

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
May 12, 2005

The Twin Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors meeting was held at the TierOne Bank Center Meeting Room, Second Floor, West Wing, 111 South Dewey Street, North Platte, Nebraska on May 12, 2005. Mr. Rubenthaler called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. CDT (6:40 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 Meisner
Robert Petersen
Jim Rubenthaler
Dennis Schilz
Douglas Stack
Shane Storer
Joe Wahlgren
Jerry Weaver
Robert Wiseman

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

None

OTHERS PRESENT

Neil Betty
Marvin Knoll
Mike Wheeler, Sargent Irrigation

NRCS PERSONNEL PRESENT

Mary Reece, District Conservationist

STAFF PRESENT

Amy Mapes, Administrative Assistant
Kent O. Miller, General Manager

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Report of Directors Excused - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that all Directors were present.

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.

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Other Items - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that monthly summary reports of NRCS conservation plans were available for information and that the reports would be passed around the Board table for review by each member of the Board of Directors present.

Mr. Miller passed around the Board table for information a picture of the recent maintenance completed at the Brule Watershed.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Rubenthaler opened the Public Forum.

There were no comments.

Mr. Rubenthaler closed the Public Forum.

AGENDA MODIFICATION

None presented.

GENERAL INFORMATION

No report presented.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

Minutes for April 14, 2005 Meeting - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the Minutes for the April 14, 2005 Board of Directors meeting was in the Directors' packet and he asked if there were corrections or additions to the Minutes.

Mr. Wahlgren moved that the Minutes of the April 14, 2005 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mr. Schilz seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #1)

Aye: Baldridge, Hansen, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Schilz, Stack, Storer, Wahlgren, Weaver, Wiseman

Nay: None

Absent & Excused: None

COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORTS

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - District Conservationist Report – Mrs. Reece distributed a written report and she reviewed the report.

Other Agencies – No reports presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT

Land Resources Subcommittee

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No report presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Water Resources Subcommittee

Mr. Meismer, Water Resources Subcommittee Chairperson, reported that the Water Resources Subcommittee met prior to the Board meeting and he presented a report.

Integrated Management of Ground Water & Surface Water - Fully Appropriated Area – Mr. Meismer reported that on May 11, 2005, Mr. Rubenthaler, Mr. Miller and he met with the Twin Platte Natural Resources District legal counsel, Harriett Hageman, to discuss and seek a legal opinion in regard to the Director of the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources opinion that any new depletions from ground water wells developed after September 30, 2004, outside of the area within the Twin Platte Natural Resources District and the Central Platte Natural Resources District within which there is a stay on drilling new wells and on any increase of the number of acres historically irrigated, will have to be offset.

Mr. Meismer reported that the Water Resources Subcommittee agreed to recommend to the Board of Directors that a special Board meeting be held on July 7, 2005 for the Board of Directors to hear a report in closed session from the Twin Platte Natural Resources District legal counsel, Harriett Hageman, in regard to legal issues and that the special Board meeting would be advertised that no discussions or actions would take place when the Board returned to open session prior to adjournment. Mr. Meismer reported that any discussions and actions that may be needed could occur during the regular Board meeting on July 14, 2005. The Board of Directors agreed with the recommendation. Mr. Rubenthaler directed that a special Board meeting be held at the TierOne Bank Center Meeting Room, Second Floor, West Wing, 111 South Dewey Street, North Platte, Nebraska on July 7, 2005 at 7:30 pm CDT (6:30 pm MDT)

Mr. Meismer reported on the negotiated rulemaking process from which he anticipated that Roger Patterson, Director, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, will designate that the hydrologically connected area for Fully Appropriated would be based on 10%/50 Years. Mr. Meismer reported that when the Director makes his initial determination, that he will be required to hold public hearings prior to finalizing the rules. Mr. Meismer reported that the Subcommittee agreed that Mr. Miller should testify in opposition to any proposed rules that would exceed using 28%/40 Years for designating hydrologically connected areas for Fully Appropriated.

Integrated Management of Ground Water & Surface Water - Integrated Management Plans (IMP) – Mr. Meismer reported on the stakeholders meeting held on April 19, 2005 and that the next meeting of the stakeholders was scheduled for May 23, 2005. Mr. Meismer reported that in the Directors' Board meeting packet for information was a schedule for Twin Platte Natural Resources District stakeholders meetings.

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Mr. Meisner reported that Brad Maul, Executive Director, Development Corporation of North Platte, who the Board of Directors selected to be a member of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District stakeholders representing Economic Development has since accepted another job in Tennessee. Mr. Meisner reported that the Development Corporation of North Platte recently announced that Lisa Dominisse has been named the new Executive Director for the Development Corporation of North Platte. Mr. Meisner reported that in the Directors' Board meeting packet for information was a news article and a letter to Lisa Dominisse. Mr. Meisner reported that Mr. Miller sent the letter to Ms. Dominisse to allow her to tentatively place on her calendar the next two scheduled meetings of the stakeholders.

Mr. Meisner moved the Water Resources Subcommittee recommendation to the Board of Directors to invite Lisa Dominisse, Executive Director for the Development Corporation of North Platte, to be a member of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District stakeholders representing Economic Development. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #2)

Aye: Baldridge, Hansen, Meisner, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Schilz, Stack, Storer, Wahlgren, Weaver, Wiseman
Nay: None
Absent & Excused: None

Mr. Meisner reported that the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources staff, on April 19, 2005, met with the General Managers for the North Platte, South Platte, Twin Platte, Central Platte, and Tri-Basin Natural Resources Districts. Mr. Meisner reported that during the meeting, those present developed a joint plan for appointment of a stakeholders group for the consultation and collaboration process for the Over Appropriated Platte River Basin. Mr. Meisner reported that in the Directors' Board meeting packet for information was the draft (4.21.05) joint plan for appointment of a stakeholders group for the consultation and collaboration process for the Over Appropriated Platte River Basin and a listing of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District stakeholders group. Mr. Meisner reported that the first meeting of the basin stakeholders group will be in North Platte on August 1, 2005, 1:00 to 5:00 pm CDT, at the Holiday Inn Express.

Mr. Meisner moved the Water Resources Subcommittee recommendation to the Board of Directors to support the 4.21.05 draft joint plan for appointment of a stakeholders group for the consultation and collaboration process for the Over Appropriated Platte River Basin, that the four Twin Platte Natural Resources District representatives from the Twin Platte Natural Resources District stakeholders group be:

- Municipalities – Jim Hawks, City Administrator, City of North Platte
- Ground Water Users – Roric Paulman, Producer and President of the West Central Nebraska Water Users Coalition
- Surface Water Users – Phil Armstrong, Board Member Western Irrigation District

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• Other –Doug Teaford, Keith County Commissioner
and that the two Twin Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors
representatives be:

- Jim Meismer – Chair, Water Resources Subcommittee
- Joe Wahlgren – Member, Water Resources Subcommittee

Mr. Stack seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #3)

Aye: Baldridge, Hansen, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Schilz, Stack,
Storer, Wahlgren, Weaver, Wiseman

Nay: None

Absent & Excused: None

Integrated Management of Ground Water & Surface Water - Well Drilling Suspension
and Stays on Irrigated Acres – No report presented.

Ground Water Management – Ground Water Management Plan – Mr. Meismer reported
that the District was still waiting for approval from the Nebraska Department of Natural
Resources.

Ground Water Management – Well Census Program – Mr. Meismer reported that the
Well Census Program currently uses equipment funded through an Environmental Trust
grant. Mr. Meismer reported that the grant funded equipment for the North Platte, South
Platte, Twin Platte, Central Platte, and Tri-Basin Natural Resources Districts which
included binoculars attached to a laptop computer. Mr. Meismer reported that the five
Natural Resources Districts would now like to jointly cooperate to fund a computer
programmer to convert the current software used in a laptop computer for use in a hand
held PDA. Mr. Meismer reported that it is estimated that the cost would be a maximum
of \$1,500.00 per Natural Resources District. Mr. Meismer reported that each of the
Natural Resources Districts currently own a handheld PDA that was also purchased by
the Environmental Trust grant. Mr. Meismer reported that the cost will be reimbursed by
the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources for implementation of the Interlocal
Cooperation Agreement to develop and carry out programs for administration within the
Twin Platte Natural Resources District for a Platte River Cooperative Agreement New
Depletions Plan, and for an Integrated Management Plan approved during the June 10,
2004 Board of Directors.

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee recommendation to the Board
of Directors to approve participating in the funding for converting the current software
used in a laptop computer for use in a hand held PDA for the Well Census Program with
the funding from the Twin Platte Natural Resources District not to exceed \$1,500. Mr.
Wahlgren seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #4)

Aye: Baldridge, Hansen, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Schilz, Stack,
Storer, Wahlgren, Weaver

Nay: Wiseman

Absent & Excused: None

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Ground Water Management – Replacement / Abandoned Wells - Mr. Meismer reported that in the Directors' Board meeting packet for information was correspondence from the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee

No report presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Executive Subcommittee

No report presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Statement - Mr. Meismer reported that the Financial Statement for April 2005 was in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information.

Accounts Payable - Mr. Meismer 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.

Mr. Meismer moved that the Financial Statement for April 2005 be received and placed on file for audit and to approve payment of the invoices presented on the Accounts Payable report on May 12, 2005 in the amount of \$20,003.91. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #5)

Aye: Baldridge, Hansen, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Schilz, Stack,
Storer, Wahlgren, Weaver, Wiseman
Nay: None
Absent & Excused: None

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 9, 2005 Board of Directors Meeting – Mr. Miller reported that no bids/proposals were scheduled to be presented for consideration during the June 9, 2005 Board of Directors meeting.

DIRECTORS REPORTS

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts – Board of Directors Meeting – No report

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presented.

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts – Blue River Basin Tour – June 20-21, 2005
– Mr. Meismer reported that the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts annual basin tour for 2005 will be held in the Blue River Basin June 20-21, 2005. Mr. Meismer reported that in the Directors Board meeting packet was an information letter, the Itinerary, and the registration form.

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts – Water Policy Task Force – No report presented.

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts – Information – Mr. Meismer reported that in the Directors Board meeting notebook for information was the May 6, 2005 Update.

Platte River Citizens Advisory Council – No report presented.

Sandhills Resources, Conservation & Development Council – Mr. Hansen reported on recent activities of the Sandhills Resources, Conservation & Development Council.

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' Board meeting notebook was the monthly report. Mr. Miller reported that \$4,467.28 was available. Mr. Miller reported that there were no new contracts to present.

Cost-Share Programs - District Conservation Program – Sealing Abandoned Wells – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' Board meeting notebook was a report for information. Mr. Miller reported that \$3,025.99 was available for new contracts.

Tree Program – No report presented.

Range Programs – No report presented.

Soil Conservation Programs – No report presented.

Wildlife Habitat Programs – WILD Nebraska Program – No report presented.

Wildlife Habitat Programs – Corners for Wildlife Program – No report presented.

Water Programs – Ground Water Management – Monitoring Programs – No report

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presented.

Water Programs – Ground Water Management – Ground Water Management Plan – No report presented.

Water Programs – Integrated Management of Ground Water & Surface Water – Temporary Well Drilling Suspension – No report presented.

Water Programs – Integrated Management of Ground Water & Surface Water – Integrated Management Plan – No report presented.

Water Programs – Integrated Management of Ground Water & Surface Water – Certifying Irrigated Acres – No report presented.

Water Programs – Integrated Management of Ground Water & Surface Water – Platte River Cooperative Agreement – No report presented.

Water Programs – Watershed Program - Brule – No report presented.

Water Programs – Watershed Program – Western Irrigation Watershed – No report presented.

Water Programs – Interlocal Cooperation Agreements - Cooperative Hydrology Study – No report presented.

Water Programs – Interlocal Cooperation Agreements – Ground Water Management Coalition – No report presented.

Water Programs – Interlocal Cooperation Agreements – South Platte Coalition – No report presented.

Water Programs – Interlocal Cooperation Agreements – Nebraska Habitat Conservation Coalition – No report presented.

Regulatory Programs - Chemigation – No report presented.

Regulatory Programs – Erosion and Sediment Control - No report presented.

Regulatory Programs – Ground Water Runoff - No report presented.

Trails – Lake Maloney – No report presented.

Information & Education Programs – No report presented.

Legislation – No report presented.

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Requests for Authorization to Travel – No requests were presented.

Meetings and Dates of Interest – Mr. Miller reported that various items of information were in the Directors' Board meeting packet.

Miscellaneous Information – Mr. Miller reported that various items of information were in the Directors' Board meeting packet and in the Directors' Board meeting notebook.

BUDGET FOR 2006 FISCAL YEAR

Preparation Schedule - Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' Board meeting packet was a schedule for preparing the 2006 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 seven 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 2006 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 8:41 p.m. CDT (7:41 p.m. MDT).

Jerry Weaver, Secretary

KOM:Minutes:Bmin0505