

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
Board of Directors Meeting  
March 9, 2000

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 March 9, 2000. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Boyer at 3:14 p.m. CST (2:14 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  
Kent Boyer  
James Meisner  
Robert Petersen  
Jim Rubenthaler  
Douglas Stack  
Frank Svoboda  
Joe Wahlgren

BOARD MEMBERS

ABSENT & EXCUSED

Todd Kramer  
Roric Paulman  
Jerry Weaver

BOARD MEMBERS

ABSENT

NRCS PERS PRESENT

Mary Reece, D Cons

OTHERS PRESENT

STAFF PRESENT

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

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. Kramer, Mr. Paulman and Mr. Weaver were 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 - Mr. Boyer reported that notebooks of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service containing

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Conservation Plans for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program were available for review, that the notebooks would be passed around the Board table for review by each member of the Board of Directors present, and that later in the meeting the Conservation Plans would be considered for approval. Mr. Boyer reported that a booklet of the Cooperative Agreements with the State of Nebraska Board of Educational Lands and Funds for Conservation Plans was available for information, that the booklet would be passed around the Board table for review by each member of the Board of Directors present, and that later in the meeting the Cooperative Agreements for Conservation Plans would be considered for approval.

AGENDA MODIFICATION

None presented.

GENERAL INFORMATION

No report presented.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Minutes for February 10, 2000 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. Petersen moved that the Minutes of the February 10, 2000 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mr. Meismer seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #1)

AYE: Boyer, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Stack, Svoboda, Wahlgren

NAY: None

ABSENT: Baldrige, Kramer, Paulman, Weaver

COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORTS

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - Monthly Report – Mrs. Reece reported that in the Directors' Packet for information was a narrative report prepared by her and she reviewed her report. Mrs. Reece reported that Nathan McCaleb, State Soil Scientist, is scheduled to attend the April 13, 2000 Twin Platte Natural Resources District Board meeting and will give a presentation on Carbon Sequestration. Mrs. Reece distributed the NRCS 1999 Nebraska Annual Report for information and a brochure for the March 23, 2000 Nebraska Statewide Carbon Sequestration Symposium.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - Programs - Environmental Quality Incentive Program – Mr. Boyer reported that each member of the Board of Directors present had reviewed the notebook containing the Conservation Plans for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program.

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Mr. Meismer moved to approve the Conservation Plans for the USDA Environmental Quality Incentive Program presented to and reviewed by each member of the Board of Directors present and to authorize the General Manager to sign the Conservation Plans as the District representative. Mr. Rubenthaler seconded the motion and it carried. (Motion #2)

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

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

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - Programs - Highly Erodible Lands Requirements - Mr. Boyer reported that in the Directors' packet for information were the listings of completed Highly Erodible Lands determinations.

Nebraska Board of Educational Lands and Funds - Cooperative Agreements - Mr. Boyer reported that the booklet containing the Cooperative Agreements with the State of Nebraska Board of Educational Lands and Funds for Conservation Plans had been reviewed by each member of the Board of Directors present.

Mr. Meismer moved to approve the Cooperative Agreements between the Nebraska Board of Educational Lands and Funds and the Twin Platte Natural Resources District to assist in the development and the application of a complete resource conservation plan with the assistance provided by the District dependent upon the amount of assistance available by the District for Leases presented to and reviewed by each member of the Board of Directors present and to authorize the General Manager to sign each Cooperative Agreement as the District representative. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion and it carried. (Motion #3)

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

Other Agencies - 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 February 2000 and the National Association of Conservation District's newsletter "Tuesday Letter" for Winter 2000.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT  
Land Resources Subcommittee

No report presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT  
Water Resources Subcommittee

Ground Water Program - Monitoring –Annual Reports – Mr. Meisner reported that the Subcommittee received information for the District’s Ground Water Monitoring Program which is in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information. Mr. Miller reported on the District’s Ground Water Program and the District’s Ground Water Management Plan.

Ground Water Program - Management Plan Implementation - Target Areas – Ground Water Quantity – Mr. Meisner reported that the Subcommittee received for information Figure 16, Twin Platte Natural Resources District map, revised July 1998 and Table 10-1, “Ground Water Quantity Triggering Mechanism - Summary for Target Areas” revised June 1999 for the District's Ground Water Management Plan which show and summarize the data for the Ground Water Levels Target Areas initiated in 1996, the Ground Water Levels Target Areas initiated in 1997, the Ground Water Levels Target Areas initiated in 1998, and the Ground Water Levels Target Areas dissolved in 1998 which are in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information. Mr. Meisner reported that the ground water quantity monitoring program data indicates that no change is needed in Ground Water Levels Target Areas.

Ground Water Program - Management Plan Implementation - Target Areas – Water Quality - Mr. Meisner reported that the Subcommittee received for information Figure 17, Twin Platte Natural Resources District map, revised March, 1998 and Table 10-3, “Ground Water Quality Triggering Mechanism - Summary for Target Areas” revised January 2000 for the District's Ground Water Management Plan which show and summarize the data for the nitrate target areas initiated in 1996, the nitrate target areas dissolved in 1997 and nitrate target area dissolved in 1998 which are in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information. Mr. Miller reported on the revisions for the ground water quality monitoring program as a result of the Ground Water Quality Study conducted by the University of Nebraska Conservation & Survey Division. Mr. Miller reported that the District had received the final recommendations from the study on February 10, 1999 and that during 1999, the District had completed the first full year of ground water quality monitoring recommended by the study. Mr. Meisner reported that the Subcommittee recommends that the District dissolve the target areas initiated for nitrates that were based on the District’s former ground water quality monitoring program and that the District initiate target areas for nitrates based on the District’s current ground water quality monitoring program.

Mr. Meisner moved the Water Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors that the following Ground Water Quality Target Areas for nitrates based on the District’s former ground water quality monitoring program be dissolved:

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Township 11 North Range 26 West  
Township 11 North Range 27 West  
Township 12 North Range 27 West  
Township 12 North Range 41 West  
Township 13 North Range 26 West  
Township 13 North Range 36 West  
Township 13 North Range 37 West  
Township 13 North Range 39 West  
Township 13 North Range 40 West  
Township 13 North Range 41 West

and that the following Ground Water Quality Target Areas for nitrates based on the District's current ground water quality monitoring program be initiated:

Township 11 North Range 26 West  
Township 11 North Range 27 West  
Township 12 North Range 27 West  
Township 12 North Range 41 West  
Township 13 North Range 36 West  
Township 13 North Range 37 West  
Township 13 North Range 39 West  
Township 13 North Range 40 West  
Township 13 North Range 41 West

as provided in the District's Ground Water Management Plan. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion and it carried. (Motion #4)

A YE:           Baldrige, Boyer, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Stack, Svoboda,  
                  Wahlgren  
NAY:           None  
ABSENT:       Kramer, Paulman, Weaver

Ground Water Program - Management Plan Implementation - Management Areas - Water Quantity - Mr. Meismer reported that the ground water monitoring program data indicates that the District did not need to establish management areas for ground water quantity as provided in the District's Ground Water Management Plan.

Ground Water Program - Management Plan Implementation - Management Areas - Water Quality - Mr. Meismer reported that the ground water monitoring program data indicates that the District did not need to establish management areas for ground water quality as provided in the District's Ground Water Management Plan.

Western Irrigation District - Data Recorder – Mr. Meismer reported on the meetings Mr. Boyer, he and the staff had with the Western Irrigation District Board of Directors to discuss the Platte River Cooperative Agreement. Mr. Bowers reported on the District's data collection programs in southwestern Keith County and on the status of studies underway in cooperation with the University of Nebraska Conservation & Survey Division. Mr. Miller reported that the Western canal does not have a recorder at the

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outlet of the canal to the South Platte River and that data is needed by the District for the studies underway in cooperation with the University of Nebraska Conservation & Survey Division and that data is also needed by the Western Irrigation District in regard to there consideration of the Platte River Cooperative Agreement. Mr. Meismer reported that the Subcommittee received and reviewed a list of bids received for a continuous recorder which is in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information. Mr. Meismer reported that the Subcommittee recommends that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District accept the proposal from In-Situ Inc and purchase the PR mini TROLLSSP 30 recorder at a cost of \$1,961.10. Mr. Meismer reported that approximately \$40.00 in materials would be needed to install the recorder. Mr. Miller reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District staff along with assistance from personnel from the Nebraska Department of Water Resources would install and operate the recorder. Mr. Miller reported that the University of Nebraska Conservation & Survey Division and the North Platte Natural Resources District recommended this recorder. Mr. Meismer reported that the Western Irrigation District Board members have indicated that they may be willing to contribute 25% of the cost.

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee's recommendation to the Board of Directors that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District accept the proposal from In-Situ Inc. and purchase the PR mini TROLLSSP 30 recorder at a cost of \$1,961.10 provided the Western Irrigation District allows the installation of the recorder in the Western Irrigation District canal and the Western Irrigation District cost-share 25% of the cost of the recorder and the materials for installation of the recorder up to a maximum cost-share from the Western Irrigation District of \$500.00. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion. (Motion #5)

Mr. Svoboda moved to amend Motion #5 to strike "25%" and insert "50%". Mr. Baldrige seconded the motion and it failed. (Motion #6)

AYE: Baldrige, Svoboda  
NAY: Boyer, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Stack, Wahlgren  
ABSENT: Kramer, Paulman, Weaver

Mr. Meismer moved to amend Motion #5 to add following "\$1,961.10" "and to approve up to \$40.00 in materials to install the recorder". Mr. Petersen seconded the motion and it carried. (Motion #7)

AYE: Baldrige, Boyer, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Stack, Wahlgren  
NAY: Svoboda  
ABSENT: Kramer, Paulman, Weaver

Motion # 5 as amended "that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District accept the proposal from In-Situ Inc. and purchase the PR mini TROLLSSP 30 recorder at a cost of \$1,961.10 and to approve up to \$40.00 in materials to install the recorder provided the Western Irrigation District allows the installation of the recorder in the Western Irrigation District canal and the Western Irrigation District cost-share 25% of the cost of the

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recorder and the materials for installation of the recorder up to a maximum cost-share from the Western Irrigation District of \$500.00” carried.

AYE: Baldridge, Boyer, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Stack, Wahlgren  
NAY: Svoboda  
ABSENT: Kramer, Paulman, Weaver

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT  
Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee  
PROGRAMS

Wildlife Habitat Programs - Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program - Program Review -  
Mr. Petersen reported that the District staff provided the Subcommittee a program review and that in the Directors’ notebook and available as a handout for information was the information provided to the Subcommittee.

Wildlife Habitat Programs - Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program - Funds Available -  
Mr. Petersen reported that the District staff provided the Subcommittee a report of funds available and that in the Directors’ notebook and available as a handout for information was the information provided to the Subcommittee. Mr. Carhart reported that a total of \$29,333.00 was available, of which 75% or \$22,000.00 were funds from the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission and the remaining \$7,333.00 were the District's 25% contribution. Mr. Carhart reported that of the total funds, \$10,854.00 was available for new contracts and that all but \$56 was projected to be utilized.

Wildlife Habitat Programs - Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program - Contracts - Mr. Petersen reported that the District staff provided the Subcommittee a report that listed the FY 2000 program applicants that were in "Primarily Farmland Areas" and "Primarily Rangeland Areas" per District policy to ensure that funds are made available to each area and that in the Directors’ notebook and available as a handout for information was the information provided to the Subcommittee. Mr. Carhart noted that there were many more applications falling under the "Farmland Area" designation than the "Rangeland Area" designation and that the unused funds after all the eligible “Rangeland Area” cooperators were dealt with went toward “Farmland Area” contracts.

Mr. Petersen reported that the District staff provided the Subcommittee a report for each proposed contract and that in the Directors’ notebook and available as a handout for information was the information provided to the Subcommittee.

Mr. Petersen moved the Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve the following new 10-year contracts:

<u>Contract #</u>	<u>Cooperator</u>	<u>Co</u>	<u>Practice</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Payments (Materials)</u>
00.01	Welch	KE	1/3	32	\$7,500.00

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						(\$1,336.23)
00.02	Bunning	LN	4	5	\$0	
						(\$1,295.00)
00.03	Baerg	KE	1/3	5	\$1,150.00	
						(\$212.75)
00.04	Barnt	KE	4	1	\$0	
						(\$284.00)
00.05	Barnt	KE	4	2	\$0	
						(\$522.00)
00.06	Miller	LN	1	28	\$7,000.00	
						(\$1,353.75)
00.07	Kalkowski	KE	4	6	\$0	
						(\$2,203.85)
00.08	Armstrong	KE	4	3	\$0	
						(\$277.00)
00.09	Paulman	LN	4	8	\$0	
						(\$1,057.14)
00.10	Svoboda	KE	1	6	\$1,500.00	
						(\$322.43)
00.11	Gerard	KE	4	7	\$0	
						(\$1,932.50)

Mr. Stack seconded the motion and it carried. (Motion #8)

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

Corners for Wildlife Program - Program Report – Mr. Petersen reported that the District staff provided the Subcommittee a program review and that in the Directors’ notebook and available as a handout for information was the information provided to the Subcommittee. Mr. Petersen reported that prior Board of Directors action allowed the District staff to proceed in signing up corners in this program since funds were allocated statewide on a first-come, first-served basis until the funds were gone. Mr. Carhart reported that the District had 10 existing Corners for Wildlife program sites prior to this year and that 13 corners were enrolled in the program for the year 2000.

The following list shows the contracts enrolled in the Year 2000 Corners for Wildlife Program:

<u>Contract #</u>	<u>Cooperator</u>	<u>Co</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Trees</u>	<u>Payments</u>
CFW 00.01	B. Armstrong	KE	8.6	635	\$3,225.00
CFW 00.02	D. Armstrong	KE	6.0	731	\$2,250.00
CFW 00.03	Baerg	KE	4.4	406	\$1,650.00



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CFW 00.04	Bode	LN	3.0	425	\$1,125.00
CFW 00.05	Gerard	KE	5.6	425	\$2,100.00
CFW 00.06	Svoboda	KE	19.5	920	\$7,312.50
CFW 00.07	Jehorek	KE	2.9	425	\$1,050.00
CFW 00.08	Kalkowski	KE	6.9	698	\$2,587.50
CFW 00.09	Klaasmeyer	LN	6.0	550	\$2,250.00
CFW 00.10	Miller	LN	6.9	405	\$2,587.50
CFW 00.11	Paulman	LN	8.0	867	\$3,000.00
CFW 00.12	Peterson	LN	10.9	400	\$4,087.50
CFW 00.13	Seifer	McP	14.8	680	\$5,550.00

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT  
Executive Subcommittee

No report presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Statement - Mr. Meisner reported that the Financial Statements for February 2000 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 February 2000 be received and placed on file for audit and that the Accounts Payable in the amount of \$7,479.00 be paid. Mr. Stack seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #9)

- AYE: Baldridge, Boyer, Meisner, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Stack, Svoboda, Wahlgren
- NAY: None
- ABSENT: Kramer, Paulman, Weaver

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

Bids/Proposals - None were presented.

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

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DIRECTORS' REPORTS  
Nebraska Association of Resources Districts

Board of Directors Meetings – Mr. Meismer reported on the Board of Directors meeting held on March 6, 2000.

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  
Western Irrigation District Board Meeting

Mr. Meismer reported on the meetings he and the staff had participated in with the Western Irrigation District Board of Directors to discuss the Platte River Cooperative Agreement.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS  
Board of Directors Election

Mr. Boyer reported that in the Directors' packet for information was a listing of the filings for seats on the Board of Directors that are up for election this year.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS  
Requests for Authorization to Travel

No requests were presented.

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 no funds were available for additional contracts. Mr. Miller reported that the District's policy provides that "If an application for cost share through the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program is approved by the Board of Directors after September 30<sup>th</sup> of any fiscal year beginning July 1, 1999, the applicant

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must complete the practice and submit the paper work required for the payment in sufficient time and no later than June 15<sup>th</sup> for the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission to process the completed application before the end of the fiscal year”, that “An applicant’s failure may result in the loss of all or part of the cost share” and that “Applicants will be required to sign a document stating their knowledge of this policy and agreeing to the terms thereof”. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout was a report of the contracts approved for this year along with the contracts expiration date for information.

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 - No report presented.

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.

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 – No report presented.

Water Programs – Platte River Activities - Cooperative Hydrology Study – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet was information for meetings of the sponsors for the Cooperative Hydrology Study.

Regulatory Programs – No report presented.

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Information & Education Programs – Mr. Miller reported that the District’s policy provides for seven scholarships annually for the Nebraska Range Camp and three scholarships annually for the Natural Resources and Leadership Camp for youth. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout was information for the Sandhills Academy Camp for youth which is being offered in place of the Natural Resources and Leadership Camp for youth. Mr. Miller recommended that the District policy provide for three scholarships annually for the Natural Resources and Leadership Camp for youth or the Sandhills Academy Camp for youth.

The Board of Directors by consent agreed that the District policy provide for three scholarships annually for the Natural Resources and Leadership Camp for youth or the Sandhills Academy Camp for youth.

Legislation – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors’ packet and in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout were reports and information of Legislation being considered in the Nebraska Legislature.

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.

The Board of Directors agreed that they would like to continue afternoon meetings of the Board of Directors next winter in January, February and March and that if there is an early harvest, that the November Board of Directors meeting could possibly be an afternoon meeting. The December Board of Directors meeting is scheduled in the evening to coincide with the District’s Awards Banquet in Ogallala.

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 in the Directors’ notebook and available as a handout for information was a recent opinion of the Nebraska Supreme Court in regard to the legal boundaries within the Platte River.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:14 p.m. CST (4:14 p.m. MST).

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Douglas Stack, Secretary