

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
October 14, 2004

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 October 14, 2004. Mr. Rubenthaler called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. CDT (6:34 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

Todd Kramer
Douglas Stack

OTHERS PRESENT

Neil Betty
Rick Bode
Don Colvin
Frank Fleecs
Kirk Olson
Mike Wheeler, Sargent Irrigation

NRCS PERSONNEL PRESENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

Ann Dimmitt, Water Programs Regulator Coordinator
Amy Mapes, Administrative Assistant
Kent O. Miller, General Manager

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Report of Directors Excused - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that Mr. Kramer, and Mr. Stack 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.

Other Items - Mr. Rubenthaler 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. Miller passed around the Board table a news article and a thank you from the Gene Krab family in regard to Krab, Inc receiving the Nebraska Association of Resources District Outstanding Grassland Conservation Award for 2004 during the NARD Annual Conference on September 27, 2004. Mr. Miller reported that Krab, Inc received the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Outstanding Grassland Conservation Award in 2003 and was nominated by the District for the NARD award.

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 September 16, 2004 Meeting - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the Minutes for the September 16, 2004 Board of Directors meeting were in the Directors' packet and he asked if there were corrections or additions to the Minutes.

Mr. Meismer moved that the Minutes of the September 16, 2004 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #1)

AYE: Baldridge, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Schilz, Wahlgren,
Weaver, Wiseman
NAY: None
ABSENT & EXCUSED: Kramer, Stack
ABSENT: Hansen

COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORTS

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USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - District Conservationist Report – Mr. Miller reported that Mrs. Reece was unable to be present. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors’ packet for information was a report of Natural Resources Conservation Service activities in Nebraska during the 2004 Fiscal Year. Mr. Miller reported that the NRCS has recently obtained an All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) that will be stored in the Twin Platte Natural Resources District’s warehouse. Mr. Miller reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District personnel may use the ATV and that the District personnel have received safety training and have each been provided a helmet that they are required to wear when utilizing the ATV.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - Range Grant – Mr. Miller reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District proposal, approved by the Board of Directors during the September 16, 2004 Board meeting, for a grant from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service for up to three years to hire a full time Range Programs Technician to conduct a range inventory of the District had been approved. Mr. Miller reported that the grant would provide \$40,000.00 annually for up to three years to fully fund the salary and benefits for the position and provide overhead funds for administration of the position. Mr. Miller reported that the Board of Directors, during the September 16, 2004 Board meeting, authorize a full time Range Programs Technician position to be funded by the grant which would be eliminated when NRCS funds are no longer available to fully fund all costs for the position. Mr. Miller reported that the person would be provided office space in the Natural Resources Conservation Service office in North Platte or Ogallala and would utilize Natural Resources Conservation Service equipment and vehicles.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT

Land Resources Subcommittee

No report presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT

Water Resources Subcommittee

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

Ground Water Management - Ground Water Management Plan - Mr. Meismer reported that the staff provided maps and updated tables and appendices from the Ground Water Management Plan and a draft revisions for the Ground Water Management Plan. Mr. Meismer reported that extensive discussion occurred and the Subcommittee agreed to continue discussion of revisions at a future meeting of the Subcommittee.

Integrated Management of Ground Water & Surface Water – Fully Appropriated Area – Mr. Meismer reported that no discussion occurred.

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Integrated Management of Ground Water & Surface Water – Over Appropriated Area – Mr. Meismer reported that no discussion occurred.

Integrated Management of Ground Water & Surface Water – Temporary Well Drilling Suspension – Mr. Meismer reported that the Subcommittee reviewed the procedure to lift the moratorium for the areas outside of the Over Appropriated area. Mr. Meismer reported that LB962 provides that within ninety days after the Department of Natural Resources September 30, 2004 final determination of the fully appropriated area within the Twin Platte Natural Resources District, the District may hold one or more public hearings on the question of whether the stays on the issuance of new water well permits, on the construction of new water wells, or on increase in ground water irrigated acres should be terminated and within forty-five days after a Natural Resources District's final hearing, the Natural Resources District shall decide whether to terminate the stay on new water wells in all or part of the Natural Resources District subject to the stay and whether to terminate the stay on increases in ground water irrigated acres. Mr. Meismer reported that the Subcommittee agreed that this would be an agenda item for the next meeting of the Subcommittee and that the Subcommittee should meet prior to the November 18, 2004 Board of Directors meeting.

Mr. Meismer reported that the District had requested and received from Jim Cook, Legal Counsel, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, draft Procedures and Guidelines for the Temporary Well Drilling Suspension area. Mr. Meismer reported that there was not time for discussion and that the Subcommittee agreed that this would be an agenda item for a future meeting of the Subcommittee.

Integrated Management of Ground Water & Surface Water – Integrated Management Plan (IMP) – Mr. Meismer reported that there was not time for discussion and that the Subcommittee agreed that this would be an agenda item for a future meeting of the Subcommittee. Mr. Meismer reported that the Subcommittee only intends to prepare a recommendation for the Board of Directors in regard to advisors or stakeholders participation, Board of Directors participation, and procedures and timelines. Mr. Meismer reported that the Subcommittee has no plans for discussing anything else in regard to the IMP as the IMP must be and should be developed in open sessions with the advisors and stakeholders.

Integrated Management of Ground Water & Surface Water – Certifying Irrigated Acres – Mr. Meismer reported that Mrs. Dimmitt reported on the status of hiring the GIS Coordinator.

Western Irrigation District – Environmental Trust Grant - Mr. Meismer reported that the Western Irrigation District has submitted an application to the Nebraska Environmental Trust for a project titled “South Platte River Water Improvements” and that in the Directors’ Board meeting packet for information was the Western Irrigation District’s application. Mr. Meismer reported that the application includes a component to continue

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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. Meismer reported that the application includes a cash contribution from the Twin Platte Natural Resources District of \$1,500.00 per year for two years specifically related to the component to continue the research work in regard to the South Platte River Compact.

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve supporting the Western Irrigation District's application to the Nebraska Environmental Trust for a project titled "South Platte River Water Improvements", approve the Twin Platte Natural Resources District participating as a partner as described in the application, and approve a cash contribution of \$1,500.00 per year for two years specifically related to the component of the project to continue the research work in regard to the South Platte River Compact if the application is approved for funding. Mr. Wiseman seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #2)

AYE: Baldridge, Hansen, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Schilz,
Wahlgren, Weaver, Wiseman

NAY: None

ABSENT & EXCUSED: Kramer, Stack

NPPD Gerald Gentleman Station Wells - Mr. Meismer reported that no discussion occurred.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee

No report presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Executive Subcommittee

Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the Executive Subcommittee would meet following the Board of Directors meeting to discuss the Board of Directors vacancy that will occur in Sub-District 1 in January 2005.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Statement - Mr. Meismer reported that the Financial Statement for September 2004 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 September 2004 be received and

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placed on file for audit and to approve payment of the invoices presented on the Accounts Payable report on October 14, 2004 in the amount of \$9,370.03. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #3)

AYE: Baldridge, Hansen, Meisner, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Schilz,
Wahlgren, Weaver, Wiseman

NAY: None

ABSENT & EXCUSED: Kramer, Stack

Budget Status – Mr. Meisner 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 November 18, 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 November 18, 2004 or December 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 the computer equipment and software for the GIS Coordinator’s workstation and the electric logging tape would be paid for by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources for implementation of the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement to develop and carry out programs for administration within the Twin Platte Natural Resources District for a Platte River Cooperative Agreement New Depletions Plan and for an Integrated Management Plan approved during the June 10, 2004 Board of Directors. Mr. Miller reported that use of District vehicles may also be charged to the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources for implementation of the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement. Mr. Miller reported that the computer equipment purchase would also be for the Range Programs Coordinator and the General Manager. Mr. Miller reported that the Budget provides for the purchase of these items.

DIRECTORS REPORTS

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts – Annual Conference – Mr. Meisner and Mr. Rubenthaler reported on the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts annual conference, which they and Mr. Miller attended on September 27-28, 2004 in Kearney, Nebraska. Mr. Meisner reported that Krab, Inc (Gene Krab) receive the 2004 NARD Outstanding Grassland Conservation Award during the noon luncheon on Monday, September 27, 2004. Mr. Meisner reported that Krab, Inc received the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Outstanding Grassland Conservation Award in 2003 and the District nominated Krab, Inc for the 2004 NARD award. Mr. Meisner reported that Mr. Petersen and Mr. Carhart also attended the luncheon.

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Mr. Meismer reported that in the Directors' notebook for information were the minutes for the Business Session held during the annual conference and the resolutions adopted.

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts – Board of Directors Meeting – Mr. Meismer reported that the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Board of Directors meeting was held September 28, 2004 and he reported on the meeting.

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts – Smithsonian Soil Exhibit – Mr. Meismer reported that the Nebraska Association of Resources District has suspended collection of funds for the Smithsonian Soil Exhibit.

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.

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 \$47,284.56 was available.

Mr. Petersen moved to approve the October 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:				
05-012	NC-17	Irrigation Water Management	\$ 3,563.10	\$ 3,563.10
Total Amount Of New Contracts				\$ 3,563.10
FUNDS AVAILABLE:				
		Practice NC-12, Windbreaks		\$ 23,268.63
		Practice NC-14, Planned Grazing		\$ 1,535.46
		Practice NC-17, Irrigation		\$ 14,264.03
		Other available practices		\$ 4,653.34

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

AYE: Baldridge, Hansen, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Schilz, Wahlgren, Weaver, Wiseman

NAY: None

ABSENT & EXCUSED: Kramer, Stack

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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. Mr. Miller reported that \$7,816.96 was available for new contracts.

Tree Program – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information was a report showing the Tree Program charges for 2005.

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 – No report presented.

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

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

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

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

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

Water Programs – Watershed Program – Western Irrigation Watershed – Mr. Miller reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District, the South Platte Natural Resources District, and the Upper Republican Natural Resources District have jointly requested the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to prepare a Watershed Program Preliminary Plan for an area located in Keith, Perkins, and Deuel Counties Nebraska, identified as the Western Irrigation Watershed. Mr. Miller reported that extensive damage and the loss of one life occurred as a result of a storm in this area on July 6, 2002. Mr. Miller reported that the preliminary plan will identify conservation measures and structural measures within the watershed and determine feasibility based in

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part on a benefit cost ratio and that the preliminary plan will take about 19 months to develop. Mr. Miller reported that the NRCS plans to begin preparation of the preliminary plan with personnel touring the Western Irrigation Watershed area on November 8-10, 2004. Mr. Miller reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District, the South Platte Natural Resources District, and the Upper Republican Natural Resources District have jointly scheduled a Public Information Meeting prior to the NRCS personnel beginning their tour to allow the local people an opportunity to hear the NRCS personnel describe what they will be doing over the next 19 months. Mr. Miller reported that letters will be sent to all of the landowners within the area being considered inviting them to the Public Information Meeting, which will be held on Monday, November 8, 2004 from 1:00 to 2:00 pm MST at the Brule Community Hall in Brule, NE. Mr. Miller reported that when the preliminary plan is completed, the Twin Platte Natural Resources District, the South Platte Natural Resources District, and the Upper Republican Natural Resources District will have the opportunity to determine whether to proceed to implementation.

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

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

Water Programs – Interlocal Cooperation Agreements – South Platte Coalition – Mr. Miller reported on recent activities.

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 – 2004 Awards Program – Presentation, November 8, 2004 – Mr. Miller reported that the District's 2004 Grassland Conservation Award for Lincoln/McPherson Counties would be presented November 8, 2004 to Clarence & Lila Arensdorf during the North Platte Chamber Farmer/Rancher Appreciation Banquet. Mr. Miller reported that the Board Chairperson, Mr. Rubenthaler and the District staff would participate in the award presentation.

Information & Education Programs – 2004 Awards Program – Presentation, December 14, 2004 – Mr. Miller reported that the District's 2004 Tree Award for Keith/Arthur Counties would be presented December 14, 2004 to Wayne and Joan Hansmeier

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(Kingsley Cattle Company) during the District's Awards Banquet. Mr. Miller reported that the Board of Directors meeting would be at 4:30 pm MST (5:30 pm CST) at the Lake McConaughy Visitors Center and the Awards Banquet would be at 6:00 pm MST (7:00 pm CST) at the Haythorn Ranch.

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.

Mr. Miller reported that the November Board meeting would be held on November 18, 2004, the third Thursday in November, as the second Thursday in November this year is the Veterans Day Holiday.

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.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m. CDT (7:25 p.m. MDT).

Jerry Weaver, Secretary

KOM:Minutes:Bmin1004