

PLATTE BASIN COALITION

MEETING MINUTES

December 3, 2020, 1:30 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
Kent Miller	TPNRD	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
Thad Kuntz	ARI		

The meeting agenda is *ATTACHMENT B*.

1. **WELCOME:** The meeting was opened by chair, Kent Miller, at 1:30 p.m. and noted there was a copy of the Open Meetings Act present at the TPNRD office.
2. **PUBLICATION OF MEETING NOTICES (*ATTACHMENT C*)**
 - A. Sidney Sun Telegraph: 11/25/2020
 - B. North Platte Telegraph: 11/24/2020
 - C. Grand Island Independent: 11/23/2020
 - D. Kearney Hub: 11/24/2020
 - E. Scottsbluff Star Herald: 11/24/2020
3. **APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA (*Attachment B*):**

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

 - Schellpeper motioned. Vogt seconded.
 - Agenda approved with all ayes.
4. **APPROVAL OF JUNE 4, 2020 PBC MEETING MINUTES (*ATTACHMENT D*):**

MOTION: To approve the June 4, 2020, PBC meeting minutes.

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

Meyer reported on the NET Closeout Table, which is a representation of all of the money from years 4-6 that was spent (*ATTACHMENT F*). Meyer reported that the budget closeout will be slated for approval once NeDNR receives more information from the NET about the land form.

ii. *YEARS 7-9*

Schellpeper reported that Budget Years 7-9 have gone unchanged but will require updating after new obligations and funding requests stemming from the 12/3 PBC meeting are approved.

iii. *STUDIES*

a. *CONSERVATION STUDY INVOICE (CONTRACT #1153)*

Meyer reported on two Conservation Study invoices (*ATTACHMENTS G & H*). Meyer reported that Invoice 20-2650 totals \$19,340 with the NeDNR portion accounting for \$9,670 and CPNRD, TBNRD, and TPNRD will have a portion of \$3,223.33 each. Invoice 20-2661 totals \$13,055. The NeDNR portion is \$6,527.50. CPNRD, TBNRD, and TPNRD will have a portion of \$2,175.83 each.

Conservation Study Phase III - #1153	\$ 11,895.67			\$ 11,895.67			\$ 11,895.67	\$ 35,687.00	\$ 35,688.00	\$ 71,375.00
Flatwater - Focused Eval of Tillage Practices	CPNRD	NPNRD	SPNRD	TBNRD	TPNRD	NRD Total	NeDNR	Total		
Invoice #20-2650	\$ 3,223.33			\$ 3,223.33	\$ 3,223.33	\$ 9,670.00	\$ 9,670.00	\$ 19,340.00		
Invoice #20-2661	\$ 2,175.83			\$ 2,175.83	\$ 2,175.83	\$ 6,527.50	\$ 6,527.50	\$ 13,055.00		

MOTION: To approve the two contract invoices from the Flatwater Group for data collection and the development of the final project report related to the Conservation Study with NeDNR paying 50% of each invoice and CPNRD, TBNRD, and TPNRD equally splitting the remaining 50% of each invoice.

- Schellpeper motioned. Vogt seconded.
- Invoices approved with all ayes.

Schellpeper reported on how the current contract with The Flatwater Group should be extended to the end of 2021 with no additional funding, due to the COVID-19 pandemic causing the cancelation of the workshop where there would have been a final presentation and a chance for the incorporation of feedback.

MOTION: To extend Contract #1153 with the Flatwater Group until the end of 2021, with no additional funding.

- Thorburn motioned. Schellpeper seconded.
- Invoices approved with all ayes

B. NEW OBLIGATIONS/ FUNDING REQUESTS

i. *TBNRD'S WATER CONSERVATION INCENTIVE PROGRAM (CONTRACT #1021)*

Thorburn reported on a memo describing how TBNRD will use already-allocated funds for the Water Conservation Incentive Program, which Schellpeper clarified will meet the objectives of the Water Resources Cash Fund by increasing groundwater recharge (*ATTACHMENT I*).

MOTION: To approve TBNRD's Water Conservation Incentive Program.

- Vogt motioned. Berge seconded.

- Water Conservation Incentive Program approved with all ayes.

ii. NPNRD BUDGET CHANGE REQUEST

Berge reported on a budget proposal memo in which NPNRD will not be asking for new money but will seek to return unspent money to be redistributed among the Upper Platte NRDs (*ATTACHMENT J*). The proposal will seek to redistribute \$219,000 of Year 9 funds.

MOTION: To approve the NPNRD budget change request.

- Horn motioned. Thorburn seconded.
- Budget change request approved with all ayes.

iii. TPNRD STREAMFLOW AUGMENTATION PIPELINE (NCORPE) (CONTRACT #778)

Miller reported on a memo seeking to use remaining available funds for the Streamflow Augmentation Pipeline (NCORPE) Project (*ATTACHMENT K*).

MOTION: To approve the use of remaining funding for TPNRD's Streamflow Augmentation Pipeline (NCORPE) Project.

- Schellpeper motioned. Vogt seconded.
- Streamflow Augmentation Pipeline (NCORPE) Project funding approved with all ayes.

iv. CPNRD PROPOSAL FOR FUNDING OF THREE CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

Vogt discussed a memo describing CPNRD's Three Conservation Easements totaling 353.2 acres with 245.37 af returning to the Platte River (*ATTACHMENT L*). Vogt clarified that the in the table in the memo, one of the categories should be "Current 50 Year ac/ft" instead of "Previous 50 Year ac/ft". NeDNR clarified that CPNRD will be using the same conservation easement format that they have used in the past for this reimbursement, which is compatible with the PBC Funding Protocol.

MOTION: To approve the CPNRD Proposal for Funding of Three Conservation Easements.

- Schellpeper motioned. Thorburn seconded.
- Proposal for funding request approved with all ayes.

6. APPROVAL OF HDR TO COMPLETE THE WATERSMART DROUGHT FUNDING GRANT APPLICATION

Kelly reported on a memo that described HDR's scope of work and the progress related to the application creation for the Water SMART Drought Contingency Plan that will meet the Bureau of Reclamation submission deadline of January, 6, 2021 (*ATTACHMENT M*).

MOTION: To approve HDR to complete the WaterSMART Drought Funding grant application.

- Vogt motioned. Schellpeper seconded.
- WaterSMART Drought Funding grant application contract with HDR approved with all ayes.

7. DISCUSSION OF LB-148

Kelly reported on LB-148, which requires certain entities that use certain tax dollars to hold a separate budget meeting where the public needs to be informed about what budget information is approved (*ATTACHMENT N*). LB-148 could relate to the PBC. If it does, a separate meeting would

likely need to be scheduled in April 2021 to coincide with when the PBC normally holds its annual budget meeting. Schellpeper added that LB-148 applies to entities that use occupation tax. In the case of the PBC the only entity utilizing the occupation tax is the TPNRD. Schellpeper stated that NeDNR is still continuing to interpret LB-148 and would like NRD feedback and will keep NRDs updated.

¹ NRDs will provide NeDNR feedback regarding the interpretation of LB-148 and whether it applies to the PBC.

8. APPROVAL OF PBC FUNDING PROTOCOL

Schellpeper solicited questions from the PBC regarding the PBC Funding Protocol and received none.

MOTION: To approve the PBC Funding Protocol.

- Berge motioned. Vogt seconded.
- PBC Funding Protocol approved with all ayes.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT: No comments.

10. NEXT MEETING: JANUARY 29, 2021, AT 1 P.M.

11. ADJOURN: 2 p.m. (CT)

ACTION ITEM LIST

¹ NRDs will provide NeDNR feedback regarding the interpretation of LB-148 and whether it applies to the PBC.