

PUBLIC NOTICE

The South Platte Natural Resources District will hold a regular public meeting on Tuesday, November 8, 2016 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, Acting Chair/Vice-Chair
 - A. Nebraska Open Meetings Act
 - B. Legal Notices
2. Minutes
 - A. *Minutes of the October 11, 2016 South Platte Natural Resources District (SPNRD) Board of Directors Meeting
 - B. Minutes of the October 11, 2016 SPNRD Natural Resources/Projects and Programs Committee Meeting
3. *Treasurer's Report for October 2016 and Accounts Payable
4. Public Questions, Comments and Concerns
5. Discussion Regarding Subsurface Drip Irrigation Systems - Kevin Hutsell, USDA-NRCS State Irrigation Specialist
6. Director and Staff Reports
7. 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 October 28, 2016 Meeting Reports
 - a. NRD/NARD Employee Benefits Committee - Johnson/Horn
 - b. NARD IRMPA Loss Control Committee - Johnson/Horn

C. Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NDNR)

1. NDNR Natural Resources Commission Report
2. Annual Report and Plan of Work for the Nebraska State Water Planning and Review Process - Horn

8. General Reports

- A. Fall 2016 SPNRD Ground Water Level Report - Kaiser
- B. Review Grant Programs Summary for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2016 - Suhr

9. Committee Reports

A. District Operations Committee - Halligan, Chair

1. *Consideration to Purchase and Install New Digital Desk Telephone System

B. Natural Resources/Projects and Programs Committee - Maas Chair

1. Discussion Regarding Nebraska Board of Education Lands and Funds (BELF) Transfer of Certified Irrigated Acres
2. *Discussion and Action as Desired Concerning Matt Varra's Violations of the Amended and Restated Districtwide Ground Water Management Area Rules and Regulations/Compliance Plan. Such Violations occurred on Certified Irrigated Acres owned by VS Hay Company, LLC with Tract Identification Number described as Tract #15N54W070001, all located in Kimball County, Nebraska
3. Update on the Oliver Reservoir Steamflow Enhancement Project and Amended Scope of Work

10. Correspondence

11. Dates

November 11, 2016, SPNRD Offices Closed, Veterans Day
November 24 and 25, 2016, SPNRD Offices Closed, Thanksgiving Holiday
December 9, 2016, Annual NRD/NRCS Christmas Luncheon
December 13, 2016, SPNRD Board Meeting
December 26, 2016, SPNRD Offices Closed, Christmas Observance
January 2, 2017, SPNRD Offices Closed, New Year's Day Observance
January 4, 2017, 90-Day Legislative Session Begins
January 24-25, 2017, NARD Legislative Conference, Lincoln
March 18-23, 2017, NARD Washington DC Conference

12. Adjourn

*Denotes Action Item

MINUTES

The meeting of the South Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors was held Tuesday, November 8, 2016, 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, Vice-Chair

Jim Johnson, Secretary

Tim Maas

Kathy Narjes

Phil Grabowski

Larry Rutt

Board Members Absent (excused)

Keith Rexroth, Chair

Others Present

Kevin Hutsell, USDA-NRCS

Kristin Miller, D.C., USDA-NRCS

NRD Staff Present

Rod L. Horn, General Manager

Chris Kaiser, Natural Resources Coordinator

Don Davis, Information and Education Coordinator

Linda Suhr, 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 8, 2016
2. Tentative Agenda - District Operations Committee, November 8, 2016
3. Tentative Agenda - Natural Resources/Projects and Programs Committee, November 7, 2015
4. October 11, 2016 Minutes of the South Platte NRD (SPNRD) Board of Directors meeting
5. October 11, 2016 Minutes of the SPNRD Natural Resources/Projects and Programs Committee meeting
6. October Treasurer's Report and Accounts Payable
7. General Manager's Report
8. Administrative Manager's Report
9. Agency
 - o October 28, 2016 NARD Investment Committee Meeting Report by Mark Geist
 - o Annual Report and Plan of Work for the Nebraska Water Planning and Review Process, September 2016
10. General Reports
 - o Fall 2016 SPNRD Ground Water Level Report
 - o SPNRD Grants Program Summary for Fiscal Year 2016
11. District Operations Committee
 - o Telephone Update Information
 - Email from Tim Miller, Miller Office Products regarding District's current telephone system
 - First Call Communications-AVAYA Business Partner
 - AVAYA 9508 Digital Deskphone information sheet
12. Natural Resources/Projects and Programs Committee
 - o Map for Discussion of BELF (Board of Educational Lands and Funds) Certified Irrigated Acres
 - o Formal Notice - Violations of the Amended and Restated Districtwide Ground water Management Area Rules and Regulations
 - October 19, 2016 Notice of Violations to Matt Varra, VS Hay Company, LLC
 - October 24, 2016 Memo from Travis Glanz, Water Resources Coordinator re: Matt Varra

- Violation
 - October 27, 2016 Email from Matt Varra to Travis Glanz re: Violation
 - October 31, 2016 Corrective Action Plan from Matthew T. Varra
 - South Platte NRD Application to Transfer Ground Water with Attachments
 - Oliver Reservoir Streamflow Enhancement Project
 - Amended Scope of Work between the South Platte NRD and Olsson Associates
13. Correspondence
 14. Per Diem Worksheet

1. Call to Order

Vice-Chair Halligan and Acting Chair for this meeting called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Keith Rexroth was absent and excused for health reasons.

A. Nebraska Open Meetings Act

Acting 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

Acting 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 11, 2016 South Platte Natural Resources District (SPNRD) Board of Directors Meeting

With no corrections or additions, motion by Rutt, second by Grabowski to approve the October 11, 2016 minutes as distributed. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Nay:

Absent: Rexroth

Motion carried.

B. Minutes of the October 11, 2016 SPNRD Natural Resources/Projects and Programs Committee Meeting

These minutes were approved as distributed.

3. *Treasurer's Report for October 2016 and Accounts Payable

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

<u>Account Description</u>	<u>October 1, 2016</u>	<u>October 31, 2016</u>
SPNRD Checking/Repurchase	\$746,266.78	\$729,400.80
SPNRD Building/Property	\$ 23,489.77	\$ 23,491.71
SPNRD Vehicle/Equipment	\$ 29,815.80	\$ 29,818.28
SPNRD ORRA Infrastructure	\$105,128.55	\$105,137.60
SPNRD ORRA Checking PWCB	\$ 10,199.01	\$ 10,440.01
Citizens' Monitoring PWCB	\$ 79,368.70	\$ 79,378.81
Citizens' Monitoring CD First Tier	\$ 45,679.67	\$ 45,697.67
SPRCC NPAIT Account	\$ 74,488.00	\$ 74,497.48

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 \$147,496.02. After discussion, Narjes moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and authorize payment of the accounts payable in the amount of \$147,496.02. A second was made by Johnson and with no further discussion a roll call vote was taken.

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

4. Public Questions, Comments and Concerns

5. Discussion Regarding Subsurface Drip Irrigation Systems

Kristin Dickinson introduced Kevin Hutsell, NRCS-USDA Nebraska Irrigation Engineer. He presented information and facilitated discussion on subsurface drip irrigation. Discussion followed.

6. Director and staff Reports

Sanders-read flow meters throughout the month.

Kaiser-took water levels and prepared the water level report for this meeting. He did stream monitoring and he and Wittrock repaired a SPNRD monitoring well.

Reisdorff-attended POAC and PBC meetings, worked on the Oliver Reservoir Streamflow Enhancement project and read industrial and irrigation flow meters.

Glanz-read industrial flow meters, worked on the quarterly report for the grant, Hydrogeology of Western Nebraska and some issues relating to scanning logs from the Nebraska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. He provided water usage information to ARI (Adaptive Resources Inc.), worked through some GIS Workshop usage report issues, worked on some ownership changes and assisted Dinklage with some certified irrigated acre issues. Glanz reported that Sanders has been a tremendous help reading flow meters all throughout Deuel, Kimball and north and south Cheyenne counties.

Davis-passed around a thank you from Paul and Colleen Hutchison, the Conservation Farm Award winners. He attended the I&E meeting in Wahoo and worked on marketing and promotional items. He, Suhr and Keller moved back into the remodeled office work area. The Pipeline Newsletter is in the process of completion. He reported that one school, Kimball 6th grade, participated in the NACD state poster contest, "We all need Trees". The District's winner will be sent to the state competition. The NARD Tree booklet revisions were completed and submitted for finalizing.

Wittrock-reported that ORRA camping season is wrapped up. Camper comments were positive for the most part, making it a great year. Fire pits, cone pedestals and toilet seats have been ordered for the new fiscal year. The District participated with the City of Sidney in the Environmentally Adaptive Tree Initiative, planting 34 trees throughout the City of Sidney. He provided the latest East Sidney Watershed Project map design. The final design should be done by next month. Bidding and construction are the next phases.

Suhr and Horn submitted written reports. Horn briefly discussed a portion of his report.

Halligan-discussed items brought forward during the Platte River Basin meeting from Jerry Kenny (PRIPP) during the NARD Annual Conference.

7. Agency Reports

A. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

1. NRCS Report

Kristin gave an oral report. CSP payments and renewals and staff training were highlighted.

B. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts

1. NARD Report

Johnson reported that the state board meeting is upcoming in Chadron. Secretary/Treasurer position is open on the NARD board.

2. NARD October 28, 2016 Meeting Reports

a. NRD/NARD Employee Benefits Committee

b. NARD IRMPA Loss Control Committee

Johnson and Horn attended the October 28 meetings in North Platte. Horn gave a brief report.

B. Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NDNR)

1. NDNR Report Natural Resources Commission Report - no report

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

Horn requested the board read the annual report that is included in the information.

9. General Reports

A. Fall 2016 SPNRD Ground Water Level Report

Kaiser summarized the results of the District's Fall 2016 Ground Water Level Measurement Program. This report is for informational purposes only. All water management decisions are based from the spring ground water level report. Also included in the report are data correlating precipitation changes from normal amounts compared to the average decline in ground water levels. A map is included with locations of the District's existing monitoring well network. Nine livestock wells and one new drilled monitoring well were added in 2016. Discussion followed. He requested board input for what they would like to see on the Spring 2017 report.

B. Review Grant Programs Summary for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2016

Suhr presented information via power point on the District's two Nebraska Environmental Trust grants, the FEMA/NEMA grant, the Water Sustainability Fund grant and the NET Grants in which the District participates through the Platte Basin Coalition (PBC).

10. Committee Reports

A. District Operations Committee

1. *Consideration to Purchase and Install New Digital Desk Telephone System

Narjes discussed that the committee reviewed the proposal for an AVAYA digital telephone system. Tim Miller, Miller Office Products, attended the committee meeting. The District's current analog telephone system is outdated with rising replacement costs. Motion by Narjes on behalf of the committee to waive the District's Operating Policy #26 (bidding process) and authorize staff to work with Miller Office Products to purchase and install the AVAYA system including 12 new telephones, not to exceed \$6,750. A second was made by Johnson. After discussion, a roll call vote was taken.

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

Nay:

Absent: Rexroth

Motion carried.

B. Natural Resources/Projects and Programs Committee

1. Discussion Regarding Nebraska Board of Education Lands and Funds (BELF) Transfer of Certified Irrigated Acres

Maas discussed that Joe Martin, Board of Education Lands and Funds, came to the committee meeting requesting a transfer of the certified irrigated acres for a tract near the west side of Sidney. Glanz discussed reasons that a variance would be necessary; especially the two-mile rule, not having 50% of allocation used and that it would cross subarea boundaries. The tract hasn't been irrigated for more than 10 years. Discussion followed. The board was in agreement that a transfer would not be an option. Glanz will work with Martin on other options.

2. *Discussion and Action as Desired Concerning Matt Varra's Violations of the Amended and Restated Districtwide Ground Water Management Area Rules and Regulations/Compliance Plan. Such Violations occurred on Certified Irrigated Acres owned by VS Hay Company, LLC with Tract Identification Number described as Tract #15N54W070001, all located in Kimball County, Nebraska

Glanz led the discussion that Varra sold 621,080 gallons of water while bypassing the flow meter. Varra called Glanz and told him what he did. After speaking with Glanz, Varra applied for a SPNRD Transfer Permit and provided a compliance plan. The violation occurred from the NE¼ of Section 7, Township 15 North, Range 54 West, Kimball County, Nebraska. An industrial flow meter will be necessary for sale of water. The committee was in agreement to recommend approval of Varra's corrective action plan including 1) Varra will no longer sell water from irrigation well G-067208, 2) reduction of 22.82 acre-inches from the tract, 3) penalty of 22.82 acre-inches, 4) application for a Transfer Permit and pay the \$200 fee, and with the proposed amendment that the Transfer Permit must be completed by June 1, 2017. The transfer permit will be brought before the board for approval. Maas moved on behalf of the committee to approve Matt Varra's corrective action plan as amended: 1) Varra will no longer sell water from irrigation well G-067208; 2) Varra will have a reduction of 22.82 acre-inches from the tract; 3) Varra will have a penalty of 22.82 acre-inches; 4) Varra will apply for a SPNRD Transfer Permit and he will pay the \$200 fee; and 5) the Transfer Permit must be completed by June 1, 2017; otherwise, the permit will be denied. Second by Rutt. With no further discussion, a roll call vote was taken.

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

Nay:

Absent: Rexroth

Motion carried.

3. Update on the Oliver Reservoir Streamflow Enhancement Project and Amended Scope of Work

Reisdorff, working with Olsson Associates and public input, discussed two options or a combination of the following: a dam or dike/berm on the north east shallow area of the reservoir to narrow the water pool (a 404 permit may be required); and drilling a high-capacity well on the south side of the reservoir to maintain levels. Phase II and III of the contract with Olsson Associates would be affected by the amended scope of work. A test well will be drilled to evaluate whether that is a viable option. Discussion followed.

11. Correspondence

Horn urged the board to read the correspondence provided.

12. Upcoming Dates

November 11, 2016, SPNRD Offices Closed, Veterans Day
November 24 and 25, 2016, SPNRD Offices Closed, Thanksgiving Holiday
December 9, 2016, Annual NRD/NRCS Christmas Luncheon
December 13, 2016 SPNRD Board Meeting
December 26, 2016, SPNRD Offices Closed, Christmas Observance
January 2, 2017, SPNRD Offices Closed, New Year's Day Observance
January 4, 2017, Beginning of 90-Day Nebraska Legislative Session
January 24-25, 2017, NARD Legislative Conference, Lincoln
March 18-23, 2017, NARD Washington DC Conference

13. Adjourn

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Linda L. Suhr

Linda L. Suhr, Recording Secretary

* Denotes Action Item