

PUBLIC NOTICE

The South Platte Natural Resources District will hold a regular public meeting on Tuesday, November 14, 2017 at South Platte Natural Resources District, 551 Parkland Drive, Sidney, Nebraska at 6:15 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.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

1. Call to Order - Bill Halligan, Chair
 - A. Nebraska Open Meetings Act
 - B. Legal Notices

2. Minutes
 - A. *Minutes of the October 10, 2017 South Platte Natural Resources District (SPNRD) Board of Directors Meeting

 - B. Minutes of the October 9, 2017 SPNRD Natural Resources/Projects and Programs Committee Meeting

 - C. Minutes of the October 10, 2017 SPNRD District Operations Committee Meeting

3. *Treasurer's Report for October 2017 and Accounts Payable - Horn

4. Senator Steve Erdman, Legislative District #47

5. General Reports
 - A. Joint East Sidney Watershed Authority (JESWA)/East Sidney Watershed Project Update - Wittrock
 - B. Oliver Reservoir Recreation Area (ORRA) and Advisory Committee (ORAC) Reports - Wittrock
 - C. Fall 2017 SPNRD Groundwater Level Report - Kaiser
 - D. Review of the SPNRD 2017-2018 Education Resource Guide - Gerk
 - E. SPNRD Conservation Inspection Report - Kaiser

6. Public Questions, Comments and Concerns

7. Director and Staff Reports

8. 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 and November 6, 2017 Board Meeting Report - Johnson
 2. NARD October 24, 2017 Meeting Reports
 - a. NRD/NARD Employee Benefits Committee - Johnson/Horn
 - b. NARD IRMPA Loss Control Committee - Johnson/Horn
 - C. Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NeDNR)
 1. NeDNR Natural Resources Commission Report - Halligan
 2. Annual Report and Plan of Work for the Nebraska State Water Planning and Review Process - Horn
9. Discussion and Action Regarding Post FY 2018 Budget Items
 - A. *Discussion and Action as Desired to Proceed with Bidding Process to Purchase Vehicle - Horn
 - B. *Oliver Reservoir Recreational Area - Wittrock
 1. Replace Maintenance Shop Roof with metal Roof
 2. Road System Improvements
 3. Replace Rip Rap near Principal Spillway
10. Correspondence
11. Upcoming Dates

November 14, 2017, Conservation Awards Reception, SPNRD North Shop, 5 p.m.
 November 23-24, 2017, Thanksgiving Holiday, Offices Closed
 December 12, 2017, SPNRD Board of Directors Meeting
 December 15, 2017, Annual NRD/NRCS Christmas Luncheon
 December 25, 2017, Christmas Holiday, Offices Closed
 January 1, 2018, New Year's Day, Offices Closed
 January 3, 2018, 60-Day Legislative Session Begins
 January 23-24, 2018, NARD Legislative Conference, Embassy Suites, Lincoln
 March 17-21, 2018, NARD Washington D.C. Conference

12. Adjourn

*Denotes Action Item

MINUTES

The meeting of the South Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors was held Tuesday, November 14, 2017, at the South Platte Natural Resources District, 551 Parkland Drive Sidney, NE at 6:15 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
Tim Maas, Vice-Chair
Kathy Narjes

Chris Meyer
Phil Grabowski
Larry Rutt

Board Members Absent

None

Others Present

Steve Erdman, Nebraska State Senator,
Legislative District #47
Kristin Miller, D.C., USDA-NRCS
LaDene Rutt

NRD Staff Present

Rod L. Horn, General Manager
Chris Kaiser, Natural Resources Coordinator
Shelly Gerck, Information and Education Coordinator
Donald Davis, Administrative Manager

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

Information Material

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

1. Tentative Agenda - Board of Directors, November 14, 2017
2. October 10, 2017 Minutes of the South Platte NRD (SPNRD) Board of Directors meeting
3. October 9, 2017 Minutes of the SPNRD Natural Resources/Projects and Programs Committee meeting
4. October 10, 2017 Minutes of the SPNRD District Operations Committee meeting
5. October Treasurer's Report and Accounts Payable
6. General Manager's Letter Dated November 7, 2017
7. General Manager's Report Dated November 14, 2017
8. Administrative Manager's Report Dated November 14, 2017
9. Agency
 - o Nebraska Department of Natural Resources Annual Report and Plan of Work for the State Water Planning and Review Process Dated September 2017
 - o NRD Map and Document that Lists the Senators by District
10. General Reports
 - o Fall 2017 SPNRD Ground Water Level Report
 - o Joint East Sidney Watershed Authority (JESWA) Draft Timeline revised November 7, 2017
 - o Oliver Reservoir Recreation Area Advisory Committee October 10, 2017 meeting minutes
 - o 2017-2018 Educator Resource Guide
 - o 2017 South Platte NRD Cost-Share Inspection Program Report
 - o Solicitation of Proposals to Purchase One New Passenger Minivan, Crossover or Mid-Size SUV Vehicle with Trade-In
 - o Memo Post FY 2018 Budget Items Expenditures Dated November 13, 2017
 - o Nebraska Legislature Biography State Senator Steve Erdman, Legislative District #47
 - o 2017 NRD/NRCS Christmas Luncheon Brochure

11. Correspondence

- o Nebraska Department of Natural Resources Quarterly Newsletter Dated Autumn 2017
- o NRD Groundwater Quality Regulations Dated October 2017

12. Per Diem Worksheet

1. Call to Order

Chair Halligan and called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

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. Minutes

A. Minutes of the October 10, 2017 South Platte Natural Resources District (SPNRD) Board of Directors Meeting

With no corrections or additions, motion by Rutt, second by Maas to approve the October 10, 2017 minutes as distributed. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Nay:

Absent:

Motion carried.

B. Minutes of the October 9, 2017 SPNRD Natural Resources/Projects and Programs Committee Meeting

These minutes were approved as distributed.

C. Minutes of the October 10, 2017 SPNRD District Operations Committee Meeting

These minutes were approved as distributed.

3. *Treasurer's Report for October 2017 and Accounts Payable

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

<u>Account Description</u>	<u>October 1, 2017</u>	<u>October 31, 2017</u>
SPNRD Checking/Repurchase	\$ 974,318.82	\$ 983,092.48
SPNRD Building/Property	\$ 28,479.10	\$ 28,481.54
SPNRD Vehicle/Equipment	\$ 23,342.98	\$ 23,344.97
SPNRD ORRA Infrastructure	\$ 236.78	\$ 236.80
SPNRD ORRA Checking PWCB	\$ 9,405.44	\$ 9,740.44
Citizens' Monitoring PWCB	\$ 57,381.93	\$ 65,087.30
Citizens' Monitoring CD First Tier	\$ 76,211.50	\$ 76,423.11
SPRCC NPAIT Account	\$ 207,248.88	\$ 207,363.71

Horn 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 \$68,635.62. After discussion, Narjes moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and authorize payment of the accounts payable in the amount of \$68,635.62. A second was made by Rutt and with no further discussion a roll call vote was taken.

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

Nay:

Absent:

Motion carried.

4. Senator Steve Erdman, Legislative District #47

After introductions, Senator Erdman spoke briefly about the Ogallala aquifer and praised the South Platte NRD for its efforts in keeping control of ground water issues. He then gave an explanation for his participation in the filibuster to sunset the NRD 3-cents fully/overappropriated levy. Erdman followed by speaking about the State budget and his views on the current budget and what needs to be done in the future. He then spoke on reducing property taxes and how agriculture land is valued in the State. Erdman gave an update on his schedule for the rest of the year before the start of the 60-day session in January 2018 including a visit to the University of Nebraska and review of his first year in office. Discussion followed.

5. General Reports

A. Joint East Sidney Watershed Authority (JESWA)/East Sidney Watershed Project Update

Wittrock reported that all of the land right easements have been acquired. The JESWA board met last week and took action to, pending Sidney City Council approval, the final design and to move forward with the bidding process with Olsson Associates. He reviewed the new timeline which lays out the plan for bidding and construction. The project cost is estimated to be at \$1.27 million.

B. Oliver Reservoir Recreation Area (ORRA) and Advisory Committee (ORAC) Reports

Wittrock reported that the Oliver Reservoir Advisory Committee started meetings again in Kimball. There may be changes to the rules and regulations to accommodate new activities such as target practice. Operations at the reservoir have wrapped up for the year, picnic tables have been put away and everything has been winterized. Davis reviewed the donations for the past year. Donations were up this year from previous years. July had the highest number, dollar amount and average dollar amount of donations with June and July being the busiest months. He then reviewed comments from public on the use of the reservoir.

C. Fall 2017 SPNRD Groundwater Level Report

Kaiser reviewed the Fall 2017 Groundwater Level Report. He pointed out groundwater level declines and gains based on observation wells in each of the subareas and the tablelands. These were compared from this year to last year and then 5 years ago, 10 years ago, 20 years ago and 30 years ago. Overall the water levels are similar to last year's report. Discussion followed.

D. Review of the SPNRD 2017-2018 Education Resource Guide

Gerk spoke about the 2017-2018 Education Resource Guide and what changes were made from last year's guide. She then spoke about refining the utilization of the guide to be more effective for participation from the area schools and how to better fit into their curriculum and timeframe. Discussion followed.

E. SPNRD Conservation Inspection Report

Kaiser gave a brief description of the purpose of the Conservation Inspection Report. He stated that the District inspects about 5% of a random assortment of conservation programs which includes SPNRD programs, cost share money and NSWCP each year to ensure that the practices that were paid for are still in place. This year's inspections were all okay. The biggest concerns are the trees.

6. Public Questions, Comments and Concerns

None

7. Director and Staff Reports

Kaiser-finished taking water levels with help from Wittrock, water level report completed, sent water level data to UNL and the USGS, had several bacteria tests which are done as a free service to the residents of the SPNRD, adding water quality data to databases, and completed the Conservation Inspections

Gerk-worked on the conservation awards ceremony, interviewed the award winners and worked on the article for the conservation awards, updated the website and Facebook page, has been working to make more space on the website, reviewed what goes on the Facebook page

Sanders-read flow meters with about 250 left, about average on broken meters

Reisdorff-spent time working on the new project near Big Springs, spent ½ day with Wittrock and Randy Gunn pulling buoys and cleanup at Oliver Reservoir, sat in on the Platte Overappropriated Area technical committee call, read flow meters, sent a continuation letter to the National Park Service for continued work on the Oliver campground, waiting on final resolutions for the Hazard Mitigation Plan, read industrial meters, went to UNWNRD to present ground water subarea information at a subcommittee meeting, participated in the Panhandle Region Evaluation and Conservation Irrigation Partnership (PRECIP) meeting, gathered and put together the industrial water usage report information

Glanz-attended the PRECIP meeting, worked on the Big Springs project, gathered data for Adaptive Resources Inc. for transfers, imported some flow meter readings, did the Hydrogeology of Western Nebraska quarterly report, did industrial flow meter readings and sent out post cards to alert land owners of reading flow meters

Davis & Horn- written reports. Horn spoke about the second phase of the Principal Spillway/Stilling Basin project at Oliver Reservoir. He reported that the conduit is not in as bad of shape as originally thought and that phase two is ready to begin with bidding and construction set for next year. Work has started on getting 404 national permit through the Army Corp of Engineers. Horn is expecting the permit to take a significant amount of time and this may hold up progress on the project. The project is still within budget.

8. Agency Reports

A. USDA Natural Resources conservation Service (NRCS)

1. NRCS Report - Kristin Dickinson, DC-NRCS

Dickinson reported that last month she was at the Old West Regional Range Judging contest in Valentine which is a five state contest. No schools from outside of the state but there was still a large turnout for the contest with over 300 students. NRCS staff has been busy with Range Judging and Land Judging contests and CSP for the past month and a half. Dickinson reported 536 participants participated at the state Range Judging contest in Keith County, the largest ever. Amber Mekelburg-Herz serves on the state Civil Right Committee and has planned an event at the North Platte NRD on November 29th which will include Native American drums and speakers as well as a tradition Native American Meal. November is Native American month in the United States. Discussion followed.

B. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD)

1. NARD and November 6, 2017 Board Meeting Report

Johnson stated the board voted to give at the Foundation level the same level of funding for groups as they have done previous years. He then spoke about the 2020 North American Envirothon which Nebraska is hosting at the University of Nebraska. They will be needing volunteers as the event gets closer. He also stated that there were several pictures sent for NARD 2018 calendar and that there will be hard decisions for which pictures will be placed in the calendar.

2. NARD October 24, 2017 Meeting Reports

- a. NRD/NARD Employee Benefits Committee
- b. NARD IRMPA Loss Control Committee

Horn referred the board to his manager's report for an in depth review of the Benefits Committee and Loss Control Committee meetings.

C. Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NeDNR)

1. NeDNR Natural Resources Commission Report

Halligan spent three days in Lexington going over the valuation of the grants for the water program. 20 grants were submitted. The commission will give a final vote on November 28th. Discussion followed.

2. Annual Report on Plan of Work for the Nebraska State Water Planning and Review Process

Horn stated that the NeDNR annual report was given out in the board packet. He encouraged the board members to look over the information.

9. Discussion and Action Regarding Post FY 2018 Budget Items

A. *Discussion and Action as Desired to Proceed with Bidding Process to Purchase Vehicle

Horn reported that the 2013 Ford Explorer is nearing 100,000 miles and that it is time to put out for bids for a new vehicle with a trade in of the Explorer. Johnson made a motion for approval to proceed with bidding process to purchase new vehicle. A second was made by Rutt and with no other discussion a roll call vote was taken.

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

Nay:

Absent:

Motion carried.

B. *Oliver Reservoir Recreation Area

1. Replace Maintenance Shop Roof with Metal Roof
2. Road System Improvements
3. Replace Rip Rap near Principal Spillway

Horn discussed all three items together. He stated these items are over \$2,500 and are brought to the board for consideration as post budget items. He reviewed the replacement of the maintenance shop roof with a metal roof, making road system improvements similar to last year's improvements, and replacing the rip rap near the principal spillway that has had some rip rap slough off. Grabowski made a motion to approve proceeding with the post FY 2018 budget items for Oliver Reservoir Recreation Area. A second was made by Narjes and with no further discussion a roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Grabowski, Meyer, Narjes, Rutt, Halligan, Johnson, Maas
Nay:
Absent:
Motion carried.

10. Correspondence

Horn urged the board to read the correspondence provided.

11. Upcoming Dates

November 23-24, 2017, SPNRD Offices Closed, Thanksgiving Holiday
December 12, 2017, SPNRD Board Meeting
December 15, 2017, Annual NRD/NRCS Christmas Luncheon
December 25, 2017, SPNRD Offices Closed, Christmas Holiday
January 1, 2018, SPNRD Offices Closed, New Year's Day Holiday
January 3, 2018, Beginning of 60-Day Nebraska Legislative Session
January 23-24, 2018, NARD Legislative Conference, Lincoln
March 17-21, 2018, NARD Washington DC Conference

12. Adjourn

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Donald Davis, Recording Secretary

* Denotes Action Item