

PUBLIC NOTICE

The South Platte Natural Resources District will hold a regular public meeting on March 16, 2010 at the South Platte Natural Resources District, 551 Parkland Drive, Sidney, Nebraska, at 5:00 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 (308) 254-2377, before the meeting.

FINAL AGENDA

1. Call to Order - Keith Rexroth, Chair
 - A. Nebraska Open Meetings Act
 - B. Legal Notice
 - C. Approval of Expenditures
 1. *Possible April 2010 Committee Meeting Expenditures for Meals
2. Minutes
 - A. Minutes of the February 9, 2010 meeting of the Board of Directors
 - B. Minutes of the February 9, 2010 meeting of the District Operations Committee
 - C. Minutes of the February 8, 2010 meeting of the Natural Resources/Projects and Programs Committee
3. *Treasurer's Report for February 2010 and Accounts Payable
4. Report on the South Platte River Compact Coalition (SPRCC) Financial Transactions
5. Public Questions, Comments and/or Concerns
6. Director and Staff Reports
 - A. NRD/NARD Washington, D.C. Report - Rexroth/Johnson/Horn
 - B. Report on the Joint Meeting of the Upper Platte NRDs - Rexroth/Johnson/Rutt
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 Board of Directors Meeting Report - Johnson
 - C. Panhandle Resource Conservation and Development (PRC&D)
 1. PRC&D Report - Burkhardt-Kriesel
 - D. Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NDNR)
 1. NDNR Report - Rexroth
8. METRIC (Managing ET with High Resolution and Internalized Calibration) Project Update - Dr. Gary Hergert

9. 2009 Nitrogen Management Summary Report - Kaiser

10. Committee Reports

A. Natural Resources/Projects and Programs Committee - Hutchison, Chair

1. *Discussion and Action as Desired Concerning Industrial/Commercial Water Use Accounting, Baseline Rule, Offsets and Replacement Wells
2. *Review and Action on Pooling Applications
3. Discussion Regarding Amendments to the Pooling Rule
4. Review Meeting with Western Irrigation District Board of Directors
5. *Action of the Reorganization of the District's Ground Water Advisory Committees
6. *Discussion and Action Regarding NDNR Consultation Letter for Application TA-46: Pine Bluffs Gravel and Excavating, Inc.

B. District Operations Committee - Halligan, Chair

1. Evaluation of the New Conservation Tree Program Agreement between the NRDs and NARD
2. *Action on Community Forestry Program Applications
3. Review and Action on Proposed Interrelated Water Management Plan Program Funds Applications:
 - a. *Ratify Lodgepole Creek Flow Evaluation Project
 - b. *Ratify Economic Implications of Reduced Ground Water Allocations in the Nebraska Panhandle and Educational Programming to Improve Management with Less Water
4. *Action on Bids/Proposals Received for Consideration to:
 - a. Purchase Computer Equipment, Installation and Software
 - b. Rebuild Existing Light Fixtures in the Original SPNRD Building
5. *Action to Approve Teachers' Conservation Education Workshop Budget
6. *Request for Authorization to Travel

11. Correspondence

12. Upcoming Dates

- A. March 13, 2010 - Urban BMP Workshop, SPNRD, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- B. March 14, 2010 - Daylight Savings Time Begins
- C. March 23, 2010 - Variance Advisory Group (VAG), SPNRD, 6:30 p.m.
- D. April 1, 2010 - Irrigation Management Strategy Workshop, SPNRD, 9:00 a.m. to Noon
- E. April 13, 2010 - SPNRD Board of Directors Meeting
- F. April 14, 2010 - Western Nebraska Children's' Ground Water Festival - Sidney, NE
- G. April 30, 2010 - Arbor Day
- H. May 1, 2010 - State Envirothon - Alda Nature Center
- I. May 31, 2010 - SPNRD Closed, Memorial Day

13. Adjourn

*Denotes Possible Action Items

MINUTES

The meeting of the South Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors was held Tuesday, March 16, 2010, at the South Platte NRD Conference Room, 551 Parkland Drive, Sidney, NE, at 5:00 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

Bill Halligan

Cheryl Burkhart-Kriesel, Vice Chair

Larry Rutt (6:49 p.m.)

Tom Biggs, Secretary (5:34 p.m.)

Paul Hutchison

Jim Johnson

Board Members Absent

None

Others Present

Kristin Miller, D.C., NRCS/USDA; Dr. Gary Hergert, UNL Extension nutrient management and water quality specialist, Panhandle Research and Extension Center, Scottsbluff

NRD Staff Present

Rod L. Horn, General Manager

Linda L. Suhr, Administrative Manager

Galen Wittrock, Assistant Manager

Kyle Liebig, Water Resources Coordinator

Ryan Reisdorff, Water Res. Programs Specialist

Don Ogle, I & E Coordinator

Chris Kaiser, Natural Resources Coordinator

Travis Glanz, Water Resources Technician

Information Material

The following information was provided prior to the meeting or provided at the meeting:

1. March 16, 2010 Tentative and Final Agenda, meeting of the SPNRD Board of Directors
2. March 16, 2010 Tentative and Final Agenda, meeting of the District Operations Committee
3. March 15, 2010 Tentative and Final Agenda, meeting of the Natural Resources/Projects and Programs Committee
4. February 9, 2010 Minutes, SPNRD Board of Directors meeting
5. February 9, 2010 Minutes, District Operations Committee meeting
6. February 8, 2010 Minutes, Natural Resources/Projects and Programs Committee meeting
7. February 2010 Treasurer's Report
8. March 8, 2010 Administrative Manager's Memo and February 28, 2010 Administrative Manager's Report and District Secretary's Report
9. Nebraska Natural Resources Commission meeting Minutes, January 27, 2010
10. March 12, 2010 NARD Update from Dean Edson and the NARD bill tracking sheet
11. February 23, 2010 Minutes of the NPNRD, SPNRD, CPNRD, TBNRD & TPNRD Joint Committee Meeting held in North Platte
12. Deuel County Groundwater Quality Management Subarea Summary and the Spreadsheet with results
13. Cheyenne County Groundwater Quality Management Subarea Summary and the Spreadsheet with results

14. March 8, 2010 Memo from Kyle Liebig to SPNRD Board of Directors Re: Poolings Pending Approval and Poolings to be renewed including the applications for: WJD Ranch and Klent and Sara Schnell; Mike Kelly; Gross Wilkinson Ranch; Mueller Cattle Company; Nielsen & Sons, Inc.; Fornstrom Farms, LLC; Dwight and Sharon Tisdale; and Tisdale Trust
15. NDNR Application TA-46 for Pine Bluffs Gravel & Excavating, Inc. and attached documents - Request for SPNRD consultation
16. Proposed spreadsheet of SPNRD Ground Water Subarea Advisory Committees and Proposed Members
17. Interlocal Cooperative Agreement for Obtaining Seedling Trees and Shrubs between NRDs and NARD
18. 2010 Community Forestry Program Spreadsheet
19. Interrelated Water Management Plan Program Funds Applications: 1) Economic implications of reduced ground water allocations in the Nebraska Panhandle and educational programming to improve management with less water (Sponsors: North Platte, South Platte and Upper Niobrara White NRDs); and 2) Lodgepole Creek Flow Evaluation (Sponsor: South Platte NRD)
20. Spreadsheet listing bids for: Computer Equipment, Software and Installation
21. Spreadsheet listing bids to: Rebuild Existing Light Fixtures in the Original SPNRD Building
22. Proposed Budget for the Teachers' Conservation Education Workshop
23. NRCS/USDA Civil Rights Policy Statement and brochure from the USDA Office of Communications, "If you Disagree"
24. Correspondence: Water Matters-March 2010; Landmark Legislation-Wind Bill Propels Forward and Wind Provides Opportunities; and Supreme Court to Decide if Central can Challenge Water Allocation
25. Dr. Gary W. Hergert's presentation, "Mapping Evapotranspiration using METRIC™ Remote Sensing Technology"
26. Per Diem/Expense form

Meeting

1. Call to Order

Chair Rexroth called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., stating that Biggs called and will be late.

A. Nebraska Open Meetings Act

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

B. Legal Notices

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

C. Approval of Expenditures

1. *Possible April 2010 Committee Meeting Expenditures for Meals

Johnson moved and Halligan seconded the motion to approve April 2010 committee expenses for meals as discussed. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Halligan, Johnson, Burkhart-Kriesel, Hutchison, Rexroth
Nay: None

Absent: Biggs, Rutt

Motion Carried.

2. Minutes

A. Minutes of the February 9, 2010 meeting of the SPNRD Board of Directors

These minutes were approved as presented.

B. Minutes of the February 9, 2010 meeting of the SPNRD District Operations Committee

These minutes were approved as presented.

C. Minutes of the February 8, 2010 meeting of the SPNRD Natural Resources/Projects and Programs Committee

These minutes were approved as presented.

3. *Treasurer's Report for February 2010 and Accounts Payable

Horn reviewed account balances as follows:

<u>Account</u>	<u>February 1, 2010</u>	<u>February 28, 2010</u>
SPNRD Checking/Repurchase	\$ 294,103.47	\$ 368,728.82
Citizens' Monitoring Committee (combined)	\$ 24,681.28	\$ 31,683.18
LPCSI-EQIP NPAIT	\$ 1.12	\$ 1.12
LPCSI-EQIP Security First Bank CDs	\$ 298,006.10	\$ 298,191.34
SPRCC NPAIT	\$ 104,875.61	\$ 104,875.61

Horn reviewed the accounts payable. Horn urged the board to ask questions or come at any time to the office and review receipts/invoices. With no further discussion Halligan moved and Burkhart-Kriesel seconded the motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and pay the accounts payable in the amount of \$27,815.78. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Johnson, Burkhart-Kriesel, Hutchison, Rexroth, Halligan

Nay: None

Absent: Biggs, Rutt

Motion Carried.

4. Report on the South Platte River Compact Coalition (SPRCC) Financial Transactions

Horn is the secretary/treasurer for the SPRCC, which is a fiduciary account. Horn reviewed the action taken at the last SPRCC meeting, when SPRCC decided to move funds from the SPRCC NPAIT account and open two certificates of deposit, a \$40,000 three-month CD and a \$40,000 six-month CD both with Security First Bank in Sidney. This agenda item updates the SPNRD board on SPRCC fiduciary account financial transactions.

Agenda item 8 was addressed next to accommodate Dr. Gary Hergert's schedule.

5. Public Questions, Comments and/or Concerns

None.

6. Director and Staff Reports

- Liebig worked on acre modifications, worked with Glanz on replacement flow meters in the water accounting GIS, met with the Western Irrigation board (Horn attended also) and the Joint Platte Basin NRDs meeting along with Horn, participated in a conference call with Steve Seglin, SPNRD counsel, Horn and Reisdorff. He worked with landowners and staff to

obtain landowner approval for the USGS to ground truth areas across the District, worked with the GIS water accounting water reports. In regard to the Interrelated Water Management Plan Program Funds Application grant that approved the GIS water accounting, Nebraska reduced the funding by over 50%. However, he is hopeful that the grant will be resubmitted by NDNR and some of the lost funding may be recovered. He set up a Water Management Program (moisture block) meeting scheduled on April 1, 2010.

- Glanz worked on power records for broken flow meters. About 30 are broken across the District, which is less than 5%. He worked on replacement and repair cost-share applications and inspected those flow meters. The water use reports are complete and have been mailed, and he has worked with producers on questions from those reports. He removed snow on the District lot, attended a well decommissioning, assisted along with Kaiser by setting up tables for the CRP workshop that was held at the Cheyenne County Fairgrounds. He worked with Greg Jackson, NPNRD, regarding SPNRD forms and procedures for obtaining power records.
- Wittrock reported about 74,700 trees are sold to date. He and Kristin Miller inspected an informal Sediment Erosion complaint and will continue to follow up on the complaint. He sent a letter to Todd Nordeen regarding the board's request concerning the Wildlife Management Areas. Nordeen received it and forwarded the letter to Lincoln. He worked with the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund Grant for Perimeter Fence on CRP land, which has been approved. Official word on funding should come in April. A farm bill biologist position is part of this grant. He reported several new Buffer Strip applications were approved. He participated in the Urban Best Management Practices Workshop.
- Ogle helped organize and he participated in the Urban Best Management Practices workshop. He and Reisdorff developed a sign for the Cash for Grass program. He prepared applications for ACE camp and prepared advertisements and press releases for various upcoming events. He reported that Scottsbluff and Gering each have a team that qualified for the state Envirothon to be held May 1 at the Nature Center in Alda. He also reported on Cash for Grass activities, worked on the upcoming Groundwater Festival, the 2010 Conservation Awards Banquet and the Teachers' education workshop.
- Reisdorff worked with Bill Taylor on the City of Sidney's Wellhead Protection Area plan. A rough draft was submitted to NDEQ and to the City of Sidney for feedback on changes if any. He met with Dave Ford and Greg Brooks from the City of Kimball regarding the City of Kimball's Wellhead Protection Area plan. Other areas of the 319 grant he worked on are the WaterWise kits for area fifth grade classes, Cash for Grass demonstration sites, Groundwater Guardian Program, the Urban Best Management Practices workshop and a well abandonment in the Sidney Wellhead Protection Area. He, Liebig and Wittrock attended meetings in Kearney March 1-2, 2010.
- Kaiser prepared the Deuel County and Cheyenne County Groundwater Quality Management Subareas summaries and the spreadsheet results. He took recorder well levels and ground water levels. He did preliminary paperwork for his Environmental Trust Fund Grant, attended a well decommissioning south of Potter and signed up two new NeRAIN cooperators.
- Horn report there is no new information on the Motion to Dismiss (CNPPID lawsuit). He discussed how it is important for NRDs to continue to be transparent and put our best foot forward. Horn discussed efforts to assist the Conservation Survey Division.

- Burkhart-Kriesel attended the Urban Best Management Practices workshop and had positive comments about it. She also reported she would be unable to attend the April Board and Committee meetings.

A. NRD/NARD Washington, D.C. Report

Johnson, Rexroth and Horn reported about their experiences during the NRD/NARD Washington, D.C. meetings, stressing the time was worthwhile, beneficial and necessary. The members of congress and their staff were eager for information about programs in Nebraska.

B. Report on the Joint Meeting of the Upper Platte NRDs

Johnson, Rexroth, Rutt, Horn and Liebig attended the joint committee meeting of the Upper Platte NRDs on February 23, 2010 in North Platte. The minutes were provided in the handout information. It was noted the meeting was worthwhile. Liebig gave a presentation on the SPNRD Districtwide Rules and Regulations during that meeting.

7. Agency Reports

A. USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

1. NRCS Report

Kristin Miller, District Conservationist, distributed the NRCS/USDA Civil Rights Policy Statement and brochure from the USDA Office of Communications, "If you Disagree", as reminders to abide by equality and fairness. She discussed CSP and CRP future signups. The District's NRCS offices approved three permanent irrigation conversion to dryland applications.

B. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD)

1. NARD Board of Directors Meeting Report

Johnson reported the NARD insurance program is doing well. He also reported on the elections held after the NARD Legislative Conference. He continues to serve as the Information and Education Chair for the NARD.

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

1. PRC&D Report

Cheryl Burkhart-Kriesel reported that since the annual meeting was cancelled due to the weather; the next regular meeting will be held in April.

D. Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NDNR)

1. NDNR Report

Keith Rexroth was elected Chair of the committee. The next meeting will be held during the week of March 22.

8. METRIC™(Managing ET with High Resolution and Internalized Calibration) Project Update

Dr. Gary Hergert gave a power point presentation updating the board on the Mapping Evapotranspiration (ET) using Remote Sensing Technology (METRIC™) project, which was funded by an NRCS Conservation Innovation grant, SPNRD and NPNRD, and the Nebraska

Department of Natural Resources. LB962 prompted this project, which is a tool to assist with some of the goals of integrated water management plans. METRIC™ is a hybrid energy balance computer program that uses thermal bands from Landsat imagery to compute ET, combining remotely-sensed energy balance (satellite) data and ground-based ET data to determine ET over the area. The project objectives are to develop remote sensing computing expertise, produce NRD-specific ET maps, produce ET maps for ground water and surface water irrigated areas and develop locally calibrated crop coefficient curves for panhandle crops. In answer to a question on how the data would be available, Dr. Hergert thought the final data may be in the form of JPG and/or ArcView. Dr. Hergert said the METRIC™ project significantly improved ET estimates. He also discussed the extension component personnel, Gary Stone, whose job it has been to maintain a series of ET monitoring stations, atmometers and soil moisture monitoring sites in both NRDs. Gary Stone also provides agricultural training in this area.

He also answered questions from the board and staff and discussed the pending grant sponsored by the SPNRD, NPNRD and Upper Niobrara-White NRD, through an Interrelated Water Management Plan Program Funds application, "Economic Implications of Reduced Ground Water Allocations in the Nebraska Panhandle and Education Programming to Improve Management with Less Water". If this grant is approved, it will provide funding to retain the services of Gary Stone who is a big asset to the panhandle, as well as provide farm-level economic analysis of limited irrigation impacts for crops grown in the three panhandle NRDs. Horn discussed that if the grant is not funded, the panhandle NRDs could be interested in options to retain Gary Stone's services.

9. 2009 Nitrogen Management Summary Report

Kaiser reviewed information for the Sidney and Deuel County Groundwater Quality Management subareas. For the Sidney subarea, overall the data from this year coincides with data from prior years; however, residual soil nitrogen was the lowest in the last ten years, averaging 78.21 lbs/acre. The water results averaged 6.7 p.p.m, the highest since 2005.

The Deuel County subarea results showed the average nitrate-nitrogen results as the lowest in ten years with an average report of 9.75 p.p.m. Residual soil nitrogen stayed within the scale of past data with an average of 79.9 lbs/acre.

10. Committee Reports

A. Natural Resources/Project and Programs Committee

1. *Discussion and Action as Desired Concerning Industrial/Commercial Water Use Accounting, Baseline Rule, Offsets and Industrial/Commercial Replacement Wells

Hutchison reported that the committee met with Steven Seglin, SPNRD legal counsel, via teleconference with Cheryl Burkhart-Kriesel also joining via teleconference. It was discussed that Seglin compile for further committee, staff and board review, guidelines for industrial and commercial water use accounting, baselines and offsets and replacement wells, from the SPNRD rules and regulations and from the IMP, with references included from Neb. Revised Statutes and the District's rules. This type of document will provide guidance to the board, committees and staff. Hutchison moved on behalf of committee and Burkhart-Kriesel seconded the motion to ratify authorization for Seglin to draft the guidelines as discussed. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Burkhart-Kriesel, Hutchison, Rexroth, Biggs, Rutt, Halligan Johnson
Nay: None
Absent: None

Motion Carried.

2. *Review and Action on Pooling Applications

Hutchison reported that the committee discussed, reviewed and recommended approval of each of the pooling applications as listed and each met the 60% rule as well as other SPNRD rules necessary to pool:

- a. WJD Ranch and Klent and Sara Schnell (Po-10-WJDSchnell)-WJD Ranch owns 188.39 certified irrigated acres (CIA) with two irrigation wells, in Section 27, T15N, R57W, Kimball County. Klent and Sara Schnell own 268.57 CIA with two irrigation wells in Section 1, T14N, R58W, Kimball County. Both tracts met the 60% rule.
- b. Mike Kelley (Po-10-Kelley) - Mike Kelley owns 142.2 CIA in Section 26, T15N, R57W, Kimball County. Both tracts met the 60% rule.
- c. Gross Wilkinson Ranch (Po-10-GWRanch) - Gross Wilkinson Ranch owns 110 CIA (one tract) in Section 12, T14N, R58W; and 360 CIA (two tracts) in Section 7, T14N, R58W; and 126.2 CIA (one tract) in Section 18, T14N, R58W, all in Kimball County, near the Wyoming border. All tracts met the 60% rule. The ground water levels near this immediate area have declined 35' in twenty years. One tract pumped an inch over the allocation. According to SPNRD rules, the penalty will be a deduction from the next period's allocation. It was discussed that the ranch modified and improved their irrigation practices.
- d. Mueller Cattle Co (Po-10-Mueller) - Mueller Cattle Co owns 220.5 CIA (two tracts) in Section 23, T15N, R56W, Kimball County. Both tracts met the 60% rule. Pine Bluffs Gravel & Excavating, Inc. is using the 154.6 CIA tract for their water use offset. SPNRD has all necessary and required information on the industrial use.
- e. Nielsen & Sons, Inc. (Po-10-Nielsen) - Nielsen & Sons, Inc. owns 190.7 CIA (three tracts) in Section 4 and 82 CIA in one tract in Section 4, all in T14N, R52W, Cheyenne County. All tracts met the 60% rule.
- f. Fornstrom Farms, LLC (Po-10-Fornstrom) - Fornstrom Farms, LLC owns 304.7 CIA (two tracts) in Section 28, T15N, R56W, Kimball County. Both tracts met the 60% rule.
- g. Tisdale Trust (Po-10-TisdaleTrust)- Don Tisdale Trust owns 392.5 CIA (one tract) in Section 35, T15N, R54W and 71.6 CIA (one tract) in Section 31, T15N, R53W, both in Kimball County; farmed by Fornstrom Farms, LLC (Robert Fornstrom has POA for Don Tisdale). Both tracts met the 60% rule. The large CIA tract is just southwest of the village of Dix. No negative impact on water levels in this area has been reported.
- h. Dwight and Sharon Tisdale (Po-10-DTisdale)- Dwight and Sharon Tisdale own 365.2 CIA (three tracts) in Section 27; 236.2 CIA (two tracts) in Section 30; and 112.4 CIA (one tract) in Section 31, all in T15N, R56W, Kimball County, farmed by

Fornstrom Farms, LLC (Mark Fornstrom has POA for Dwight Tisdale). All tracts met the 60% rule.

After discussion, Hutchison moved on behalf of the committee and Burkhart-Kriesel seconded the motion to approve each application to pool as discussed: WJD Ranch and Klent and Sara Schnell (Po-10-WJDSchnell); Mike Kelley (Po-10-Kelley); Gross Wilkinson Ranch (Po-10-GWRanch); Mueller Cattle Co (Po-10-Mueller); Nielsen & Sons, Inc. (Po-10-Nielsen); Fornstrom Farms, LLC (Po-10-Fornstrom); Dwight and Sharon Tisdale (Po-10-DTisdale); and Tisdale Trust (Po-10-TisdaleTrust). A roll call vote was taken.

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

3. Discussion Regarding Amendments to the Pooling Rule

Hutchison said the committee discussed and reviewed proposed items to be considered for modification to the SPNRD Rule 6.9 - Pooling. The committee took a "straw vote" and the board discussed as follows: pooling distance-a good starting spot would be a six-mile square floating township and possibly eliminate the county rule but leave the subarea rule; the 60% rule-should remain (an emergency clause could be added), if land is contiguous, may need smaller percentage; clarifying how existing approved pooling arrangements will be addressed at renewal-can't be in deficit for the upcoming allocation period; rewording to clarify that all irrigated tracts to be pooled are required to have unused allocations or carryforward, and clarifying that allocation penalties be addressed and resolved before approving pooling and transfer arrangements. It was discussed that staff could approve arrangements that existed in the past when there are no problems.

Discussion was held to use ground water advisory committees to work through some of the issues. In regard to penalty, it was discussed that the penalty should be assessed before transferring or pooling and if the allocation is negative, no transfer or pooling is allowed. This will be considered further at an upcoming meeting.

4. Review Meeting with Western Irrigation District Board of Directors

On February 12, 2010, Horn and Liebig attended the meeting of the Western Irrigation District Board of Directors. This board governs use of surface water in the South Platte River area of the District. About 1,600 acres are irrigated in the District through the South Platte diversion by flood irrigation through the Western Irrigation Canal system, not through pivot irrigation. Tom Hayden, NDNR, will work with Western Irrigation District to set up a system to measure the surface water. The South Platte River Compact is in effect for that area. No action is necessary at this time; this was a discussion item only.

5. *Action of the Reorganization of the District's Ground Water Advisory Committees

Hutchison referred to the handout regarding reorganization of the District's Ground Water Advisory committees. The committee discussed and reviewed the spreadsheet and recommended approval. Hutchison moved on behalf of committee and Biggs

seconded the motion to approve the reorganized Ground Water Advisory Committees and proposed members. Discussion was held that the committees will be informal with no bylaws or operating policies. Representation from various areas is included on the committee so that a broad spectrum of water user interests is represented. It was requested, in addition, to recognize those who no longer served on the committees. Chair Rexroth stated if there is no objection, it will be added to the motion to send thank you notes to those who no longer served on the committees. With no objection the motion was modified and a roll call vote was taken.

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

6. *Discussion and Action Regarding NDNR Consultation Letter for Application TA-46: Pine Bluffs Gravel & Excavating, Inc.

Hutchison said the committee discussed the NDNR Application TA-46, in which Pine Bluffs Gravel & Excavating, Inc. (PBGE), seeks to withdraw water from the City of Kimball municipal wells as a backup for a wind project in Colorado. The request conforms to the District's rules; however, it was discussed that the SPNRD receive a total of the water withdrawn at the end of the project. The SPNRD waives the requirement for an SPNRD permit since the NDNR permit is similar to the requirements of the SPNRD permit. Staff will draft a letter to accompany the NDNR's collaborative memorandum explaining the board decision. Hutchison moved on behalf of committee and Burkhart-Kriesel seconded the motion that the SPNRD waives the requirement for an SPNRD permit; and the approval is conditioned on the District receiving a report of the total amount of water withdrawn by PBGE. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

B. District Operations Committee

1. Evaluation of the New Conservation Tree Program Agreement between the NRDs and NARD

Halligan reported that the NRDs pay 3¢ per tree to the NARD under the current Conservation Tree Program Agreement. The committee felt the Interlocal Agreement needs further work from the NRD Managers and the NARD. This is not an action item.

2. *Action on Community Forestry Program Applications

A spreadsheet was provided with the committee recommendations. Halligan explained that the total amount requested for the Community Forestry Program applications for 2010 is \$55,018.50, however the amount budgeted for this program is \$28,000. The committee recommended funding all projects at 85% except for those that exceeded \$5,000. The Panhandle Community Tree Rehab project requested \$9,362.50 and the Bushnell Tree Rehab project requested \$22,972.50 so it was discussed that the Panhandle project could be funded at 40% of their request or \$3,403.61 and the

"over"

Bushnell project could be funded at 60% or \$5,105.41. Halligan moved on behalf of committee and Johnson seconded the motion to approve the Community Forestry Program applications funding \$28,000 as discussed in the spread sheet provided. A roll call vote was taken. Burkhart-Kriesel recommended continuing the Re-Tree Nebraska project. For FY2010, \$1,400 was budgeted for Re-Tree Nebraska which will offer 4'-6' trees in the communities of Lodgepole and Big Springs.

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

3. *Review and Action on Proposed Interrelated Water Management Plan Program Funds Applications:

a. *Ratify Lodgepole Creek Flow Evaluation Project

Halligan reported that the deadline for submitting the application was March 1, 2010, and if funded, the project will have an SPNRD cost of \$12,500 the first year. The committee recommended ratification of the application.

Horn gave a brief review of the project's three objectives: 1) review historical stream flow data to determine the extent of live stream within the Lodgepole Creek subarea and a hydraulic evaluation of Lodgepole Creek to the South Platte River in Nebraska; 2) refine the existing stream depletion analysis completed by COHYST (2008) to provide a refined assessment of the depletions that must be offset in the Lodgepole Creek subarea; and 3) evaluate the feasibility (pre-feasibility study) of using flows in the Lodgepole Creek subarea to augment flows in the South Platte River. Halligan moved and Burkhart-Kriesel seconded the motion to ratify the application for the Lodgepole Creek Flow Evaluation Project. A roll call vote was taken.

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

b. *Ratify Economic Implications of Reduced Ground Water Allocations in the Nebraska Panhandle and Education Programming to Improve Management with Less Water

Halligan reviewed that this grant application was reviewed earlier during Gary Hergert's presentation (the grant was prepared by him) and the committee was in agreement to recommend ratification of the application. The SPNRD cost is \$5,000 per year and this application was submitted by the North Platte NRD, South Platte NRD and Upper Niobrara-White NRD. Halligan moved and Johnson seconded the motion to ratify the application for the Economic Implications of Reduced Ground

Water Allocations in the Nebraska Panhandle and Education Programming to Improve Management with less Water. A roll call vote was taken.

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

4. * Action on Bids/Proposals Received for Consideration to:

a. Purchase Computer Equipment, Installation and Software

Halligan and the committee reviewed two bids received for computer equipment: 1 notebook (laptop) and two desktops. The committee recommended the bid from Bytes Computer & Network Solutions in the amount of \$3,477 plus expense to deliver and configure. Motion by Halligan, second by Burkhart-Kriesel to approve the Bytes Computer & Network Solutions bid in the amount of \$3,477 plus expense to deliver and configure. It was discussed that Bytes has a lot of experience in large networks with multiple locations and the SPNRD is growing into the type of service Bytes can provide. A roll call vote was taken.

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

b. Rebuild Existing Light Fixtures in the Original SPNRD Building

Halligan reported that the committee reviewed five bids received to rebuild existing light fixtures in the original SPNRD building. The committee recommended the bid from Kevin's Custom Electric in the amount of \$2,433. The bid was submitted for 39 fixtures, but two more need to be replaced. Halligan moved and Johnson seconded the motion to accept the bid from Kevin's Custom Electric in the amount of \$2,433, with the addition to approve two more replacements. Rutt suggested that the ballasts should be "program start ballasts" and not just electronic ballasts. Halligan had no problem with adding a friendly amendment to let staff discuss this change with Kevin's Custom Electric. A roll call vote was taken.

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

5. *Action to Approve Teachers' Conservation Education Workshop Budget

Halligan reported the committee reviewed the Teachers' Conservation Education Workshop and the budget in the amount of \$5,240. Halligan moved on behalf of committee and Johnson seconded the motion to approve the Teachers' Conservation Education Workshop Budget in the amount of \$5,240. It was discussed that this type of program fits well into NRD statewide strategy for education. A roll call vote was taken.

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

6. *Request for Authorization to Travel

Halligan reported the committee was in agreement for Horn to meet with Anne Castle, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, for the Department of Interior. Halligan moved on behalf of committee and Burkhart-Kriesel seconded the motion to authorize Horn to travel to Washington, D.C. to meet with Anne Castle. A roll call vote was taken.

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

11. Correspondence

Various items were provided to the board either by email or in the handout material. Horn passed around the Secretary of State 2010 Candidate list. Three SPNRD incumbents filed, Biggs, Johnson and Hutchison, and none are being contested.

12. Upcoming Dates

- A. March 13, 2010 - Urban BMP Workshop, SPNRD, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- B. March 14, 2010 - Daylight Savings Time Begins
- C. March 23, 2010 - Variance Advisory Group (VAG), SPNRD, 6:30 p.m.
- D. April 1, 2010 - Irrigation Management Strategy Workshop, SPNRD, 9:00 a.m. to Noon
- E. April 13, 2010 - SPNRD Board of Directors Meeting
- F. April 14, 2010 - Western Nebraska Children's' Ground Water Festival - Sidney, NE
- G. April 30, 2010 - Arbor Day
- H. May 1, 2010 - State Envirothon - Alda Nature Center
- I. May 31, 2010 - SPNRD Closed, Memorial Day

13. Adjourn

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Linda L. Suhr, Recording Secretary

*Denotes Action Items