

PUBLIC NOTICE

The South Platte Natural Resources District will hold a regular public meeting on Tuesday, September 12, 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.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

1. Call to Order - Bill Halligan, Chair
 - A. Nebraska Open Meetings Act
 - B. Legal Notices
2. Minutes
 - A. *Minutes of the August 8, 2017 South Platte Natural Resources District (SPNRD) Board of Directors Meeting
 - B. Minutes of the August 8, 2017 SPNRD District Operations Committee Meeting
 - C. Minutes of the August 8, 2017 SPNRD Natural Resources/Projects and Programs Committee Meeting
3. *Treasurer's Report for August 2017 and Accounts Payable - Horn
4. Hearing on Proposed FY 2018 Budget beginning at 5:15 p.m.
5. Hearing to Set Final Tax Request for FY 2018, beginning at 5:30 p.m. or immediately following the Hearing, whichever is later
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. NARD Annual Conference, September 24-26, 2017, Kearney, NE
 - a. *Action on Voting Delegate and Alternate
 - b. *Discussion and Action as Desired on Proposed NARD Resolutions
 - C. Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NeDNR)
 1. NeDNR Natural Resources Commission Report - Halligan

7. Adventure Camp About the Environment (ACE) Camp Report - Gerk/Kailey Nicklas
8. “Building Sound Watersheds by Understanding Field Scale Water Management” - John Heaston, Aquamart
9. Aquifer Life Analysis Review and Management Goals and Discussion - Thad Kuntz, Principal Hydrogeologist, Adaptive Resources, Inc.
10. Committee Report
 - A. District Operations Committee - Narjes, Chair
 1. Fiscal Year 2018 Budgets
 - a. *Final Approval of CMC Budget - Draft #1
 - b. *Final Approval of ORRA Budget - Draft #1
 - c. *Final Approval of SPNRD Budget - Draft #2
 - d. *Action on Resolution for Setting the Final Tax Request for FY 2018
 2. *Discussion and Action as Desired on Proposed Revisions to the Districts’ Conservation Tree Program Policy Manual including Tree and Shrub Price Changes
 3. Review and Action to Ratify Proposed Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund (NETF) Grant Applications
 - a. *Platte Basin Water Management Action Initiative
 - b. *North and South Platte Rivers Invasive Species Control Project
 - c. *Panhandle Region Evaluation Conservation and Irrigation Partnership (PRECIP)
11. Director and Staff Reports
12. Public Questions, Comments and/or Concerns
13. Correspondence
14. Upcoming Dates

September 12 - 14, Husker Harvest Days, Grand Island
September 24 - 26, NARD Annual Conference, Kearney
October 9, 2017, Columbus Day, Offices Closed
October 10, 2017, SPNRD Board of Directors Meeting
November 10, 2017, Veteran’s Day (Observed), Offices Closed
November 14, 2017, Conservation Awards Reception, SPNRD Conference Room
November 23 - 24, 2017, Thanksgiving Holiday, Offices Closed
January 3, 2018, Nebraska Legislature 60-Day Session Starts
January 23-24, 2018, NARD Legislative Conference, Embassy Suites, Lincoln
15. Adjourn

*Denotes Action Item

MINUTES

The meeting of the South Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors was held Tuesday, September 12, 2017, 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 (left at 7:18 p.m.)

Phil Grabowski
Chris Meyer

Board Members Absent (excused)

Kathy Narjes
Larry Rutt

Others Present

Thad Kuntz, ARI
Jacob Fritton, The Nature Conservancy
John Heaston, Aquamart
Sara Nicklas
Kailey Nicklas

NRD Staff Present

Rod L. Horn, General Manager
Donald Davis, Administrative Manager
Shelly Gerk, Information and Education Coordinator
Ryan Reisdorff, Water Resources Specialist

Galen Wittrock, Assistant Manager
Chris Kaiser, Natural Resources Coordinator
Tyler Sanders, Water Resources Technician

Information Material

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

1. Tentative Agenda - Board of Directors meeting, September 12, 2017
2. Tentative Agenda - District Operations Committee meeting, September 12, 2017
3. August 8, 2017 Minutes of the South Platte NRD (SPNRD) Board of Directors meeting
4. August 8, 2017 Minutes of the SPNRD District Operations Committee meeting
5. August 8, 2017 Minutes of the SPNRD Natural Resources/Projects and Programs Committee meeting
6. August Treasurer's Report and Accounts Payable
7. General Manager's Letter dated September 5, 2017
8. General Manager's Report dated September 12, 2017
9. Administrative Manager's Report dated September, 12, 2017
10. NARD proposed resolutions
11. District Operations Committee
 - o FY 2018 South Platte Natural Resources District Proposed Budgets
 - o Budget Hearing Agenda
 - o Special Public Hearing to Set Final Tax Request Agenda
 - o SPNRD Budget July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018 (Draft #2), Oliver Reservoir Recreation Area (Draft #1) and CHESI Citizens' Monitoring Committee Proposed Budget July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018 (Draft #1)
 - o State of Nebraska 2017 - 2018 Natural Resources District Budget Forms and Form LC-3, Lid Computation
 - o September 6, 2017 memorandum from Rod Horn with charts and graphs along with budget documents for FY 2018 Budget
 - o Draft Resolution for Setting the Final Property Tax Request for the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget

- Proposed Revisions to the Conservation Tree Program Policy Manual and Price Updates
- NET Grant Application “Platte Basin Water Management Action Initiative” (Nebraska Department of Natural Resources application)
- NET Grant Application “North and South Platte Rivers Invasive Species Control Project” (High Plains Weed Management Association application)
- NET Grant Application “Panhandle Region Evaluation Conservation and Irrigation Partnership (PRECIP)” (The Nebraska Water Balance Alliance application)

12. Per Diem Worksheet

1. Call to Order

Chair Halligan called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. noting that Kathy Narjes and Larry Rutt were both 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. Minutes

A. Minutes of the August 8, 2017 South Platte Natural Resources District (SPNRD) Board of Directors Meeting

With no corrections or additions, motion by Grabowski, second by Johnson to approve the August 8, 2017 minutes as distributed. With no discussion, a roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Halligan, Johnson, Maas, Grabowski, Meyer

Nay:

Absent: Narjes, Rutt

Motion carried.

B. Minutes of the August 8, 2017 SPNRD District Operations Committee Meeting

These minutes were approved as distributed.

C. Minutes of the August 8, 2017 SPNRD Natural Resources/Projects and Programs Committee Meeting

These minutes were approved as distributed.

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

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

<u>Account Description</u>	<u>August 1, 2017</u>	<u>August 31, 2017</u>
SPNRD Checking/Repurchase	\$480,859.06	\$638,103.06
SPNRD Building/Property	\$ 28,474.52	\$ 28,476.89
SPNRD Vehicle/Equipment	\$ 23,339.26	\$ 23,341.18
SPNRD ORRA Infrastructure	\$150,224.24	\$ 236.76
SPNRD ORRA Checking PWCB	\$ 9,120.37	\$ 8,974.44
Citizens’ Monitoring PWCB	\$ 57,372.50	\$ 57,377.37
Citizens’ Monitoring CD First Tier	\$ 76,211.50	\$ 76,211.50
SPRCC NPAIT Account	\$ 5,497.06	\$ 87,760.82

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 \$98,573.97. After discussion, Maas moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and authorize payment of the accounts payable in the amount of \$98,573.97. A second was made by Grabowski and with no further discussion a roll call vote was taken.

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

The board moved to item 7 - ACE Camp report before the hearings.

The board meeting was recessed at 5:15 p.m. for the Hearings.

4. Hearing on Proposed FY 2018 Budget beginning at 5:15 p.m.

The Hearing on the Proposed Fiscal Year 2018 Budget was convened at 5:15 p.m. by Chair Halligan. Legal notices for the hearing were presented and are included in these minutes. Halligan turned the meeting over to General Manager Rod Horn. Horn discussed the FY 2018 Budget for the combined South Platte NRD (Draft #2), Oliver Reservoir Recreation Area (Draft #1) and Citizens' Monitoring Committee (Draft #1) in the amount of \$3,274,361. Property tax request is \$1,344,803.20 (\$.049196 per \$100 valuation). Horn explained that the tax rate is less than the request for FY 2017. Draft #1 of the District's budget was reviewed during the August 8, 2017 board meeting. Horn indicated that he made non-substantive changes to Draft #1 and the budget was public noticed and presented to the board as Draft #2. Horn provided information on the unused restricted funds, lid exceptions and the benefits gained through interlocal agreements. The Hearing was adjourned at 5:24 p.m.

5. Hearing to Set Final Tax Request for FY 2018, beginning at 5:30 or immediately following the Hearing whichever is later

The Hearing to Set the Final Tax Request for the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget convened at 5:30 p.m. by Chair Halligan. Legal notices for the hearing are included in these minutes. A copy of the proposed resolution for setting the final tax request was provided to the directors. Halligan requested Horn review the proposed property tax request of \$1,344,803.20 with a rate of \$.049196 per \$100 valuation. A special hearing and resolution are required because the request is different from the prior fiscal year. With no further questions or discussion the Hearing was adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

The board meeting reconvened at 5:32 p.m.

6. Agency Reports

A. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

1. NRCS Report - No report

B. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts

1. NARD Report - Johnson stated that the next board meeting is at the Annual Conference held in Kearney on September 25 and 26, 2017. He will have a report after that meeting.

2. NARD Annual Conference, September 24 - 26, 2017, NARD Annual Conference, Kearney

a. *Action on Voting Delegate and Alternate

Rutt, Halligan and Johnson (first day only) plan to attend the annual conference. Motion by Johnson second by Grabowski to nominate Larry Rutt as voting delegate and Bill Halligan as alternate for the NARD Annual Conference. With no further discussion, a roll call vote was taken.

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

b. *Discussion and Action as desired on Proposed NARD Resolutions

Johnson reported on the two resolutions that were submitted within the deadline. Discussion was held to use input from directors and staff with the flexibility to vote after hearing the floor discussion during the NARD Annual Conference. Motion by Johnson second by Meyer to authorize the SPNRD NARD delegate to act upon the resolutions as deemed appropriate for the SPNRD. A roll call vote was taken.

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

C. Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NDNR)

1. NDNR Report - No Report

The board then moved to item 10 - Committee Report

7. Adventure Camp About the Environment (ACE) Camp Report

Kailey Nicklas gave her presentation about her experiences at ACE Camp including a trip to the tree nursery and to the Middle Loop River where she caught a leach. Nicklas then described a lesson in recycling including making a hat out of recycled materials. They had a lesson in edible plants and climbed a tower to see what was around the camp. There was also an archery lesson. Water rockets were made at the end of the camp. Nicklas thanked the board for her scholarship and hopes that she gets to attend ACE Camp again next year.

The board then went back to item 4 for the Budget Hearings.

8. “Building Sound Watershed by Understanding Field Scale Water Management” - John Heaston, Aquamart

John Heaston presented “Building Sound Watersheds by Understanding Field Scale Water Management” which is information pertaining to the proposed Panhandle Region Evaluation Conservation and Irrigation Partnership (PRECIP) NET grant application. Heaston stated that PRECIP wants to put six demonstration sites, 2 each in the three participating NRDs in the Panhandle of Nebraska. The participating NRDs are the Upper Niobrara White, the North Platte and South Platte NRDs. They also want to host peer to peer field days and learning networks relating to watershed health. Heaston described the methodology that was used to develop the grant and the goals of the grant. Discussion followed.

9. Aquifer Life Analysis Review and Management Goals and Discussion - Thad Kuntz, Principle Hydrogeologist, Adaptive Resources, Inc.

Thad Kuntz gave a presentation on the Aquifer Life Analysis Review and Management Goals and Discussion. Kuntz reviewed the history of the modeling process noting that the latest generation is the fourth generation of modeling. Kuntz described the hydrology data and general geology that are utilized to create the modeling. He then explained the Aquifer Life Analysis that was presented in 2015 and the scenarios that were chosen to represent different climate variability. He then chose three different scenarios to provide the various results from the 2015 analyses. The first analysis presented was above average recharge and 12” allocation or best climate with low pumping scenario. He showed the analysis

at 10, 25, 50, 100, 250 and 500 year increments. The second scenario was below average recharge with 16.5" allocation use or full consumptive use with the same year intervals as the previous scenario. The third scenario was utilizing real data from 2009 through 2013 which had a mix of wet and dry years creating an average climate. This timeframe was repeated 100 times to create the 500 year analysis shown in the same year intervals. Kuntz then showed slides of percentage of saturated thickness used from the aquifer using the same year intervals and 2009 through 2013 scenario. He provided slides that showed the percentage of saturated thickness used starting with 100% of the aquifer left today then progressed through how much would be left at the 10, 25, 50, 100, 250 and 500 year increments. Kuntz then presented questions to the board for water management goals. Discussion followed.

The board then moved to Item 11.

10. Committee Report

A. District Operations Committee

1. Fiscal Year 2018 Budgets

a. *Final Approval of CMC Budget

Halligan turned the meeting over to Johnson. Johnson reported that the District Operations Committee reviewed the budgets extensively. The Citizens' Monitoring Committee (CMC) recommended approval of the budget at its July 17, 2017 meeting. Johnson made a motion on behalf of the committee to ratify the CMC Budget draft #1 in the amount of \$163,421.00. A second was made by Maas. With no further discussion, a roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Meyer, Halligan, Johnson, Maas, Grabowski

Nay:

Absent: Narjes, Rutt

Motion carried.

b. *Final Approval of ORRA Budget

Johnson made a motion on behalf of the committee to approve the Oliver Reservoir Recreation Area (ORRA) Budget draft #1 in the amount of \$77,884.00. A second was made by Grabowski. With no further discussion, a roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Halligan, Johnson, Maas, Grabowski, Meyer

Nay:

Absent: Narjes, Rutt

Motion carried.

c. *Final Approval of SPNRD Budget

Johnson made a motion on behalf of the committee to approve the combined SPNRD/ORRA/CMC Budgets in the amount of \$3,274,361 with a property tax request in the amount of \$1,344,803.20 at a tax rate of \$.049196 per hundred dollar valuation. Second by Meyer. With no further discussion, a roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Johnson, Maas, Grabowski, Meyer, Halligan

Nay:

Absent: Narjes, Rutt

Motion carried.

d. *Action on Resolution for Setting the Final Tax Request for FY 2018

Johnson made a motion on behalf of the committee to approve the resolution for setting the final tax request for FY 2018 in the amount of \$1,344,803.20 at a tax rate of \$.049196 per hundred dollar valuation. Second by Maas. With no further discussion, a roll call vote was taken. A copy of the signed resolution is attached with these minutes.

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

2. *Discussion and Action as Desired on Proposed Revisions to the Districts' Conservation Tree Program Policy Manual including Tree and Shrub Price Changes

Johnson moved on behalf of the committee to approve the revisions including Tree/Shrub price changes that Wittrock discussed during the District Operations Committee meeting. A second was made by Grabowski. There were changes to the bare root, hefty root and hefty root plus tree prices along with removing policy #10 - "Animal Damage Control with Tree/Shrub Plantings" due to a lack of interest in using the netting product. After discussion, a roll call vote was taken.

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

3. Review and Action to Ratify Proposed Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund (NETF) Grant Applications

a. *Platte Basin Water Management Action Initiative

Horn gave an overview of the grant application including the District's commitments for the grant. Johnson made a motion to ratify support for the NET grant application - "Platte Basin Water Management Action Initiative." A second was made by Meyer and with no further discussion a roll call vote was taken.

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

b. *North and South Platte Rivers Invasive Species Control Project

Wittrock gave an overview of the grant application including the District's commitments for the grant. Johnson made a motion to ratify support for the NET grant application - "North and South Platte Rivers Invasive Species Control Project." A second was made by Maas and with no further discussion a roll call vote was taken.

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

c. *Panhandle Region Evaluation Conservation and Irrigation Partnership (PRECIP)

Heaston gave an overview of the grant application and Horn reviewed the District's cash and in-kind contribution for the grant. Johnson made a motion to ratify support for the NET grant application - "Panhandle Region Evaluation Conservation and Irrigation Partnership (PRECIP)." A second was made by Grabowski and with no further discussion a roll call vote was taken.

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

The board then went back to item 8

11. Director and Staff Reports

Sanders - finished inspecting flow meters, changed oil in some of the District's vehicles, cleaned up the lots and mowed and watered, and completed the yearly inspection of the temporary deferment wells

Reisdorff - reported on the annual Waterwise program for 4th and 5th graders, worked on industrial municipal accounting, and attended several meetings

Kaiser - chemigation inspections are done, water inspections for Oliver Reservoir continue and will end at the end of September, submitted the last quarter report for Oliver Reservoir water sampling, and finished inspecting the pumping wells in the valley

Wittrock - trying to get the last easement for the JESWA project signed, Oliver Reservoir season is wrapping up, planning a day to clean up picnic tables at Oliver Reservoir within the next month, worked with the United States and Nebraska Forest Services collecting pine cones from the Limber Pines near Pine Bluffs, Wyoming for a seed source, Retree Nebraska trees arrived, will be working with other agencies and entities to get the trees planted, and attended the State Plant Material Center meeting in Lincoln to stay updated on how NRCS and other agencies are utilizing materials.

Gerk - weekly Facebook updates on the raingarden, working on the Fall Pipeline newsletter and updated Fall 2017 factsheet, submitted the August board meeting news article, working on planning details for the land and range judging, updated the educator guide for this year, planning the awards ceremony for next month and spent two days at the Nebraska State Fair in the I & E booth doing the CSI Wildlife project

Davis and Horn submitted written reports.

12. Correspondence

No correspondence provided.

13. Upcoming Dates

September 12 - 14, 2017, Husker Harvest Days, Grand Island

September 24 - 26, 2017, NARD Annual Conference, Kearney

October 9, 2017, SPNRD Offices Closed, Columbus Day

October 10, 2017, SPNRD Board of Directors Meeting

November 10, 2017, SPNRD Offices Closed, Veterans Day (Observed)

November 23 - 24, 2017 Thanksgiving Holiday, Offices Closed

January 3, 2018, 60 - Day Legislative Session Begins

January 23 - 24, 2018, NARD Legislative Conference, Lincoln

14. Adjourn

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Donald D. Davis, Recording Secretary

* Denotes Action Item