

PUBLIC NOTICE

The South Platte Natural Resources District will hold a regular public meeting on Tuesday, April 10, 2018 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 March 13, 2018 South Platte Natural Resources District (SPNRD) Board of Directors Meeting
 - B. Minutes of the March 12, 2018 SPNRD Natural Resources/Projects and Programs Committee Meeting
 - C. Minutes of the March 13, 2018 SPNRD District Operations Committee Meeting
3. *Treasurer's Report for March 2018 and Accounts Payable - Horn
4. Public Comments, Questions and Concerns
5. Director and Staff Reports
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 Washington D.C. Report - Johnson/Wittrock
 3. 2018 Legislative Session
 - C. Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NeDNR)
 1. NeDNR Natural Resources Commission Report - Halligan
7. General Reports
 - A. SPNRD 2018 Spring Ground Water Level Report - Kaiser
 - B. JESWA/East Sidney Watershed Update - Wittrock
 - C. Oliver Reservoir Recreation Area (ORRA) and Advisory Committee (ORAC) Activities Update - Wittrock
 - D. Review Proposed Amendments to the Districtwide Ground Water Management Area Rules and Regulations and Timeline for Implementation - Horn

8. *ARI Web Application Monitoring Well Demonstration and Consideration to Purchase Web Application Creation that Displays Monitoring Wells and Hydrographs - Thad Kuntz, P.G., Principal Hydrogeologist
9. Discussion regarding 2nd Increment IMP Stakeholder Participant Selection Process - Reisdorff
10. *Discussion and Possible Action regarding Facilitation of SPNRD/NeDNR 2nd Increment Integrated Management Planning Process - Horn
11. Committee Reports
 - A. Natural Resources/Projects and Programs Committee - Maas, Chair
 1. *Discussion and Action regarding Cody Halligan Application to Transfer Ground Water to Paul Reed Construction
 2. *Discussion and Action regarding Paul Reed Construction Well Permit to Drill an Industrial Well ≤ 50 gpm
 - B. District Operations Committee - Narjes, Chair
 1. *Action to Approve the Western Nebraska Children's Ground Water Festival Program and Budget
 2. Review SPNRD FY2018 Budget for the Nine Month Ended March 31, 2018
12. Correspondence
13. Upcoming Dates
 - April 10, 2018, SPNRD Board of Directors Meeting
 - May 8, 2018, SPNRD Board of Directors Meeting
 - May 10, 2018, Western Nebraska Children's Ground Water Festival
 - May 28, 2018, SPNRD Offices Closed, Memorial Day
 - June 10-13, 2018, ACE Camp, State 4-H Center, Halsey
 - June 11-15, 2018, Nebraska Range Youth Camp, Halsey
 - July 4, 2018, SPNRD Offices Closed, Independence Day
14. Adjourn

*Denotes Action Item

MINUTES

The meeting of the South Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors was held Tuesday, April 10, 2018, at the South Platte Natural Resources District, 551 Parkland Drive 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
Jim Johnson, Secretary
Chris Meyer
Tim Maas, Vice-Chair

Larry Rutt
Phil Grabowski
Kathy Narjes

Others Present

LaDene Rutt, Visitor
Thad Kuntz, Adaptive Resources Inc.
Melissa Mosier, NeDNR

Board Members Absent

NRD Staff Present

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

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, April 10, 2018
2. Tentative Agenda - Natural Resources/Projects and Programs Committee meeting, April 10, 2018
3. Tentative Agenda - District Operations Committee, April 10, 2018
4. March 13, 2018 Minutes of the South Platte NRD (SPNRD) Board of Directors meeting
5. March 12, 2018 Minutes of the SPNRD Natural Resources/Projects and Programs Committee Meeting
6. March 13, 2018 Minutes of the SPNRD District Operations Committee meeting
7. March 2018 Treasurer's Report and Accounts Payable
8. Horn Manager's Letter dated April 2, 2018
9. Quarterly Reports: NaManet Keller, Michelle McMillen and Hilary Cook
10. Horn Manager's Report dated April 10, 2018
11. Davis Staff Report dated April 10, 2018
12. Reisdorff Staff Report dated April 9, 2018
13. Agency
 - o Craig Derickson e-mail dated April 3, 2018, re: News Update on NRCS Operations and Staffing
 - o Kristin Dickinson e-mail dated March 28, 2018, re: Understanding Our Boss - the USDA Under Secretary, Bill Northey
14. General Reports
 - o 2018 Spring Ground Water Level Report
 - o JESWA/Joint East Sidney Watershed Authority draft timeline revised March 28, 2018
 - o Draft Copy of the Proposed Amended and Restated Districtwide Ground Water Management Area Rules and Regulations
 - o Agenda for the Public Hearing on April 19, 2018 at Western Nebraska Community College - Sidney and Draft Timeline dated March 16, 2018

- 2nd Increment IMP Work Group Suggestions List dated April 6, 2018
 - 2nd Increment IMP Facilitator Information, Potential Meeting Schedule, and First Meeting Information
 - ORAC Minutes March 27, 2018
15. Natural Resources/Projects and Programs Committee
- Cody Halligan Ground Water Transfer Permit Application dated March 29, 2018
 - Paul Reed Construction Industrial Well Permit Application dated March 28, 2018
16. District Operations Committee
- SPNRD Nine Month Budget Review: FY July 1, 2017 - March 31, 2018
 - ORRA Nine Month Budget Review: FY July 1, 2017 - March 31, 2018
 - 2018 Western Nebraska Children's Groundwater Festival Proposed Budget dated April 10, 2018
17. Per Diem Worksheet
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1. Call to Order

Chair Halligan called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

A. Nebraska Open Meetings Act

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

B. Legal Notices

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

2. Minutes

A. *Minutes of the March 14, 2017 South Platte Natural Resources District (SPNRD) Board of Directors Meeting

With no corrections or additions, motion by Grabowski, second by Rutt to approve the March 13, 2018 minutes as distributed. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Nay:

Absent:

Motion carried.

B. Minutes of the March 13, 2018 SPNRD Natural Resources/Projects and Programs Committee Meeting

These minutes were approved as distributed.

C. Minutes of the March 13, 2018 SPNRD District Operations Committee Meeting

These minutes were approved as distributed

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

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

<u>Account Description</u>	March 1, 2018	March 31, 2018
SPNRD Checking/Repurchase	\$859,091.19	\$756,767.37
SPNRD Building/Property	\$ 28,455.70	\$ 28,457.99
SPNRD Vehicle/Equipment	\$ 23,352.42	\$ 23,354.28
SPNRD ORRA Infrastructure	\$ 236.88	\$ 236.90
SPNRD ORRA Checking PWCB	\$ 9,843.06	\$ 9,866.06
Citizens' Monitoring PWCB	\$ 67,647.60	\$ 67,460.92
Citizens' Monitoring CD First Tier	\$ 76,633.00	\$ 76,850.62
SPRCC NPAIT Account	\$242,856.86	\$243,107.92

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 \$93,160.79. After discussion, Rutt moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and authorize payment of the accounts payable in the amount of \$93,160.79. A second was made by Narjes and with no further discussion, a roll call vote was taken.

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

Nay:

Absent:

Motion carried.

4. Public Questions, Comments and Concerns

Horn introduced Melissa Mossier with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources

5. Director and Staff Reports

Kaiser - took water levels, finished the 2018 Spring water level report, sent water level report information to the USGS and Water Science Center, sent out the nitrogen management reminders to the appropriate producers, sent out chemigation permits, completed some chemigation inspections, completed the monthly stream monitoring and submitted reimbursement for the monthly stream monitoring, assisted with the drilling of a monitoring well in northern Deuel County

Wittrock - spoke on the conservation tree program, will be going to Halsey on Wednesday to get the trees that were ordered

Gerk - updated the Facebook page and website, worked on details for the Children's Groundwater Festival, sent the Spring Pipeline to the publisher and started the Summer Pipeline, worked on materials for public presentations, gave two presentations, on March 15 at the WNCC Sophomore Career Conference and April 4 at the Chappell Chamber of Commerce, she will speak at the Women in Ag day on Friday, worked on the plant and flower guide that she is coordinating with Reisdorff, wrote and sent out the March board meeting press release, and worked on materials for the ACE and Range camps with one applicant for a scholarship so far

Sanders - finished up doing power for broken meters, completed more flow meter maintenance paperwork, assisted Kaiser in taking water levels, read industrial meters, worked on cost share for flow meters, inspected new flow meters, worked on ownership changes

Reisdorff - submitted a written report

Glanz - worked on reviewing the IMP with Horn and Reisdorff, worked on out of system tracks that the AWEF and EQIP programs expired in 2017 and put those back into active acres and sent out those reports, finalized the Water Usage Report, the actual average had a slight increase across the whole District, reviewed the crop usage in the Water Usage Report

Davis - submitted a written report

Horn - submitted a written report

6. Agency Reports

A. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

1. NRCS Report

Halligan stated that Dickinson was not present but that NRCS had added 2 e-mails to the board packet.

B. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts

1. NARD Report

Johnson reviewed the executive and board meetings held on March 12 including a review of the new NARD officers for the upcoming two-year cycle.

2. NARD Washington, D.C. Report

Johnson reported that he and Wittrock attended the NARD Washington D.C. conference. He reviewed the activities he attended. Wittrock also spoke about the activities he attended including a presentation on the Waters of the United States legislation.

3. 2018 Legislative Session

No report

C. Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NeDNR)

1. NeDNR Report Natural Resources Commission Report

Halligan had no report

7. General Reports

A. SPNRD 2018 Spring Groundwater Level Report

Kaiser presented the District's Spring 2018 Ground Water Level Report, summarizing the results of the Spring 2018 ground water level measurements collected by staff during March 2018. He stated that there was in effect zero change overall in the Districtwide ground water levels with a nearly average rainfall amount over the past year. He pointed out the new monitoring well in Deuel County. He then reviewed the subareas pointing out that the Pine Bluffs to Oliver Reservoir subarea had the lowest decline in ground water levels with nearly no change from the Spring 2017 report.

B. JESWA/East Sidney Watershed Update

Wittrock reviewed the timeline for the JESWA project stating that there have been delays in land rights and easements, in particular, difficulties with title searches. He stated that the committee decided to go ahead with the bidding process with bid information being available the week of April 16 and a contractor meeting in early May to give potential contractors the opportunity to see the project location. Final bids are expected to be opened on May 11 with the awarding of the bid in late May. Construction is set to begin in late summer with completion in late fall. Wittrock reported that the letter agreement from Olsson Associates for construction oversight estimated that the construction oversight component is projected to cost \$65,000, lower than the original estimate of \$100,000. Olsson Associates will advertise in regional newspapers for bids for the project.

C. Oliver Reservoir Recreation Area (ORRA) and Advisory Committee (ORAC) Activities Update

Wittrock stated that the advisory committee has been meeting monthly. He reported on the new metal roof on the west shop and that other projects have been completed. Wittrock gave an update on the work on the stilling basin and conduit stating that the original sliplining method will not work but that there will be a layer of concrete added to the inside of the conduit to shore it up in case of a flood. He stated depending on the bids for the concrete, which are expected to be about the same of the sliplining; the stilling basin work may need to be delayed another budget cycle. He then reviewed

upcoming activities for summer season operation such as getting the picnic tables set out, and other seasonal preparations. Discussion followed.

D. Review Proposed Amendments to the Districtwide Ground Water Management Area Rules and Regulations and Timeline for Implementation

Horn gave a review of the proposed changes to the Districtwide Ground Water Management Area Rules and Regulations including changes to the nitrogen certification training Districtwide and incorporating the training into the water quality subareas, and setting the allocation as a number instead of a range and the same for the carryforward and carryforward cap. He then reviewed the procedure for the public hearing that will be held on April 19 and the binders and pertinent information that will be used by the board members during the hearing. Horn also reviewed the timeframe for board action on approving the amended rules and regulations order and effective date of the changes. Discussion followed.

8. *ARI Web Application Monitoring Well Demonstration and Consideration to Purchase Web Application Creation that Displays Monitoring Wells and Hydrographs

Kuntz spoke on an update to the existing Web Application that adds a time slider that can pause on a specific year or scroll through the years. Kuntz then spoke on adding the well hydrographs to a separate Web Application. Kuntz recommended to have a separate Web Application to minimize confusion between what information a user may be looking for. He then went through the various settings for viewing the data and visual design options available. Historical flow of the Lodgepole Creek could also be added to the Web Application. Kuntz would also create an interface that would be controlled by the District to upload information into the Web Application as needed. Kuntz quoted the cost of the new Web Application at \$10,000. Narjes brought forward a concern whether producers with irrigation systems would want their well information available to the public on the Web Application. Kaiser concurred, but was unsure the number of producers that would be dissatisfied if the information was processed in this manner. Narjes discussed developing a motion with a clause to get permission from producers first before their information would be made public. Discussion followed highlighting the benefits and positive aspects of having well information available on the Web Application. Following discussion, Rutt made a motion to approve the creation of a monitoring well based Web Application for the cost of \$10,000. A second was made by Maas. Following discussion, a roll call vote was taken.

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

Nay:

Absent:

Motion carried.

9. Discussion regarding 2nd Increment IMP Stakeholder Participation Selection Process

Reisdorff reviewed the list of names compiled as potential participants for the 2nd Increment IMP Process. He then discussed the potential of using a caucus to decide who should be the participants. Meetings are tentatively scheduled for June, August, November, and January. Discussion followed.

10. *Discussion and Possible Action regarding Facilitation of SPNRD/NeDNR 2nd Increment Integrated Management Planning Process

Horn spoke on information that was gathered at the last POAC meeting and the potential of having Stephanie White of HDR to facilitate the 2nd Increment Integrated Management Planning Process. Horn stated that the District is waiting to hear if White would be available to facilitate the meetings and what the estimated cost would be for this project. He then reviewed the tasks of the facilitator and the District. He also reviewed the timeline.

11. Committee Reports

A. Natural Resources/Projects and Programs Committee

1. *Discussion and Action regarding Cody Halligan Application to Transfer Ground Water to Paul Reed Construction

Maas gave an overview of the ground water transfer for Paul Reed Construction for the Interstate 80 road construction project from Bushnell to Pine Bluffs, Wyoming. Glanz reviewed the four conditions for approval of the ground water transfer. Maas made a motion to approve Cody Halligan's Application to transfer ground water from irrigation to primary irrigation/secondary industrial with conditions. The conditions are 1) that up to the 737 acre-inches would be transferred to Paul Reed Construction for 2018 and 2019 and will be offset by Halligan's irrigation tract # 14N58W110001; 2) no water will be transferred to Paul Reed Construction until proper industrial transfer notice has been completed with the state of Nebraska Department of Natural Resources; 3) a flow meter will be installed before any industrial water can be pumped; 4) and that all industrial usage after 2019 will also be offset by allocation from Halligan's irrigation tract #14N58W110001. A second was made by Grabowski and with no further discussion a roll call vote was taken.

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

Nay:

Absent:

Abstain: Halligan abstained as he is in a pooling arrangement with the wells

Motion carried.

2. *Discussion and Action Regarding Paul Reed Construction Well Permit to Drill an Industrial Well \leq 50 gpm

Maas reviewed the well permit for an industrial well \leq 50 gpm. Maas then made a motion to approve the Paul Reed Construction well permit to drill an industrial well \leq 50 gpm with the condition of verification that the well pump under \leq 50 gpm. A second was made by Rutt and with no further discussion a roll call vote was taken.

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

Nay:

Absent:

Motion carried.

B. District Operations Committee

1. *Action to Approve the Western Nebraska Children's Ground Water Festival Program and Budget

Narjes reviewed the proposed budget for the Western Nebraska Children's Ground Water Festival, noting that the budget is lower than last year's budget. Narjes made a motion to approve the Western Nebraska Children's Ground Water Festival Program and Budget. A second was made by Johnson and with no further discussion a roll call vote was taken.

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

Nay:

Absent:

Motion carried.

2. Review SPNRD FY 2018 Budget for the Nine Month Ended March 31, 2018

Narjes reported on the nine months budget ended March 31, 2018. She stated that Horn went through the budget with the committee and that the budget is on target. She then reviewed the Oliver Reservoir Recreation Area budget stating that the budget is also on track for the nine months ended March 31, 2018.

12. Correspondence

None

13. Upcoming Dates

April 19, 2018, Hearing at Western Nebraska Community College, Amended and Restated SPNRD Districtwide GWMA Rules and Regulations

April 25, 2018, State Envirothon, Niobrara State Park, Niobrara, NE

May 8, 2018, SPNRD Board Meeting

May 10, 2018, Western Nebraska Children's Ground Water Festival

May 28, 2018, SPNRD Offices Closed, Memorial Day

June 10-13, 2018, ACE Camp, State 4-H Center, Halsey

June 11-15, 2018, Nebraska Range Youth Camp, Halsey

July 4, 2018, SPNRD Offices Closed, Independence Day

14. Adjourn

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

Donald Davis, Recording Secretary

* Denotes Action Item