

PUBLIC NOTICE

The South Platte Natural Resources District will hold a regular public meeting on September 11, 2007 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
 - A. Nebraska Open Meetings Act
 - B. Legal Notices
2. Minutes
 - A. Minutes of the August 14, 2007 meeting of the Board of Directors
 - B. Minutes of the August 14, 2007 meeting of the District Operations Committee
3. *Treasurer's Report for August 2007 and Accounts Payable
4. Public Questions, Comments and/or Concerns
5. Hearing on the Proposed FY2008 Budget - 7:15 p.m.
6. Hearing to Set Final Tax Request for FY2008 Budget - 7:30 p.m. or immediately following the Budget Hearing
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
 2. NARD 2007 Annual Conference - September 23-25, 2007
 - a. NARD Resolutions
 - 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. Final Report on the Study regarding the Evaluation of Ground Water Near Sidney - Greg Steele, USGS
10. Discussion on the Draft Copy of the SPNRD/NDNR Integrated Management Plan -

Kurtz/Horn

11. Committee Reports

A. District Operations Committee

1. *Action on 2007 Conservation Awards Banquet Budget
2. Review and Action on Proposed NETF Grant Application
 - a. *Ratify Aerial Geophysical Survey Project

3. 2008 Fiscal Year Budgets
 - a. Action on Unused Restricted Funds
 1. *Increase an Additional One Percent
 - b. *Final Approval of Budget
 - c. *Action on Resolution for Setting Final Tax Request for FY2008
4. *Action to Join the High Plains Weed Management Association
5. *Request to approve NSWCP Applications

B. Natural Resources/Projects & Programs Committee

1. *Discussion and Action as Desired Regarding Districtwide Ground Water Management Area Rules and Regulations Compliance Issues Concerning Matthew Shaw and Prairie Animal Hospital, Kimball County, Nebraska
2. Discuss Fall Tree Program
3. *Action on Wheat Stubble Management Applications
4. *Action to Modify Certified Irrigated Acres/Tracts
5. Review SPR Compact Coalition Agreement
6. *Discussion and Action as Desired on Proposed OA Basin Wide Plan
7. Discuss Aspects of Historical Certified Irrigated Acres Verses Actual Irrigated Acres

12. Platte River Basin Water Issues

- A. COHYST Report - Horn
- B. Platte River Recovery Implementation Program/New Depletion Plan Report - Horn

13. Correspondence

14. Upcoming Dates

- A. SPNRD Office Closed, Columbus Day - October 8, 2007
- B. SPNRD Board Meeting - October 9, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.
- C. NARD Annual Conference, Kearney - September 23-25, 2007
- D. SPNRD/NRCS Conservation Awards Banquet, Sidney Holiday Inn

- October 27, 2007
- E. SPNRD Office Closed, Thanksgiving Day - November 22 and 23, 2007
- F. NARD Legislative Conference, Embassy Suites, Lincoln - February 4-6, 2008
- G. NARD Annual Washington D.C. Trip, The Madison, A Loews Hotel
- March 10-12, 2008

15. Adjourn

*Denotes Action Items

MINUTES

The meeting of the South Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors was held Tuesday September 11, 2007, 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	Jim Johnson (left at 9:31 p.m.)
Cheryl Burkhart-Kriesel, Vice-Chair	Larry Rutt
Paul Hutchison	
Tom Biggs, Secretary (7:22 p.m.)	

Board Members Absent

Deb Crago (Excused)

Others Present

Greg Steele, USGS, Lincoln; Steve Sibray, CSD, Scottsbluff; Tina Kurtz, DNR, Lincoln; Kristin Miller, NRCS-USDA

NRD Staff Present

Rod L. Horn, General Manager	Linda L. Suhr, Admin Sec/Bookkeeper
Galen Wittrock, Assistant Manager	Don Ogle, I & E Coordinator
Ryan Reisdorff, Water Resources Coordinator	Kyle Liebig, Natural Resources
Coordinator	

INFORMATIONAL MATERIAL

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

1. Tentative and Final Agendas, SPNRD Board meeting, September 11, 2007

2. Tentative Agenda, District Operations Committee meeting, September 11, 2007
3. Tentative and Final Agendas, Natural Resources/Projects & Programs Committee meeting, September 10, 2007
4. Budget Hearing Agenda, September 11, 2007 at 7:15 p.m.
5. Special Public Hearing to Set Final Tax Request Agenda, September 11, 2007 at 7:30 p.m.
or immediately following the Budget Hearing
6. Notice of Budget Hearing and Budget Summary
7. Minutes of the SPNRD Board meeting, August 14, 2007
8. Minutes of the District Operations Committee meeting, August 14, 2007
9. August Treasurer's Report
10. FY2007-2008 Proposed Budget, Draft #2, August 31, 2007
11. FY2007-2008 Proposed SPNRD/CHESI Citizens' Monitoring Committee Budget
12. September 3, 2007 Total Budget Requirements Memo
13. Resolution for Setting the Final Property Tax Request for the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Budget
14. Proposed Budget for the 2007 Conservation Awards Banquet
15. August 31, 2007 Manager's Letter
16. September 7, 2007 Memo to Phase II Ground Water Quality Subarea Producers Re: Annual Nitrogen Reports
17. Final report from Marcia Groves, Chappell Field Office District Secretary
18. August 31, 2007 Staff Report, Linda L. Suhr
19. August 30, 2007 Staff Report, Jodi Livingstone
20. September 2007 NRCS Monthly Report to the SPNRD
21. NRCS Board Diversity publication
22. NSWCP Applications exceeding \$5,600 limit requiring board approval
23. August 22, 2007 memo regarding Violations of Districtwide Rules and Regulations in Kimball County and a copy of the enforcements steps in the Ground water Management Area Rules and Regulations
24. September 6, 2007 copy of a letter sent to a flow meter owner/operator Re: power records for broken flow meter
25. August 31, 2007 memo from Galen Wittrock Re: High Plains Weed Management Association and attachments
26. August 24, 2007 Draft of the Proposed Integrated Management Plan
27. August 21, 2007 Draft of the Proposed Interlocal Cooperation Agreement, South Platte River Compact Coalition
28. August 7, 2007 Draft of the Proposed Basin-Wide Plan for the Overappropriated Portions of the Platte River
29. Nebraska Environment Trust Fund Application – North Platte NRD – Aerial Geophysical Survey of Selected Panhandle Aquifers
30. August 21, 2007 NARD memo regarding Resolutions
31. Per Diem/Expense sheet

BOARD MEETING

1. Call to Order
Chair Rexroth convened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Deb Crago was absent and excused.

A. Nebraska Open Meetings Act

Rexroth stated for the record that a copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Law is posted in the conference 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 August 14, 2007 meeting of the Board of Directors

These minutes were approved as presented.

B. Minutes of the August 14, 2007 meeting of the District Operations Committee

These minutes were approved as presented.

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

Manager and Treasurer Rod Horn encouraged the board to review the Treasurer's Report and to address any questions. The checkbook beginning balance on 8/1/07 was \$ 312,856.12; the ending balance on 8/31/06 was \$ 279,108.72. Accounts Payable was presented in the amount of \$ 25,863.83. Other SPNRD account balances as of 8/31/07 were: CMC checking account, \$ 16,483.52; NPAIT investment account for the Childrens' Ground Water Festival, \$ 1,121.88; and South Platte Group money market account, \$ 13,920.09. Horn commented on several items listed in accounts payable. Some discussion followed. Moved by Burkhart-Kriesel and seconded by Johnson to approve the August Treasurer's Report and approve and pay Accounts Payable. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Nay: None

Absent: Crago, Biggs (7:22 p.m.)

Motion Carried.

4. Pubic Questions, Comments and/or Concerns

None.

The regular board of directors meeting was recessed at 7:14 p.m.

5. Hearing on the Proposed FY2008 Budget - 7:15 p.m.

The Hearing on the Proposed FY2008 Budget was opened at 7:15 p.m. by Chair Rexroth. Four members of the public were present. Rexroth turned the meeting over to Johnson, Chair of the District Operations Committee. Johnson told the board that the committee had reviewed the budget and were in agreement with the August 31, 2007 Draft FY2007-2008 Budget in the amount of \$1,770,017. Property tax request in the budget is \$907,605.69 (.064999cents per \$100 valuation). Johnson on behalf of the District Operations Committee recommended approval of the budget. The Hearing was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

6. Hearing to Set Final Tax Request for FY2008 Budget - 7:30 p.m. or immediately following the Budget Hearing

The Hearing to Set the Final Tax Request for the FY2008 Budget was opened at 7:30 p.m. by Chair Rexroth. Four members of the public were present. Horn reviewed the proposed property tax request of \$907,605.69 with a proposed tax rate of .064999 cents per \$100 valuation. He explained that a Special Hearing was necessary because the request is different from the prior year. With no further questions or discussion the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

The regular board of directors meeting reconvened at 7:35 p.m.

7. Director and Staff Reports

Liebig, Reisdorff, Wittrock, Ogle and Horn gave oral reports. Suhr and Livingstone submitted written reports. Liebig reported doing irrigation and surface water sampling, monitoring and recorder well levels. He and Reisdorff sent pesticide testing results to the Nebraska Department of Ag. They also began inspecting projects the District cost-shared in 2004-2005. Liebig, Reisdorff and Wittrock attended a GIS telephone conference to gain knowledge about building better data bases. Liebig has also been working with the PDA, learning to draw tree plan maps in the field. This will be helpful to Wittrock.

Reisdorff has been working on acre modifications. He and Glanz compiled and mailed letters to flow meter operators/owners with broken equipment. He reported that the flow meter maintenance sign-up is slower than he expected. Possible Access training was discussed with Connie Hancock and Lynn McKinney from County Extension. Reisdorff reported that ARC 9.2 has been installed on computers in the office. He also met with Don, Rod and Karen DeBoer regarding required Irrigation Certification Training. He created a New Depletion map for the IMP.

Wittrock reported on the Chemigation program. The first round of inspections is complete. He is inspecting Buffer Strips, performing Tree Program survival counts, worked with Emily Munter, NE Game & Parks Commission on CRP enhancement north of Potter. He also participated in the Locally Led Work Group meeting. The High Plains Weed Management Association will be covered as an agenda item.

Ogle reported about the work completed regarding updating the web site. He has been working on ideas for revamping the newsletter. The Conservation Awards Banquet has also been a priority.

Horn distributed Marcia Groves' resignation letter. The possible additional land that the board discussed purchasing has not come to fruition. Horn will give a presentation on Wednesday at the Nebraska Rural Water Association conference in Scottsbluff.

8. Agency Reports

A. USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

1. NRCS Report

Kristin Miller distributed the monthly NRCS report to the SPNRD, highlighting several items. The deadline for EQIP and WHIP signup is December 14, 2007. She reported there is a possibility of continuation of the Lodgepole Creek Special Initiative EQIP. She will keep the board updated.

B. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD)

1. NARD Report

Johnson reported that the next meeting will be held during the annual

conference.

2. NARD 2007 Annual Conference - September 24-26, 2006

a. NARD Resolutions

Johnson referred to the Resolutions contained in the informational material. He is the voting delegate for the SPNRD at the annual conference.

C. Panhandle RC& D

1. PRC&D Report

Burkhart-Kriesel said the next RC&D meeting will be held on September 13, 2007. The annual meeting will be held in October in Ogallala.

D. Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NDNR)

1. NDNR Report

Rexroth reported that the next commission meeting will be held in conjunction with the NARD annual conference. The Legislative and Budget committees have been activated and will also meet.

9. Final Report on the Study regarding the Evaluation of Ground Water Near Sidney

Greg Steele, USGS, Lincoln, gave a power point presentation regarding the methods, evaluation of ground water, source of ground water recharge and the summary. He, Steve Sibray (Conservation Survey Division) and Ken Quandt are the authors of the study. The study included 26 new wells at 17 sites and three existing NRD wells in the Lodgepole Creek Valley.

10. Discussion on the Draft Copy of the SPNRD/NDNR Integrated Management Plan

Tina Kurtz, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, Lincoln, highlighted items in the draft copy. Discussion followed. The board was in agreement to move the draft forward as quickly as possible, with an IMP Work Group meeting in early November.

11. Committee Reports

A. District Operations Committee

1. *Action on 2007 Conservation Awards Banquet Budget

Johnson reported that the committee reviewed the 2007 Conservation Awards Banquet Budget for expenses in the amount of \$2,737.20. Johnson moved on behalf of committee and Rutt seconded the motion to approve the budget and a roll call vote was taken.

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

Nay: None

Absent: Crago

Motion Carried.

2. Review and Action on Proposed NETF Grant Application

a. *Ratify Aerial Geophysical Survey Project

Johnson reported that this project was reviewed by the committee. He noted that if the application is accepted it would not go into effect until FY2009. The SPNRD commitment will be \$30,000 for data analysis; \$36,000 for surficial surveys; and \$10,000 for publication. Johnson moved on behalf of committee and Burkhart-Kriesel seconded the motion to ratify the Aerial Geophysical Survey project. A roll call vote was taken.

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

3. 2008 Fiscal Year Budgets

a. Action on Unused Restricted Funds

1. *Increase an Additional One Percent

Johnson moved on behalf of committee and Biggs seconded the motion to take action on unused restricted funds by increasing an additional one percent. A roll call vote was taken.

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

b. *Final Approval of Budget

Johnson moved on behalf of committee and Rutt seconded the motion to approve the FY2007-2008 Budget in the amount of \$1,770,017 with \$907,605.69 provided by a property tax levy of .064999 cents per \$100 valuation. A roll call vote was taken.

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

c. *Action on Resolutions for Setting Final Tax Request for FY2008

Johnson moved on behalf of committee and Burkhart-Kriesel seconded the motion to set the final tax request for FY2008 at \$907,605.69 with a final tax levy of .064999 cents per \$100 actual valuation. A roll call vote was taken.

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

4. *Action to Join the High Plains Weed Management Association
The committee directed Wittrock to request a modification of the Bylaws. Johnson reported the SPNRD alliance with the High Plains Weed Management Association should be beneficial. Johnson moved on behalf of committee and Burkhart-Kriesel seconded the motion to join the High Plains Weed Management Association. The initial dues are \$500/year. A roll call vote was taken.

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

5. *Request to Approve NSWCP Applications
Two applications for NSWCP projects totaling \$7,836.08 were brought before the committee. SPNRD rules for NSWCP state that applications above \$5,600 must be approved by the Board of Directors. Johnson moved on behalf of committee and Rutt seconded the motion to approve the two NSWCP applications. A roll call vote was taken.

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

B. Natural Resources/Projects & Programs Committee

1. *Discussion and Action as Desired Regarding Districtwide Ground Water Management area Rules and Regulations Compliance Issues Concerning Matthew Shaw and Prairie Animal Hospital, Kimball County, Nebraska
Horn distributed a portion of the SPNRD Districtwide Ground Water Rules and Regulations regarding steps for compliance matters. Discussion followed. The board was in agreement to follow procedures established in the SPNRD rules. The intent of the board is to work with Shaws to resolve the compliance issues.
2. Discuss Fall Tree Program
Wittrock discussed a Fall Tree Program, offering only small potted stock. Discussion followed. The board was in agreement that the program would be beneficial this fall due to the moisture received across the District.
3. *Action on Wheat Stubble Management Application
One Wheat Stubble Management application was considered for approval. The application was inspected by Wittrock and met the necessary specifications. Hutchison moved and Burkhart-Kriesel seconded the motion to approve the application for 250 acres in Deuel County. The cost to the District will be \$625.00. There are adequate funds in the program to cover the

application. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Hutchison, Rexroth, Biggs, Rutt, Burkhart-Kriesel
Nay: None
Absent: Crago, Johnson (left at 9:31 p.m.)
Motion Carried.

4. *Action to modify Certified Irrigated Acres/Tracts

Two acre modification applications were presented to the committee. Reisdorff explained the modifications. The application from Don Soucie involved a new wiper pivot that was installed before July 1, 2004. The modification cleaned up his decertified acres. The application from Terrell Wiekhorst was in conjunction with the LPCSI EQIP. Hutchison moved and Burkhart-Kriesel seconded the motion to approve the two acre modification applications. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Rexroth, Biggs, Rutt, Burkhart-Kriesel, Hutchison
Nay: None
Absent: Crago, Johnson (left at 9:31 p.m.)
Motion Carried.

5. Review SPR Compact Coalition Agreement

The document was submitted to the board for review. It will be addressed at a later meeting.

6. Review Proposed OA Basin-Wide Plan

The proposed Overappropriated Basin-Wide Plan created by the NRD managers was discussed. The board was in agreement that it addresses issues that the SPNRD has had all along. Hutchison moved and Rutt seconded the motion for support to the NRD Managers Proposed Basin-Wide Plan giving Horn latitude to accept or reject changes. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Biggs, Rutt, Burkhart-Kriesel, Hutchison, Rexroth
Nay: None
Absent: Crago, Johnson (left at 9:31 p.m.)
Motion Carried.

7. Discuss Aspects of Historical Certified Irrigated Acres Verses Actual Irrigated Acres

In response to committee's request, Horn contacted the Upper Republican NRD regarding their handling of historical certified irrigated acres. Horn reported that the acres were certified in 1978 and not much has changed since them. Discussion followed. Suggestions brought forward from the committee included: using actual Farm Service Agency (FSA) sign-up documents for irrigated acres; using 1997 irrigated acres only; and other possible options including variances. It was suggested that the IMP Allocation Subcommittee discuss this issue.

12. Platte River Basin Water Issues
 - A. COHYST Report
Horn had nothing new to report.

 - B. Platte River Recovery Implementation Program/New Depletion Plan Report
Horn had nothing new to report.

13. Correspondence
Horn urged the board to read all information included in the handout material.

14. Upcoming Dates
 - A. NARD Annual Conference, Holiday Inn, Kearney - September 24-26, 2007
 - B. SPNRD office closed - Columbus Day, October 8, 2007
 - C. SPNRD Board of Directors Meeting - October 9, 2007
 - D. Western Region Land Judging, Upper Niobrara White NRD - October 10, 2007
 - E. SPNRD/NRCS Conservation Awards Banquet, Sidney Holiday Inn - October 27, 2007

 - F. SPNRD office closed - Veterans Day, November 12, 2007
SPNRD office closed - Thanksgiving Holiday, November 22-23, 2007
 - G. NARD Legislative Conference, Embassy Suites, Lincoln - February 4-6, 2008
 - H. NARD Annual Washington D.C. Trip, The Madison, A Loews Hotel
- March 10-12, 2008

15. Adjourn
With no further action, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Linda L. Suhr, Recording Secretary

*Denotes Action Taken