 30, 2025, and to include the approved PBC invoice payment form and contract checklist.*

*Move:* Galen Wittrock

*Second:* John Thorburn

*Discussion:* Sam clarified that the PBC invoice payment request form and checklist will become attachments to the amendment.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

### A. NeDNR

Caitlin shared that Tri-County Canal has been open to divert excess flow since November 19. The initial diversion amount approved was 20 cfs; the amount has incrementally increased up to 400 cfs. Permitted delivery locations include Elwood Reservoir, E65, Phelps, Cottonwood, and Victor. The excess flow event was still ongoing at the time of the meeting.

### B. CPNRD

Lyndon Vogt (CPNRD) stated he had no project updates but shared that the canals in his district were under the impression that excess flows would not be available for long and did not apply.

### C. TBNRD

John: Net recharge tool is underway and looking for contractors, hopeful to be implemented by 2026. This is intended to get a better idea of the ground water system and target excess flows

### D. TPNRD

No update.

### E. NPNRD

No update.

### F. SPNRD

No update.

## **9. Public Comment**

No public comment was provided.

## **10. 2025 Scheduled Meetings:**

- a. February 6, 2025
- b. April 3, 2025
- c. June 5, 2025
- d. August 7, 2025 (Basin-wide meeting at TBNRD)
- e. October 2, 2025
- f. December 4, 2025

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## **11. Wrap-up, action items, next steps**

Caitlin provided the following action items:

- a. NeDNR will post the contract #1525 invoice on ShareFile for payment.
- b. NeDNR will work with TPNRD to develop a contract for the Keith-Lincoln Canal recharge pits.
- c. NeDNR will work with legal staff and the PBC to finalize and sign the approved contract amendments prior to expiration at the end of the year.

## **12. Adjourn (1:33 p.m.)**