

PUBLIC NOTICE

The South Platte Natural Resources District will hold a regular public meeting on January 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 - Keith Rexroth, Chair
 - A. Nebraska Open Meetings Act
 - B. Legal Notices
2. Minutes
 - A. Minutes of the December 18, 2007 meeting of the Board of Directors
 - B. Minutes of the December 18, 2007 meeting of the District Operations Committee
 - C. Minutes of the December 10, 2007 meeting of the Natural Resources/Projects and Programs Committee
3. *Treasurer's Report For December 2007 and Accounts Payable
4. Public Questions, Comments and/or Concerns
5. Presentation by Jake Nelson - Five Generations of Conservation
6. Mark Watson, No-till Specialist
7. Director and Staff Reports
8. 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 - Johnson
 - C. Panhandle Resources Conservation and Development (PRC&D)
 1. PRC&D Report - Burkhart-Kriesel
 - D. Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NDNR)
 1. NDNR Report - Rexroth
9. Committee Reports
 - A. District Operations Committee - Johnson
 1. *Action on First National Bank's (Kimball) Request on Checking Account and Certificate of Deposit Signature Requirements
 2. *Authorization to Participate in NARD's 2008 Washington, D.C. Trip
 3. Discussion Regarding Architectural Schematics
 4. FY2008 Budget Review

- B. Natural Resources/Projects & Programs Committee - Hutchison
 - 1. *Discussion and Action as Desired to Place the Senninger Flow Meter on the List of Accepted Flow Meters
 - 2. *Action as Desired Regarding the Allocation Subcommittee's 1-3-08 Meeting Discussion Points and Recommendations
 - 3. Issues Regarding the Proposed IMP and the Modifications to the Districtwide Ground Water Management Area Rules and Regulations
 - 4. Village of Lodgepole Wastewater Improvement Project

 - 10. *Election of Officers
 - A. Chair
 - B. Vice-Chair
 - C. Secretary
 - D. Treasurer

 - 11. *Appointment of NRD Members
 - A. Committees
 - B. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD)
 - C. Panhandle Resources Conservation and Development (PRC&D)

 - 12. Correspondence

 - 13. Upcoming Dates
 - A. SPNRD Office Closed, New Years Day - January 1, 2008
 - B. Variance Advisory Group meeting - January 15, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.
 - C. Four States Irrigation Council 55th Annual Meeting, Hilton, Fort Collins, CO - January 16-28, 2008
 - D. SPNRD Office Closed, Martin Luther King Day - January 21, 2008
 - E. NARD Legislative Conference, Embassy Suites, Lincoln, February 4-6, 2008
 - F. SPNRD Board of Directors Meeting - February 12, 2008
 - G. SPNRD Office Closed, Presidents' Day - February 18, 2008
 - H. NARD Annual Washington D.C. Trip, The Madison, A Loews Hotel - March 10-12, 2008

 - 14. Adjourn
- *Denotes Action Items

MINUTES

The meeting of the South Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors was held Tuesday January 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

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

Larry Rutt
Jim Johnson
Deb Crago

Board Members Absent

None

Others Present

Kristin Miller, DC NRCS-USDA; Ken Schilz; Mark Watson; Jake Nelson; Ellen Nelson; Bernard Fehringer; John Fehringer

NRD Staff Present

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

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

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

1. Tentative and Final Agendas, SPNRD Board meeting, January 8, 2008
2. Tentative Agenda, Natural Resources/Projects and Programs Committee meeting, January 7, 2008
3. Tentative and Final Agendas, District Operations Committee meeting, January 8, 2008
4. Minutes of the December 18, 2007 SPNRD Board of Directors
5. Minutes of the December 10, 2007 Natural Resources/Projects and Programs Committee
6. Minutes of the December 18, 2007 District Operations Committee as corrected
7. December 2007 Treasurer's Report
8. January 8, 2008 Manager's Report
9. December 28, 2007 Manager's Letter
10. December 26, 2007 Memo from Rod L. Horn to the SPNRD Board of Directors Re: Director Elections and Certification of Subdistricts
11. Staff Reports: Linda L. Suhr; Jodi Livingstone; Christina Florke; and Deb Carpenter
12. December 14, 2007 letter from First National Bank Re: dual signatures
13. December 20, 2007 NARD email Re: Washington, D.C. Trip and attachments
14. SPNRD Six Month FY2008 Budget Status Review, December 31, 2007
15. Baker & Associates Architectural Schematics
16. December 31, 2007 Status Report from High Plains Hydrology LLC Re: Groundwater Modeling Support for the Nebraska Cooperative Hydrology Study (COHYST)
17. December 2007 Monthly Report from Julie Gogoi Re: Western Model Unit for COHYST
18. Statistics on Senninger Pilot Program on Bernie Fehringer's property
19. 2007 Flow Meter Report
20. January 7, 2008 letter to Tammy Sherman (Village of Lodgepole) Re: Wastewater treatment lagoon improvements
21. News Articles: Loudon working to get something done for western Nebraska
Views in the 49th Legislative District
In growing Aspen, dramatic water conservation
22. Per Diem/Expense sheet

BOARD MEETING

1. Call to Order

Chair Rexroth called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

A. Nebraska Open Meetings Act

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

B. Legal Notices

Chair stated for the record that the meeting affidavits of publication are included with these minutes.

2. Minutes

A. Minutes of the December 18, 2007 meeting of the Board of Directors

These minutes were discussed regarding agenda item 8.A.6.a. After discussion it was moved by Burkhart-Kriesel and seconded by Rutt to approve the minutes. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

B. Minutes of the December 18, 2007 meeting of the District Operations Committee

These minutes were approved as corrected. It was noted that Johnson called the meeting to order and the change was made.

C. Minutes of the December 10, 2007 meeting of the Natural Resources/Projects & Programs Committee

These minutes were approved as presented.

3. *Treasurer's Report December 2007 and Accounts Payable

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

<u>Account</u>	<u>12/1/07</u>	<u>12/31/07</u>
SPNRD Checking	\$ 336,035.25	\$ 267,485.31
Citizens' Monitoring - combined	\$ 23,520.74	\$ 17,343.49
NPAIT-GW Festival	\$ 1,133.90	\$ 1,137.72
NPAIT-LPCSI-EQIP	\$ 132,127.66	\$ 132,574.65

Investment accounts were reviewed. Accounts payable was presented in the amount of \$ 26,508.90.

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

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

4. Public Questions, Comments and/or Concerns

Chair welcomed visitors. Ken Schilz introduced himself and told the group he would stay for the meeting and anyone with questions could speak with him after the meeting. Mr. Schilz is a candidate for the 47th Legislative District.

5. Presentation by Jake Nelson - Five Generations of Conservation

Jake Nelson, recipient of a SPNRD Range Camp Scholarship in 2007, gave a power point presentation that he will give during the High School Youth Form competition in Louisville, KY at the International Society for Range Management meeting. Questions and comments followed.

6. Mark Watson, No-till Specialist

Mark Watson, farmer north of Alliance, gave an overview of the presentation he will make at No-Till trainings in January, February and March at the SPNRD to educate producers to develop a plan for no-till practices.

7. Director and Staff Reports

Glanz, Wittrock, Liebig and Ogle gave oral reports. Suhr, Livingstone and Horn submitted written reports. Glanz and Liebig observed well abandonment procedures on two sites in the District. Glanz followed up with LPCSI-EQIP programs, taking photos showing projects were complete. The flow meter program has taken a great deal of his time, including the Senninger Pilot report and the 2007 Flow Meter report. He worked with a cooperator regarding installing pivots. Discussion was held about some of the feedback from the flow meter readings.

Wittrock reported that about 12,500 trees are sold. He met with Emily Munter, NE Game and Parks Commission and some other professionals regarding Focus on Pheasants, a project on a CRP enhancement in the District. Community Forestry applications were mailed. The weed barrier girdling issue is still in the forefront of his projects. He also met with Horn, Liebig and Rex Peterson from Baker & Associates regarding the District's building/remodeling project.

Liebig and Glanz cleaned the District's monitoring well pump and they pumped monitoring wells. Liebig did surface water sampling. He met with Reisdorff before he left to get up to speed on water issues. He met with cooperators regarding variance requests. He has also been working with the Sidney Wellhead Protection Area. He attended the Allocation Subcommittee meeting.

Ogle reported the Pipeline was mailed. He worked on the Irrigator Certification Training that will take place in January and February across the District. He worked with Mark Watson to set up the No-till trainings. In December he attended a Land Judging meeting. The Ground Water Festival is tentatively set for April 16, 2008. He will keep the board updated.

8. Agency Reports

A. USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

1. NRCS Report

Kristin Miller gave an oral report. Regarding EQIP, NRCS received 50 applications. She estimated that six ground and surface water applications would be funded. There were two LPCSI applications. There is still no farm bill, so CCRP numbers are down. Because NRCS added additional TSP funds, Miller hopes to utilize Tim Bond this spring.

B. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD)

1. NARD Report

Johnson reported that the next NARD board meetings will be held in conjunction with the Legislative Conference in February. Ogle will provide the NARD members Website information for the next board meeting.

C. Panhandle RC& D

1. PRC&D Report

Burkhart-Kriesel reported that the next meeting will be training session for the RC&D Council members.

D. Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NDNR)

1. NDNR Report

Six committee members met with the Governor to request additional Resources Development funds. A meeting is planned with senators to try to overcome the backlog of funding needs.

9. Committee Reports

A. District Operations Committee

1. *Action on First National Bank's (Kimball) Request on Checking Account and Certificate of Deposit Signature Requirements

Johnson, on behalf of committee moved and Crago seconded the motion to continue SPNRD policy which requires two signatures and use Option 2 with an Indemnification Agreement to be signed. After discussion, it was agreed to amend the motion and add that Horn who is Treasurer for the CHESI account sign the Indemnification Agreement. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

2. *Authorization to Participate in NARD's 2008 Washington, D.C. Trip

Johnson reported that he is interested in attending the trip. Crago moved and Burkhart-Kriesel seconded the motion to authorize participation in the NARD 2008 Washington, D.C. trip. Johnson and any other board member or management staff is authorized to attend with notification to the board. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

3. Discussion Regarding Architectural Schematics

The board discussed the drawings proposed by NRD staff in consultation with Rex Peterson with Baker & Associates. Rex Peterson (Baker & Associates) plans to attend the February board meeting and give a presentation. Estimated budget amounts for remodeling and construction of a new shop were discussed.

4. FY2008 Budget Review

Johnson gave an overview of the six-month period ended December 31, 2007, highlighting several income and expense items. Discussion followed. Overall, the totals were under 50% for the six month period.

B. Natural Resources/Projects & Programs Committee

1. *Discussion and Action as Desired to Place the Senninger Flow Meter on the list of Accepted Flow Meters

Glanz reviewed the handout prepared by Staff regarding the Senninger Pilot program results for the two test digital flow meters on the Bernard Fehringer farming operation. The difference between the reading on the Senninger flow meter and the reading from the SPNRD

Ultrasonic meter does not meet SPNRD rules (rules require no more than a 2% difference). Other concerns discussed were the security code and no boot to protect the meter's display. After discussion and comments by Fehringer, no action was taken. Fehringer will contact the Senninger representative about concerns brought by SPNRD staff and directors and request that Senninger meet with SPNRD staff to test the meters and bring the results to the February board meeting for consideration.

2. *Action as Desired Regarding the Allocation Subcommittee's 1-3-08 Meeting Discussion Points and Recommendations

Hutchison reported that the Allocation Subcommittee met with all members present. Liebig reviewed the 2007 flow meter report listed by subarea from Pine Bluffs to the Sidney to Colorado line. The report listed irrigated crops, the total number of meters, temporary deferments, meters that did not pump and broken meters along with acres and the amount of water pumped in each subarea. Discussion followed. Hutchison pointed out that there are historic acres that aren't watered but are being allowed for allocation which keeps the average inches low.

Hutchison referred to the items covered by the subcommittee. Copies of the agenda were distributed. He reported that some of the options the subcommittee discussed were using FSA irrigated acres, doing nothing, going back a certain number of years and not figuring those acres into the allocation. Hutchison hopes to revisit these options after an allocation period has been completed. The subcommittee asked for a difference in active acres and historic acres when it came time for an out of compliance issue. Biggs told the board that an idea the subcommittee had regarding historic acres was that there should be a percentage carryover (50%). Another area the subcommittee discussed was temporary deferment when a well went back into active irrigation, the allocation should be prorated. The current rules don't specifically address the issue. Regarding the allocation on the tablelands, the subcommittee discussed this at length. The subcommittee did not make a recommendation to the board, but discussed from 16"-22". Since the allocation period for the tablelands begins in 2009 the board's intent was to give a one year advance notice of an allocation change. Discussion was held about the pros and cons of the impact of making an adjustment to the allocation before the program goes into affect; and giving the allocation system time to work. Hutchison moved and Johnson seconded the motion that the SPNRD Rules and Regulations be amended to reflect wording regarding prorating an allocation when an irrigation well comes out of temporary deferment and that active acres will be required for an offset with the 60% rule regarding compliance issues and transfers (i.e. Craig Maas) and to lower the 2009 tableland allocation to 20". Crago moved and Johnson seconded to amend the motion and to separate out the two issues (allocation as one issue and wordsmithing as another issue) to be voted on separately. A roll call vote to amend the motion was taken.

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

The motion as amended by Hutchison and seconded by Johnson to reflect wording regarding prorating an allocation when an irrigation well comes out of temporary deferment and that active acres will be required for an offset with the 60% rule regarding compliance issues and transfers and pooling was voted on next by

roll call vote.

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

It was moved by Hutchison and seconded by Rutt to amend the SPNRD Districtwide Ground Water Management Area Rules and Regulations to 20" for the Tablelands allocation period beginning in 2009. Discussion followed. Biggs pointed out that although most of the subcommittee was in agreement that the allocation needed to be lowered, this was not a recommendation by the allocation subcommittee but was a board decision. A roll call vote was taken.

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

3. Issues Regarding the Proposed IMP and Modifications to the Districtwide Ground Water Management Area Rules and Regulations

Due to health issues with NDNR staff member, Tina Kurtz, this agenda item was not discussed. A possible hearing could be set for March.

4. Village of Lodgepole Wastewater Improvement Project

Horn briefly reviewed the process the Village of Lodgepole is going through regarding their wastewater improvement project. It is similar to the process Sidney is using for their wastewater project. There are no offsets required because the Village is not in the 28/40 area. SPNRD's main role is collaboration and consultation.

10. *Election of Officers

A. Chair

SPNRD operating policy for board chair states that chair can serve for four years. Discussion followed and Crago moved and Burkhart-Kriesel seconded the motion to waive policy and allow Keith Rexroth to serve an additional year. A roll call vote was taken.

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

B. Vice-Chair

Hutchison moved and Biggs seconded the motion to nominate Burkhart-Kriesel to serve as Vice-Chair and nominations cease and to cast a unanimous ballot for Burkhart-Kriesel. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Johnson, Hutchison, Rexroth, Biggs, Rutt, Crago
Nay: None

Abstain: Burkhart-Kriesel
Motion Carried.

C. Secretary

Hutchison moved and Burkhart-Kriesel seconded the motion to nominate Biggs to serve as Secretary and nominations cease and to cast a unanimous ballot for Biggs. A roll call vote was taken.

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

D. Treasurer

Rutt moved and Biggs seconded the motion to nominate Horn to serve as Treasurer and nominations cease and to cast a unanimous ballot for Horn. A roll call vote was taken.

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

11. *Appointment of NRD Members

A. Committees

Chair led discussion, and with no action to change any of the committee appointments and chairs, Chair appointed the 2008 committee chairs and committee members the same as the prior year as follows:

District Operations Committee: Jim Johnson, Chair; Deb Crago, Member; and Keith Rexroth, Member; and

Natural Resources/Projects & Programs Committee: Paul Hutchison, Chair; Larry Rutt, Member; Tom Biggs, Member; and Cheryl Burkhart-Kriesel, Member.

B. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD)

It was moved by Burkhart-Kriesel and seconded by Crago to nominate Johnson as NARD Representative for 2008 with Rexroth and Rutt as alternates and nominations cease. A roll call vote was taken.

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

C. Panhandle Resources Conservation and Development (PRC&D)

It was moved by Crago and seconded by Biggs to nominate Burkhart-Kriesel as PRC&D Representative for 2008 and Rexroth as alternate and that nominations cease. A roll call vote was taken.

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

12. Correspondence

Horn encouraged the board to read the material distributed. He passed around information regarding the Governor's appointments to various committees.

13. Upcoming Dates

- A. Variance Advisory Group meeting - January 15, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.
- B. Four States Irrigation Council 55th Annual meeting, Hilton, Fort Collins, CO
- January 16-28-2008
- C. SPNRD Office Closed, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - January 21, 2008
- D. NARD Legislative Conference, Embassy Suites, Lincoln - February 4-6, 2008
- E. SPNRD Board of Directors Meeting, Sidney - February 12, 2008
- F. SPNRD Office Closed, Presidents Day - February 18, 2008
- G. Washington, D.C. NARD Annual Trip - March 10-12, 2008

14. Adjourn

With no further action, the meeting was adjourned at 10:03 p.m.

Linda L. Suhr, Recording Secretary

*Denotes Action Taken