

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
July 14, 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 July 14, 2005. Mr. Rubenthaler called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m. CDT (6:36 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 Baldrige
Eric Hansen
James Meisner
Jim Rubenthaler
Dennis Schilz
Douglas Stack
Shane Storer
Jerry Weaver
Robert Wiseman

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Robert Petersen
Joe Wahlgren

OTHERS PRESENT

Stan Loeffler, Sargent Irrigation – Grant
Darin Messersmith, Sargent – Gothenburg
Peyton Dimmitt

NRCS PERSONNEL PRESENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

Sudheer Chadalavada, GIS Coordinator
Ann Dimmitt, Water Programs Regulatory Coordinator
Amy Mapes, Administrative Assistant
Kent O. Miller, General Manager

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Report of Directors Excused – Mr. Rubenthaler reported that Operating Policy Number 4: BOARD OF DIRECTORS ABSENCES, provides that a Director will be considered excused if the Director notifies the office prior to the meeting that he or she will be absent and that the minutes will reflect whether an absent Director is excused or unexcused. Mr. Rubenthaler reported that Mr. Petersen had notified the office prior to the meeting that he would be absent and that he is therefore excused. Mr. Rubenthaler reported that Mr. Wahlgren had not notified the office prior to the meeting that he would

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be absent and that he therefore is unexcused.

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.

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 table a picture of the students attending the Nebraska Range Youth Camp who had received a scholarship from the Twin Platte Natural Resources District.

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 June 9, 2005 Meeting - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the Minutes for the June 9, 2005 Board of Directors meeting was in the Directors' packet and he asked if there were corrections or additions to the Minutes.

Mr. Meismer moved that the Minutes of the June 9, 2005 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mr. Schilz seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #1)

Aye: Hansen, Meismer, Rubenthaler, Schilz, Stack, Storer, Weaver, Wiseman

Nay: None

Absent & Excused: Petersen

Absent: Baldrige, Wahlgren

COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORTS

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USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - District Conservationist Report – Mr. Miller reported that a written report was in the Directors’ notebooks for information.

Other Agencies – No reports presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Land Resources Subcommittee

Awards Program - Conservation Award for 2005 - Mr. Hansen reported that Chuck & Connie Frates and P & T Farms, Brule, NE, who had previously been selected to receive the 2005 Conservation Award for Keith /Arthur Counties, had notified the office that they did wish to receive the award. Mr. Hansen reported that Most Farms Inc (Don, Sam and Dwain), Brule, NE have been selected to receive the 2005 Conservation Award for Keith /Arthur Counties.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Water Resources Subcommittee

No report presented.

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 June 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.

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Mr. Meismer moved that the Financial Statement for June 2005 be received and placed on file for audit and to approve payment of the invoices presented on the Accounts Payable report on July 11, 2005 in the amount of \$15,572.36. Mr. Stack seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #2)

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

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 August 11, 2005 Board of Directors Meeting – Mr. Miller reported that no bids/proposals were scheduled to be presented for consideration during the August 11, 2005 Board of Directors meeting.

DIRECTORS REPORTS

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts – Board of Directors Meeting – Mr. Meismer reported on the Board of Directors meeting held on June 20, 2005. Mr. Meismer reported that the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Board of Directors approved a resolution that the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources continue to use the recognized standard of 28% in 40 year line for designation of fully appropriated basin, sub-basin, or reach and that if the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources does not use the original standard of 28% in 40 year line for the designation of fully appropriated basin, sub-basin, or reach, the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts will consider pursuing legislative and or legal remedies.

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

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.

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Cost-Share Programs - Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program – Eligible Practices – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook for information was a listing of the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program eligible practices effective June 2005 in which was shown the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Eligible Practices for July 1, 2004 – June 30, 2005. Mr. Miller reported that the current policy of the District provides that the following practices are not available for cost-share in the District:

- Practice NC-12, Windbreaks, parts F & G
- Practice NC-14, Planned Grazing Systems, part C
- Practice NC-16, Windbreak Renovation
- Practice NC-17, Irrigation Water Management, selected components in part B
- Practice NC-19, Repair of Practices

Mr. Miller reported that Board of Directors action is not needed to continue the current policy. No action occurred and the current policy of Eligible Practices remains for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006.

Cost-Share Programs - Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program – Funding – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook for information was a reported showing the distribution of funds approved by the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission and available July 1, 2005. Mr. Miller reported that the allocation for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District available July 1, 2005 was \$77,585.98.

Mr. Miller reported that for July 1, 2004 – June 30, 2005, the Board of Directors approved the following allocation of the funds for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District:

- For Practice NC-12, Windbreaks, that 30% of available funds be reserved from July 1, 2004 to January 30, 2005
- For Practice NC-14, Planned Grazing Systems, that 30% of available funds be reserved from July 1, 2004 to January 30, 2005
- For Practice NC-17, Irrigation Water Management, that 30% of available funds be reserved from July 1, 2004 to January 30, 2005
- For the other eligible practices that 10% of available funds be reserved from July 1, 2004 to January 30, 2005
- Any funds available after January 30, 2005 may be used for any eligible practice

Mr. Schilz moved that for the Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006, the Board of Directors approve the following allocation of the funds for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District:

- For Practice NC-12, Windbreaks, that 30% of available funds be reserved from July 1, 2005 to January 30, 2006
- For Practice NC-14, Planned Grazing Systems, that 30% of available funds be reserved from July 1, 2005 to January 30, 2006

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- For Practice NC-17, Irrigation Water Management, that 30% of available funds be reserved from July 1, 2005 to January 30, 2006
- For the other eligible practices that 10% of available funds be reserved from July 1, 2005 to January 30, 2006
- Any funds available after January 30, 2006 may be used for any eligible practice

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

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

Nay: None

Absent & Excused: Petersen

Absent: Wahlgren

Cost-Share Programs - Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program – Contracts – Mr. Miller reported that no contracts have been requested.

Cost-Share Programs - District Conservation Program - Eligible Practices and Funding – Mr. Miller reported that the District's Cost-Share Program for July 1, 2004 – June 30, 2005 provided cost-share for sealing abandoned wells. Mr. Miller reported that during the July 10, 2003 Board of Directors meeting, the Board approved that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District participate in the Nebraska Water Well Decommissioning Fund, to authorize budgeting \$10,000.00 annually for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Water Well Decommissioning program and to authorize the General Manager to sign the Water Well Decommissioning Fund Agreement and Certification for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District required by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources as the Twin Platte Natural Resources District representative. Mr. Miller reported that the fund provides state tax dollars for cost-share assistance through the state's Natural Resources Districts to help encourage the proper decommissioning of water wells that are no longer needed or used. Mr. Miller reported that the Nebraska Water Well Decommissioning Fund provides reimbursement for Natural Resources District's programs of up to the amount of the local programs cost-share, and if there are not adequate funds available to fully reimburse Districts, the funds available are shared. Mr. Miller recommended that for the District's Cost-Share Program for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006, that the District continue to provide cost-share for sealing abandoned wells and that the District continue with the current policy that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District participate in the Nebraska Water Well Decommissioning Fund and authorizes budgeting \$10,000.00 annually for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Water Well Decommissioning program. Mr. Miller reported that Board of Directors action was not needed to continue the current policy. No action occurred and the current policy of providing cost-share for sealing abandoned wells remains for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006.

Cost-Share Programs - District Conservation Program - Contracts – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' Board meeting notebook was a report for information. Mr. Miller reported that \$9,400.00 was available for new contracts.

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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 presented.

Water Programs – Ground Water Management – Ground Water Management Plan – Mr. Miller reported that the staff was developing a draft of the required rules and regulations and will present a draft to the Water Resources Subcommittee to review prior to presentation to the Board of Directors. Mr. Miller reported that the rules and regulations will need to be approved by the Board of Directors for public hearing, a public hearing will need to be held and final approval of the rules and regulations by the Board of Directors will need to be approved before the Ground Water Management Area can be initiated. Mr. Miller reported that he anticipated that the following schedule could be accomplished:

August 11 or September 8	Rules and regulations approved by the Board of Directors for public hearing
September / October	Public Hearing(s)
October 13 or November 10	Final approval of the rules and regulations by the Board of Directors

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 – Mr. Miller reported on the meetings held and the schedule for future meetings of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Stakeholders.

Water Programs – Integrated Management of Ground Water & Surface Water – Certifying Irrigated Acres – Mr. Chadalavada reported on his work with the aerial photography for certifying irrigated acres.

Water Programs – Integrated Management of Ground Water & Surface Water – Platte River Cooperative Agreement – Mr. Miller reported that the Platte River Cooperative Agreement Governance Committee has agreed to complete a study to evaluate the feasibility of increasing the flood stage discharge to 3,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) in the North Platte River at North Platte, Nebraska. Mr. Miller reported that the North Platte

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River is used to transport Program water from Lake McConaughy and other future potential water supplies to meet water supply goals in the spring and summer in the Central Platte River. Mr. Miller reported that in the fall of 2002, the National Weather Service lowered the flood stage of the North Platte River just north of the City of North Platte from 6.0 feet to 5.7 feet. Mr. Miller reported that the discharge rate in the study area at the revised flood stage is approximately 1,980 cfs. Mr. Miller reported that the purpose of this channel capacity study is to identify alternatives to increase the flood stage discharge to 3,000 cfs at North Platte, Nebraska, provide cost estimates for each alternative identified, and offer recommendations relating to the most cost effective means to increase and maintain the desired flood stage discharges. Mr. Miller reported that the Cooperative Agreement established a Governance Committee that reviews, directs, and provides oversight for activities undertaken during the Cooperative Agreement. Mr. Miller reported that the Governance Committee is comprised of one representative from each of the three states, three water user representatives, two representatives from environmental groups, and two members representing federal agencies. Mr. Miller reported that the Governance Committee has established a Water Management Committee to provide technical input on issues related to the water supply goals of the Cooperative Agreement and proposed Program and an Executive Director's Office to facilitate development of the proposed Program. Mr. Miller reported that he is a member of the Water Management Committee. Mr. Miller reported that the Water Management Committee will review the technical adequacy of the study and the project will be administered by the Governance Committee's Executive Director's Office. Mr. Miller reported that he had and will continue to participate in meetings during the study.

Mr. Miller reported on the status of discussions in regard to the downstream water users' representative.

Water Programs – Watershed Program - Brule – Mr. Miller reported that we are seeing a good stand of grass from the recent seeding on the dam.

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

Water Programs – Interlocal Cooperation Agreements - Cooperative Hydrology Study – Mr. Miller reported on the status of discussions for continuing the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for the Cooperative Hydrology Study.

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

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

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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.

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' 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 and provides the Board four opportunities to review and discuss the Budget prior to final approval.

Review Draft #2 - Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout was the second draft of a budget for the 2006 fiscal year. Mr. Miller reviewed the information for the proposed budget for the 2006 fiscal year. Mr. Miller reported that during the June 9, 2005 Board meeting, that he had been requested to look at projections for needs for future fiscal years. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebooks was a report showing levy and valuations information, Alternative #1 changes for the 2006 fiscal year budget, potential additional funding needs for the 2007 fiscal year budget and the 2008 fiscal year budget, a summary of Alternative #1 for the 2006 fiscal year budget and projections for future fiscal years, a graph showing property tax funds, a graph showing valuations, a graph showing the property tax levy, and a chart showing valuations and property tax funds. Mr. Miller reported that Draft #3, which will be presented during the August 11, 2005 Board meeting will include both the base budget and alternative #1.

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OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:01 p.m. CDT (9:01 p.m. MDT).

Jerry Weaver, Secretary

KOM:Minutes:Bmin0705