

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
August 11, 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 August 11, 2005. Mr. Rubenthaler called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. CDT (6:35 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 Meismer
Robert Petersen
Jim Rubenthaler
Dennis Schilz
Joe Wahlgren
Jerry Weaver
Robert Wiseman

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Douglas Stack
Shane Storer

OTHERS PRESENT

Mike Wheeler, Sargent Irrigation – Ogallala
Darin Messersmith, Sargent Irrigation – Gothenburg

NRCS PERSONNEL PRESENT

Mary Reece, District Conservationist

STAFF PRESENT

Amy Mapes, Administrative Assistant
Kent O. Miller, General Manager
Dave Slattery, Conservation Programs Coordinator

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. Stack and Mr. Storer had notified the office prior to the meeting that they would be absent and that they were therefore 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.

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. Rubenthaler 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.

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

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

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

Minutes for August 4, 2005 Meeting - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the Minutes for the

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August 4, 2005 Board of Directors meeting was in the Directors' packet and he asked if there were corrections or additions to the Minutes.

Mr. Petersen moved that the Minutes of the August 4, 2005 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mr. Schilz seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #2)

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

COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORTS

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

Other Agencies – No reports presented.

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

Urban Forestry Program – Program Report - Mr. Weaver reported that Mr. Slattery reviewed the Twin Platte Natural Resources District's Urban Forestry Program.

Urban Forestry Program - Approved Community Programs / Applications for Community Programs –

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 continues to June 30, 2006. Mr. Weaver reported that the Subcommittee was recommending that \$2,000.00 be allocated

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for fiscal year 2006.

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 continues to June 30, 2006. Mr. Weaver reported that the Subcommittee was recommending that \$2,000.00 be allocated for fiscal year 2006.

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 expired June 30, 2005. Mr. Weaver reported that Brady has not requested a new three-year program.

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 expired June 30, 2005. Mr. Weaver reported that Sutherland has submitted a written request for a new three-year program. Mr. Weaver reported that the Subcommittee was recommending a new three-year program for Sutherland and that \$2,000.00 be allocated for fiscal year 2006.

Mr. Weaver moved the Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee recommendation to the Board of Directors to authorize \$2,000.00 for funding the North Platte Urban Forestry Program July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006, to authorize \$2,000.00 for funding the Ogallala Urban Forestry Program July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006, and to approve a new Sutherland Urban Forestry Program for fiscal years 2006, 2007 and 2008 and to authorize \$2,000.00 for funding the Sutherland Urban Forestry Program July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #3)

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

Urban Forestry Program - Communities Considering Programs - Mr. Weaver reported that Mr. Slattery reported that no other communities within the District are considering a program at this time.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Executive Subcommittee

No report presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Statement - Mr. Meismer reported that the Financial Statement for July 2005

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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 2005 be received and placed on file for audit and to approve payment of the invoices presented on the Accounts Payable report on August 11, 2005 in the amount of \$14,853.66. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #4)

Aye: Baldridge, Hansen, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Schilz,
Wahlgren, Weaver, Wiseman
Nay: None
Absent & Excused: Stack, Storer
Absent: 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 September 8, 2005 Board of Directors Meeting – Mr. Miller reported that no bids/proposals were scheduled to be presented for consideration during the September 8, 2005 Board of Directors meeting.

DIRECTORS REPORTS

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

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts – Annual Conference – Mr. Meismer reported that the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts annual conference will be held September 25-27, 2005 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. Mr. Petersen indicated that he was planning to attend.

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

Platte River Citizens Advisory Council – No report presented.

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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' notebook and available as a handout was the monthly report. Mr. Miller reported that \$77,585.98 was available.

Mr. Meismer moved to approve the August 11, 2005 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</u> <u>Fund</u>
PROPOSED NEW CONTRACTS:				
06-001	NC-1	Terraces	\$ 1,892.50	\$ 1,892.50
06-002	NC-1	Terraces	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
06-003	NC-1	Terraces	\$ 1,680.00	\$ 1,680.00
06-004	NC-10	Range Seeding	\$ 320.85	\$
		5,393.35		
		Total Amount Of New Contracts		\$ 16,162.50
		FUNDS AVAILABLE: Practice NC-12, Windbreaks		\$ 23,275.80
		Practice NC-14, Planned Grazing		\$ 23,275.80
		Practice NC-17, Irrigation		\$ 23,275.80
		Other available practices		\$ 2,365.23

Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #5)

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

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 \$9,100.00 was available for new contracts.

Tree Program – No report presented.

Range Programs – No report presented.

Soil Conservation Programs – No report presented.

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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:

September 8 or October 13	Rules and regulations approved by the Board of Directors for public hearing
October / November	Public Hearing(s)
November 10 or December 13	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 – No report presented.

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

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 – No report presented.

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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.

Water Programs – South Platte Compact – Mr. Miller reported that the Western Irrigation District submitted an application to the Nebraska Environmental Trust in 2004 for a project titled “South Platte River Water Improvements” Mr. Miller reported that the application included a component to continue the research work previously funded by a Nebraska Environmental Trust Grant and begun in regard to the South Platte River Compact to look at the winter provisions of the Compact. Mr. Miller reported that during the October 14, 2004 Board of Directors meeting, the Board approved the Twin Platte Natural Resources District participating as a partner as described in the application and approved a cash contribution of \$1,500.00 per year for two years. Mr. Miller reported that the application did not receive approval for funding. Mr. Miller reported that LeRoy Sievers, Attorney for Western Irrigation District, prepared the application for the Western Irrigation District. Mr. Miller reported that Mr. Sievers is recommending that the application be submitted again by the Twin Platte Natural Resources District with the Western Irrigation District and possibly the South Platte Natural Resources District participating as a partner. Mr. Miller reported that Mr. Sievers believes that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District may have a better chance of obtaining a grant. Mr. Miller reported that Mr. Sievers is willing to prepare an application for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District at a cost for his time not to exceed \$1,000.00. Mr. Miller reported that the deadline for submitting applications is September 6, 2005.

Mr. Schilz moved to approve retaining LeRoy Sievers, at a cost not to exceed \$1,000.00, to submit on behalf of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District an application to the Nebraska Environmental Trust for a project titled “South Platte River Water Improvements” to research the South Platte River Compact to look at the winter provisions of the Compact and to obtain the necessary information that would be needed for filing an application for the water right for the winter provisions of the South Platte River Compact and to authorize the General Manager to execute and sign the application for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District. Mr. Meismer seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #6)

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

Regulatory Programs - Chemigation – No report presented.

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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 – Mr. Miller reported that Sudheer Chadalavada, GIS Coordinator, is preparing a new web site for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District that will be launched soon. The Directors agreed that pictures of the individual members of the Board of Directors could be taken and placed on the web site.

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 during the September Board meeting.

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 2006 fiscal year. Mr. Miller reviewed the information for the proposed budget for the 2006 fiscal year. Mr. Miller reported that during the July 14, 2005 Board meeting, that he had presented projections for needs for future fiscal years which were included as an Alternative #1 in the third draft of a budget.

Approval for Public Hearings / Set Public Hearing Dates, Times and Location - Mr. Baldrige moved to approve for Public Hearings a 2005-2006 Fiscal Year Budget for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District as proposed in Draft #3 with a property tax levy of \$0.013020, which is the levy set for the 2004-2005 Fiscal Year Budget, with the additional funds added to the necessary cash reserve and to set the Public Hearings for the 2005-2006 Fiscal Year Budget for September 8, 2005 to be held at 7:30 p.m. CDT (6:30 p.m. MDT) in the TierOne 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 2005-2006 Fiscal Year Budget and for

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setting the final property tax request for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District for the 2005-2006 Fiscal Year. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion. The motion failed. (Motion #7)

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

Mr. Schilz moved to approve for Public Hearings a 2005-2006 Fiscal Year Budget for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District as proposed in Draft #3 plus an additional \$10,000.00 for Account Number 43926 – Legal Counsel, plus an additional \$18,000.00 for Account Number 43930 – Computer Modeler, and plus an additional \$50,000.00 for the Necessary Cash Reserve, with a property tax requirement of \$442,608.00 and a total requirement of \$1,092,009.33 and to set the Public Hearings for the 2005-2006 Fiscal Year Budget for September 8, 2005 to be held at 7:30 p.m. CDT (6:30 p.m. MDT) in the TierOne 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 2005-2006 Fiscal Year Budget and for setting the final property tax request for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District for the 2005-2006 Fiscal Year. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #8)

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

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m. CDT (9:05 p.m. MDT).

Jerry Weaver, Secretary

KOM:Minutes:Bmin0805