

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
August 8, 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 August 8, 2002. Mr. Rubenthaler called the meeting to order at 7:39 p.m. CDT (6:39 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
Jim Rubenthaler
Dennis Schilz
Douglas Stack
Joe Wahlgren
Jerry Weaver

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Todd Kramer
Robert Petersen
Robert Wiseman

OTHERS PRESENT

Marty Link, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality

NRCS PERSONNEL PRESENT

Kristin Miller, Rangeland Management Specialist
Jeff Nichols, Rangeland Management Specialist
Marji Patz, Rangeland Management Specialist
Mary Reece, District Conservationist

STAFF PRESENT

Bill Carhart, Range Programs Coordinator
Glen Bowers, Water Programs Coordinator
Ann Fisher, Water Programs Technician
Amy Mapes, Administrative Assistant
Kent O Miller, General Manager
Dave Slattery, Conservation Programs Coordinator

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Report of Directors Excused - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that Mr. Kramer, Mr. Petersen and Mr. Wiseman were excused.

DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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.

AGENDA MODIFICATION

Mr. Miller reported that the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service has an Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program that may be able to provide cost-share assistance for the Western Irrigation District for repair of damages from the July 6, 2002 rainstorm. Mr. Miller reported that Federal programs may be able to provide cost-share assistance for the landowners in Lincoln County, Nebraska for repair of damages from the August, 2002 range fire in the canyons south of the Platte River in eastern Lincoln County.

Mr. Miller recommended that the agenda be modified to add agenda items 12. District Report, A. Request for Assistance, 1) Western Irrigation District which is an emergency due to the District not being aware that Federal funds may be available until August 8, 2002 and that the request for Federal assistance for the Western Irrigation District may need to be requested prior to the September 12, 2002 Board of Directors meeting and that the agenda be modified to add agenda items 12. District Report, A. Request for Assistance, 2) Canyon Fire which is an emergency due to the fire is currently burning and a request for Federal assistance for the landowners in Lincoln County, Nebraska may need to be requested prior to the September 12, 2002 Board of Directors meeting.

Mr. Stack moved that the agenda be modified to add agenda items 12. District Report, A. Request for Assistance, 1) Western Irrigation District which is an emergency due to the District not being aware that Federal funds may be available until August 8, 2002 and that the request for Federal assistance for the Western Irrigation District may need to be requested prior to the September 12, 2002 Board of Directors meeting and that the agenda be modified to add agenda items 12. District Report, A. Request for Assistance, 2) Canyon Fire which is an emergency due to the fire is currently burning and a request for Federal assistance for the landowners in Lincoln County, Nebraska may need to be requested prior to the September 12, 2002 Board of Directors meeting. Mr. Schilz

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seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #1)

AYE: Hansen, Meismer, Rubenthaler, Schilz, Stack, Weaver

NAY: None

ABSENT: Baldrige, Kramer, Petersen, Wahlgren, Wiseman

GENERAL INFORMATION

Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality Study – Mr. Miller reported that the Board of Directors, during the May 16, 2002 Board meeting, approved the District requesting 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 requested that the area within Keith County be addressed first and the area within Lincoln County be addressed second. Marty Link, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, reported on the status of the study.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

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

Mr. Wahlgren moved that the Minutes of the July 11, 2002 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mr. Schilz seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #2)

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Kramer, Petersen, Wiseman

COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORTS

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service – Mrs. Reece distributed and reviewed a written report.

Other Agencies - No report presented.

DISTRICT REPORT

Requests for Assistance – Western Irrigation District - Mr. Miller reported that the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service has an Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program that may be able to provide cost-share assistance for the Western Irrigation District for repair of damages from the July 6, 2002 rainstorm. Mr. Miller reported that the request for Federal assistance for the Western Irrigation District may

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need to be requested prior to the September 12, 2002 Board of Directors meeting. Mr. Miller reported that the program requires a local sponsor and the local sponsor is required to contribute a 25% local share of the project costs in cash or in-kind services provided by the sponsor or it's partners. Mr. Miller reported that the qualifying repair costs are estimated to be \$50,000.00. Mr. Miller reported that the USDA-NRCS is recommending that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District be the local sponsor. Mr. Miller reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District would need to submit a letter to the USDA-NRCS requesting the federal assistance and enter into an agreement with the USDA-NRCS.

Mr. Schilz moved that, if requested by the Western Irrigation District, the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors approves the District submitting a letter to the USDA-NRCS requesting federal assistance for repair of damages of Western Irrigation District facilities, the District entering into an agreement with the USDA-NRCS for assistance available in the Emergency Watershed Protection program, to authorize the District contributing the required 25% local share of the project costs with in-kind services provided by the District or it's partners and to authorize the General Manager to submit the letter and sign the agreement as the District representative. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #3)

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Kramer, Petersen, Wiseman

Requests for Assistance – Canyon Fire - Mr. Miller reported that Federal programs may be able to provide cost-share assistance for the landowners in Lincoln County, Nebraska for repair of damages from the August, 2002 range fire in the canyons south of the Platte River in eastern Lincoln County. Mr. Miller reported that the request for Federal assistance for the landowners in Lincoln County, Nebraska may need to be requested prior to the September 12, 2002 Board of Directors meeting. Mr. Miller reported that the Federal programs may require a local sponsor and the local sponsor may be required to contribute a 25% local share of the project costs in cash or in-kind services provided by the sponsor or it's partners. Mr. Miller reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District could be the local sponsor. Mr. Miller reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District would need to submit a letter requesting the federal assistance and enter into an agreement with the Federal agency.

Mr. Stack moved that, if assistance is desired by the landowners in the canyons south of the Platte River in eastern Lincoln County, Nebraska, the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors approves the District submitting a letter to appropriate Federal agencies requesting federal assistance for repair of damages from the August, 2002 range fire, the District entering into an agreement with the Federal agency for assistance available, to authorize the District contributing the required 25% local share of the project costs with in-kind services provided by the District or it's partners and to authorize the General Manager to submit the letter and sign the agreement as the District

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

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Kramer, Petersen, Wiseman

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT

Land Resources Subcommittee

No report presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT

Water Resources Subcommittee

No report presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT

Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee

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

WILD Nebraska Program - Wheat Stubble Management – Mr. Weaver reported on the proposed new WILD Nebraska program that would generate wildlife habitat utilizing tall wheat stubble and allow public access. Mr. Weaver reported that the Subcommittee heard a report from Mr. Carhart and T. J. Walker, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, on the program. Mr. Weaver reported that the WILD Nebraska program was originally adopted by the District with the maximum number of enhancement opportunities available for our landowners and that with the competition of other attractive habitat programs through USDA and Pheasants Forever, this new option could help utilize more WILD Nebraska program funds. Mr. Weaver reported that the Subcommittee agreed that the “Wheat Stubble Management With Public Access” program should be made available through the WILD Nebraska Program in the District. Mr. Weaver reported that no Board action was required.

Urban Forestry Program - Program Report – Mr. Weaver reported that Mr. Slattery provided printed materials and gave a review of the District’s Urban Forestry Program, including the communities participating since the program began.

Urban Forestry Program - Approved Community Programs – North Platte - Mr. Weaver reviewed the past levels of utilization for North Platte, which began in fiscal year 1995. Mr. Weaver reported that the current three-year program for North Platte began in fiscal year 2001.

Urban Forestry Program - Approved Community Programs – Ogallala - Mr. Weaver

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reviewed the past levels of utilization for Ogallala, which began in fiscal year 1995. Mr. Weaver reported that the current three-year program for Ogallala began in fiscal year 2001.

Urban Forestry Program - Applications for Community Programs – Sutherland - Mr. Weaver reviewed the past levels of utilization for Sutherland, which began in fiscal year 1997. Mr. Weaver reported that the last three-year program for Sutherland expired June 30, 2002 and that Sutherland has requested a new three-year program.

Urban Forestry Program - Applications for Community Programs – Brady - Mr. Weaver reviewed the past levels of utilization for Brady, which began in fiscal year 2000. Mr. Weaver reported that the last three-year program for Brady expired June 30, 2002 and that Brady has requested a new three-year program.

Mr. Weaver moved the Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee's recommendation to the Board of Directors to authorize \$2,000.00 for funding the North Platte Urban Forestry Program July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003, to authorize \$2,000.00 for funding the Ogallala Urban Forestry Program July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003, to approve a new Sutherland Urban Forestry Program for fiscal years 2003, 2004 and 2005 and to authorize \$2,000.00 for funding the Sutherland Urban Forestry Program July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003 and to approve a new Brady Urban Forestry Program for fiscal years 2003, 2004 and 2005 and to authorize \$452.00 for funding the Brady Urban Forestry Program July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003. Mr. Stack seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #5)

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Kramer, Petersen, Wiseman

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT

Executive Subcommittee

No report presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Statement - Mr. Meismer reported that the Financial Statement for July 2002 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 July 2002 be received and placed on file for audit and to approve payment of the invoices presented on the Accounts Payable

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report on August 8, 2002 in the amount of \$11,544.21. Mr. Schilz seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #6)

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Kramer, Petersen, Wiseman

Budget Status – No report presented.

Bids/Proposals – Tree Planter – Mr. Miller reported that to implement the second tree planting crew authorized during the July 11, 2002 Board of Directors meeting, the District needs to purchase a second tree planter.

Mr. Miller reported that the District Policy provides that the staff will notify the Board during the Board meeting immediately prior to the Board meeting at which bids will be presented for consideration, that when the consideration or price to be paid for the purchase of any service or any item of personal property is estimated to exceed the sum of \$1,000 but less than \$35,000, or when the aggregate consideration for the purchase in one transaction of two or more similar or identical items estimated to exceed the sum of \$1,000, but less than \$35,000, then the General Manager shall cause to be communicated notice of the intent to purchase to known suppliers of such service or item or in the case of two or more items to be purchased in one transaction to known suppliers the specifications for such item or items, that bids shall be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder and that the District reserves the right to reject any and all bids in whole or in part.

Mr. Miller reported that the staff has determined that the tree planter that would work the best for the conditions within the Twin Platte Natural Resources District is a “FESCO Model RM 3” which is only available for purchase from the FESCO Company, which is located in Starkville, Mississippi. Mr. Miller reported that the Central Platte Natural Resources District utilizes this tree planter. Mr. Miller reported that the staff would like to place an order for this tree planter as soon as possible so that the tree planter will be here and ready to go next spring. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors’ packet for information were the specifications and information for the “FESCO Model RM 3” tree planter. Mr. Miller reported that the estimated cost for the “FESCO Model RM 3” tree planter is \$ 7,198.00 and that shipping is estimated to be \$ 500.00 for a total estimated cost of \$ 7,698.00. Mr. Miller reported that the 2002-2003 Fiscal Year Budget provides for the purchase of a second tree planter.

Mr. Stack moved that the Board waive the policy that “The staff will notify the Board during the Board meeting immediately prior to the Board meeting at which bids will be presented for consideration” and that the Board waive the policy that “When the consideration or price to be paid for the purchase of any item of personal property is estimated to exceed the sum of \$1,000, then the General Manager shall cause to be communicated notice of the intent to purchase to known suppliers of such item the specifications for such item” and that the Board accept the proposal received from the

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FESCO Company to purchase the “FESCO Model RM 3” tree planter for an estimated total cost of \$7,698.00. Mr. Meismer seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #7)

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Kramer, Petersen, Wiseman

Bids/Proposals Scheduled To Be Presented for Consideration During the September 12, 2002 Board of Directors Meeting - Mr. Miller reported that no bids/proposals were scheduled to be presented for consideration during the September 12, 2002 Board of Directors meeting.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts – Annual Conference – Mr. Meismer reported that the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts annual conference would be held September 23-24, 2002 in Kearney, Nebraska.

Mr. Meismer reported that during the annual conference, resolutions will be considered and that if the Twin Platte Natural Resources District wishes to submit resolutions for consideration during the annual conference, the Board of Directors should take action during this Board meeting so that the resolutions may be submitted prior to the deadline. Mr. Meismer reported that resolutions submitted after the deadline requires that two thirds of the delegates vote to approve consideration of the resolution. There were no resolutions proposed.

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts – Water Policy Task Force – Mr. Meismer reported on recent activities of the Water Policy Task Force.

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts – Miscellaneous Information – Mr. Meismer reported that in the Directors’ notebook and available as a handout was the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts August 2 Update.

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 (Continued)

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Cost-Share Programs - Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program - Mr. Miller reported that during the July 11, 2002 Board meeting, the Water Resources Subcommittee and the Land Resources Subcommittee reported on their discussions in regard to the Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program and that the Board agreed, due to the uncertainty of funding for the 2003 Fiscal Year, to delay implementation of the Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program in the Twin Platte Natural Resources District until funding is known for the 2003 Fiscal Year. Mr. Miller reported that due to the Special Legislative Session currently occurring, that it still is not known the amount of funding that will be available for the 2003 Fiscal Year.

Cost-Share Programs - District Conservation Program – Sealing Abandoned Wells – No report presented.

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 – No report presented.

Regulatory Programs – No report presented.

Information & Education Programs – No report presented.

Requests for Authorization to Travel – No requests were presented.

Legislation – Mr. Miller reported on the Special Session of the Legislature, which began July 30th.

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 for information was the schedule for preparing the 2003 Fiscal Year Budget for the District. Mr. Miller reported that the schedule for preparing the 2003 Fiscal Year Budget provides the Board

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

Review Draft #3 - Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet and available as a handout was the third draft of a budget for the 2003 Fiscal Year. Mr. Miller reviewed the information for the proposed budget for the 2003 Fiscal Year.

Approval for Public Hearings and Set Public Hearing Dates, Times and Location -

Mr. Wahlgren moved to approve for Public Hearings a 2002-2003 Fiscal Year Budget for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District as proposed in Draft #3 with a property tax requirement of \$359,928.00 and a total requirement of \$948,424.81 and that the Board of Directors set the Public Hearings for the 2002-2003 Fiscal Year Budget for September 12, 2002 to be held at 7:30 p.m. CDT (6:30 p.m. MDT) in the United Nebraska Bank Center Meeting Room located at 111 South Dewey Street in North Platte, Nebraska for the Board of Directors to hear and consider public comments prior to action for approval of a 2002-2003 Fiscal Year Budget and for setting the final property tax request for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District for the 2002-2003 Fiscal Year. Mr. Stack seconded the motion and it carried. (Motion #8)

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Kramer, Petersen, Wiseman

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m. CDT (8:45 p.m. MDT).

Jerry Weaver, Secretary

KOM:Minutes:Bmin0802