

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
May 16, 2002

The Twin Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors meeting was held at the United Nebraska Bank Center Meeting Room, Second Floor, West Wing, 111 South Dewey Street, North Platte, Nebraska on May 16, 2002. Mr. Rubenthaler called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. CDT (6:45 p.m. MDT). A legal notice of the meeting was published in the NORTH PLATTE TELEGRAPH. A news release containing the agenda for the meeting and including the time and place was sent to the news media in the District.

BOARD MEMBERS

PRESENT

Jeff Baldridge
Eric Hansen
James Meismer
Robert Petersen
Jim Rubenthaler
Dennis Schilz
Joe Wahlgren
Jerry Weaver

BOARD MEMBERS

ABSENT

Todd Kramer
Douglas Stack
Robert Wiseman

NRCS PERS PRESENT

Jeff Nichols, Range M Spec

OTHERS PRESENT

STAFF PRESENT

Bill Carhart, Range P Coor
Ardis Lehmkuhler, Adm Asst
Kent O Miller, Gen Mgr
Dave Slattery, Cons P Coor

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Report of Directors Excused - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that Mr. Stack and Mr. Wiseman were excused.

DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Directors Notebooks Containing Information Items Available for Handout - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that each Director has a notebook containing information items that are available for handouts for others attending the meeting.

Other Items - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that notebooks containing the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Conservation Plans signed by the General Manager as the Twin Platte Natural Resources District representative were available for information and that the notebooks would be passed around the Board table for review by each member of the Board of Directors present.

PUBLIC FORUM

The Public Forum of the meeting was opened. There were no comments, and the Public Forum was closed.

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AGENDA MODIFICATION

None presented.

GENERAL INFORMATION

No report presented.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Minutes for April 11, 2002 Meeting - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the Minutes for the April 11, 2002 Board of Directors meeting were in the Directors' packet and he asked if there were corrections or additions to the Minutes.

Mr. Weaver moved that the Minutes of the April 11, 2002 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #1)

AYE: Baldridge, Hansen, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Schilz, Wahlgren,
Weaver

NAY: None

ABSENT: Kramer, Stack, Wiseman

COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORTS

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service – Mr. Nichols reported that the written report prepared by Mary Reece, District Conservationist, was in the Directors' packet for information and he reviewed the report.

Other Agencies - No report presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT

Land Resources Subcommittee

Mr. Baldridge, Land Resources Subcommittee Chairperson, presented the report.

Range Program – No report presented.

Awards Program - Tree Award – Mr. Baldridge reported that the Land Resources Subcommittee agreed to select R.T. (Skip) Marlin to receive the 2002 Tree Planting Award for Lincoln/McPherson Counties.

Awards Program – Conservation Award - Mr. Baldridge reported that the Land Resources Subcommittee agreed to select Grapes Farms (Ron Grapes and Todd Grapes) to receive the 2002 Conservation Award for Keith/Arthur Counties Award.

Cost-Share Programs - No report presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Water Resources Subcommittee

Mr. Meismer, Water Resources Subcommittee Chairperson, presented the report.

Cost-Share Programs - Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program - No report presented.

Cost-Share Programs - District Program - Mr. Meismer reported that the District's Cost-Share Program for the 2002 Fiscal Year provided cost-share for sealing abandoned wells and that the 2002 Fiscal Year Budget provided for \$3,000.00. Mr. Meismer reported that the Cost-Share Program for Sealing Abandoned Wells was initiated during the 1994 Fiscal Year and \$3,000.00 has been provided each Fiscal Year. Mr. Meismer reported that until the 2002 Fiscal Year the funds were not fully utilized during any of the Fiscal Years. Mr. Meismer reported that during the April 11, 2002 Board of Directors meeting, that \$183.28 remained and the Board of Directors provided an additional \$1,000.00. Mr. Meismer reported that currently, there is \$0.00 available for funding. Mr. Meismer reported that the Subcommittee is recommending that additional funds be made available for the 2003 Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2002.

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee recommendation to the Board of Directors that the District provide \$5,000.00 of cost-share funds for the sealing of abandoned wells within the District for the 2003 Fiscal Year using the current District guidelines. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #2)

AYE: Baldrige, Hansen, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Schilz, Wahlgren,
 Weaver

NAY: None

ABSENT: Kramer, Stack, Wiseman

Ground Water Programs - Monitoring – Mr. Meismer reported that the Subcommittee reviewed charts and aerial photos of monitoring wells located in Arthur County. Mr. Meismer reported that the Subcommittee members agreed that shallow monitoring wells should not be included in the District's compilation of data for the Ground Water Management Plan and that the collection of data from shallow monitoring wells should continue and the data collected should be reported to the Subcommittee during future meetings of the Subcommittee.

Ground Water Programs - Target Areas - No report presented.

Ground Water Programs - Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality Study – Mr. Meismer reported that the Subcommittee discussed requesting that the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality conduct a Study of Nonpoint Source Ground Water Contamination in the South Platte River Valley, the North Platte River Valley and the Platte River Valley within the Twin Platte Natural Resources District. Mr. Meismer

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reported that in the Directors notebook for information were copies of Nonpoint Source Ground Water Contamination studies completed for the Middle Republican Natural Resources District and the South Platte Natural Resources District.

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee recommendation to the Board of Directors that the District request that the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality conduct “A Study of Nonpoint Source Ground Water Contamination in the South Platte River Valley and the North Platte River Valley and the land area between the South Platte River Valley and the North Platte River Valley and in the Platte River Valley within the Twin Platte Natural Resources District” and that the District request that the area within Keith County be addressed first and the area within Lincoln County be addressed second. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #3)

AYE: Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Wahlgren, Weaver

NAY: Baldrige, Hansen, Schilz

ABSENT: Kramer, Stack, Wiseman

Canal Screen Cleaning Demonstration Project - No report presented.

Platte River Cooperative Agreement - Nebraska Economic Study – Mr. Meismer reported that approximately two years ago, interested parties within the Platte River Basins in Nebraska and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources concluded that an economic analysis would be helpful for Nebraskans before decisions on a Proposed Platte River Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Species is made. Mr. Meismer reported that the analysis would compare the economic impacts of entering into the Program with those of not entering into the Program. Mr. Meismer reported that the Legislature in 2001 approved a request from the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources to fund \$150,000.00 for an economic impact study, but with the current state budget problems that have forced reductions in the budgets of state agencies, the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources was not able to maintain the funds for the study. Mr. Meismer reported that there are discussions occurring to determine if an interlocal cooperative agreement should be established for an economic impact study. Mr. Meismer reported that the Water Resources Subcommittee members agreed that an economic analysis would be helpful before decisions on a Proposed Platte River Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Species is made and that the District may wish to be a participant if an interlocal cooperative agreement is established for an economic impact study. Mr. Meismer reported that the Subcommittee would consider any proposals during future meetings of the Subcommittee.

Platte River Cooperative Agreement - Natural Resources Districts Basin Meeting, June 7, 2002 - Mr. Meismer reported that a Natural Resources Districts Platte River Basin Meeting has been scheduled for June 7, 2002 in North Platte. Mr. Meismer reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District representatives selected to participate in these Basin Meetings for discussions of the Cooperative Agreement are Mr. Rubenthaler, Mr. Wahlgren, Mr. Miller and himself.

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SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee

Mr. Weaver, Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee Chairperson, presented the report.

Mr. Weaver reported that a total of \$29,333.00 was available for WILD Nebraska on July 1, 2001. Mr. Weaver reported that 75% or \$22,000.00 was funds from the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission and the remaining \$7,333.00 was the District's 25% contribution. Mr. Weaver reported that of those funds, \$16,614.00 was committed to annual payments for existing contracts and \$1,236.00 was utilized for replanting on existing sites. Mr. Weaver reported that \$11,483.00 was available for new contracts this fiscal year and the proposals brought to the Subcommittee in February totaled \$4,645.00. Mr. Weaver reported that \$6,838.00 of combined WILD funds was available for new projects. Mr. Weaver reported that since February, attempts have been made to utilize more of the FY 2002 WILD funds, but that dry conditions this spring kept all but one additional cooperator with a small project from participating.

Mr. Weaver moved to approve the Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve the following new 10-year agreements:

<u>Contract #</u>	<u>Cooperator</u>	<u>Co.</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Payments (Materials)</u>
TP0209	Roric Paulman	LN	6	\$0 (\$ 102.85)

Mr. Meisner seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #4)

AYE: Baldridge, Hansen, Meisner, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Schilz, Wahlgren,
Weaver

NAY: None

ABSENT: Kramer, Stack, Wiseman

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Executive Subcommittee

No report presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Statement - Mr. Meisner reported that the Financial Statement for April 2002 was in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information.

Accounts Payable - Mr. Meisner reported that the Accounts Payable report was in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout and that he had reviewed the Accounts Payable and found the report to be in order.

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Mr. Meismer moved that the Financial Statement for April 2002 be received and placed on file for audit and to approve payment of the invoices listed on the Accounts Payable report for May 2002 in the amount of \$33,643.22. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #5)

AYE: Baldridge, Hansen, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Schilz, Wahlgren,
Weaver

NAY: None

ABSENT: Kramer, Stack, Wiseman

Budget Status - Mr. Meismer reported that the Budget Status report was in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout.

Bids/Proposals – None were presented.

Bids/Proposals Scheduled To Be Presented for Consideration During the June 13, 2002 Board of Directors Meeting - Mr. Miller reported that no bids/proposals were scheduled to be presented for consideration during the June 13, 2002 Board of Directors meeting.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts – No report presented.

Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District Water Conservation Task Force - No report presented.

Platte River Citizens Advisory Council – No report presented.

Sandhills Resources, Conservation & Development Council - No report presented.

Requests for Authorization to Travel - No requests were presented.

DISTRICT REPORT

Requests for Assistance – No requests for assistance were presented.

Cost-Share Programs - Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program - Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout was the monthly report. Mr. Miller reported that \$12,896.09 was available for funding amendments to approved contracts and/or new contracts.

Mr. Petersen moved to approve the following amendments and new contracts:

<u>Cont#</u>	<u>Practice</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>App Amt</u>	<u>Prop Amt To</u>
				<u>Fund</u>
		FUNDS AVAILABLE		\$ 12,896.09

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FUNDING AMENDMENTS:

None		\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
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PROPOSED NEW CONTRACTS:

02.074 NC-14	Planned Grazing System	\$ 1,723.68	\$ 1,723.68
02.075 NC-14	Planned Grazing System	\$ 3,817.00	\$ 3,817.00
02.076 NC-14	Planned Grazing System	\$ 1,257.08	\$ 1,257.08
02.077 NC-1	Terrace System	\$ 820.00	\$ 820.00
02.078 NC-10	Pasture Planting	\$ 998.32	\$ 998.32
02.079 NC-14	Planned Grazing System	\$ 1,088.00	\$ 1,088.00
02.080 NC-14	Planned Grazing System	\$ 1,929.00	\$ 1,929.00
02.081 NC-14	Planned Grazing System	\$ 590.00	\$ 590.00
Total Amount Of New Contracts			\$ 12,223.08

FUNDS AVAILABLE:			\$ 673.01
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Mr. Meismer seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #6)

AYE: Baldridge, Hansen, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Schilz, Wahlgren,
 Weaver

NAY: None

ABSENT: Kramer, Stack, Wiseman

Cost-Share Programs - District Conservation Program – Contracts for Approved Programs for Fiscal Year 2002 – Sealing Abandoned Wells – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information was a report. Mr. Miller reported that 23 contracts have been approved during the 2002 Fiscal Year for a total cost-share allocation of \$4,000.00 and that \$0.00 was available for additional contracts.

Cost-Share Programs – NE Buffer Strip Program - No report presented.

Tree Program – No report presented.

Range Programs – No report presented.

Soil Conservation Programs – No report presented.

Wildlife Habitat Programs - No report presented.

Water Programs – Ground Water Program – No report presented.

Water Programs –Watershed Program – No report presented.

Water Programs – Platte River Activities - Cooperative Agreement Relating to Endangered Species – Mr. Miller reported on the status of the Cooperative Agreement. Mr. Miller reported that he attends meetings of the Governance Committee and the Water Management Committee as his schedule allows with a priority for attending meetings of the Water Management Committee, which he is a member. Mr. Miller reported that he is

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participating in meetings in Nebraska about the issues within Nebraska.

Water Programs – Platte River Activities - Cooperative Hydrology Study – Mr. Miller reported on the status of the Cooperative Hydrology Study. Mr. Miller reported that he participates in the meetings of the sponsors as the representative for the District. Mr. Miller distributed a brochure in regard to the Cooperative Hydrology Study, which was recently completed.

Water Programs – Platte River Activities – Nebraska Habitat Conservation Coalition – Mr. Miller reported on the status of the Nebraska Habitat Conservation Coalition that was established in regard to the Draft Piping Plover Critical Habitat Designation. Mr. Miller reported that he participates as the District representative on the Board of Directors.

Regulatory Programs – No report presented.

Information & Education Programs – Nebraska State Envirothon – Mr. Miller reported that a team from Ogallala High School placed third in the 2002 Nebraska State Envirothon. Mr. Miller reported that the Ogallala High School Team was the only team from within the Twin Platte Natural Resources District to qualify to participate in the 2002 Nebraska State Envirothon which was held May 4th at the State 4H Camp at Halsey, NE. Mr. Miller reported that the Board authorized the Twin Platte Natural Resources District to contribute the registration fee of \$100.00 for the Ogallala team and that the Nebraska State Envirothon is coordinated and sponsored by the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts. Mr. Miller passed around the Board table a thank you received from the Ogallala High School team.

Information & Education Programs – Scholarships – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors Packet was information for the Nebraska Range Youth Camp, the Nebraska Sandhills Academy for Youth, the Nebraska Family Range Camp and the Nebraska Range Short Course. Mr. Miller reported that the District's policy provides for seven scholarships annually for the Nebraska Range Youth Camp and three scholarships annually for the Nebraska Sandhills Academy for Youth. Mr. Miller reported that the District's previous procedure has been that if applications for scholarships for the Nebraska Family Range Camp were received, the Board would consider the applications and if applications for scholarships for the Nebraska Range Short Course were received, the Board would consider the applications.

Information & Education Programs – NRD 30th Anniversary – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet for information were the nominations Mr. Carhart prepared for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District for the NRD 30th Anniversary Media Packet. Mr. Miller reported that the District submitted the Tree Planting Program and the Water Information and Education Program. Mr. Carhart presented a power point presentation of the photos submitted with the nominations.

Requests for Authorization to Travel – No requests were presented.

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Legislation – Mr. Miller reported that in the Director’ packet for information were copies of the letters conveying the Twin Platte Natural Resources District recommendations for the Water Policy Task Force. Mr. Miller reported that during the April 11, 2002 Board meeting, the Board took action to recommend Dennis Schilz for the one Irrigator from the South Platte River Basin, Dale Wahlgren as one of the two Irrigators from the Middle Platte River Basin, and Jim Meisner and Kent O. Miller (Alternate if Jim Meisner is not selected) as one of the five representatives suggested by the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts.

Personnel – Mr. Miller reported that Ardis Lehmkuhler, Administrative Assistant, retirement will begin at the end of June 2002. Mr. Miller reported that the new Administrative Assistant would be Amy Mapes. Mr. Miller reported that Ms. Mapes will begin employment with the District on May 20th and she will attend her first Board meeting on June 13th.

Meetings and Dates of Interest – Mr. Miller reported that various items of information were in the Directors' packet and in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout.

Miscellaneous Information – Mr. Miller reported that various items of information were in the Directors' packet and in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout.

BUDGET FOR 2003 FISCAL YEAR

Preparation Schedule - Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet was a schedule for preparing the 2003 Fiscal Year Budget for the District. Mr. Miller reported that the schedule provides for Board review of the first draft of the Budget during the June Board meeting which is the same schedule followed the last 4 years. Mr. Miller reported that the schedule provides the Board an opportunity to view the first draft of a Budget one-month earlier than the schedule that had been followed prior to 1999. Mr. Miller reported that the schedule for preparing the 2003 Fiscal Year Budget provides the Board four opportunities to review and discuss the Budget prior to final approval.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m. CDT (8:12 p.m. MDT).

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Jerry Weaver, Secretary

KOM:Minutes:Bmin0502