

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The South Platte Natural Resources District will hold a regular public meeting on Tuesday, May 9, 2017 at 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 - Bill Halligan, Chair
  - A. Nebraska Open Meetings Act
  - B. Legal Notices
2. Minutes
  - A. \*Minutes of the April 11, 2017 South Platte Natural Resources District (SPNRD) Board of Directors Meeting
  - B. Minutes of the April 11, 2017 SPNRD District Operations Committee Meeting
3. \*Treasurer's Report for April 2017 and Accounts Payable - Horn
4. Public Questions, Comments and Concerns
5. Director and Staff Reports
6. Agency Reports
  - A. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
    1. NRCS Report - Kristin Dickinson, DC-NRCS
  - B. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD)
    1. NARD Report - Johnson
    2. 2017 Legislative Session Review - Horn
    3. NRD/NARD Employee Benefits Committee and NARD IRMP Association Loss Committee Reports - Johnson
  - C. Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NeDNR)
    1. NeDNR Natural Resources Commission Report – Halligan
7. Discussion Regarding Upper Platte Basin - Stakeholder Planning Group Meeting Preparation - Halligan
8. General Reports
  - A. SPNRD 2016 Water Usage Report - Glanz
  - B. Western Nebraska Children's Groundwater Festival Report - Gerk/Davis

## MINUTES

The meeting of the South Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors was held Tuesday, May 9, 2017, at the South Platte Natural Resources District, 551 Parkland Drive Sidney, NE at 5:00 p.m. The public notices were published in the area 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

Bill Halligan, Chair  
Jim Johnson, Secretary  
Chris Meyer  
Tim Maas

Larry Rutt  
Phil Grabowski  
Kathy Narjes

### Others Present

Kristin Dickinson, NRCS

### Board Members Absent

### NRD Staff Present

Rod L. Horn, General Manager  
Donald Davis, Administrative Manager  
Shelly Gerk, Information and Education Coordinator  
Travis Glanz, Water Resources Coordinator

Galen Wittrock, Assistant Manager  
Tyler Sanders, Water Resources Technician  
Ryan Reisdorff, Water Resources Specialist

### Information Material

The following information was provided electronically prior to or during the meeting:

1. Final Agenda - Board of Directors, May 9, 2017
2. Tentative Agendas - District Operations Committee, May 9, 2017
3. Tentative Agendas - Natural Resources/Projects and Programs Committee, May 9, 2017
4. April 11, 2017 Minutes of the South Platte NRD (SPNRD) Board of Directors meeting
5. April 11, 2017 Minutes of the SPNRD District Operations Committee meeting
6. April 2017 Treasurer's Report and Accounts Payable
7. May 1, 2017 Manager's Letter
8. May 8, 2017 Staff Report: Donald Davis
9. May 9, 2017 Manager Report: Rod Horn
10. Agency
  - o May 2, 2017 Nebraska Legislature Review
  - o April 11, 2017 Horn letter to Senator Erdman regarding LB 98
  - o April 19, 2017 Senator Erdman's letter to Horn regarding LB 98
  - o May 2, 2017 Dean Edson E-mail regarding LB 98 – 3 Cent Levy Authority
11. General Reports
  - o May 4, 2017 Horn memo regarding the Upper Platte River Basin - Stakeholder Planning Group Meeting #6 Preparation
  - o May 3, 2017 Halligan E-mail to Horn with stakeholder questions regarding the Upper Platte River Basin - Stakeholder Planning Group Meeting #6 Preparation
  - o May 2017 Handout - Insight Water Supply and Water Demand - Draft
  - o Map of South Platte NRD Irrigation Wells in Fuller and Over Appropriated Areas
  - o 2016 Water Usage Report
  - o 2016 Water Usage Report Power Point Presentation
  - o Map of the Allocation Subareas & Allocations for the 2016 through 2018 Allocation Period

- 2017 Children's Groundwater Festival Power Point Presentation
  - April 20, 2017 letter from Steve Seglin on Drilling Test Hole in Overappropriated Area for Oliver Reservoir Streamflow Enhancement Project
  - April 27, 2017 Olsson Associates Preliminary Project Design Plans & Project Costs Sheet for the East Sidney Watershed (JESWA) Project
12. District Operations Committee
- March 27, 2017 2020 North America Envirothon Letter from Dean Edson
  - 2020 North American Envirothon NARD Foundation Budget
  - Envirothon Brochure
  - History of the Envirothon
  - June 3, 2017 Landscape Wise Schedule & Budget
13. Natural Resources/Projects and Programs Committee
- VS Hay Application to Transfer Groundwater received November 2, 2016, signed by Matt Varra
  - March 17, 2017 Robert (David) Littler Erosion and Sediment Control Act complaint No. SP-01-07
  - April 12, 2017 Letter from Wittrock to Howard Kurz regarding Erosion and Sediment Control Act complaint
  - April 25, 2017 Phil Kurz Conservation Agreement Form
  - May 3, 2017 USDA - NRCS Crop Rotation/Residue Management/Gully Treatment Form
  - May 2, 2017 USDA - NRCS Conservation Plan Map
14. Correspondence
- March 2017 USDA Fix it, Don't Disk it, Stop Ephemeral Gully Erosion with Conservation Systems Brochure
15. Per Diem Worksheet
- 

1. Call to Order

Chair Halligan called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

A. Nebraska Open Meetings Act

Chair Halligan stated that this meeting is subject to the Nebraska Open Meetings Act. A copy is posted in the meeting room.

B. Legal Notices

Chair Halligan acknowledged that the notice of this meeting was published in the District's newspapers and the Affidavits/Proofs of Publication are included with these minutes.

2. Minutes

A. \*Minutes of the April 11, 2017 South Platte Natural Resources District (SPNRD) Board of Directors Meeting

Chair Halligan requested if there were any corrections or additions to the March 14, 2017 Board meeting minutes. Motion by Narjes, second by Grabowski to approve the March 14, 2017 minutes as presented. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Rutt, Halligan, Johnson, Maas, Grabowski, Meyer, Narjes

Nay:

Absent:

Abstain

Motion carried.

B. Minutes of the April 11, 2017 SPNRD District Operations Committee Meeting

These minutes were approved as distributed.

3. \*Treasurer’s Report for April 2017 and Accounts Payable

Horn reviewed the account balances listed on the Treasurer’s Report as follows:

<u>Account Description</u>	<u>April 1, 2017</u>	<u>April 30, 2017</u>
SPNRD Checking/Repurchase	\$484,765.68	\$482,123.81
SPNRD Building/Property	\$ 23,466.13	\$ 23,467.88
SPNRD Vehicle/Equipment	\$ 29,830.36	\$ 29,832.60
SPNRD ORRA Infrastructure	\$105,181.71	\$105,189.89
SPNRD ORRA Checking PWCB	\$ 7,587.68	\$ 7,629.90
Citizens’ Monitoring PWCB	\$ 58,687.07	\$ 58,691.57
Citizens’ Monitoring CD FirsTier	\$ 76,002.77	\$ 76,002.77
SPRCC NPAIT Account	\$ 43,040.79	\$ 27,260.59

Horn reviewed various items listed in the accounts payable. The total amount of accounts payable is \$98,276.20. After discussion, Rutt moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report and authorize payment of the accounts payable in the amount of \$98,276.20. A second was made by Johnson and with no further discussion, a roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Narjes, Rutt, Halligan, Johnson, Maas, Grabowski, Meyer

Nay:

Absent:

Motion carried.

4. Public Questions, Comments and Concerns

None

5. Director and Staff Reports

Wittrock - working on community forestry and conservation trees and flagging tree sites, worked with Don and completed the quarterly report on the preserving CRP Grasslands grant, worked on a new contract for the buffer strip program

Gerk - attended the I&E Tour and meeting at the end of April, helped with the Envirothon, helped Don with the groundwater festival, wrote and submitted 4 nominations for NARD awards, weekly updates on the rain garden, did an interview with north elementary school, working on Summer 2017 pipeline newsletter, received six scholarship applications for range and ACE camp

Reisdorff - completed the hazard mitigation quarterly report, worked on the Oliver project, new project on the Western Canal with reuse pits working with the TPNRD, attended the Western Water Use Modeling ICCA meeting, helped read industrial meters, helped with the Groundwater Festival, set up the Urban Best Management Practices workshop, helped tree plant and landscape on the grounds

Sanders - inspected new flow meters, worked on past due flow meter maintenance, read industrial meters, worked on flow meter maintenance paperwork, helped with the Groundwater Festival, helped clean up and plant trees around the grounds

Glanz - quarterly report for the Hydrology of Western Nebraska grant, worked on maintenance for the land owners and operators for the flow meter program, helped with the tree program, helped with the Groundwater Festival, spent time sending data to Thad’s group to get the model updated, working with the TPNRD on the Western Canal project which will get the SPNRD four more reuse pits

Davis - Written Report

Horn - Written Report

6. Agency Reports

A. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

1. NRCS Report

Dickinson reported the new Secretary of Agriculture has taken office and is reinstating projects. NRCS staff helped with the groundwater festival and Dickinson helped the Sidney Envirothon team prepare for the state Envirothon. NRCS staff has worked on the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) during the month and is finishing up CRP grassland grant work so payments can be made. CRP grasslands fieldwork is progressing. CRP applications have been shut down as they are almost to the national cap. Dickinson worked with Rod and FSA on a CREP plan; the plan should be approved next week. Dickinson worked with her staff and the NRD on the erosion and sediment complaint.

B. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts

1. NARD Report - Johnson reported next meeting is in June

2. 2017 Legislative Session - Horn encouraged the board to read the letter from senator Erdman's office on LB 98, which missed by two votes to defeat the filibuster and move the bill forward. The bill is moved to the back and will likely sunset in 2018. This will push several districts to utilize occupation tax, which four districts use already. The second bill is LB 89, which identifies the public notice, which was to be published five days for the budget hearing including the hearing date to four days in advance of the hearing. Horn reported LB 432 eliminates the allowance for delinquent taxes and budgeting for pending litigation. Horn also reported on LB 331 in which the budget was approved. LB 331 is an important component for the Upper Platte River Basin NRDs by providing priority points in environmental trust fund grant money for another three year period to receive water resources cash fund money, which the District uses for water resource programs.

3. NRD/NARD Employee Benefits Committee and NARD IRMP Association Loss Committee Reports - Johnson reported the fee structure has been simplified for investment programs. The next meeting is in mid-July and the insurance program meeting is May 25.

C. Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NeDNR)

1. NeDNR Report Natural Resources Commission (NRC) - Halligan reported that the next meeting is June 20, 2017.

7. Discussion regarding Upper Platte Basin - Stakeholder Planning Group Meeting Preparation -

Halligan provided a handout to the board that is a summation of reports given from previous meetings. He explained a chart on the front page that depicted the supply of water and the measurements used to figure water rights and consumptive use to calculate hydropower demand. He continued to explain how the use of water for hydropower could affect irrigators upstream. He asked for input from the District Board members on three questions posed to the stakeholders. Discussion followed.

8. General Reports

A. SPNRD 2016 Water Usage Report

Glanz gave an overview of the 2016 water usage report which includes the retirement of 302.8 acres from Junior Norberg. The average use was up slightly Districtwide from 9.22"/acre in 2015 to 9.49"/acre in 2016. Active acres have increased due to the EQIP and AWEP programs ending and are expected to continue to increase. Glanz covered water usage in all of the subareas by crop percentage planted and crop water use comparing usage in 2016 to the average of 2013 - 2015. Discussion followed.

B. Western Nebraska Children's Groundwater Festival Report

Davis reported that this year's Western Nebraska Children's Groundwater Festival was the 27<sup>th</sup> annual and was attended by 146 students from 4 schools. South Platte schools attended for the first time in several years. Shelly has reached out to Kimball County schools and they indicated they may come next year. 10 stations again this year with two new stations. 27 volunteers with 10 more from the Leyton Honor Society. Davis reviewed the budget. The event was held at the Cheyenne County Community Center and Lodgepole Valley Youth Camp. Davis reviewed the in kind time. Discussion followed.

C. Follow up report to the Oliver Reservoir Streamflow Enhancement Project

Reisdorff reported that Steve Seglin had been contacted for follow up if the test hole was legal or not. It was determined that it was legal for 10 days then it should be decommissioned which was completed on May 2, 2017. During the April board meeting, the Board voted to suspend the project indefinitely. Reisdorff stated this may create an issue with funding from Platte Basin Coalition and its water resources cash fund dollars. The contract states that the District will reduce consumptive use or enhance streamflow which has not been completed. There is the possibility to decertify the Freeburg Irrigated acres to meet the contract. Discussion followed.

D. Oliver Reservoir Recreation Area (ORRA)/Advisory Committee (ORAC) Reports

Wittrock reported that activities at Oliver Reservoir are picking up. A focus is to remove high hazard trees in camping areas and install 12 to 15 new fire pits. Work days at the reservoir are planned on May 10 and 11. Railroad ties will be installed around boat trailer parking and picnic tables will be put out. Kimball County Sheriff Gillway has agreed to be camp host again this year. Wittrock also reviewed requests for work on the dam Principal Spillway Conduit and Stilling Basin Restoration Project. Discussion followed.

E. Joint East Sidney Watershed Authority/East Sidney Watershed Project Update

Wittrock reported the project continues to move forward. The Sidney city attorney responded on easement agreement language. Final design has been sent by Olsson Associates with no significant changes. The cost is still about \$100,000 less than projected in February. Wittrock stated he hoped that bids will be done in the next month and projects to break ground mid to late summer.

9. Committee Reports

A. District Operations Committee

1. \*Discussion and Action on 2020 North American Envirothon and the SPNRD's Contribution

Johnson reviewed the history of the Envirothon and NARD approach to financing the North American Envirothon to be held in Lincoln, NE. The District's share would be \$2,997.00 per year for three years. Johnson added that most of the Districts are voting to approve two years worth of payments with the hope of private donors making a significant contribution against the third year budget amount. Johnson made the motion to support the 2020 Envirothon and to provide \$2,997.00 per year for two-years with the consideration of paying up \$2,997.00 the 3<sup>rd</sup> year if additional funding is required for this project. Second by Narjes, and with no further discussion a roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Meyer, Narjes, Rutt, Halligan, Johnson, Maas, Grabowski

Nay:

Absent:

Motion carried.

2. \*Discussion and Action on Urban Best Management Practices Workshop and Budget

Narjes reviewed the budget and proposed schedule. Narjes made the motion to accept the proposed budget for the Urban Best Management Practices Workshop to be held on June 3, 2017. Second by Johnson and with no further discussion a roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Grabowski, Meyer, Narjes, Rutt, Halligan, Johnson, Maas

Nay:

Absent:

Motion carried.

B. Natural Resources/Projects & Programs Committee

1. \*Discussion and Action Regarding VS Hay Company Application to Transfer Ground Water

Maas reviewed the violation of transferring water without permits which was addressed in November 2016. The necessary paperwork has been filed and a flow meter has been installed. The lienholder's consent and title search were also completed. Maas made a motion to approve the application to transfer ground water to make the well a dual purpose well with all of the allocation coming off of the agricultural allocation. Second by Rutt and with no further discussion a roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Maas, Grabowski, Meyer, Narjes, Rutt, Halligan, Johnson

Nay:

Absent:

Motion carried.

2. Update on Flow Meter Maintenance Program and Requirements

Glanz stated that 48 letters were sent out in April on 101 past due flow meter maintenance. 87 total flow meters are out of compliance with 25 scheduled for maintenance. Discussion followed. No action is required at this time.

3. \*Regarding Erosion and Sediment Control Act Complaint - #SP-17-01: Discussion and Action on Conservation Agreement, and Conservation Plan for Completion and Cooperator's Record of Compliance

Wittrock gave a review of the formal complaint. The alleged violator was found to be out of compliance. The NRD and NRCS developed several options for a conservation plan, which the cooperator agreed to one of the options. Dickinson reviewed the criteria for the conservation plan and the designation of erodible soils. Maas made a motion to accept the conservation agreement and plan for completion in the cooperators record of compliance. Second by Grabowski and with no further discussion a roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Johnson, Maas, Grabowski, Meyer, Narjes, Rutt, Halligan,

Nay:

Absent:

Motion carried.

10. Correspondence

Horn urged the board to read the correspondence provided.

11. Upcoming Dates

May 29, 2017, SPNRD Offices Closed, Memorial Day  
June 3, 2017, LandscapeWise Workshop, SPNRD  
June 5-9, 2017, Nebraska Range Youth Camp, Halsey  
June 11-14, 2017, ACE Camp, State 4-H Center, Halsey  
June 13, 2017, SPNRD Board of Directors Meeting  
July 4, 2017, SPNRD Offices Closed, Independence Day  
September 4, 2017, SPNRD Offices Closed, Labor Day

12. Adjourn

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

*Donald Davis*

---

Donald Davis, Recording Secretary

\* Denotes Action Item



- C. Follow up Report to the Oliver Reservoir Streamflow Enhancement Project - Reisdorff
- D. Oliver Reservoir Recreation Area (ORRA)/Advisory Committee (ORAC) Reports - Wittrock
- E. Joint East Sidney Watershed Authority/East Sidney Watershed Project Update - Wittrock

9. Committee Reports

A. District Operations Committee - Narjes, Chair

- 1. \*Discussion and Action on 2020 North American Enviorthon and the SPNRD's Contribution
- 2. \*Discussion and Action on Urban Best Management Practices Workshop and Budget

B. Natural Resources/Projects & Programs Committee - Maas, Chair

- 1. \*Discussion and Action Regarding VS Hay Company Application to Transfer Ground Water
- 2. Update on Flow Meter Maintenance Program and Requirements
- 3. \*Regarding Erosion and Sediment Control Act Complaint - #SP-17-01: Discussion and Action on Conservation Agreement, and Conservation Plan for Completion and Cooperator's Record of Compliance

10. Correspondence

11. Dates

May 29, 2017, SPNRD Offices Closed, Memorial Day  
June 3, 2017, LandscapeWise Workshop, SPNRD  
June 5-9, 2017, Nebraska Range Youth Camp, Halsey  
June 11-14, 2017, ACE Camp, State 4-H Center, Halsey  
June 13, 2017, SPNRD Board of Directors Meeting  
July 4, 2017, SPNRD Offices Closed, Independence Day  
September 4, 2017, SPNRD Offices Closed, Labor Day

12. Adjourn

\*Denotes Action Item