

## MINUTES

The meeting of the South Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors was held Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at the South Platte Natural Resources District, 551 Parkland Dr., 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

Tim Maas, Vice-Chair

Jim Johnson, Secretary

Marc Sprenger

Larry Rutt

### Board Members Absent and Excused

Chris Meyer

Kathy Narjes

### Others Present

Kristin Dickinson, NRCS

Thad Kuntz, ARI

Keith Rexroth

### NRD Staff Present

Galen Wittrock, General Manager

Travis Glanz, Water Resources Specialist

Tyler Sanders, Water Resources Coordinator

Yolanda Hruska, Information and Education Coordinator

Ryan Reisdorff, Assistant Manager

Chris Kaiser, Natural Resources Conservationist

Don Davis, Administrative Manager

### Information Material

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

1. Tentative Agenda - Board of Directors meeting, October 10, 2023
2. Tentative Agenda - District Operations Committee Meeting, October 10, 2023
3. Minutes of the September 12, 2023 South Platte NRD (SPNRD) Board of Directors meeting
4. Minutes of the September 12, 2023 SPNRD District Operations Committee meeting
5. Minutes of the September 12, 2023 SPNRD Budget Hearing
6. Minutes of the September 12, 2023 SPNRD Special Hearing to Set Final Tax Request
7. September Treasurer's Report and Accounts Payable
8. Kaiser Staff Report dated October 10, 2023
9. Davis Staff Report dated October 10, 2023
10. Keller Staff Report dated October 3, 2023
11. Reisdorff Staff Report dated October 4, 2023
12. Glanz Staff Report dated October 4, 2023
13. Hruska Staff Report dated October 2, 2023
14. 2023 NARD Annual Report
15. 2023 Regional Range Judging Report
16. Bullet Points for Board regarding upcoming Rules and Regulations and Integrated Management Plan Changes
17. District Operations Committee
  - o South Platte Natural Resources District Redline Master Plan Updates
18. NARD 2023 Annual Conference Business Session Minutes Dated September 25 & 26, 2023
19. SPNRD Long Range Implementation Plan for Fiscal Year 2024

20. Per Diem

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1. Call to Order

Chair Halligan called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. noting that Kathy Narjes and Chris Meyer were absent and excused.

A. Nebraska Open Meetings Act

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

B. Legal Notices

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Halligan led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Minutes

A. \*Minutes of the September 12, 2023, South Platte Natural Resources District (SPNRD) Board of Directors Meeting

With no corrections or additions, Maas moved with a second by Johnson to approve the September 12, 2023, minutes as distributed. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Sprenger, Rutt, Halligan, Johnson, Maas

Nay:

Absent: Meyer, Narjes

Motion carried.

B. Minutes of the September 12, 2023, SPNRD District Operations Committee Meeting

These minutes were approved as distributed.

C. Minutes of the September 12, 2023, SPNRD Budget Hearing

These minutes were approved as distributed.

D. Minutes of the September 12, 2023, SPNRD Special Hearing to Set Final Tax Request

These minutes were approved as distributed.

4. \*Treasurer's Report for September 2023 and Accounts Payable

Wittrock reviewed the account balances listed on the Treasurer's Report as follows:

<u>Account Description</u>	<u>September 1, 2023</u>	<u>September 30, 2023</u>
SPNRD Checking	\$278,686.38	\$500,049.45
SPNRD Building/Property	\$ 63,888.83	\$ 63,922.96
SPNRD Vehicle/Equipment	\$ 82,714.70	\$ 82,758.89
SPNRD ORRA Infrastructure	\$ 61,994.97	\$ 62,028.09
SPNRD Machinery & Equipment	\$ 10,044.61	\$ 10,049.98
SPNRD Computer/Server	\$ 25,194.19	\$ 25,207.65
SPNRD FA/OA Project	\$165,290.18	\$165,378.49
Citizens' Monitoring PWCB	\$ 67,743.99	\$ 75,493.89
Citizens' Monitoring CD FirsTier	\$ 84,543.57	\$ 84,543.57
SPRCC NPAIT Account	\$ 48,341.01	\$ 48,552.71

Wittrock reviewed various items listed in the accounts payable. He encouraged the board members to come to the SPNRD office at any time to review the receipts and/or disbursements or ask any questions. The total amount of accounts payable is \$52,820.08. After discussion, Rutt moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and authorize payment of the accounts payable in the amount of \$52,820.08. A second was made by Sprenger and with no further discussion a roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Halligan, Johnson, Maas, Sprenger, Rutt

Nay:

Absent: Meyer, Narjes

Motion carried.

5. Director and Staff Reports

Kaiser, Davis, Keller, Reisdorff, Glanz, and Hruska all submitted written reports. Wittrock stated that an extension regarding the Upper Platte Basin Drought Plan contract was approved by the Bureau of Reclamation. The final report is being completed by the end of 2024. Wittrock attended the Annual Conference in Kearney, assisted with range judging, attended the North Platte NRD tour, and went to Halsey with Kaiser and Reisdorff to inspect trees.

6. Public Questions, Comments and Concerns

None

7. General Reports

A. 2023 Regional Range Judging Contest Report

Hruska reviewed the 2023 Regional Range Judging contest stating that the contest was held in Kimball County on the south side of Oliver Reservoir on September 19<sup>th</sup>. 18 schools participated with a total number of registrations of 143. Creek Valley, Leyton and Sidney schools participated from the District. Sidney FFA received third place in the junior division. Hruska thanked the NRCS personnel for helping in pulling off a great competition. Dickinson stated that she believes this was the largest regional competition held in region 1 including a team from Wyoming for the first time. She also thanked the NRD staff for their help in making the competition a success.

B. Discuss Preliminary Robust Review Information and Excess Flows Analysis

Kuntz reviewed the preliminary Robust Review and excess flow analysis explaining what is calculated in the excess flows to be used in the robust review including pit recharge from 13 reuse pits and Western Canal returns. After the calculation is completed, it can be added to the robust review to know if the District is meeting its post 1997 requirements. Kuntz has not come to the final number yet on the credit from the excess flows and will give another report at the November 2023 board meeting and should have the number if the District has met its obligations. He then reviewed all the reports needed to be produced for the robust review. Discussion followed.

8. Agency Reports

A. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

1. NRCS Report

Dickinson stated the last month has been filled with end of the fiscal year activities including last minute reports and contract management. They helped with the Area 1 Range Judging contest. She reported on staffing and stated that the deadline for applications for EQIP and CSP is November 17, 2023, and encouraged any producer with any projects planned to come and see NRCS for any potential funding.

B. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts

1. NARD Annual Conference

a. NARD Business Session

Rutt stated the meeting was quick with some discussion on nitrate issues.

1. NARD Resolution(s)

Johnson stated there were no resolutions.

b. NARD Board Meeting

Johnson stated that there will be payments made towards the mortgage on the NARD offices in Lincoln. He also reviewed the winners of the awards at the Annual Conference.

c. NARD Risk Pool Board Meeting

Johnson stated that the risk pool is going well.

C. Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NDNR)

1. NeDNR Natural Resources Commission Report

Rexroth congratulated Rutt and Johnson on twenty years of service to the District. He reviewed items with the Natural Resources Commission including how to handle unspent funds that have been awarded and possible changes to the scoring for awarding grants to projects. The scoring committee is working on the next round of projects to award. The next meeting will be in November 2023. Discussion followed.

9. Committee Reports

A. District Operations Committee - Narjes, Chair

1. Review and Discuss SPNRD Master Plan Updates

Wittrock stated that he reviewed the Master Plan with the committee. It is required to update every 10 years and it is due in 2023. He stated that he is looking to the board to take action at the November 2023 board meeting to approve the updated Master Plan and he encouraged members of the board to review the changes which were provided in the board packet. Wittrock stated many of the changes were to update information and he reviewed several of the goals of the Master Plan. Discussion followed.

2. \*Discussion and Action as Desired Regarding Direct Deposit for Directors' Per Diem Payments

Davis stated that there have been some uncashed per diem and expense checks from the Directors as asked if the directors would like to have those payments be direct deposited. It would require all the directors to sign up for the direct deposit. Rutt stated he would not like to have his checks direct deposited. Since not all of the Directors want a direct deposit, they will still receive paper checks.

10. Discussion Regarding Possible Changes to the SPNRD GWMA Rules and Regulations and Integrated Management Plan

Wittrock stated that the Rules and Regulations and Integrated Management Plan will be opened next year, and he would like to have the Directors begin to think about and review information regarding potential changes to allocations or carryforward and budgeting for updating the modeling. He stated that a Projects and Programs committee meeting will be scheduled for November to start the process. Discussion followed.

11. Correspondence

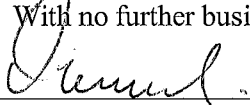
Wittrock encouraged the board members to review correspondence provided in the board packet.

12. Upcoming Dates

November 14, 2023, SPNRD Board of Directors Meeting  
November 10, 2023, Veterans Day (Observed), SPNRD Offices Closed  
November 23-24, 2023, Thanksgiving Holiday, Offices Closed  
December 22, 2023, Christmas Eve Holiday (Observed), Offices Closed  
December 25, 2023, Christmas Holiday, Offices Closed  
January 1, 2024, New Year's Day Holiday, Offices Closed  
January 3, 2024, Nebraska Legislature 60-Day Session Starts  
January 23-24, 2024, NARD Legislative Conference, Lincoln

13. Adjourn

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.



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Donald Davis, Recording Secretary

\* Denotes Action Item