

# Platte Basin Coalition Committee Minutes

October 6th, 2015, 2:30 p.m. Central Time  
TPNRD Office, Great Western Bank Building, North Platte, NE

**Call to order and attendance:** Vogt called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m., Central Time.  
Sponsors and partners in attendance (Attachment A) were:

Lyndon Vogt	CPNRD	John Berge	NPNRD
Jesse Mintken	CPNRD	Rod Horn	SPNRD
Kayla Sharp	NDNR	John Thorburn	TBNRD
Jennifer Schellpeper	NDNR	Ann Dimmitt	TPNRD
Melissa Mosier	NDNR		

Guests:

Kevin Boyd, CNPPID

Michael Krondak, NPPD

- 1. Welcome and Open Meetings Act:** Vogt noted that a copy of the Open Meetings Act was available in the meeting room.
- 2. Publication of Meeting Notices:** The NDNR published a public notice (Attachment B) of the PBC meeting in the Grand Island Independent on September 26, 2015, the North Platte Telegraph on September 29, 2015, and the Scottsbluff Star Herald on September 26, 2015.
- 3. Agenda Modifications:** Vogt suggested to add discussion about the RFQ for the basin-wide facilitator under the budget item of the agenda (Attachment C).
- 4. Approval of August 6th, 2015, PBC Meeting Minutes:**

**Motion:** To approve the August 6th, 2015, PBC meeting minutes (Attachment D).  
**Horn motioned to approve and Thorburn seconded. Motion passed with all ayes.**
- 5. Budget Update (NDNR)**
  - A. Operations:** Vogt stated it was requested to hire a facilitator for second increment basin-wide planning and an RFQ needed to be discussed. Schellpeper stated the PBC was sent a draft proposal of an RFQ with some comments were received. The comments will be incorporated. The consensus of the PBC group is that they

would like NDNR to move forward with the RFQ on behalf of the PBC for the second increment basin-wide planning process. The funding will be discussed at a later date.

Sharp led discussion of the PBC budget summary spreadsheets (Attachment E). Sharp reported that the operations budget has had no changes since the previous meeting.

**Action:** NDNR is to finalize and advertise an RFQ for the purposes of hiring a facilitator.

## **B. Studies**

### **i. Conservation Measures Study**

**a. Invoice:** The Flatwater invoice was received and is attached (Attachment F). Sharp will break out the costs to each individual PBC member.

**Action:** Sharp will send invoices to the NRDs for the Conservation Study work performed by Flatwater and its subcontractors.

**ii. Difference Between Current and Fully Appropriated Study:** No update

**iii. Robust Review:** No update

**C. Second three-year increment funding (years 4-6):** Sharp referred the group to the handout of the Legislature report showing what was spent in the last fiscal year (2015) and what is anticipated to be spent in the next fiscal year (2016). This annual report is a requirement of the Water Resources Cash Fund.

In regards to Elwood and E65, the last invoice was received with \$312 remaining in the budget.

## **6. Project Updates**

**A. N-CORPE:** Dimmit reported no update as they are still waiting on legislation. Work continues with landowners on easements and pipeline installation will hopefully begin next fall.

**B. J-2 Regulating Reservoir:** Schellpeper reported the quarterly report from CNPPID was included. There are some significant cost issues and project alternatives are being explored. The cost cap to explore alternative designs is set at \$250,000, and the deadline to complete the study of alternatives is March 2016.

It is hoped to develop a graph of cost vs. storage to have ready for the March governance committee meeting. The J-2 reservoir project is still a viable project being pursued by PRRIP. J-2 still counts as a water project under the Nebraska New Depletion Plan, as well as the basin-wide IMP. At this time, the project continues to have a PRRIP score of 40,000 AF.

**C. North Platte NRD Lease**

- i. Cow Camp** - Berge reported the operations plan is still being worked on in regard to winter-time return flows. Discussions continue over the infiltration pit vs. direct return options. There is a pending application with NDNR on the infiltration pit.
- ii. Grandview** - The easement contract was recently signed with NDNR.
- iii. Hardt & Tighe** - This is a groundwater retirement project for which PBC funds are being sought for reimbursement.

**D. Tri-Basin Phase II Augmentation:** Thorburn reported both augmentation wells are operational. Schellpeper asked if there were more invoices as there was \$17,000 left in the budget and the money needs to be reallocated. Thorburn stated there was one invoice which amounted to approximately \$1,500.

*Action:* TPBRD will send out the last invoice for the augmentation project.

**E. South Platte NRD Temporary Retirement Agreement:** Horn reported that water use at the project site continues to be monitored.

**F. Excess Flow Diversion Updates (NDNR):**

- i.** Schellpeper reported the contract, which was set at 17,000 AF, has expired. There are remaining reserved project dollars to be reallocated.

**7. Schedule of 2016 PBC meetings**

**A.** Wednesday, February 3, 2016. The meeting will begin at 2:00 p.m. instead of 2:30 p.m.

**8. Public Comments:** No public comments.

**9. Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

**Action Item Summary:**

- 1) NDNR will update the RFQ language with the NRD comments and will advertise the RFQ to hire a facilitator on behalf of the PBC.
- 2) Sharp will send invoices to the NRDs for the Conservation Study work performed by Flatwater and its subcontractors.
- 3) TPBRD will send out the last invoice for the augmentation project.
- 4) Schedule 2016 meetings.

Next meetings of the PBC are scheduled for the following dates, times, and locations:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
December 7, 2015	2:30 p.m.	TPNRD Office, Great Western Bank Building, North Platte, NE
February 3, 2016	<b>2:00 p.m.</b>	TPNRD Office, Great Western Bank Building, North Platte, NE