

PUBLIC NOTICE

The South Platte Natural Resources District will hold a regular public meeting on November 12, 2008 at the Potter Senior Citizens Center, 327 Chestnut Street, Potter, Nebraska, 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 October 14, 2008 meeting of the Board of Directors
 - B. Minutes of the October 13, 2008 meeting of the Natural Resources/Projects & Programs Committee
3. *Treasurer's Report For October 2008 and Accounts Payable
4. Public Questions, Comments and/or Concerns
5. Progress Report Regarding Developing Consumptive Water Use Maps to Improve Water Management using METRIC Remote Sensing Technology - Dr. Gary Hergert
6. Director and Staff Reports
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 - Johnson
 - C. Panhandle Resource Conservation and Development (PRC&D)
 1. PRC&D Report - Burkhart-Kriesel
 - D. Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NDNR)
 1. NDNR Report - Rexroth
8. Review Conservation Program Inspection Report - Kaiser

9. Committee Reports

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

1. Follow up on the Discussion about Conservation Tree Fabric Mulch and Potential Girdling Impact
2. *Action to Modify Certified Irrigated Acres/Tract
3. Update on the Flow Meter Program
4. Review Percent River Depletion for 50 year Average
5. Preliminary Discussion Regarding Setting Allocation(s) within the Lodgepole Creek Subareas for the New 2010 through 2012 Allocation Period
6. Follow-up Discussion Regarding the Determination of the Overall Difference between Overappropriated and Fully Appropriated in the District

B. District Operations Committee - Johnson, Chair

1. Discuss Oliver Reservoir Lease Issues
2. Discuss Wildlife Management Area Issues
3. Discussion Regarding Renaming the District's Newsletter
4. *Action as Desired Regarding Consulting Services Agreement between MMS Solutions, LLC d/b/a Integrated Computer Systems and the South Platte NRD

10. Platte River Basin Water Issues

- A. COHYST Report - Horn
- B. OA Basin-wide Plan Report - Horn

11. Correspondence

12. Upcoming Dates

- A. SPNRD Office Closed, Thanksgiving Day - November 27 and 28, 2008
- B. SPNRD Board Meeting - December 9, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.
- C. SPNRD Christmas Luncheon, Lodgepole Valley Youth Camp - December 12, 2008
- D. SPNRD Office Closed, Christmas - December 25, 2008
- E. SPNRD Office Closed, New Years Day - January 1, 2009
- F. NARD Legislative Conference, Lincoln, NE - January 27-28, 2009
- G. Annual Washington D.C. Conference, Embassy Suites, Washington D.C. - March 21-25, 2009

13. Adjourn

*Denotes Action Items

MINUTES

The meeting of the South Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors was held Wednesday, November 12, 2008, at the Potter Senior Citizens Center, 327 Chestnut Street, Potter, 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	Jim Johnson
Tom Biggs, Secretary	Deb Crago
Paul Hutchison (7:02 p.m.)	Larry Rutt

Board Members Absent

Cheryl Burkhardt-Kriesel, Vice-Chair (excused)

Others Present

Kristin Miller, District Conservationist, NRCS-USDA; Dr. Gary Hergert, Extension Soil Specialist, UNL Panhandle Research & Extension Center

NRD Staff Present

Rod L. Horn, General Manager	Linda L. Suhr, Admin. Sec. /Bookkeeper
Galen Wittrock, Assistant Manager	Don Ogle, I & E Coordinator
Kyle Liebig, Water Resources Coordinator	Chris Kaiser, Natural Resources Coordinator
Travis Glanz, Water Resources Technician	

INFORMATIONAL MATERIAL

The following information was mailed prior to the board meeting or made available at the meeting:

1. Tentative and Final Agendas, November 12, 2008 meeting of the SPNRD Board of Directors
2. Tentative and Final Agendas, November 10, 2008 meeting of the Natural Resources/Projects and Programs Committee
3. Tentative Agenda, November 12, 2008 meeting of the District Operations Committee
4. Minutes of the October 14, 2008 meeting of the SPNRD Board of Directors
5. Minutes of the October 13, 2008 meeting of the Natural Resources/Projects and Programs Committee
6. October 2008 Treasurer's Report and Accounts Payable
7. October 31, 2008 Manager's Letter and attached map for meeting location in Potter
8. November 12, 2008 Manager's Report
9. Linda L. Suhr, Administrative Secretary's Report for October 2008; Jodi Livingstone, District Secretary's Report for October 2008
10. Christmas Luncheon invitation
11. Fabric Weed Barrier Girdling Issues Memo from Galen Wittrock
12. Maps: Depletions in the SPNRD, Decertified Irrigated Acres in the SPNRD and Certified Irrigated

- 13. Acres and attached packet of owners who have decertified acres and the estimated net depletion
- 14. Draft Consulting Services Agreement with MMS Solutions, LLC dba Integrated Computer Systems
- 15. Minutes of the NE Natural Resources Commission Meeting
- 16. SPNRD Allocation Subcommittee information, a timeline, map of the current allocation subareas and current subcommittee membership list
- 17. 2008 SPNRD Cost-Share Inspection Program Report
- 18. November 9, 2008 Star Herald Article, "Kimball dirt work signals expressway progress"
- 19. Suggestions for SPNRD Newsletter
- 20. Status Report Groundwater Modeling Support for the NE COHYST, October 31, 2008
- 21. Progress Report from Dr. Gary W. Hergert Re: METRIC Remote Sensing Technology
- 22. Per Diem/Expense sheet

BOARD MEETING

1. Call to Order

Chair Rexroth convened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Burkhart-Kriesel was absent and excused and Hutchison arrived at 7:02 p.m.

A. Nebraska Open Meetings Act

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

B. Legal Notices

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

2. Minutes

A. Minutes of the October 14, 2008 meeting of the Board of Directors

These minutes were approved as presented.

B. Minutes of the October 13, 2008 meeting of the Natural Resources/Projects and Programs Committee

These minutes were approved as presented.

3. *Treasurer's Report October 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 for SPNRD accounts are as follows:

<u>Account</u>	<u>10/1/08</u>	<u>10/31/08</u>
SPNRD Checking	\$ 404,147.74	\$ 424,873.32
Citizens' Monitoring - combined	\$ 14,212.56	\$ 14,225.41
NPAIT-LPCSI-EQIP	\$ 228,042.49	\$ 228,253.36

Investment accounts were reviewed. The accounts payable were presented in the amount of \$165,394.35. Horn reviewed several items. Motion by Johnson and second by Crago to approve the October Treasurer's Report and to approve and pay the Accounts Payable. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Motion Carried.

4. Public Questions, Comments and/or Concerns

None

5. Progress Report Regarding Developing Consumptive Water Use Maps to Improve Water Management using METRIC Remote Sensing Technology

Dr. Gary Hergert, Extension Soil Specialist, UNL Panhandle Research & Extension Center - Scottsbluff, gave a power point presentation regarding evapotranspiration (ET) and the METRIC Remote Sensing Technology. The purpose of the project is to compute water that crops (dryland, irrigated and rangeland) used in the past and are using now by developing NRD specific consumptive water use (CWU) maps that describe CWU dynamics for both irrigated and dryland crops. The project was made possible through an NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant along with contributions from the SPNRD, NPNRD and DNR. The METRIC tool is a computer program that uses thermal bands from Landsat imagery to compute ET along with ground based ET data to fill in the gaps to produce a season-long ET map. LB962 requires NRDs to return to 1997 water use levels, so it is necessary to know what ET was in 1997.

6. Director and Staff Reports

Wittrock, Glanz, Kaiser, Liebig and Ogle gave oral reports. Horn, Suhr and Livingstone submitted written reports.

Wittrock reported on the conservation tree program and he discussed species that were removed from the 2009 tree order due to disease problems. He read flow meters, worked on the buffer strip program, attended a GIS workshop in Chadron and conducted a weed barrier workshop north of Lodgepole.

Glanz worked mainly on flow meter readings, cost-share and temporary deferments. He participated in the weed barrier workshop and did maintenance on SPNRD vehicles and equipment.

Kaiser took water levels, pumped monitoring wells and assisted with flow meter readings. He attended the GIS workshop in Chadron, did maintenance on SPNRD vehicles and prepared the annual inspection report of practices which receive cost share.

Liebig attended the GIS workshop in Chadron, met with Dick Luckey and Duane Woodward regarding the 50 year depletion data, assisted with flow meter readings, used the ultrasonic on a well, worked on pooling agreements and variance and acre modifications. He reported about 110 wells are left to be metered. He has digitized 964 tracts of land. There are about 31 tracts left to define.

Ogle attended the weed barrier workshop, prepared numerous press releases, coordinated the Conservation Awards Banquet, worked on updates and changes to the web site, submitted pictures for the NARD calendar and assisted with preparations for the upcoming No-till Winter Conference. He worked to redesign the District newsletter, attended the state land judging contest and assisted County Extension staff with a computer program need.

7. Agency Reports

A. USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

1. NRCS Report

Kristin Miller distributed a new practice payment rate effective November 12, 2008. She assisted with preparations for the No-till winter conference in Gering and worked with Mark Watson (no-till educator) to develop meetings in January in three locations across the

District. She and Susan Lockwood have been working with the CHESI facility in Kimball regarding their vegetative covers for their Monofill. She worked on the annual Natural Resources Survey along with various other projects.

B. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD)

1. NARD Report

Johnson reported on the NRD/NARD Employee Benefits Committee and Risk Management Pool Association Loss Control Committee meetings he attended in Imperial and the NARD Executive Committee meeting he attended in Valentine.

C. Panhandle RC& D

1. PRC&D Report

Burkhart-Kriesel was absent so no report was given.

D. Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NDNR)

1. NDNR Report

Rexroth plans to attend the next Commission meeting and will report on that at the December board meeting.

8. Review Conservation Program Inspection Report

Kaiser distributed the annual SPNRD Conservation Program Inspection Report. He commented on several of the outcomes, including the Sidney Verde Lane dam inspection. Tom Hayden, DNR, was contacted and Hayden will follow up with Verde Lane dam and Kaiser will keep the board updated on any new information regarding the dam.

9. Committee Reports

A. Natural Resources /Projects & Programs Committee

1. Follow up on the Discussion about Conservation Tree Fabric Mulch and Potential Girdling Impact

Hutchison reported that the committee discussed girdling. Wittrock will continue to look into possible solutions and funding.

2. *Action to Modify Certified Irrigated Acres/Tract

Hutchison moved on behalf of committee to approve Bob Kurz' application to modify certified irrigated acres. Kurz participated in the LPCSI-EQIP program and the application covers the acres he is decertifying. Biggs seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Johnson, Hutchison, Rexroth, Biggs, Rutt, Crago

Nay: None

Absent: Burkhart-Kriesel

Motion Carried.

3. Update on Flow Meter Program

Hutchison reported that Liebig gave a report to committee regarding the flow meter program. Installation is on schedule. Three out of four subareas in the valley have been

read. Five meters were found defective.

4. Review Percent River Depletion for 50 year Average

Liebig, referring to handout material, discussed depletion in the SPNRD. The depletion factor is important in getting back to 1997 levels. The District is required to reduce water usage by 700 acre feet. He also explained two other maps he prepared. One map pinpoints the decertified acres to date in the SPNRD, while the third map displays the digitized certified irrigated acres in the District. Acres retired through LPCSI-EQIP and the housing development north of the SPNRD office (accrued to the SPNRD due to growth of the City of Sidney) were summarized for the board in a spreadsheet which is attached to these minutes.

5. Preliminary Discussion Regarding Setting Allocation(s) within the Lodgepole Creek Subareas for the New 2010 through 2012 Allocation Period

Horn distributed a handout concerning the current Allocation Subcommittee and possible candidates to take the place of a deceased member. A timeline was also included. After discussion, it was decided the committee will make recommendations to the board after their December committee meeting.

6. Follow-up Discussion Regarding the Determination of the Overall Difference between Overappropriated and Fully Appropriated in the District

Nothing was added. This agenda item will be discussed at a future board meeting.

B. District Operations Committee

1. Discuss Oliver Reservoir Lease Issues

Johnson reported that the committee met and discussed the Oliver Reservoir Lease with NE Game and Parks Commission. It was requested that Wittrock get the 2008 expense/income data from NE Game and Parks Commission to enable the board to make a suitable decision. Wittrock was also asked to prepare a draft document showing proposed responsibilities of both agencies in future management of the reservoir. Discussion followed.

2. Discuss Wildlife Management Area Issues

Concerning Goldeneye, Goldenrod and Bittersweet WMAs, Johnson reported that the committee will continue to refine management issues and opportunities and bring information to the board.

3. Discussion Regarding Renaming the District's Newsletter

Johnson reported that the District's newsletter is in the process of being revamped. Part of the new look for the newsletter could be a name change. Discussion followed.

4. *Action as Desired Regarding Consulting Services Agreement between MMS Solutions, LLC d/b/a/ Integrated Computer Systems and the South Platte NRD

No action was taken on this item.

10. Platte River Basis Water Issues

A. COHYST Report

Horn reported that a COHYST modeler was hired. Thad Kuntz and his wife are originally from the Brush-Fort Morgan area, and are excited about moving to the Scottsbluff area. The SPNRD and the NPNRD share in his expenses. Horn also referred to Dick Luckey's report in the handout material.

B. OA Basin-Wide Plan Report

The Overappropriated Area Basin-wide group will meet on December 16, 2008. Horn reported that staff is involved in preliminary work to bring the District's Integrated Management Plan in line with the basin-wide plan.

11. Correspondence

Horn urged the board to read correspondence included in the handout material

12. Upcoming Dates

- A. SPNRD Office Closed, Thanksgiving Day - November 27 and 28, 2008
- B. SPNRD Board Meeting - December 9, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.
- C. SPNRD Christmas Luncheon, Lodgepole Valley Youth Camp - December 12, 2008
- D. SPNRD Office Closed, Christmas - December 25, 2008
- E. SPNRD Office Closed, New Years Day - January 1, 2009
- F. NARD Legislative Conference, Lincoln, NE - January 27-28, 2009
- G. Annual Washington D.C. Conference, Embassy Suites, Washington D.C.
- March 21-25, 2009

13. Adjourn

With no further action, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Linda L. Suhr, Recording Secretary

*Denotes Action Taken