

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
November 8, 2001

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 November 8, 2001. Mr. Rubenthaler called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m. CST (2:08 p.m. MST). A legal notice of the meeting was published in the NORTH PLATTE TELEGRAPH. A news release containing the agenda for the meeting and including the time and place was sent to the news media in the District.

BOARD MEMBERS

PRESENT

Jeff Baldrige
Eric Hansen
James Meisner
Robert Petersen
Jim Rubenthaler
Dennis Schilz
Jerry Weaver
Robert Wiseman

BOARD MEMBERS

ABSENT

Todd Kramer
Douglas Stack
Joe Wahlgren

NRCS PERS PRESENT

Mary Reece, D Cons

OTHERS PRESENT

Darlene Maline, Accountant

STAFF PRESENT

Ardis Lehmkuhler, Adm Asst
Kent O Miller, Gen Mgr

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Report of Directors Excused - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that Mr. Kramer was excused.

DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Directors Notebooks Containing Information Items Available for Handout - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that each Director has a notebook containing information items that are available for handouts for others attending the meeting. Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the handouts are on a table at the back of the room.

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.

PUBLIC FORUM

The Public Forum of the meeting was opened. There were no comments, and the Public Forum was closed.

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AGENDA MODIFICATION

None presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Audit for 2001 Fiscal Year - The audit for the District for the 2001 Fiscal Year was mailed to each member of the Board of Directors prior to the Board meeting.

Mr. Meismer moved that the Audit for the 2001 Fiscal Year be received. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #1)

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Baldrige, Kramer, Stack, Wahlgren

Darlene Maline prepared the audit for the District and she was present and available for questions.

Mr. Schilz moved that the Audit for the 2001 Fiscal Year be allowed and to approve the Financial Statements for the 2001 Fiscal Year as acceptable and settled. Mr. Weaver seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #2)

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Baldrige, Kramer, Stack, Wahlgren

GENERAL INFORMATION

No report presented.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Minutes for October 11, 2001 Meeting - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the Minutes for the October 11, 2001 Board of Directors meeting were in the Directors' Board meeting notebook and available as a handout and he asked if there were corrections or additions to the Minutes.

Mr. Weaver moved that the Minutes of the October 11, 2001 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #3)

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Baldrige, Kramer, Stack, Wahlgren

COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORTS

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USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service – Mrs. Reece distributed and reviewed her report. Mrs. Reece reported that in the Directors’ packet for information was a comparative analysis prepared by the National Association of Conservation Districts of the conservation provisions of the various farm bills being considered in the U S Congress. Mrs. Reece reported on the Range Livestock meeting held in Arthur County

Other Agencies - No report 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

No report presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT

Executive Subcommittee

No report presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Statement - Mr. Meisner reported that the Financial Statements for October 2001 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 October 2001 be received and placed on file for audit and to approve payment of the invoices for November 2001 in the amount of \$12,199.46. Mr. Schilz seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #4)

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Kramer, Stack, Wahlgren

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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 December 11, 2001 Board of Directors Meeting - Mr. Miller reported that no bids/proposals were scheduled to be presented for consideration during the December 11, 2001 Board of Directors meeting.

POLICIES

Operating Policy Number 61: Wear District Awareness Program – Mr. Miller reported that many of the Natural Resources Districts in Nebraska as well as many other governmental agencies provide clothing for employees. Mr. Miller reported that he had noticed at many meetings where he has seen Natural Resources District personnel wearing shirts with a Natural Resources District name, that they have a lot of pride in their Natural Resources District. Mr. Miller reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Budget for the 2001-2002 Fiscal Year provides funding in the amount of \$420.00 for the District to provide shirts for personnel. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet was a draft policy he had prepared using the policy of the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District as a model. Mr. Petersen recommended that a policy provide that employees shall maintain Twin Platte Natural Resources District Wear items furnished to them in a clean and wearable condition, that the cost of the maintenance, care, cleaning and laundering of the wear items furnished to an employee is the responsibility of the employee and that if an item becomes torn, stained or reasonably deemed unwearable by the employee, the employee shall return the item to the Twin Platte Natural Resources District.

Mr. Meismer moved to approve Operating Policy Number 61: Wear District Awareness Program as follows:

The wearing of Twin Platte Natural Resources District Wear will never be required under any circumstances.

Except when more formal attire is appropriate, employees are encouraged to wear Twin Platte Natural Resources District Wear when they anticipate being in the following situations:

- multi-district gatherings, such as NARD events
- multi-agency meetings
- public meetings
- as presenters at workshops, etc
- as speakers to groups such as service clubs

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- NRD displays such as North Platte Chamber Ag Expo

During the 2001-2002 Fiscal Year, the Twin Platte Natural Resources District will furnish each full-time District employee 2 Twin Platte Natural Resources District Wear shirts of a specific style. Employees may select size, but style and color will be pre-determined.

Starting with the 2002-2003 Fiscal Year, the Twin Platte Natural Resources District will furnish each full-time District employee an annual clothing allowance to be used only to order Twin Platte Natural Resources District wear from a specified group of choices approved by the General Manager. The Twin Platte Natural Resources District will place a Twin Platte Natural Resources District Wear order once yearly, immediately following Board approval of the fiscal year budget. Any allowance money not used by an employee at that time will be lost and will not carry over to the following year.

Employees hired prior to January first of a fiscal year will receive a full Twin Platte Natural Resources District Wear allowance and the Twin Platte Natural Resources District will make a special order. Those hired January first or later must wait until the start of the next fiscal year to receive a Twin Platte Natural Resources District Wear allowance.

Employees shall maintain Twin Platte Natural Resources District Wear items furnished to them in a clean and wearable condition. The cost of the maintenance, care, cleaning and laundering of the wear items furnished to an employee is the responsibility of the employee. If an item becomes torn, stained or reasonably deemed unwearable by the employee, the employee shall return the item to the Twin Platte Natural Resources District.

Clothing purchased using any Twin Platte Natural Resources District funds is the property of the District. Upon termination of employment, employees must return all such Twin Platte Natural Resources District Wear to the Twin Platte Natural Resources District or buy it from the Twin Platte Natural Resources District at the cost of \$1.00 per item.

Should a Twin Platte Natural Resources District Wear item become torn, stained or reasonably deemed unwearable by the employee, the employee must return it to the Twin Platte Natural Resources District in order to avoid being held responsible for the item upon termination of employment.

In order to project a consistent image, placing the Twin Platte Natural Resources District name and/or logo on non-approved clothing is not encouraged.

Mr. Schilz seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #5)

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AYE: Hansen, Meisner, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Schilz, Weaver
NAY: Baldrige, Wiseman
ABSENT: Kramer, Stack, Wahlgren

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts

Board of Directors Meetings – Mr. Meisner reported on the Board of Directors meeting held on November 5, 2001.

Legislative Conference, January 29-30, 2002, Lincoln, NE – Mr. Meisner reported on the Legislative conference that will be held January 29-30, 2002 in Lincoln, NE. Mr. Miller reported that Trego Aviation did not have a plane that could be chartered for Directors to attend one day of the Conference as has been done in the past.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District Water Conservation Task Force

No report presented.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Platte River Citizens Advisory Council

No report presented.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Sandhills Resources, Conservation & Development Council

No report presented.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Requests for Authorization to Travel

No requests were presented.

DISTRICT REPORT

Requests for Assistance – Nebraska State Irrigation Association – Mr. Miller reported that the Nebraska State Irrigation Association has submitted an application to the Nebraska Environmental Trust for funding a project titled "Integrated Irrigation Improvement Project". Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet for information was the application. Mr. Miller reported that the Nebraska State Irrigation Association has requested the Twin Platte Natural Resources District to participate in the project as a partner by contributing staff time and input for the project.

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Mr. Petersen moved that the Board of Directors approve the Nebraska State Irrigation Association request that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District participate in the Integrated Irrigation Improvement Project as a partner by contributing staff time and input for the project and to authorize the General Manager to send a letter to the Nebraska Environmental Trust. Mr. Meismer seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #6)

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

Cost-Share Programs - Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program - Contracts - Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout was the monthly report.

Mr. Schilz moved to approve the November 2001 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:				
02-040	NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 601.25	\$ 601.25
02-026	NC-17	Irrigation Water Management	\$ 2,158.86	\$ 2,158.86
02-027	NC-17	Irrigation Water Management	\$ 2,862.00	\$ 2,862.00
Total Amount Of New Contracts				\$ 5,622.11
FUNDS AVAILABLE: Practice NC-12, Windbreaks				\$ 24,794.28
Practice NC-14, Planned Grazing				\$ 1,556.85
Practice NC-17, Irrigation				\$ 1,486.23
Other available practices				\$ 926.92

Mr. Wiseman seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #7)

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

Cost-Share Programs - District Conservation Program – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information was a report. Mr. Miller reported that eight contracts have been approved during the 2002 Fiscal Year for a total cost-share allocation of \$1,466.72 and that \$1,533.28 was available for additional contracts.

Cost-Share Programs – NE Buffer Strip Program - No report presented.

Tree Program – No report presented.

Range Programs – No report presented.

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Soil Conservation Programs – No report presented.

Wildlife Habitat Programs - No report presented.

Water Programs – Ground Water Program – No report presented.

Water Programs –Watershed Program – No report presented.

Water Programs – Platte River Activities - Cooperative Agreement Relating to Endangered Species – Mr. Miller reported on the status of the Cooperative Agreement. Mr. Miller reported that he attends meetings of the Governance Committee and the Water Management Committee as his schedule allows with a priority for attending meetings of the Water Management Committee, which he is a member. Mr. Miller reported that he is participating in meetings in Nebraska about the issues within Nebraska.

Water Programs – Platte River Activities - Cooperative Hydrology Study –Mr. Miller reported on the status of the Cooperative Hydrology Study. Mr. Miller reported that he participates in the meetings of the sponsors as the representative for the District.

Regulatory Programs – No report presented.

Information & Education Programs – 2001 Awards Program – Presentation, November 19, 2001 – Mr. Miller reported that the District’s 2001 Grassland Conservation Award for Lincoln/McPherson Counties will be presented November 19, 2001 to the Fear Ranch during the North Platte Chamber Farmer/Rancher Appreciation Banquet and that the Board Chairperson, Mr. Rubenthaler, and the District and NRCS staff will participate in the award presentation.

Information & Education Programs – 2001 Awards Program – Presentation, December 11, 2001 – Mr. Miller reported that the District’s 2001 Tree Planting Award for Keith/Arthur Counties would be presented December 11, 2001 to R.W. Newman during the District’s Awards Banquet. Mr. Miller reported that the Board of Directors meeting will be on December 11, 2001 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.

Legislation – Mr. Miller reported that the anticipated impact for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District budget due to the Special Session of the Legislature to reduce the State’s budget would be \$941.82 of the \$23,545.55 budgeted to be received from the Government Aid to Natural Resources Districts and \$415.46 of the \$51,932.63 budgeted to be received from the Water Quality Funds. Mr. Miller reported that the anticipated impact for the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Funds is \$3,527.17 of the \$92,683.06 allocation for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District for the 2002 Fiscal

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Year. Mr. Miller reported that the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources is considering options to reduce the impact for Natural Resources Districts.

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.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:06 p.m. CST (3:06 p.m. MST).

Jerry Weaver, Secretary

KOM:MSOMIN3:Bmin1101