

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
Board of Directors Meeting  
December 14, 1999

The Twin Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors meeting was held at the Ramada Limited, I-80 Interchange, Ogallala, Nebraska on December 14, 1999. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Boyer at 5:30 p.m. MST (6:30 p.m. CST). 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  
Kent Boyer  
Todd Kramer  
James Meisner  
Jim Rubenthaler  
Douglas Stack  
Frank Svoboda  
Jerry Weaver

BOARD MEMBERS  
ABSENT & EXCUSED

Roric Paulman

BOARD MEMBERS  
ABSENT

NRCS PERS PRESENT

Jeff Nichols, Acting D Cons  
Kristin Miller, Range M Spec  
Lee Morse, Civil Engr Tech  
Jim Lott, Soil Cons

OTHERS PRESENT

STAFF PRESENT

Kent O Miller, Gen Mgr  
Glen Bowers, Water P Coor  
Bill Carhart, Range P Coor  
Ann Fisher, Water P Tech  
Ardis Lehmkuhler, Adm Asst  
Dave Slattery, Con P Coor

PUBLIC FORUM

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Report of Directors Excused - Mr. Boyer reported that Mr. Paulman was excused.

DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Documents for Review Prior to Action Scheduled Later on the Agenda - None presented.

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – December 14, 1999

AGENDA MODIFICATION

None presented.

GENERAL INFORMATION

No report presented.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Minutes for November 4, 1999 Meeting - Mr. Boyer reported that the Minutes were in the Directors' packet, and he asked if there were corrections or additions to the Minutes.

Mr. Stack moved that the Minutes of the November 4, 1999 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mr. Meismer seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #1)

AYE: Baldridge, Boyer, Kramer, Meismer, Rubenthaler, Stack, Weaver

NAY: None

ABSENT: Paulman, Svoboda

COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORTS

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - Monthly Report - Mr. Nichols reported that in the Directors' Packet for information was a narrative report prepared by him and he reviewed his report.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - Programs - Environmental Quality Incentive Program – Mr. Nichols reported on the Environmental Quality Incentive Program funding outside of priority areas. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' Packet was information for leveraging Natural Resources District funds with Federal Environmental Quality Incentive Program funds for funding outside of priority areas for Fiscal Year 2000. Following discussion, the Board agreed that they were not interested in leveraging Twin Platte Natural Resources District funds with Federal Environmental Quality Incentive Program funds.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - Programs - Conservation Reserve Program - No report presented.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - Programs - Highly Erodible Lands Requirements - No report presented.

Nebraska Board of Educational Lands and Funds - Cooperative Agreements - No report presented.

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – December 14, 1999

Other Agencies - Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information was a report titled “An Evaluation of the Potential for Consolidation of the Nebraska Department of Water Resources and the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission” prepared by the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission and the Nebraska Department of Water Resources as requested by Governor Mike Johanns. Mr. Miller reported that the report recommends that the Nebraska Department of Water Resources and the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission be merged into a single state agency called the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information was the National Association of Conservation District’s newsletter “The District Leader” for November 1999.

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

Board Vacancy, Sub-District 2 – Mr. Boyer reported that four individuals had indicated an interest in being appointed to fill the vacancies in election Sub-District 2 and had completed questionnaires. Mr. Boyer reported that the Executive Subcommittee would be interviewing the four candidates after the first of the year and would be preparing a recommendation for consideration by the Board of Directors during the January 13, 2000 Board meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Statement - Mr. Meisner reported that the Financial Statements for November 1999 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.

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – December 14, 1999

Mr. Meismer moved that the Financial Statement for November 1999 be received and placed on file for audit and that the Accounts Payable in the amount of \$29,268.85 be paid. Mr. Rubenthaler seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #2)

AYE: Baldridge, Boyer, Kramer, Meismer, Rubenthaler, Stack, Svoboda,  
Weaver  
NAY: None  
ABSENT: Paulman

Budget Status - Mr. Meismer reported that the Budget Status report was in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout. Mr. Meismer reported that there were no new or additional overruns.

Bids/Proposals - None were presented.

Bids/Proposals Scheduled To Be Presented for Consideration During the January 13, 2000 Board of Directors Meeting - Mr. Miller reported that no bids/proposals were scheduled to be presented for consideration during the January 13, 2000 Board of Directors meeting.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts

Board of Directors Meetings – Mr. Meismer reported that in the Directors' Packet for information were the minutes for the November 16, 1999 Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Board of Directors meeting and he reported on the meeting.

Annual Legislative Conference, January 25-26, 2000 – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet for information was the program for the conference. Mr. Miller reported that in previous years, a plane has been chartered for Directors to attend one day of the Conference. Mr. Boyer, Mr. Meismer, Mr. Rubenthaler, Mr. Stack, Mr. Svoboda and Mr. Weaver indicated an interest to attend if a plane was chartered for travel. Mr. Boyer directed the staff to charter a plane for travel to Lincoln for Directors to attend the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Legislative Conference on Tuesday, January 25, 2000.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District Water Conservation Task Force

Mr. Meismer reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information were the minutes for the December 1, 1999 meeting of the Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District Water Conservation Task Force.

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – December 14, 1999

DIRECTORS' REPORTS  
Platte River Citizens Advisory Council

Mr. Boyer reported on the activities of the Platte River Citizens Advisory Council. Mr. Boyer reported that the advisory council was appointed by Governor Johanns to monitor the activities of the Platte River Cooperative Agreement and to prepare reports and recommendations for the Governor. Extensive discussion occurred.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS  
Requests for Authorization to Travel

No requests were presented.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS  
Board of Directors Meetings

Mr. Boyer asked if the Board would like to schedule afternoon meetings during January, February and March. The Board agreed that they would like to schedule the January, February and March Board meetings for 3:00 pm CST (2:00 pm MST).

DISTRICT REPORT

Requests for Assistance - No requests were presented.

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. Miller reported that \$27,358.34 was available.

Mr. Meisner moved to approve the December 1999 report as presented and to approve the following new contracts:

<u>Cont#</u>	<u>Practice Description</u>	<u>App Amt</u>	<u>Prop Amt To Fund</u>
PROPOSED NEW CONTRACTS:			
00-042 NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 767.23	\$ 767.23
00-043 NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 293.78	\$ 293.78
00-044 NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 1,221.35	\$ 1,221.35
00-045 NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 1,432.50	\$ 1,432.50
00-046 NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 616.70	\$ 616.70
00-047 NC-14	Planned Grazing Systems	\$ 1,325.92	\$ 0.00
00-048 NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 138.23	\$ 138.23
00-049 NC-14	Planned Grazing Systems	\$ 3,382.50	\$ 0.00
00-050 NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 1,201.93	\$ 1,201.93
00-051 NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 648.23	\$ 648.23
00-052 NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 886.20	\$ 886.20
00-053 NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 1,393.70	\$ 1,393.70
00-054 NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 1,235.20	\$ 1,235.20
00-055 NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 303.50	\$ 303.50
00-056 NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 86.78	\$ 86.78

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – December 14, 1999

Total Amount Of New Contracts	\$ 10,225.33
FUNDS AVAILABLE	
Reserves – NC-12, Windbreaks to 12/31/99	\$ 17,133.01
All Other Practices	\$ 0.00

Mr. Kramer seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #3)

AYE: Baldridge, Boyer, Kramer, Meismer, Rubenthaler, Stack, Svoboda,  
Weaver  
NAY: None  
ABSENT: Paulman

Cost-Share Programs - Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program – Practice NC-12, Windbreaks - Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet was a draft policy revision recommended by the staff for the Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program.

Mr. Stack moved to approve the following policy revision for the Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program (additions are underlined and deletions have a strikethrough line):

For July 1, 1999 to January 31, 2000 ~~December 31, 1999~~, \$35,000.00 will be reserved for Practice NC-12, Windbreaks and a maximum of \$1,200.00 of cost-share funds will be allowed per cooperator for water conservation mulch or a drip irrigation system.

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

AYE: Baldridge, Boyer, Kramer, Meismer, Rubenthaler, Stack, Svoboda,  
Weaver  
NAY: None  
ABSENT: Paulman

Cost-Share Programs - District Conservation Program – Contracts for Approved Programs for Fiscal Year 2000 – Sealing Abandoned Wells - Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information was the monthly report.

Cost-Share Programs - District Conservation Program - Contracts for Approved Programs for Fiscal Year 2000 – Soil Testing - Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information was the monthly report.

Cost-Share Programs - District Conservation Program - Contracts for Approved Programs for Fiscal Year 2000 – Demonstrations for Buffer Areas at Irrigation Well - No report presented.

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

Tree Program – No report presented.

Range Programs - No report presented.

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – December 14, 1999

Soil Conservation Programs - No report presented.

Wildlife Habitat Programs – Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program - No report presented.

Wildlife Habitat Programs – Corners for Wildlife Program – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet for information was a listing of the Corners for Wildlife Program contracts funded in the Twin Platte Natural Resources District.

Water Programs – Ground Water Program – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout was information for an application filed by Andy Olson with the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality for a permit to construct and operate a livestock waste control facility in the Twin Platte Natural Resources District. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information was the Executive Summary for an application submitted to the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality to extend the Twin Platte Natural Resources District's 319 Project for an additional three years.

Water Programs – Watershed Program – No report presented.

Water Programs – Platte River Activities - Cooperative Agreement Relating to Endangered Species – Mr. Miller reported on the Natural Resources Districts Basin meeting held on December 2, 1999 and he reported that in the Directors' packet was information distributed during the Basin meeting. Mr. Miller reported on the development of the Water Action Plan and the activities within Nebraska in regard to the development of the plan and he reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information was a listing of potential Nebraska projects. Mr. Miller reported that he attends meetings of the Governance Committee, the Water Action Plan 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 and the Water Action Plan Committee. Mr. Miller reported that he is participating in meetings in Nebraska about the issues within Nebraska.

Water Programs – Platte River Activities - Cooperative Hydrology Study – No report presented.

Regulatory Programs - Chemigation – No report presented.

Regulatory Programs – Erosion and Sediment Control - Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information was a letter in regard to an inquiry concerning soil erosion.

Regulatory Programs – Ground Water Runoff - Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information was a letter in regard to an inquiry

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – December 14, 1999

concerning ground water runoff.

Information & Education Programs – Mr. Miller reported on the District’s awards that will be presented during the District’s Awards Banquet following the Board meeting.

Legislation – Mr. Miller reported that Mr. Boyer, Mr. Rubenthaler and he had met with Senator Gerald Matzke on December 10, 1999 to discuss the programs and current activities of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District and issues that may effect Natural Resources Districts in the 2000 Legislative Session. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors’ packet for information was an outline of the discussion items for the meeting with Senator Matzke.

Requests for Authorization to Travel - Mr. Miller requested authorization for Mr. Carhart to attend and participate in the Society for Range Management Annual Meeting in Boise, Idaho February 13-18, 2000. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors’ packet was information for the meeting. Mr. Miller reported that Society for Range Management Annual Meetings are very well done and he encouraged the Directors to consider attending.

Mr. Svoboda moved to authorize Mr. Carhart to attend and participate in the Society for Range Management Annual Meeting in Boise, Idaho February 13-18, 2000. Mr. Meismer seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #5)

AYE: Baldridge, Boyer, Kramer, Meismer, Rubenthaler, Stack, Svoboda,  
Weaver  
NAY: None  
ABSENT: Paulman

Personnel Reports - Mr. Miller reported that the staff prepares written reports for all activities that we participate in outside of the District. Mr. Miller reported that recent reports are included in the Directors' packet for information. Mr. Miller reported that the field staff prepares weekly reports of activities, contacts and mileage. Mr. Miller reported that the recent reports were in the Directors' packet for information.

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. Mr. Miller reported that he attended the Nebraska Department of Roads Select Committee meeting on December 9, 1999 and represented the City of North Platte’s two trails applications for Federal funding. Mr. Miller reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District initiated the North Platte trails system and that he had represented the City of North Platte each time an application has been filed for Federal funding. Miller reported that the City of North Platte submitted two applications for 2000 for a link of the

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – December 14, 1999

North Platte Trails System at Scouts Rest Ranch and for a link of the North Platte Trails System along the South Platte River between Highway 83 and the NPPD canal. Mr. Miller reported that the total amount of Federal funds approved for North Platte for 2000 was \$108,281.00.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

AWARDS BANQUET

An awards banquet was held.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. MST (9:15 p.m. CST).

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Douglas Stack, Secretary

KOM:MSOMIN2:Bmin1299