

PUBLIC NOTICE

The South Platte Natural Resources District will hold a regular public meeting on April 8, 2008 at the SPNRD Offices, 551 Parkland Drive, Sidney, NE at **7:00 p.m.** An agenda of the matters to be considered at such date, time and place is kept continually current and is available for public inspection during normal business hours at the South Platte NRD Office, 551 Parkland Drive, Sidney. Any person with disabilities who needs help in participating in the meeting should contact the District office (telephone (308) 254-2377) before the meeting.

FINAL AGENDA

1. Call to Order - Cheryl Burkhart-Kriesel, Vice-Chair
 - A. Nebraska Open Meetings Act
 - B. Legal Notices
2. Minutes
 - A. Minutes of the March 11, 2008 meeting of the Board of Directors
 - B. Minutes of the March 11, 2008 meeting of the District Operations Committee
 - C. Minutes of the March 10, 2008 meeting of the Natural Resources/Projects and Programs Committee
3. *Treasurer's Report For March 2008 and Accounts Payable
4. Public Questions, Comments and/or Concerns
5. Director and Staff Reports
6. Update Regarding the Remote Sensing Technology for Water Resources Management Project - Dr. Gary Hergert
7. Agency Reports
 - A. USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
 1. NRCS Report - Kristin Miller, DC-NRCS
 - B. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD)
 1. NARD Report
 - C. Panhandle Resource Conservation and Development (PRC&D)
 1. PRC&D Report
 - D. Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NDNR)
 1. Natural Resources Commission Report - Rexroth
8. Committee Reports
 - A. Natural Resources/Projects & Programs Committee - Hutchison
 1. Variance Advisory Group
 - a. Review Requests Brought before the Group
 - b. *Action on Variance Requests Recommended by the Group
 2. *Action to Modify Certified Irrigated Acres/Tracts
 3. *Discussion and Action as Desired Regarding the SeaMetric Flow Meter

4. *Action to Approve Proposed Revisions to the Technical Manual for the District's Ground Water Management Plan
5. *Discussion and Action as Desired Regarding Access to FSA Records
6. Discuss Comments Received Concerning the Integrated Management Plan and the Districtwide Ground Water Management Area Rules and Regulations
7. *Consideration to Adopt Order on Proposed Amendments to the Districtwide Ground Water Management Area Rules and Regulations
8. *Consideration to Agree to Implement the Proposed Integrated Management Plan, with Modifications, and to Adopt and Implement the Controls and Incentive Programs Proposed in the Integrated Management Plan

B. District Operations Committee - Crago

1. *Action to Transfer \$3,267.95 from the NPAIT-CMC Account to CMC's Checking Account with First National
2. *Action as Desired Concerning Request for Funding Assistance for the Sidney Envirothon Team for the 2008 State Envirothon Competition
3. *Discussion and Action to Consider Participating in Pine Ridge Teacher's Institute
4. *Action on Bids/Proposals Received for Consideration to Purchase New Vehicle

9. Platte River Basin Water Issues - Horn

- A. Overappropriated Platte River Basin-wide Plan
- B. Aerial Geophysical Survey - NETF Grant Application
- C. Nebraska Habitat Conservation Coalition Report

10. Correspondence

11. Upcoming Dates

- A. Children's Ground Water Festival - April 16, 2008
- B. Variance Advisory Group Meeting, April 22, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.
- C. State Envirothon - May 3, 2008, Halsey, NE
- D. SPNRD Board Meeting - May 13, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.
- E. Primary Elections - May 13, 2008
- F. SPNRD Office Closed, Memorial Day - May 26, 2008
- G. County Fairs:

Cheyenne County	July 26 - August 3
Kimball County	August 5-11
Deuel County	August 7-9
- H. SPNRD District Tour - August 15, 2008
- I. NARD Annual Conference, Holiday Inn, Kearney, NE - September 28-30, 2008

12. Adjourn

*Denotes Action Items

MINUTES

The meeting of the South Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors was held Tuesday April 8, 2008, at the South Platte NRD Conference Room, 551 Parkland Drive, Sidney, NE, at 7:00 p.m. The public notices were published in the Sidney, Chappell and Kimball newspapers. The agenda was compiled and each member of the Board of Directors and other interested and affected persons were notified of the meeting date within the deadline.

Board Members Present

Cheryl Burkhart-Kriesel, Vice Chair
Tom Biggs, Secretary
Paul Hutchison

Larry Rutt
Deb Crago

Board Members Absent

Keith Rexroth, Chair (excused)
Jim Johnson (excused)

Others Present

Kristin Miller, DC NRCS-USDA

NRD Staff Present

Rod L. Horn, General Manager
Galen Wittrock, Assistant Manager
Don Ogle, I & E Coordinator
Chris Kaiser, Natural Resources Coordinator

Linda L. Suhr, Admin. Sec. /Bookkeeper
Kyle Liebig, Water Resources Coordinator
Travis Glanz, Water Resources Tech

Information provided prior to the board meeting or made available at the meeting:

1. Tentative and Final Agendas, SPNRD Board meeting, April 8, 2008
2. Tentative and Final Agendas, Natural Resources/Projects and Programs Committee meeting, April 7, 2008
3. Tentative Agenda, District Operations Committee meeting, April 8, 2008
4. March Treasurer's Report
5. Minutes of the SPNRD Board meeting, March 11, 2008
6. Minutes of the Natural Resources/Projects and Programs Committee meeting, March 10, 2008
7. Minutes of the District Operations Committee meeting, March 11, 2008
8. March 27, 2008 Manager's Letter
9. April 8, 2008 Manager's Report
10. Staff Reports: Administrative Secretary, Linda Suhr; District Secretary, Jodi Livingstone; Field Office Secretary Report, Deb Carpenter-Nolting and attached news articles written by Carpenter-Nolting
11. Request for assistance in funding the 2008 Sidney Envirothon Team to the regional competition
12. Variance Advisory Group (VAG) Request Summary from the March 18, 2008 VAG meeting
13. Status Report, March 31, 2008 - High Plains Hydrology LLC for COHYST
14. 2008 #2 Pickup Bid Review
15. Nebraska Resources quarterly newsletter
16. Draft Technical Manual for Ground Water Management
17. Panhandle RC&D Area Planning Summary

18. UNL 2008 Pine Ridge Teacher's Institute Brochure
19. UNL and USDA/NRCS 2008/09 Scholarship Program and Application Information
20. WNO News Articles: "Arrests made in Oliver Lake Arson"
"What Nebraskans need to Know about Groundwater"
21. Per Diem/Expense sheet

BOARD MEETING

1. Call to Order

Burkhart-Kriesel called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Rexroth and Johnson were noted as absent and excused.

A. Nebraska Open Meetings Act

Burkhart-Kriesel stated for the record that a copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Law is posted in the conference room.

B. Legal Notices

Burkhart-Kriesel stated for the record that the meeting affidavits of publication are included with these minutes.

2. Minutes

A. Minutes of the March 11, 2008 meeting of the Board of Directors

These minutes were approved as presented.

B. Minutes of the March 11, 2008 meeting of the District Operations Committee

These minutes were approved as presented.

C. Minutes of the March 10, 2008 meeting of the Natural Resources/Projects & Programs Committee

These minutes were approved as presented.

3. *Treasurer's Report March 2008 and Accounts Payable

Manager and Treasurer Rod Horn encouraged the board to review the Treasurer's Report and to address any questions. Account balances are as follows:

<u>Account</u>	<u>3/1/08</u>	<u>3/31/08</u>
SPNRD Checking	\$ 319,862.29	\$ 360,062.67
Citizens' Monitoring – combined	\$ 24,432.68	\$ 24,481.87
NPAIT-GW Festival	\$ 1,143.81	\$ 1,146.18
NPAIT-LPCSI-EQIP	\$ 133,282.12	\$ 133,554.52
South Platte Group	\$ 1,564.03	\$ 1,564.03

Investment accounts were reviewed. Accounts payable was presented in the amount of \$78,090.85.

Some discussion followed. Moved by Crago and seconded by Rutt to approve the March Treasurer's Report and pay the accounts payable. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Crago, Burkhart-Kriesel, Hutchison, Biggs, Rutt

Nay: None

Absent: Johnson, Rexroth

Motion Carried.

4. Public Questions, Comments and/or Concerns

Hutchison inquired about the irrigating on the Prairie Winds Subdivision. Staff is aware of the irrigation and a flow meter has been installed. The change in use of the well is in the process of being changed from agricultural to industrial. The well registration will also change with the new ownership. The use will be deducted from the accrued consumptive use.

5. Director and Staff Reports

Chris Kaiser, Natural Resources Coordinator, was introduced to the board. Kaiser, Glanz, Wittrock, Liebig and Ogle gave oral reports. Written reports were submitted by Horn, Suhr, Livingstone and Carpenter-Nolting. In addition to his written report, Horn showed a framed certificate of appreciation that was given to SPNRD staff by the Department of Roads for staff's work on the Highway 71 bypass project near Kimball. He also passed around a letter from the Nebraska Panhandle AHEC regarding Ogle's work with the 8th Grade Regional Science meet.

Kaiser gave a brief report on his background. The board introduced themselves. Kaiser has been working on ground water levels and the nitrogen management report.

Glanz reported that about 35 flow meters are left to read in Cheyenne County. He has been working on data base maintenance along with cost-share inspections on maintenance and flow meter installations. He assisted with some tree orders and worked on getting word to contractors regarding the new NRCS specifications to install SeaMetric flow meters. He attended a Water Well Monitoring Technician training and testing program in North Platte.

Wittrock reported that the tree program sales exceed 67,000 trees. He worked with the Community Forestry Program, did site preparation for tree plantings and flagged tree planting sites. He worked with Kaiser on the nitrogen management reporting and along with Kaiser and Liebig, held a session in Big Springs, meeting with irrigators to assist them to complete their forms. Part of the problem with reporting in the Deuel County area was soil samples were not taken correctly (40 acre requirement). He briefly discussed the Oliver Reservoir and Wildlife Management Area leases.

Liebig worked with Kaiser to teach him about various responsibilities in his position. He also assisted with the irrigation certification training, digitized acres, assisted with the IMP and GWMA hearings, prepared for the VAG meeting, worked on well abandonment and numerous other projects during the month. He attended a USGS workshop in Lincoln and met with the GIS consultant concerning the SPNRD data base.

Ogle assisted Mark Watson with a No-till training, facilitated irrigator training sessions, participated in the Sophomore Career Fair at WNCC and the 8th Grade Regional Science meet. He prepared for the Ground Water Festival to be held April 16 and for the Xeriscape Workshop to be held at WNCC on April 12. He and Horn attended the Panhandle No-till meeting in Scottsbluff. He put the finishing touches on the Cash for Grass Program and plans to send out information this week.

6. Update regarding the Remote Sensing Technology for Water Resources Management Project

Dr. Gary Hergert was unable to attend the meeting but plans to give an update to the SPNRD board during the May meeting.

7. Agency Reports

A. USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

1. NRCS Report

Miller gave a brief NRCS report. Juan Hernandez replaced Marvin Brown at the NRCS in Lincoln. She reported about the No-till survey she completed in the three panhandle NRDs. She also distributed some scholarship application information.

B. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD)

1. NARD Report

Johnson was not present. Horn said the NARD proposed budget would have a 10% increase in NRD dues in FY09 due to the addition of a program director to the NARD staff.

C. Panhandle RC& D

1. PRC&D Report

Burkhart-Kriesel reported that the annual meeting would be held at the Gering Civic Center. Horn distributed copies of the PRC&D work plan and Burkhart-Kriesel commented briefly about the items accomplished and those remaining.

D. Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NDNR)

1. NDNR Report

Rexroth was not present.

8. Committee Reports

A. Natural Resources/Projects and Programs Committee

1. Variance Advisory Group

a. Review Requests Brought Before the Group

Hutchison highlighted the Variance Advisory Group recommendations from the minutes of March 18, 2008.

b. *Action as Desired on the Variance Requests Recommended by the Group

Betty Burback (18" allocation area), in the SW¼ 20-15-55, requested to certify 9.3 acres, which were historically irrigated. Discussion followed.

Tom Biggs (16" allocation area), in the NE¼ 2-13-50, requested to modify certified irrigated acres for 5.4 historical acres originally irrigated by towline. Discussion followed. Hutchison moved on behalf of Committee and Crago seconded the motion to approve the recommendations of the Variance Advisory Group at the March 18, 2008 meeting. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Burkhart-Kriesel, Hutchison, Rutt, Crago,

Nay: None

Abstain: Biggs

Absent: Johnson, Rexroth

Motion Carried.

2. *Action to Modify Certified Irrigated Acres/Tracts

Peetz Land and Cattle, Burback and Biggs modifications were discussed. Hutchison moved on behalf of Committee and Biggs seconded the motion to approve the applications. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Hutchison, Biggs, Rutt, Crago, Burkhart-Kriesel

Nay: None

Absent: Johnson, Rexroth

Motion Carried.

3. *Discussion and Action as Desired Regarding the SeaMetric Flow Meter

No action was taken on this agenda item. Liebig has been in contact with the SeaMetric Company and will continue to report to the board regarding the failure rate for the SeaMetric flow meters on the District and what SeaMetrics plans to do to remedy the situation.

Liebig reported that contractors were contacted in reference to new NRCS specifications for SeaMetric flow meters.

4. *Action to Approve Proposed Revisions to the Technical Manual for the District's Ground Water Management Plan

Hutchison said the Committee reviewed the revisions and after discussion, he moved on behalf of committee and Burkhart-Kriesel seconded the motion to approve the revisions to the Technical Manual. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Biggs, Rutt, Crago, Burkhart-Kriesel, Hutchison
Nay: None
Absent: Johnson, Rexroth
Motion Carried.

5. *Discussion and Action as Desired Regarding Access to FSA Records

The Committee recommended no action on this agenda item and the board was in agreement.

6. Discuss Comments Received Concerning the Integrated Management Plan and the Districtwide Ground Water Management Area Rules and Regulations

Hutchison said the Committee reviewed the comments and testimony from the IMP and GWMA Rules and Regulations. Comments from Attorney Steve Smith were incorporated in both the IMP and Districtwide GWMA Rules and Regulations. Comments from Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District, the City of Sidney, Nebraska Public Power District and other written and oral comments were reviewed but no changes to the Districtwide GWMA or IMP were recommended.

7. *Consideration to Adopt Order on Proposed Amendments to the Districtwide Ground Water Management Area Rules and Regulations

After discussion and upon Committee recommendation, Hutchison moved and Rutt seconded the motion to approve and adopt the Order on the amendments to the Districtwide GWMA Rules and Regulations. The effective date of the approved and adopted Rules and Regulations of the Districtwide Ground Water Management Area is May 16, 2008. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Rutt, Crago, Burkhart-Kriesel, Hutchison, Biggs
Nay: None
Absent: Johnson, Rexroth
Motion Carried.

8. *Consideration to Agree to Implement the Proposed Integrated Management Plan (IMP), with Modifications, and to Adopt and Implement the Controls and Incentive Programs Proposed in the Integrated Management Plan

This is the first step in implementation of the IMP. After discussion and upon Committee recommendation, Hutchison moved and Biggs seconded the motion to agree to implement the proposed IMP with modifications, and to adopt and implement the controls and incentive programs in the IMP. Horn indicated that he will work with NDNR concerning preparing Orders, which the board would take action on approving and adopting the District's Order at the May 2008 Board of Directors meeting. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Crago, Burkhart-Kriesel, Hutchison, Biggs, Rutt
Nay: None
Absent: Johnson, Rexroth
Motion Carried.

A short recess was called at 8:16 p.m.
The meeting reconvened at 8:28 p.m.

B. District Operations Committee

1. *Action to Transfer \$3,267.95 from the NPAIT-CMC Account to CMC's Checking Account with First National

The Citizens' Monitoring Committee has a checking account with a minimum balance while the remainder of the funds is kept in an NPAIT account. In order to pay the CMC consultant's fee (MILCO), the transfer is necessary. Crago moved and Rutt seconded the motion to authorize Horn to transfer the funds from the CMC NPAIT account to the CMC checking account. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Burkhart-Kriesel, Hutchison, Biggs, Rutt, Crago
Nay: None
Absent: Johnson, Rexroth
Motion Carried.

2. *Action as Desired Concerning Request for Funding Assistance for the Sidney Envirothon Teams for the 2008 State Envirothon Competition

In the past, SPNRD assisted a District Envirothon team(s) to attend the state competition in the amount of \$200. Crago moved and Hutchison seconded the motion to authorize a payment of \$200 to the Sidney Envirothon team for their expenses to attend the State Envirothon. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Hutchison, Biggs, Rutt, Crago, Burkhart-Kriesel
Nay: None
Absent: Johnson, Rexroth
Motion Carried.

3. *Discussion and Action to Consider Participating in Pine Ridge Teacher's Institute

Discussion was held about the District providing reimbursement scholarship for up to eight teachers in the amount of \$300 each (maximum of \$2,400) for participation in the Pine Ridge Teacher's Institute. Reimbursement is to be paid after class is complete and the course is passed. Ogle will coordinate getting information to the schools and the other paperwork necessary. Hutchison suggested submitting a news article to the paper. It was moved by Crago

and seconded by Hutchison to approve SPNRD participation in the Pine Ridge Teacher's Institute as outlined in the discussion. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Biggs, Rutt, Crago, Burkhart-Kriesel, Hutchison
Nay: None
Absent: Johnson, Rexroth
Motion Carried.

4. *Action on Bids/Proposals Received for Consideration to Purchase New Vehicle

Wittrock briefed the Board on the bid process and specifications for a full size pickup or a smaller fuel efficient pickup. He provided a spreadsheet with the bids received and discussion followed (the NRCS vehicle that was used by the SPNRD was picked up by the NRCS in March leaving the SPNRD one vehicle short). Crago moved and Biggs seconded the motion for staff to decide which bid to accept, not to exceed \$21,000, and for Horn to give final approval. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Rutt, Crago, Burkhart-Kriesel, Hutchison, Biggs
Nay: None
Absent: Johnson, Rexroth
Motion Carried.

9. Platte River Basin Water Issues

A. Overappropriated Platte River Basinwide Plan

Horn told the board that the OA Basinwide subcommittee will have at least one more meeting in July and the full OA Basin Group will meet in August 2008.

B. Aerial Geophysical Survey - NETF Grant Application

Jim Cannia will give a presentation at the next board meeting. The board authorized co-sponsoring the project at its September 11, 2007 meeting.

C. Nebraska Habitat Conservation Coalition Report

Horn updated the board on the meeting that was held on April 1, 2008. US Fish and Wildlife Service is moving forward to re-designate Piping Plover critical habitat. A portion of the funds the SPNRD provided to the Coalition should be returned.

10. Correspondence

Horn urged the board to read correspondence included in the information material.

11. Upcoming Dates

- A. Children's Ground Water Festival - April 16, 2008
- B. Variance Advisory Group Meeting - April 22, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.
- C. State Envirothon - May 3, 2008, Halsey, NE
- D. SPNRD Board Meeting - May 13, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.
- E. Primary Elections - May 13, 2008
- F. SPNRD Office Closed, Memorial Day - May 26, 2008
- G. County Fairs: Cheyenne County July 26 - August 3

Kimball County August 5-11
Deuel County August 7-9

- H. SPNRD District Tour/Picnic - August 15, 2008
- I. NARD Annual Conference, Holiday Inn, Kearney, NE - September 28-30, 2008

12. Adjourn

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Linda L. Suhr, Recording Secretary

*Denotes Action Taken