

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
August 12, 2004

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 12, 2004. Mr. Stack called the meeting to order at 7:43 p.m. CDT (6:43 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

Eric Hansen
James Meisner
Robert Petersen
Douglas Stack
Joe Wahlgren
Jerry Weaver
Robert Wiseman

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Jeff Baldrige
Todd Kramer
Jim Rubenthaler
Dennis Schilz

OTHERS PRESENT

Frank Kwapnioski, NPPD
Mike Wheeler, Sargent Irrigation
Tom Kalkowski
Mike Svoboda
Guy Jones
Wayne Hansmeier
Bryan Holscher

NRCS PERSONNEL PRESENT

Jeff Nichols

STAFF PRESENT

Bill Carhart, Range Programs Coordinator
Ann Dimmitt, Water Programs Regulator Coordinator
Amy Mapes, Administrative Assistant
Kent O. Miller, General Manager
Dave Slattery, Conservation Programs Coordinator

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Report of Directors Excused - Mr. Stack reported that Mr. Baldrige, Mr. Kramer, Mr. Rubenthaler, and Mr. Schilz were excused.

DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Other Items - Mr. Stack reported that notebooks containing the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Conservation Plans 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. Mr. Stack reported that a notebook containing the Cooperative Agreements between the Nebraska Board of Educational Lands and Funds and Lessees that were signed by the General Manager as the Twin Platte Natural Resources District representative for the District to assist in the development and the application of a complete resources conservation plan was available for information, and that the notebook 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 information and a thank you from Tom Kelly, a student who received a scholarship from the District to attend the 2004 Nebraska Range Youth Camp.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Stack opened the Public Forum.

There were no comments.

Mr. Stack closed the Public Forum.

AGENDA MODIFICATION

None presented.

GENERAL INFORMATION

No report presented.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

Minutes for July 8, 2004 Meeting - Mr. Stack reported that the Minutes for the July 8, 2004 Board of Directors meeting were in the Directors' packet and he asked if there were corrections or additions to the Minutes.

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Mr. Petersen moved that the Minutes of the July 8, 2004 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mr. Meismer seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #1)

AYE: Hansen, Meismer, Petersen, Stack, Wahlgren, Weaver,
Wiseman

NAY: None

ABSENT & EXCUSED: Baldridge, Kramer, Rubenthaler, Schilz

COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORTS

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - District Conservationist Report – Mr. Nichols distributed a written report and he reviewed the report.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - Contribution Agreement (Section 714) – Mr. Miller reported that a year ago, a proposal was developed and the Board of Directors approved a Contribution Agreement (Section 714) for 2003 to allow the Twin Platte Natural Resources District to receive federal funds to provide technical service providers in the Natural Resources Conservation Service field offices. Mr. Miller reported that this allowed the Natural Resources Conservation Service personnel more time to assist with the District’s programs. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors’ packet was a proposed Contribution Agreement (Section 714) for 2004.

Mr. Petersen moved that the Board of Directors approve the “Contribution Agreement (Section 714)” by and between the Twin Platte Natural Resources District and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service for the purpose to deliver the conservation technical assistance and conservation cost-share programs of the Natural Resources Conservation Service that are of mutual interest to the Twin Platte Natural Resources District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service and authorize the General Manager to sign the agreement for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District. Mr. Meismer seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #2)

AYE: Hansen, Meismer, Petersen, Stack, Wahlgren, Weaver,
Wiseman

NAY: None

ABSENT & EXCUSED: Baldridge, Kramer, Rubenthaler, Schilz

USDA – CREP Proposal - Mr. Miller reported that he had been cooperating with Congressman Tom Osborne and other Local, State and Federal agencies to implement a Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) in the Platte River Basin and the Republican River Basin. Mr. Miller reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District contribution is an in-kind match utilizing existing activities of existing personnel.

Other Agencies - No report presented.

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SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Water Resources Subcommittee

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

Ground Water Management - Ground Water Management Plan – Mr. Meismer reported that the staff would have draft revisions for the Ground Water Management Plan for a future meeting of the Subcommittee. Mr. Meismer reported that the revisions are to allow the Board of Directors the option to implement a Ground Water Management Area for the entire District. Mr. Meismer reported that a Ground Water Management Area for the entire District would allow the Board of Directors the option to require permits for drilling new wells and would allow the Board of Directors the option to manage ground water use and to designate additional areas with a moratorium for drilling new wells if needed.

Integrated Management of Ground Water & Surface Water - Temporary Well Drilling Suspension – Exceptions and Variances - Procedures – Mr. Meismer reported that the “Rules and Regulations” for a “Temporary Suspension of Drilling New Wells” approved February 12, 2004 and were effective July 1, 2004, no longer were effective July 16, 2004 due to Legislative Bill 962 becoming effective on July 16, 2004. Mr. Meismer reported that LB962 eliminated the authority for Natural Resources District’s Temporary Suspension of Drilling New Wells. Mr. Meismer reported that the Director of Natural Resources, as provided for in LB962, designated the Twin Platte Natural Resources District’s Temporary Suspension area as Fully Appropriated and the Temporary Suspension of Drilling New Wells remained and a Stay on New Irrigated Acres took effect in the area on July 16, 2004. Mr. Meismer reported that in the Directors’ notebook were suggested revisions for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District “Rules and Regulations – Temporary Suspension – Drilling of New Wells” for use as “Operation Guidelines”. Mr. Meismer reported that discussion occurred and the Subcommittee agreed to continue discussions of guidelines at a future meeting of the Subcommittee.

Integrated Management of Ground Water & Surface Water - Temporary Well Drilling Suspension – Exceptions and Variances - Requests – Mr. Meismer reported that the District had received a Variance request for a Well from Butch Eshleman for Aqua Culture use to be located in the NESE 16-T12N-R27W. Mr. Meismer reported that in the Directors’ Board meeting notebook was information for the request. Mr. Meismer reported that the well is to maintain water levels in a 20-acre spring fed lake, during the heavy use of ground water during the irrigation season. Mr. Meismer reported that the consumptive use would be minimal.

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve the request from Butch Eshleman for a variance to drill a 6” well pumping 600 gpm for aqua culture to be located in the NESE 16-T12N-R27W with the

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requirement that the well will only be used for the purpose of aqua culture and maintaining the water levels in the adjacent 20 acre lake and that the well will not be used to supply water to any other location and for any other purposes including but not limited to irrigation. Mr. Wiseman seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #3)

AYE: Hansen, Meismer, Petersen, Stack, Wahlgren, Weaver,
Wiseman

NAY: None

ABSENT & EXCUSED: Baldridge, Kramer, Rubenthaler, Schilz

Integrated Management of Ground Water & Surface Water - Integrated Management Plan (IMP) - Mr. Meismer reported that in the Directors' notebook was a preliminary list prepared by Nebraska Department of Natural Resources personnel of stakeholder groups required to participate and others that the District may request to participate during the Integrated Management Plan development. Mr. Meismer reported that discussion occurred and the Subcommittee agreed to continue discussions of participants at a future meeting of the Subcommittee.

Integrated Management of Ground Water & Surface Water - Over Appropriated Basins & Fully Appropriated Basins – Mr. Meismer reported that in the Directors' Board meeting notebook was information for a public information meeting that will be held on August 26, 2004 and a public information meeting and a public hearing that will be held on August 31, 2004. Mr. Miller reported that the meetings and the hearing were scheduled by and will be conducted by personnel from the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources.

Certifying Irrigated Acres - Aerial Photography Contract – Mr. Meismer reported that the Board of Directors, during the June 10, 2004 Board meeting, approved the Twin Platte Natural Resources District entering into a contract for aerial photography for the SDF area along the North Platte River, South Platte River, Platte River, Birdwood Creek, and Whitetail Creek with Cornerstone Mapping – Lincoln, NE for work to be performed during the summer of 2004 for a cost not to exceed \$37,000.00 and to authorize the General Manager to execute the contract as the Twin Platte Natural Resources District representative. Mr. Meismer reported that the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources provides for \$29,000.00 of state funds for the photography. Mr. Meismer reported that the Nebraska Environmental Trust Board of Directors have approved allowing un-used funds from the Well Census Program to be used for this aerial photography during the summer of 2004 in the Platte River Basin.

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee recommendation to the Board of Directors to approved the Twin Platte Natural Resources District entering into a contract for additional aerial photography for up to the full area of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District, with Cornerstone Mapping – Lincoln, NE, for work to be performed during the summer of 2004 for a cost not to exceed Nebraska Environmental Trust funds available from the Well Census Program and to authorize the General Manager to execute the contract as the Twin Platte Natural Resources District

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

AYE: Hansen, Meisner, Petersen, Stack, Wahlgren, Weaver,
Wiseman

NAY: None

ABSENT & EXCUSED: Baldrige, Kramer, Rubenthaler, Schilz

Personnel - Mr. Meisner reported that the staff was developing a job description for the new Geographic Information Systems Coordinator position and that they hoped to begin advertising for the position in the next few weeks.

NPPD Gerald Gentleman Station Wells - NPPD Advisory Committee – Mr. Meisner reported that the NPPD Advisory Committee continues to meet at the Twin Platte Natural Resources District’s offices to facilitate communication and discuss options for mitigation for damages that the NPPD Gerald Gentleman Station Wells may cause. Mr. Meisner reported that the three NPPD representatives on the Advisory Committee were Bill Fehrman, President & CEO; Ralph Holzfafter, Member Board of Directors; and Frank Kwapnioski, Water Resources, that the three Twin Platte Natural Resources District representatives on the Advisory Committee were Mr. Wiseman, Mr. Miller, and himself, and that six producers have been participating. Mr. Meisner reported that Mr. Miller and he had participated in a briefing for Governor Johanns on August 3, 2004.

NPPD Gerald Gentleman Station Wells - Twin Platte Natural Resources District Monitoring – Mr. Meisner reported that in the Directors’ Board meeting notebook was a map showing the locations of the NPPD wells, the locations of the dedicated monitoring wells, which will have continuous recorders, and the irrigation wells around the Gerald Gentleman Station that the District staff selected for spring and fall well levels monitoring.

Mr. Meisner reported that in the Directors’ Board meeting notebook was a proposed agreement between the Twin Platte Natural Resources District and Nebraska Public Power District for the monitoring wells.

Mr. Meisner moved the Water Resources Subcommittee recommendation to the Board of Directors to approved the proposed agreement between the Twin Platte Natural Resources District and Nebraska Public Power District for the monitoring wells located around the NPPD Gerald Gentleman Station and to authorize the General Manager to sign the agreement as the Twin Platte Natural Resources District representative. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #5)

AYE: Hansen, Meisner, Petersen, Stack, Wahlgren, Weaver,
Wiseman

NAY: None

ABSENT & EXCUSED: Baldrige, Kramer, Rubenthaler, Schilz

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Land Resources Subcommittee

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Mr. Hansen, Land Resources Subcommittee member, reported that the Land Resources Subcommittee met prior to the Board meeting this evening and he presented a report.

Tree Program – 2005 Planning - Water Conservation Mulch – Mr. Hansen reported that the staff provided information about another potential contractor to provide the fabric mulch installation service. Mr. Hansen reported that to allow the second contractor the opportunity to provide the service, a bidding process would be necessary.

Mr. Hansen moved the Land Resources Subcommittee recommendation to the Board of Directors that a process be set up to allow contractors to bid to provide the mulch installation service in the District. Mr. Weaver seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #6)

AYE: Hansen, Meismer, Petersen, Stack, Wahlgren, Weaver,
Wiseman

NAY: None

ABSENT & EXCUSED: Baldrige, Kramer, Rubenthaler, Schilz

Awards Program - Tree Award for 2004 – Mr. Hansen reported that the Subcommittee agreed to select Wayne Hansmeier to receive the 2004 Tree Award for Keith/Arthur Counties.

Awards Program - Grassland Award for 2004 - Mr. Hansen reported that the Subcommittee agreed to select Clarence and Lila Arensdorf to receive the 2004 Grassland Conservation Award for Lincoln / McPherson Counties.

Range Program – Interseeding Program – Mr. Hansen reported that the Subcommittee heard from Mr. Carhart and Mr. Nichols that over 300 acres of interseeding could be requested by 2005 using the Buffalo Range Interseeder. Mr. Hansen reported that Mr. Carhart provided a sheet outlining the acres for each project and where the requests were located. Mr. Hansen reported that discussion occurred on how to supply those requests with it being noted that staff time and tractor availability would limit how much the District staff could plant. Mr. Hansen reported that Mr. Nichols reported that at least some of the locations would be planted by the cooperators and that multiple users in one area could save the District delivering it more than once. Mr. Hansen reported that Mr. Nichols noted that the interseeding machine from the Upper Loup NRD could also be used in some locations to meet the demand if requests came at the same time of year. Mr. Hansen reported that the landowners listed as needing the service have all been working with Mr. Nichols, so he and Mr. Carhart said they will coordinate the planting of the acres needing the service.

Range Program – District Range Tour – Mr. Hansen reported that Mr. Carhart reported on plans being made for a District range tour to be conducted on September 2nd in the canyons south of Maxwell. Mr. Hansen reported that the tour is to be held in conjunction with the Loess Canyon Rangeland Alliance, a producer group recently organized to

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address conservation issues in the loess hills region of the area. Mr. Hansen reported that Mr. Carhart reported that the tour will feature sites that have been prescribed burned in the Spring of 2004, as well as in previous years. Mr. Hansen reported that Wildlife habitat issues will also be addressed on the tour.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee

Mr. Weaver, Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee Chairperson, reported that the Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee met prior to the Board meeting this evening and he presented a report.

Urban Forestry Program - Approved Community Programs - Mr. Weaver reported that Mr. Slattery reviewed the past levels of utilization for Brady, which began in fiscal year 2000. Mr. Weaver reported that the current three-year program for Brady began in fiscal year 2003 and he showed the funding proposed for fiscal year 2005. Mr. Weaver reported that Mr. Slattery reviewed the past levels of utilization for Sutherland, which began in fiscal year 1997. Mr. Weaver reported that the current three-year program for Sutherland began in fiscal year 2003 and he showed the funding proposed for fiscal year 2005. Mr. Weaver reported that Mr. Slattery 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 2004 and he showed the funding proposed for fiscal year 2005. Mr. Weaver reported that Mr. Slattery 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 2004 and he showed the funding proposed for fiscal year 2005.

Mr. Weaver moved the Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee recommendation to the Board of Directors to authorize \$452.00 for funding the Brady Urban Forestry Program July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005, to authorize \$1,356.59 for funding the Sutherland Urban Forestry Program July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005, to authorize \$2,000.00 for funding the North Platte Urban Forestry Program July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005 and to authorize \$2,000.00 for funding the Ogallala Urban Forestry Program July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #7)

AYE: Hansen, Meismer, Petersen, Stack, Wahlgren, Weaver,
Wiseman

NAY: None

ABSENT & EXCUSED: Baldridge, Kramer, Rubenthaler, Schilz

Urban Forestry Program - Communities Considering Programs - Mr. Weaver reported that Mr. Slattery reported on the status of other communities within the District considering the program.

Urban Forestry Program - Program Report – Mr. Weaver reported that Mr. Slattery

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provided printed materials and gave a review of the District’s Urban Forestry Program, including the communities participating since the program began.

Mr. Weaver reported that the Urban Forestry Program Guidelines provide that “No more than two (2) trees will be rebated per property owner or tenant, per lot, per year”. Mr. Weaver reported that the staff asked the Subcommittee if the guidelines needed revisions to insure that an individual property owner may only receive a rebate of two trees per year in the event that an individual may own more than one lot.

Mr. Weaver moved the Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee recommendation to the Board of Directors to revise the Urban Forestry Program Guidelines as follows: (Additions are underscored and deletions have a strikethrough line)

No more than two (2) trees will be rebated per property owner ~~or tenant, per lot,~~ per year

Mr. Meisner seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #8)

AYE: Hansen, Meisner, Petersen, Wahlgren, Weaver, Wiseman

NAY: None

ABSENT: Stack

ABSENT & EXCUSED: Baldridge, Kramer, Rubenthaler, Schilz

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Executive Subcommittee

No report presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Statement - Mr. Meisner reported that the Financial Statement for July 2004 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.

Mr. Meisner moved that the Financial Statement for July 2004 be received and placed on file for audit and to approve payment of the invoices presented on the Accounts Payable report on August 12, 2004 in the amount of \$11,305.45. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #9)

AYE: Hansen, Meisner, Petersen, Stack, Wahlgren, Weaver, Wiseman

NAY: None

ABSENT & EXCUSED: Baldridge, Kramer, Rubenthaler, Schilz

Budget Status – Mr. Meisner reported that the Budget Status report was in the Directors'

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notebook and available as a handout.

Bids/Proposals – None were presented.

Bids/Proposals Scheduled To Be Presented for Consideration During the September 9, 2004 Board of Directors Meeting – 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”. Mr. Miller reported that the staff plans to present bids/proposals for consideration during the September 8, 2004 or October 14, 2004 Board of Directors meeting for the purchase of a vehicle, computer equipment, computer software, and a electric logging tape. Mr. Miller reported that these items were to implement the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources 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 meeting and that the Budget provides for the purchase of these items.

DIRECTORS REPORTS

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts – Annual Conference – Mr. Meismer reported that the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts annual conference will be held September 26-28, 2004 in Kearney, Nebraska and that in the Directors packet for information was the program for the conference.

Mr. Miller reported that Mr. Rubenthaler, Mr. Meismer and he are planning to attend. Mr. Miller reported that if other Directors would like to attend, to please notify the office and we will register you for the conference and make lodging reservations.

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

Platte River Citizens Advisory Council – Mr. Meismer reported on recent activities of the Platte River Citizen Advisory Council.

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

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reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout was the monthly report. Mr. Miller reported that \$77,562.08 was available.

Mr. Petersen moved to approve the August 2004 report as presented and to approve the following new contracts:

<u>Cont#</u>	<u>Practice</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>App Amt</u>	<u>Prop Amt To Fund</u>
PROPOSED NEW CONTRACTS:				
05-001	NC-14	Planned Grazing Systems	\$ 3,491.63	\$ 3,491.63
05-002	NC-14	Planned Grazing Systems	\$ 4,464.92	\$ 4,464.92
05-003	NC-1	Terraces	\$ 1,512.00	\$ 1,512.00
05-004	NC-14	Irrigation Water Management	\$ 1,925.00	\$ 1,925.00
05-005	NC-17	Irrigation Water Management	\$ 3,516.50	\$ 3,516.50
05-006	NC-17	Pasture Planting	\$ 1,252.45	\$ 1,252.45
Total Amount Of New Contracts				\$ 16,162.50
FUNDS AVAILABLE: Practice NC-12, Windbreaks				\$ 23,268.63
Practice NC-14, Planned Grazing				\$ 15,312.08
Practice NC-17, Irrigation				\$ 17,827.13
Other available practices				\$ 4,991.74

Mr. Meismer seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #10)

AYE: Hansen, Meismer, Petersen, Stack, Wahlgren, Weaver, Wiseman

NAY: None

ABSENT & EXCUSED: Baldridge, Kramer, Rubenthaler, Schilz

Cost-Share Programs - District Conservation Program – Sealing Abandoned Wells – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout was a report for information.

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 – WILD Nebraska Program – No report presented.

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

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

Water Programs – Ground Water Program – 319 Project – No report presented.

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Water Programs – Ground Water Program – Ground Water Management Coalition – Mr. Miller reported on recent activities of the Ground Water Management Coalition.

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

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

Water Programs – Watershed Program – Western Irrigation Watershed – Mr. Miller reported that during the January 8, 2004 Board meeting, that a motion was approved to authorize that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District be the lead sponsor or a joint sponsor with the South Platte Natural Resources District and the Upper Republican Natural Resources District for development, with assistance from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, of the Southwestern Keith County Watershed and to authorize the General Manager to submit a letter and the appropriate applications to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service requesting federal assistance for development of the Southwestern Keith County Watershed. Mr. Miller reported that the name of the watershed has since been changed to the Western Irrigation Watershed. Mr. Miller reported that the Board of Directors of the South Platte Natural Resources District and the Board of Directors of the Upper Republican Natural Resources District have taken action to be joint sponsors. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet for information was a letter from Steve Chick, State Conservationist – USDA NRCS reporting that the State office has requested funds for the 2005 Budget, that the staff have begun to formulate some preliminary planning, and that he expected the preliminary plan will take 19 months to develop. Mr. Miller reported that if the preliminary plan shows a favorable benefits to costs for conservation and/or structural measures, the local sponsors would then need to determine whether to proceed and what the local costs would be.

Water Programs – Platte River Activities - Cooperative Agreement – Mr. Miller reported on the status of the Cooperative Agreement.

Water Programs – Platte River Activities - Cooperative Hydrology Study – Mr. Miller reported on the status of the Cooperative Hydrology Study.

Water Programs – Platte River Activities – Nebraska Habitat Conservation Coalition – No report presented.

Water Programs – Platte River Activities – South Platte River Coalition – Mr. Miller reported on recent activities of the coalition.

Regulatory Programs - Chemigation – No report presented.

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

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Regulatory Programs – Ground Water Runoff - No report presented.

Trails – Lake Maloney – No report presented

Information & Education Programs – Scholarships – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors’ packet was a request for scholarships from Sue England and Mary Sue Cottrell, teachers in Ogallala, NE, who had recently attended the “Project Food, Land & People” educators training workshop in Sidney, NE. Mr. Miller reported that the workshop was conducted by the South Platte Natural Resources District and Chadron State College. Mr. Miller reported that the scholarship request was to cover the tuition cost of \$123.80 plus \$20.00 for meals and handouts.

Mr. Wahlgren moved to approve the request for a \$143.80 scholarship from Sue England and the request for a \$143.80 scholarship from Mary Sue Cottrell, teachers in Ogallala, NE, who had recently attended the “Project Food, Land & People” educators training workshop in Sidney, NE. Mr. Wiseman seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #11)

AYE: Hansen, Meismer, Petersen, Stack, Wahlgren, Weaver,
Wiseman

NAY: None

ABSENT & EXCUSED: Baldrige, Kramer, Rubenthaler, Schilz

Warehouse Lease - Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors’ packet were a transmittal letter and a proposed new 50-year lease for the Warehouse currently leased by the Twin Platte Natural Resources District with a monthly rental rate of \$790.00. Mr. Miller reported that the most recent 5-year lease for the warehouse expired on December 31, 2001. Mr. Miller reported that the current monthly rental rate for that lease is \$760.00. Mr. Miller reported that the District subleases half of the warehouse to Pioneer Hi-Bred for \$380.00 per month.

Mr. Petersen moved to approve the new 5-year lease commencing October 1, 2004 and authorize the General Manager to sign the lease for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District. Mr. Meismer seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #12)

AYE: Hansen, Meismer, Petersen, Stack, Wahlgren, Weaver,
Wiseman

NAY: None

ABSENT & EXCUSED: Baldrige, Kramer, Rubenthaler, Schilz

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' 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 2005 FISCAL YEAR

Preparation Schedule - 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 #3 - Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout was the third draft of a budget for the 2005 fiscal year. Mr. Miller reviewed the information for the proposed budget for the 2005 fiscal year.

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

Mr. Wiseman moved to approve for Public Hearings a 2004-2005 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 \$1,045,925.78 and to set the Public Hearings for the 2004-2005 Fiscal Year Budget for September 9, 2004 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 2004-2005 Fiscal Year Budget and for setting the final property tax request for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District for the 2004-2005 Fiscal Year. Mr. Meismer seconded the motion and it carried. (Motion #13)

AYE: Hansen, Meismer, Petersen, Stack, Wahlgren, Weaver,
Wiseman

NAY: None

ABSENT & EXCUSED: Baldridge, Kramer, Rubenthaler, Schilz

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m. CDT (8:24 p.m. MDT).

Jerry Weaver, Secretary