

**Platte Basin Coalition Committee
Meeting Minutes**

February 3, 2014, 10:30 a.m. Central Standard Time
Twin Platte NRD Office, North Platte, NE

Call to order and attendance: Miller called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. Central Standard Time. Sponsors and partners in attendance were:

Mark Czaplewski	CPNRD	John Berge	NPNRD
Jesse Mintkin	CPNRD	Tina Kurtz	NPNRD
Duane Woodward	CPNRD	Rod Horn	SPNRD
Melissa Mosier	DNR	Ryan Reisdorff	SPNRD
Jennifer Schellpeper	DNR	John Thorburn	TBNRD
Jessie Winter	DNR	Ann Dimmitt	TPNRD
		Kent Miller	TPNRD

Guests in attendance:

Tyler Thulin	CNPPID	Jeff Shafer	NPPD
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1. **Welcome and Open Meetings Act:** Miller noted that a copy of the Open Meetings Act was posted in the back of the meeting room.
2. **Publication of Meeting Notices – Procedure:** The DNR published a public notice of the PBC meeting in the Scottsbluff Star Herald on January 25, 2014, the Grand Island Independent on January 28, 2014, and the North Platte Telegraph on January 30, 2014.
3. **Agenda Modifications:** None
4. **Approval of Minutes from the December 2, 2013, PBC meeting:**

Motion: To approve the December 2, 2013, PBC meeting minutes.

Woodward motioned to approve. Horn seconded. Motion passed with all ayes.

5. **Budget Update**

- A. **Operations:** Schellpeper discussed the updated PBC budget sheet. The updated budget summary includes an amendment total reflecting the fall groundwater recharge project and the Grandview permanent retirement project, which were approved at the December 2, 2013, PBC meeting. All of the budgeted project dollars for the first three-year phase have been committed. Czaplewski mentioned that the current PBHEP canal projects are going well, but if work is delayed to the point that the expiration date is passed on NET funds, the group may want to consider a PBC/PBHEP trade of funds.

- (1) **Liability:** The liability and linebacker renewal policy has been received by SPNRD, along with the invoice. The coverage will be the same as last year's with a premium increase of \$195.00, bringing this year's total to \$3,215.00. Last year it was decided to split the cost six-ways and have SPNRD bill each entity; Horn proposes that this year's liability is handled in the same manner.

Motion: To equally divide between the PBC entities, the 2014 PBC General Liability and Public Officials Liability Insurance Coverage premium and have SPNRD administer the billing procedure.

Woodward motioned to approve. Thorburn seconded. Motion passed with all ayes.

- B. **Studies:** The final invoice for Phase I of the Platte Basin Conservation Study has been received and the PBC studies budget is now closed.

6. Project Updates

- A. **N-CORPE:** Construction of the south-flowing pipeline should be completed at this time. At least 10 wells in the wellfield are completed and the remaining wells are done or very close to being done. Water is currently flowing through the south pipeline (or will be in the very near future). On the north side of the project, it has been determined that the alignment of the pipeline from the wellfield will be straight north. There is a draft agreement in development to utilize a NPPD supply canal from a point approximately four miles west of Lake Maloney, on to the South Platte River, which will likely save the project \$4 - 5 million. The plan is to begin construction on the north-flowing portion of the project this summer. A contract for the purchase of the pipe is expected to be executed within the next 30 to 60 days. TC Engineering Inc, sub-contracted under Miller and Associates, have been asked to start obtaining the easements for the north-flowing portion of the project. Reversing the water flow is no longer being considered for the project at this time, but could be added later on. The big push for the occupation tax will occur on the first of May, but TPNRD has been able to work through the majority of the financing process with the help of MIPS, ditch company records, and county assessor records. Levying an occupation tax does not require a public hearing, but TPNRD sent out letters to landowners, held informational public meetings, and visited with county boards of commissioners in order to ensure that everyone was aware that it would be on the next tax statement.
- B. **Orchard Alfalfa:** Mintkin reported that there are three contractors currently working on the canal and all are currently running ahead of schedule, or right on schedule. Woodward mentioned that Orchard Alfalfa is going through the process of transitioning from an irrigation company to an irrigation district.
- C. **J-2 Regulating Reservoir:** Nothing new to report.

- D. North Platte NRD Lease:** Berge reported that NPNRD is still going through the permitting process for the project with DNR. NPNRD has recently finished its portion of the change of appropriation analysis. This project has proven to be very popular with district landowners who have approached NPNRD with offers to participate in similar projects.
- E. Tri-Basin Phase II Augmentation:** Thorburn reported that HDR's analyses of augmentation wells on an existing site and a potential site on North Dry Creek have been completed and the results will be reported to the TBNRD Board at their next meeting.

7. Study Updates

- A. Platte Basin Conservation Study:** Thorburn reported that a conference call was held on January 31, 2014, in order to discuss potential actions on the Conservation Study. Phase I of the study was helpful in that it assists managers in the prioritization of conservation practices that deserve additional study. The Western Water Use Model and the COHYST Model account directly for some of the irrigation conservation practices, but indirectly for non-irrigation practices. It has been proposed that the models are run with the goal of isolating the impact of both irrigation and non-irrigation conservation practices. At this point, it is not possible to identify the portion of the difference between current and fully appropriated levels of development that are due to conservation practices. The recommendation is that the models are run to estimate the impacts of conservation practices, but that additional research on the estimate of the impact of conservation practices on streamflows is postponed until the difference in impacts on streamflows between current and fully appropriated levels of development is determined. Action on this item was deferred to the POAC meeting.

8. Public Comments: None

9. Adjourn: The PBC meeting adjourned at 11:28 a.m. Central Standard Time.

The next PBC meeting dates have been set for April 1, 2014, June 2, 2014, August 5, 2014, October 6, 2014, and December 1, 2014, at 10:30 a.m. Central Time.