

PLATTE BASIN COALITION (PBC) MEETING

Thursday, February 1, 2024, 1:00 p.m. Central Time

Twin Platte Natural Resources District

111 S Dewey St., North Platte, NE 69101

MINUTES

1. Welcome/Call to Order

Called to order by Kent Miller (TPNRD), Chair, at approximately 1:24 p.m. CT.
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	Jennifer Schellpeper, NeDNR

Others in Attendance*

Ann Dimmitt, TPNRD	Caitlin Kingsley, NeDNR	Arik Vossler, NeDNR
Brandi Flyr, CPNRD	Brooke Mott, NeDNR	Jack Mensinger, NeDNR
Ryan Reisdorff, SPNRD	Travis Preston, NPNRD	Brian Flynn, NeDNR
Ryan Kelly, NeDNR	Avery Dresser, NeDNR	Margeaux Carter, NeDNR

*Shaded areas indicate online attendees.

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

- *North Platte Telegraph*: January 18, 2024
- *Sidney Sun-Telegraph*: January 18, 2024
- *Grand Island Independent*: January 20, 2024
- *Kearney Hub*: January 20, 2024
- *Scottsbluff Star Herald*: January 18, 2024

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

MOTION: *To approve the February 1, 2024, agenda.*

Move: Lyndon Vogt

Second: Jennifer Schellpeper

Discussion: None.

Motion passed

5. Review and Approval of the December 7, 2023 Minutes ([Attachment 5](#))

MOTION: *To approve the December 7, 2023, minutes.*

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Move: Jennifer Schellpeper

Second: Galen Wittrock

Discussion: None.

Motion passed.

6. Budget Update (NeDNR)

A. General Updates

i. Years 7-9 ([Attachment 6Ai](#))

Caitlin Kingsley (NeDNR) stated everything grey in budget Years 7-9 has been paid out.

Jennifer Schellpeper (NeDNR) stated only the blue line, Contract #1339 for NPNRD temporary retirements with Western Nebraska Joint Water Board (WNJWB), has not been paid out. Contract #1339 has not yet been finalized.

Scott Schaneman confirmed this is a temporary groundwater retirement and will follow up about current progress of contract with NPNRD staff and NeDNR.

ii. FY 2023-2024 ([Attachment 6Aii](#))

Caitlin stated that we are still in Fiscal Year 2024, so there is still money to be spent.

iii. Studies ([Attachment 6Aiii](#))

Caitlin stated the only budget updates since the December 7, 2023 meeting have been to the Studies budget. Beige lines are new invoices for the Conservation Study Phase IV and Drought Plan Development. The annual budget meeting will commence in April.

John Thorburn (TBNRD) asked if the aforementioned invoices have been sent to the NRD managers. Caitlin stated these invoices are on today's agenda and will be added to ShareFile after approval.

Jennifer asked if the old invoices are up to date. Caitlin stated they are presumed to be current and are on ShareFile.

Lyndon Vogt (CPNRD) stated there are still issues with managing invoices through ShareFile and asked to get invoices by email.

Jennifer stated that the State's software does not allow invoices to be sent through email.

John asked if NeDNR can send an email with a link to the folder containing new invoices. Currently, the ShareFile is set up with a folder for each invoice with breakouts by entity within. If it is easier, NeDNR can instead create folders by entity with respective invoices

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inside, then send an email when the folders are done. The group agreed this would be more practical.

Jennifer restated that all past bills are caught up and only today's invoices are new which will be disbursed after the meeting.

NPNRD will check with staff and follow up with NeDNR concerning the finalization of Contract #1339.¹

NeDNR will change the ShareFile invoice system to include individual entity folders with respective invoices inside, then send out an email once folders are ready.²

B. Invoices for Approval

i. HDR Invoices and Progress Report – Contracts #1287/#1377 (Attachment 6Bi)

a. Invoice #1200577669 (Attachment 6Bia)

b. Invoice #1200587795 (Attachment 6Bib)

MOTION: To approve the HDR invoices for Drought Plan Development for the amounts of \$8,472.52 and \$5,086.23.

Move: John Thorburn

Second: Jennifer Schellpeper

Discussion: Caitlin stated HDR also included their monthly status reports for November and December, which is in the handout.

Motion passed.

ii. TFG Invoices

a. Contract #571-A, Invoice #23-3279 (Attachment 6Biia)

MOTION: To approve invoice #23-3279 for Contract #571-A, Conservation Study Phase IV, for the amount of \$3,150.00.

Move: Lyndon Vogt

Second: Galen Wittrock

Discussion: None.

Motion passed.

C. New Budget Requests

i. Other Budget Requests

Caitlin stated that no new budget requests were received.

Lyndon stated that CPNRD may be submitting three new retirements.

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Jennifer stated NeDNR has discussed deprioritizing retirements in the Upper Platte Basin, so those retirements may not be funded and asked for a cost estimate.

Lyndon stated these retirements are not a priority and were paid for years ago.

Jennifer stated that there was no specific timeline for change and will ask when changes may start occurring.

CPNRD will send cost information to NeDNR.

CPNRD will send NeDNR associated cost of three previous temporary retirements for possible new budget requests.³

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

- A. CPNRD – Applied for a WaterSMART grant for the Groundwater Irrigation Flowmeter & Data Program.
- B. TBNRD – Applied for a WaterSMART grant for the Net Recharge Management Tool.
- C. TPNRD – No updates.
- D. NPNRD – No updates.
- E. SPNRD – No updates.
- F. NeDNR – Have not opened for excess flows since last meeting. Ryan Kelly (NeDNR) reminded the group to use DSS for excess flows. The point of contact for applications will be Mike Thompson. Jennifer stated the outcomes module is now live on the DSS portal to provide data about where water has been placed after events for a quicker data exchange. For recharge projects, as much information as possible should be included in the AOP. That information is part of decision criteria to determine whether the taking of water is part of normal operations or not. Ryan continued by saying this includes description of irregular situations, such as what would happen if excess flow is available near irrigation season.

Lyndon stated there were excess flows that were not reported this last spring. Cozad Ditch had gotten approval to take excess flows; they already had water in their main, but it started to rain and had not yet put water down laterals. Lyndon can get numbers from the irrigation district and

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report them to correct point of contact. Similar situation had happened with 30-Mile Canal.

Jennifer said to get numbers reported as soon as possible.

Lyndon also mentioned that there is a group in the irrigation district interested in a conjunctive management project involving putting on meters and selling back the groundwater they do not pump, but CPNRD does not have allocations. Looking to impose a 48-inch allocation over 4 years and then buy back what is not pumped to get credit, but still discussing details. TBNRD and NPNRD have similar programs with WCIP and EPIC, respectively.

Scott said the NPNRD has had 1,100-1,200 acres enrolled in EPIC and most of producers selling entire allocation (up to 14 inches) and using it as temporary retirement. NPNRD's board voted a month ago to not run EPIC program this coming year as new people are not being involved. This will be a "reset period" to see how this crop year goes.

CPNRD will send the amounts for unreported excess flows to NeDNR.⁴

8. Public Comment

No public comment was provided.

9. 2024 Scheduled Meetings:

- April 4, 2024
- June 6, 2024
- August 1, 2024 (Basin-Wide Meeting at CPNRD)
- October 3, 2024
- December 5, 2024

10. Wrap-up, questions, action items, next steps

A. Action Items

1. NPNRD will check with staff and follow up with NeDNR concerning the finalization of Contract #1339.
2. NeDNR will change ShareFile invoice system to include individual entity folders with respective invoices inside, then send out emails once folders are ready.
3. CPNRD will send NeDNR associated cost of three previous temporary retirements for possible new budget requests.

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4. CPNRD will send the amounts for unreported excess flows to NeDNR.

11. Adjourned at approximately 1:48 p.m. CT.