

# PLATTE BASIN COALITION

## MEETING MINUTES

January 29, 2021, 1 p.m.

Meeting conducted via Zoom conference

### CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE (*ATTACHMENT A*)

Shelly Meyer	NeDNR	Dan Sternkopf	NeDNR
Lyndon Vogt	CPNRD	John Thorburn	TBNRD
Thad Kuntz	ARI	Ann Dimmitt	TPNRD
Rod Horn	SPNRD	Jennifer Schellpeper	NeDNR
John Berge	NPNRD	Jessie Winter	NeDNR
Travis Glanz	SPNRD	Barb Cross	NPNRD
Brandi Flyr	CPNRD	Jesse Mintken	CPNRD
Ryan Kelly	NeDNR	Ryan Reisdorff	SPNRD

*The meeting agenda is ATTACHMENT B.*

1. **WELCOME:** The meeting was opened by Jennifer Schellpeper on behalf of chair, Kent Miller, at 1 p.m. and noted there was a copy of the Open Meetings Act present at the NeDNR office.
2. **PUBLICATION OF MEETING NOTICES (*ATTACHMENT C*)**
  - A. North Platte Telegraph: 1/19/2021
  - B. Sidney Sun Telegraph: 1/20/2021
  - C. Grand Island Independent: 1/18/2021
  - D. Kearney Hub: 1/19/2021
  - E. Scottsbluff Star Herald: 1/20/2021
3. **APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA (*Attachment B*):**

There were no suggested changes to the January 29, 2021 PBC meeting agenda.
4. **APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 3, 2020 PBC MEETING MINUTES (*ATTACHMENT D*):**

**MOTION:** To approve the December 3, 2020, PBC meeting minutes.

  - Thorburn motioned. Berge seconded.
  - Minutes approved with all ayes.
5. **BUDGET UPDATE (NeDNR)**
  - A. **GENERAL UPDATES (*Attachment E*)**
    - i. **YEARS 4-6; NET BUDGET CLOSEOUT**

Schellpeper reported on a memo describing the closeout of the NET Budget Years 4-6, which will be sent to NET (*ATTACHMENT F*). The memo highlights how all of the funds from those years are now spent.

ii. YEARS 7-9

a. Project Budget Reallocations

i. SPNRD

Schellpeper reported on Budget Years 7-9, for which NeDNR is working on an extension request letter that will be sent to NET. New projects will be added for these years to compensate for the remaining budget dollars. Schellpeper presented a memo describing how SPNRD's remaining budget of \$316,766.90 and NeDNRs match of \$475,150.53 will be reallocated to NPNRD and TPBNRD, with the splits highlighted below (*ATTACHMENT G*).

NPNRD - \$50,000

NeDNR - \$75,000

TOTAL - \$125,000

TPNRD - \$266,766.90

NeDNR - \$400,150.35

TOTAL - \$666,917.25

**MOTION:** To approve the reallocation of SPNRD's unused NET Budget funds from Years 7-9 to NPNRD and TPNRD.

- Horn motioned. Vogt seconded.
- The reallocation SPNRD's Years 7-9 NET Budget funds was approved with all ayes.

ii. TBNRD

Thorburn described a memo highlighting how TBNRD plans to transfer funds from their Cottonwood Ranch project in the amounts of TBNRD portion of \$175,278 and NeDNR's portion of \$262,917 for a total of \$438,195 to their Water Conservation Incentive Program (*ATTACHMENT H*). Since these funds have already been allocated to TBNRD, no motion is needed.

iii. STUDIES

a. CONSERVATION STUDY INVOICE (CONTRACT #1153)

Schellpeper and Meyer reported on a Conservation Study invoice that has been distributed to the NRDs, which was approved during the 12/3/2020 PBC meeting (*ATTACHMENT I*).

**B. NEW OBLIGATIONS/ FUNDING REQUESTS**

i. NPNRD EPIC

Berge discussed a memo requesting funds to expand NPNRD's EPIC program (*ATTACHMENT J*). This request accommodates the reallocation of funds approved earlier in the 1/29/2021 meeting.

NPNRD - \$130,028.55

NeDNR - \$195,042.83

Total - \$325,071.38

**MOTION:** To approve the increased budget for NPNRD's EPIC Program.

- Horn motioned. Thorburn seconded.
- Increase of budget for NPNRD's EPIC program approved with all ayes.

*ii. CPNRD SCHROEDER PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT*

Vogt reported on a memo in which CPNRD is proposing to utilize PBC funds already committed to CPNRD to develop the Schroeder Property that CPNRD has already purchased as an excess flow recharge site (*ATTACHMENT K*).

CPNRD - \$630,230.24

NeDNR - \$945,345.36

TOTAL - \$1,575,575.60

**MOTION:** To approve the funding of CPNRD's Schroeder Property as a recharge site.

- Thorburn motioned. Horn seconded.
- The funding of CPNRD's Schroeder Property approved with all ayes.

**6. DISCUSSION OF LB-148**

Schellpeper reported that it is the determination of NeDNR's legal staff that LB-148 does not apply to the PBC.

**7. UPDATES ON HDR CONTRACT AND THE WATERSMART GRANT**

Kelly reported that NeDNR and HDR, on behalf of the PBC, successfully submitted the grant application to the Bureau of Reclamation. The contract for HDR has been approved and signed. The status of whether the grant application is accepted will be known in April 2021.

**8. ONGOING PROJECT ACTIVITIES/OPERATIONS**

**A. CPNRD**

*i. CPNRD RECHARGE PITS/DETENTION PONDS (CONTRACT IN PROGRESS)*

CPNRD is looking into new recharge opportunities.

*ii. CPNRD GEIKERN-ROWE/ COZAD DEV CORP-CONSERVATION EASEMENTS (1235)*

These projects are moving along as intended.

**B. TPNRD**

*i. TPNRD SIGNED AND COMPLETED CANAL MOAs (1010 - 1014)*

No updates.

*ii. TPNRD STREAMFLOW AUGMENTATION PIPELINE (N-CORPE)(778)*

No updates.

**C. NPNRD**

*i. EPIC PROGRAM (NPNRD) (1226)*

The increase of budget for NPNRD's EPIC Program was approved during the 1/29/2021 PBC meeting.

*ii. NPNRD SCHANEMAN RECHARGE PROJECT (1160)*

NPNRD now has all permit applications submitted to NeDNR and are waiting for approval.

*iii. NPNRD CERTIFIED ACRE REIMBURSEMENTS (1156) PERMANENT AND (1157) TEMPORARY*

No updates.

**D. TBNRD**

*i. RAINWATER BASIN JOINT VENTURE (TBNRD) (1021)*

There has been no excess flow diversion into any of the Rainwater Basin wetlands.

*ii. TBNRD PHASE II AUGMENTATION - NORTH DRY CREEK (597)*

TBNRD renewed their easement for the original well that was drilled in 2011. The new easement is for 10 years.

*iii. TBNRD WATER CONSERVATION INCENTIVE PROGRAM (CONTRACT IN PROGRESS)*

TBNRD is still taking applications, with 3,500 acres in the comingled option from 2020 and roughly 350 acres approved so far in 2021.

**E. NEDNR**

*i. J-2 REGULATING RESERVOIR (NEDNR) (574)*

There are no updates, but there should be new updates soon as NeDNR Director Riley becomes more familiarized with the project.

*ii. EXCESS FLOW DIVERSION UPDATES*

Not a lot of excess flows have been available, but NeDNR has been communicating notices when excess flows are available for diversion.

**9. PUBLIC COMMENT:** No comments.

**10. NEXT MEETING:** APRIL 6, 2021, AT 1 P.M.

**11. ADJOURN:** 1:30 p.m. (CT)

**ACTION ITEM LIST**

N/A