

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
Board of Directors Meeting  
November 10, 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 November 10, 2005. Mr. Rubenthaler called the meeting to order at 3:17 p.m. CST (2:17 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 Baldridge  
Eric Hansen  
James Meisner  
Robert Petersen  
Jim Rubenthaler  
Dennis Schilz  
Douglas Stack  
Shane Storer  
Joe Wahlgren  
Jerry Weaver  
Robert Wiseman

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

None

OTHERS PRESENT

Neil Betty  
Mike Wheeler, Sargent Irrigation – Ogallala

NRCS PERSONNEL PRESENT

Mary Reece, District Conservationist

STAFF PRESENT

Ann Dimmitt, Water Programs Regulatory Coordinator  
Harriet Hageman, Legal Counsel  
Amy Mapes, Administrative Assistant  
Kent O. Miller, General Manager

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 all Directors were present.

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.

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.

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 October 13, 2005 Meeting - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the Minutes for the October 13, 2005 Board of Directors meeting were in the Directors' packet and he asked if there were corrections or additions to the Minutes.

Mr. Petersen moved that the Minutes of the October 13, 2005 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #1)

Aye: Baldridge, Hansen, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Schilz, Stack, Storer, Wahlgren, Weaver, Wiseman

Nay: None

Absent & Excused: None

Absent: None

COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORTS

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - District Conservationist Report – Mrs. Reece distributed and reviewed a written report for information. Mrs. Reece reported that in the Director's notebook for information was a Nebraska Cattlemen News Release in

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regard to the extension of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) deadlines. Mrs. Reece reported that in the Director’s notebook for information was a report for the Platte and Republican River Basins Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

Other Agencies – No reports presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT  
Land Resources Subcommittee

No report presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT  
Water Resources Subcommittee

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

Ground Water Management – Ground Water Management Plan – Mr. Meisner reported that the District received a letter from the Director of the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources dated May 26, 2005 approving the requested revisions for Chapter 8 of the Ground Water Management Plan. Mr. Meisner reported that 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 occur before a Ground Water Management Area can be initiated.

Ground Water Management – Ground Water Management Area – Mr. Meisner reported that the Water Resources Subcommittee met with the District’s Legal Counsel, Harriet Hageman, in regard to initiation of a Ground Water Management Area. Mr. Meisner reported that the Water Resources Subcommittee recommends that the Board of Directors meet in an Executive Session to hear a report on legal matters relating to initiating a Ground Water Management Area.

Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the Executive Session would be at the end of the Board meeting and that he did not anticipate that there would be discussion or action taken by the Board of Directors following the Executive Session.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT  
Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee

No report presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT

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Executive Subcommittee

No report presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Statement - Mr. Meismer reported that the Financial Statement for October 2005 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 October 2005 be received and placed on file for audit and to approve payment of the invoices presented on the Accounts Payable report on November 10, 2005 in the amount of \$20,742.83. Mr. Schilz seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #2)

Aye: Baldridge, Hansen, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Schilz, Stack, Storer, Wahlgren, Weaver, Wiseman

Nay: None

Absent & Excused: None

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 December 13, 2005 Board of Directors Meeting – Mr. Miller reported that no bids/proposals were scheduled to be presented for consideration during the December 13, 2005 Board of Directors meeting.

DIRECTORS REPORTS

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts – Board of Directors Meeting – Mr. Meismer reported on the Board of Directors meeting held on November 7, 2005.

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.

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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 \$69,910.15 was available.

Mr. Meismer moved to approve the November 10, 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 Fund</u>
PROPOSED NEW CONTRACTS:				
06-006	NC-17	Irrigation Water Management	\$ 2,080.00	\$ 2,080.00
Total Amount Of New Contracts				\$ 2,080.00
FUNDS AVAILABLE:				
		Practice NC-12, Windbreaks		\$ 23,275.80
		Practice NC-14, Planned Grazing		\$ 23,275.80
		Practice NC-17, Irrigation		\$ 18,710.80
		Other available practices		\$ 2,567.75

Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #3)

Aye: Baldridge, Hansen, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Schilz, Stack, Storer, Wahlgren, Weaver, Wiseman  
Nay: None  
Absent & Excused: None  
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 \$7,082.81 was available for new contracts.

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 Management – Monitoring Programs – No report presented.

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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 – Mr. Miller reported on the meetings held and the schedule for future meetings of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Stakeholders.

Mr. Miller reported that the second meeting of the Platte River Basin Stakeholders group will be in North Platte on November 15, 2005. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet for information was the agenda for the basin stakeholders meeting. Mr. Miller reported that the four Twin Platte Natural Resources District representatives from the Twin Platte Natural Resources District stakeholders group were Jim Hawks, City Administrator, City of North Platte, representing municipalities; Roric Paulman, Producer and President of the West Central Nebraska Water Users Coalition, representing Ground Water Users; Phil Armstrong, Board Member, Western Irrigation District, representing Surface Water Users; and Doug Teaford, Keith County Commissioner, representing other interests. Mr. Miller reported that the two Twin Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors representatives are Mr. Meismer and Mr. Wahlgren.

Water Programs – Integrated Management of Ground Water & Surface Water – Certifying Irrigated Acres – Mr. Miller reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District would be beginning to obtain records from the county assessors for names and addresses to go with the aerial photos being developed by the District for certifying irrigated acres. Mr. Miller reported that he hopes that letters to a portion of the District could begin going out early in 2006. Mr. Miller reported that this would be a big task that will probably take 12 to 18 months and that we may be hiring temporary employees to assist the full time staff. Mr. Miller reported that per the discussion of the Board during the October 13, 2005 Board meeting, that a newsletter will be distributed prior to the initial letters going out that will inform the public that only a portion of the District will receive letters at a time and to allow land owners and/or tenants to notify the District if there are alternate addresses from what the county assessors have that the letter should go to for a tract of land. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet for information was a timeline for certifying irrigated acres and a map of the areas.

Water Programs – Integrated Management of Ground Water & Surface Water – Platte River Cooperative Agreement – Mr. Miller reported on the status of the Platte River Cooperative Agreement Governance Committee study to evaluate the feasibility of increasing the flood stage discharge to 3,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) in the North Platte River at North Platte, Nebraska. Mr. Miller reported that the North Platte River is used to transport Program water from Lake McConaughy and other future potential water

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supplies to meet water supply goals in the Central Platte River. Mr. Miller reported that in the fall of 2002, the National Weather Service lowered the flood stage of the North Platte River just north of the City of North Platte from 6.0 feet to 5.7 feet. Mr. Miller reported that the discharge rate in the study area at the revised flood stage is approximately 1,980 cfs. Mr. Miller reported that the purpose of this channel capacity study is to identify alternatives to increase the flood stage discharge to 3,000 cfs at North Platte, Nebraska, provide cost estimates for each alternative identified, and offer recommendations relating to the most cost effective means to increase and maintain the desired flood stage discharges. Mr. Miller reported that the Governance Committee has established a Water Management Committee to provide technical input on issues related to the water supply goals of the Cooperative Agreement and that he is a member of the Water Management Committee.

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

Water Programs – Watershed Program – Western Irrigation Watershed – No report presented.

Water Programs – Interlocal Cooperation Agreements - Cooperative Hydrology Study – Mr. Miller reported that he is working with an Engineering Consulting firm, Miller and Associates, to assist them in utilizing the Cooperative Hydrology Study model to evaluate the site for a proposed new City of North Platte well field.

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

Water Programs – Interlocal Cooperation Agreements – South Platte Coalition – Mr. Miller reported that the Delph Carpenter papers are now fully available at Colorado State University and that he would be scheduling time to continue his research in regard to the South Platte River Compact.

Water Programs – Interlocal Cooperation Agreements – Nebraska Habitat Conservation Coalition – No report presented.

Water Programs – South Platte Compact – Nebraska Environmental Trust Grant Application – Mr. Miller reported on the status of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District's application and that he had recently had an opportunity to meet with the Nebraska Environmental Trust Grants Administrator.

Regulatory Programs - Chemigation – No report presented.

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

Regulatory Programs – Ground Water Runoff - No report presented.

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Trails – Lake Maloney – No report presented.

Information & Education Programs – 2005 Awards Program – Presentation November 7, 2005 – Mr. Miller reported that the District's 2005 Tree Planting Award for Lincoln/McPherson Counties was presented November 7, 2005 to Diane and Rocky Hoffman during the North Platte Chamber Farmer/Rancher Appreciation Banquet. Mr. Miller reported that the Board Chairperson, Mr. Rubenthaler and the District staff participated in the award presentation.

Information & Education Programs – 2005 Awards Program – Presentation December 13, 2005 – Mr. Miller reported that the District's 2005 Conservation Award for Keith/Arthur Counties will be presented December 13, 2005 to Most Farms Inc (Anita and Donal) during the District's Awards Banquet. Mr. Miller reported that the Board of Directors meeting will be at 3:30 pm MST (4:30 pm CST) at the Lake McConaughy Visitors Center and the Awards Banquet will be at 6:00 pm MST (7:00 pm CST) at the Haythorn Ranch.

Legislation – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet for information was a Nebraska Association of Resources Districts report dated November 1, 2005 in regard to Legislation for 2006.

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.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT (Continued)

Water Resources Subcommittee (Continued)

Ground Water Management – Ground Water Management Area (Continued) – Mr. Meismer reported that the Water Resources Subcommittee recommends that the Board of Directors meet in an Executive Session to hear a report on legal matters relating to initiating a Ground Water Management Area.

Mr. Meismer moved that the Board of Directors go into Executive Session to hear a report on legal matters relating to initiating a Ground Water Management Area. Mr. Wiseman seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #4)

Aye: Baldridge, Hansen, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Schilz, Stack,

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Storer, Wahlgren, Weaver, Wiseman  
Nay: None  
Absent & Excused: None  
Absent: None

The Board of Directors went into Executive Session at 4:03 pm CST (3:03 pm MST).

Mr. Wiseman moved that the Board of Directors return to open session. Mr. Meismer seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #5)

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

The Board of Directors returned to open session at 5:58 pm CST (4:58 pm MST).

NEXT MEETING

Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the next Board of Directors meeting would be held on Tuesday, December 13, 2005 at 3:30 pm MST (4:30 pm CST) at the Lake McConaughy Visitors Center.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m. CST (5:00 p.m. MST).

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Jerry Weaver, Secretary

KOM:Minutes:Bmin1105