

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
July 13, 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 July 13, 2000. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Boyer at 7:37 p.m. CDT (6:37 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 Baldridge
Kent Boyer
Todd Kramer
James Meisner
Robert Petersen
Jim Rubenthaler
Douglas Stack
Frank Svoboda
Joe Wahlgren
Jerry Weaver

BOARD MEMBERS

ABSENT & EXCUSED

BOARD MEMBERS

ABSENT

Roric Paulman

NRCS PERS PRESENT

Mary Reece, D Cons

OTHERS PRESENT

STAFF PRESENT

Kent O Miller, Gen Mgr
Bill Carhart, Range P Coor
Dave Slattery, Cons P Coor
Ardis Lehmkuhler, Adm Asst

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 no Directors requested that they be 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, Conservation Plans for the Conservation Reserve Program, Emergency Haying & Grazing Plans for the Conservation Reserve Program, Conservation Plans for the Highly Erodible Lands Program and a Conservation Plan revision for the Wildlife Habitat 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.

AGENDA MODIFICATION

None presented.

GENERAL INFORMATION

No report presented.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Minutes for June 8, 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. Stack moved that the Minutes of the June 8, 2000 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mr. Peterson seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #1)

A YE: Baldridge, Boyer Kramer,, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Stack,
Svoboda, Wahlgren, Weaver

NAY: None

ABSENT: Paulman

COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORTS

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - Monthly Report – Mrs. Reece reported that in the Directors' Packet for information was a narrative report and she reviewed the report.

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

Other Agencies - Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information was the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission's newsletter "Nebraska Resources" for Spring 2000, the Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District newsletter for May/June 2000, the National Association of Conservation District's newsletter "The District Leader" for May/June 2000 and the National Association of Conservation District's newsletter "Tuesday Letter" for Spring 2000.

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SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Land Resources Subcommittee

Mr. Baldrige, Land Resources Subcommittee Chairperson presented the report.

Range Program - District Range Tour - Mr. Baldrige reported that the Subcommittee heard a report on the District's Range Tour scheduled for August 17, 2000 which the NRCS will provide \$200.00 available from the Environmental Quality Incentive Program "Educational Assistance Plan and the District's range oriented meeting scheduled for October 3, 2000 which the NRCS will provide \$1,200.00 available from the Environmental Quality Incentive Program "Educational Assistance Plan.

Tree Program - 2000 Report - Mr. Baldrige reported that the Subcommittee heard a report on the District's 2000 Tree Program. Mr. Baldrige reported that in the Director's packet for information were reports for the Districts Tree Program.

Tree Program - Policies - Mr. Baldrige reported that the Subcommittee heard a report on the District's tree program policies.

Tree Program - 2001 Planning - Tree Stock - Mr. Slattery reported on the anticipated availability of trees from Halsey and from Colorado. Mr. Slattery reported that the Nursery's have not yet determined the charges for trees for 2001 for Districts.

Tree Program - 2001 Planning - Machine Planting - Mr. Baldrige reported that in the Director's packet for information were reports for the District's tree planting charge for planting by the District's machine crew.

Mr. Baldrige moved the Subcommittee's recommendation to the Board of Directors that the District's tree stock and handling charges be those set by the nursery and that the District's machine planting charges be set at \$.45 per tree for 2001. Mr. Rubenthaler seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #2)

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Paulman

Mr. Baldrige moved the Subcommittee's recommendation to the Board of Directors that the District's Tree Program policies be revised as follows (Additions are underlined and deletions have a strikethrough line):

The minimum number of tree that the District's machine crew may plant is ~~200~~
100.

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

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

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NAY: None
ABSENT: Paulman

Tree Program - 2001 Planning - Hand Planting Services - Mr. Baldrige reported that John Nelson would not be offering the services of hand planting trees in existing windbreaks in 2001.

Tree Program - 2001 Planning - Water Conservation Mulch Services - Mr. Baldrige reported that in the Director's packet for information was a report of water conservation mulch installed in the District from 1991 to present.

Cost-Share Programs - Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program - Policies - Mr. Baldrige reported that the Subcommittee heard a report on the District's Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program policies.

Cost-Share Programs - Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program - 2000 Report & 2001 Planning - Eligible Practices - Mr. Baldrige reported that in the Director's packet for information was a listing of the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program eligible practices. Mr. Baldrige reported that the Subcommittee agreed that the District should continue with the current eligible practices.

Cost-Share Programs - Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program - 2000 Report & 2001 Planning - Funding - Allocation - Mr. Baldrige reported that in the Director's packet for information was a listing of the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission's distribution of funds to Districts for the 2000 Fiscal Year for the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program. Mr. Baldrige reported that the District's allocation for the 2001 Fiscal Year would be \$92,866.92.

Cost-Share Programs - Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program - 2000 Report & 2001 Planning - Funding - Distribution Guidelines - Mr. Baldrige reported that in the Director's packet for information were charts showing the funds spent for each practice during the 2000 Fiscal Year and from January 1, 1977 through June 30, 2000. Mr. Baldrige reported that the District's policy for the 2000 Fiscal Year was that \$35,000.00 will be reserved from July 1, 1999 to December 31, 1999 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. Baldrige reported that during the 2000 Fiscal Year that the \$35,000.00 reserved from July 1, 1999 to December 31, 1999 for Practice NC-12, Windbreaks was extended by the Board of Directors to January 30, 2000.

Mr. Baldrige moved the Subcommittee's recommendation to the Board of Directors that the District's Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program policies for NC-12, Windbreaks, be revised for the 2001 Fiscal Year as follows (Additions are underlined and deletions have a strikethrough line):

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For July 1, 2000 to January 30, 2001 ~~July 1, 1999 to 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. Rubenthaler seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #4)

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

Cost-Share Programs - Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program - 2000 Report & 2001 Planning - Funding - Obligated Funds Not Spent – Mr. Baldrige reported that the Subcommittee heard a report on the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program rules and regulations in regard to obligated and unexpended funds.

Cost-Share Programs - District Program - Policies - Mr. Baldrige reported that the Subcommittee heard a report on the District's Cost-Share Program policies.

Cost-Share Programs - District Program - 2000 Report & 2001 Planning - Eligible Practices - Mr. Baldrige reported that the District's Cost-Share Program for the 2000 Fiscal Year provided cost-share for sealing abandoned wells. Mr. Baldrige reported that in the Director's packet for information were a brochure and an application for the District's cost-share program for sealing abandoned wells.

Cost-Share Programs - District Program - 2000 Report & 2001 Planning - Funding - Mr. Baldrige reported that in the Director's packet for information was a report of the funds spent for the District's cost-share program for sealing abandoned wells.

Cost-Share Programs - District Program - 2000 Report & 2001 Planning - Funding - Budget - Mr. Baldrige reported that \$3,000.00 has been allocated annually for the past three Fiscal Years for the District's cost-share program for sealing abandoned wells.

Cost-Share Programs - District Program - 2000 Report & 2001 Planning - Funding - Distribution Guidelines -

Mr. Baldrige moved the Subcommittee's recommendation to the Board of Directors that the District provide \$3,000.00 of cost-share funds for the sealing of abandoned wells within the District for the 2001 Fiscal Year using the current District guidelines. Mr. Kramer seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #5)

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

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COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORTS (Continued)

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - Programs - Environmental Quality Incentive Program – Conservation Plans – 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.

Mr. Rubenthaler 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. Petersen seconded the motion and it carried. (Motion #6)

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Paulman

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

Mr. Baldridge moved to approve the Conservation Plans for the USDA Conservation Reserve 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. Kramer seconded the motion and it carried. (Motion #7)

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Weaver

ABSENT: Paulman

Mr. Miller reported that the USDA is allowing emergency haying and grazing on Conservation Reserve Program land in portions of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District. Mr. Miller reported that the District's policy provides that whenever the USDA allows emergency haying and grazing of Conservation Reserve Program land and the USDA requires the Natural Resources Conservation Service to prepare haying or grazing plans for the eligible acreage and the Twin Platte Natural Resources District to approve the plans, if the producer requests to utilize the emergency haying and grazing prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors and if the emergency plan is developed utilizing the Natural Resources Conservation Service Technical Guide and if the Natural Resources Conservation Service District Conservationist recommends approval of the emergency plan, the Board of Directors authorizes the General Manager or a Programs Coordinator designated by the General Manager to approve and sign the emergency plan document as the District

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representative and the emergency plan document shall be presented to the Board of Directors during the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors for information. Mr. Miller reported that the emergency plan documents that he has signed are in the notebooks passed around the Board table for review by each member of the Board of Directors present

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - Programs - Highly Erodible Lands Requirements - Mrs. Boyer reported that in the Directors' packet for information were the listings of completed Highly Erodible Lands determinations. Mr. Boyer reported that each member of the Board of Directors present had reviewed the notebook containing the Conservation Plans for Highly Erodible Lands.

Mr. Stack moved to approve the Conservation Plans for the USDA Highly Erodible Lands 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. Kramer seconded the motion and it carried. (Motion #8)

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Paulman

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - Programs – Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program - Mr. Boyer reported that each member of the Board of Directors present had reviewed the notebook containing the Conservation Plan revision for the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program.

Mr. Kramer moved to approve the Conservation Plan revision for the Wildlife Habitat 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 Plan as the District representative. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion and it carried. (Motion #9)

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Paulman

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Water Resources Subcommittee

Mr. Meismer, Water Resources Subcommittee Chairperson presented the report.

Ground Water Program - Target Areas – Southwestern Keith County – Mr. Meismer reported that the Subcommittee heard a report on the collection of data within the target areas in southwestern Keith County and a report on the plans and schedule for the analysis of data. Mr. Meismer reported that the Subcommittee agreed that they would

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like another status report on the monitoring wells within the target areas in southwestern Keith County in November 2000 or sooner if new information is available

Ground Water Program - Transect Wells in Lincoln County - Mr. Meisner reported that the Subcommittee heard a report on the collection of data from the monitoring wells installed along a transects crossing the South Platte River valley and the North Platte River valley near Highway 83 in Lincoln County and a report on the plans and schedule for the analysis of data. Mr. Meisner reported that the Subcommittee agreed that they would like another status report on the monitoring wells installed along a transects crossing the South Platte River valley and the North Platte River valley near Highway 83 in Lincoln County in November 2000 or sooner if new information is available.

Ground Water Program - Miscellaneous Information – Mr. Meisner reported that the Subcommittee heard a report on the monitoring program of alluvial valley wells and the monitoring program at livestock facilities. Mr. Meisner reported that the Subcommittee heard a report on the discussions with the manager of the Sutherland ethanol plant that the Subcommittee agreed that the staff should continue discussions with the manager of the Sutherland ethanol plant.

Canal Screen Cleaning Demonstration Project - Status Report - Mr. Meisner reported that the Subcommittee heard a report on the status of installing demonstrations for canal screening at three sites in southwestern Keith County and one site between Hershey and North Platte.

Platte River Cooperative Agreement - Miscellaneous Information - Mr. Meisner reported that the Subcommittee reviewed a “Statement of Principles and Positions Relating to Continuation of the Cooperative Agreement and Adoption of a Proposed Program” prepared by the Nebraska Water Users and the Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation, June 2000. Mr. Meisner reported that the Nebraska Water Users and the Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation was asking each Natural Resources District in the Platte River Basin to support the document. Mr. Meisner reported that a special Platte River Basin meeting for Natural Resources Districts has been scheduled for July 19, 2000 in North Platte during which the Nebraska Water Users and the Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation would be discussing the “Statement of Principles and Positions Relating to Continuation of the Cooperative Agreement and Adoption of a Proposed Program”.

Mr. Meisner moved the Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors to support the June 2000 draft of the “Statement of Principles and Positions Relating to Continuation of the Cooperative Agreement and Adoption of a Proposed Program” prepared by the Nebraska Water Users and the Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion. (Motion #10)

Mr. Petersen asked to be excused from voting on Motion #10.

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Motion #10 carried.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee
PROGRAMS

No report presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Executive Subcommittee

No report presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Statement - Mr. Meismer reported that the Financial Statements for June 2000 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 June 2000 be received and placed on file for audit and that the Accounts Payable in the amount of \$19,024.49 be paid. Mr. Stack seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #11)

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

Budget Status - No report presented.

Bids/Proposals - None were presented.

Bids/Proposals Scheduled To Be Presented for Consideration During the August 10, 2000 Board of Directors Meeting - Mr. Miller reported that no bids/proposals were scheduled to be presented for consideration during the August 10, 2000 Board of Directors meeting.

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DIRECTORS' REPORTS
Nebraska Association of Resources Districts

No report presented.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS
Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District Water Conservation Task Force

No report presented.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS
Platte River Citizens Advisory Council

Mr. Boyer reported on the activities of the Platte River Citizens Advisory Council appointed by Governor Johanns to monitor the activities of the Platte River Cooperative Agreement and to prepare reports and recommendations for the Governor.

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 \$93,697.53 was available.

Mr. Kramer moved to approve the July 2000 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</u>
<u>Fund</u>				
PROPOSED NEW CONTRACTS:				
00-094	NC-14	Planned Grazing System	\$ 474.00	\$ 474.00
00-095	NC-14	Planned Grazing System	\$ 172.96	\$ 172.96
01-001	NC-14	Planned Grazing System	\$ 1,338.92	\$ 1,338.92
01-002	NC-14	Planned Grazing System	\$ 6,716.40	\$ 6,716.40
01-003	NC-14	Planned Grazing System	\$ 2,646.40	\$ 2,646.40
01-004	NC-14	Planned Grazing System	\$ 3,823.50	\$ 3,823.50
01-005	NC-17	Irrigation Water Management	\$ 210.00	\$ 210.00
01-006	NC-10	Pasture Planting	\$ 320.00	\$ 320.00
01-007	NC-14	Planned Grazing System	\$ 3,931.00	\$ 3,931.00

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01-008 NC-14	Planned Grazing System	\$	796.50	\$	796.50
Total Amount Of New Contracts					\$ 20,429.68
FUNDS AVAILABLE					\$ 73,267.85

Mr. Petersen seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #12)

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

Cost-Share Programs - District Conservation Program – No report presented.

Cost-Share Programs – NE Buffer Strip Program - Contracts - 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 – 319 Project – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet for information was the quarterly report to the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District's 319 Project.

Water Programs – Ground Water Program – District Programs –Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet and in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout were copies of news articles.

Water Programs –Watershed Program – No report presented.

Water Programs – Platte River Activities - Cooperative Agreement Relating to Endangered Species – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout was information for meetings of the Governance Committee. 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 – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout was information for meetings of the sponsors for the Cooperative Hydrology Study. Mr. Miller reported that he participates in the meetings of the sponsor as the representative for the District.

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Regulatory Programs – No report presented.

Information & Education Programs – No report presented.

Legislation – No report presented.

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. Boyer asked the Board if they would like to schedule a tour this fall. Mr. Baldrige invited the Board to have dinner at his place in September. The Board of Directors agreed to schedule the September Board meeting for September 7, 2000 at 5:00 p.m. CDT (4:00 p.m. MDT).

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.

BUDGET FOR 2001 FISCAL YEAR

Preparation Schedule - Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet for information was the schedule for preparing the 2001 Fiscal Year Budget for the District. Mr. Miller reported that the schedule for preparing the 2001 Fiscal Year Budget provides for Board review of the first draft of the Budget during the June Board meeting and provides the Board four opportunities to review and discuss the Budget prior to final approval.

Second Review - Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet was the second draft of a budget for the 2001 fiscal year. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout was information for the Natural Resources Enhancement Funds and the 319 Project Funds in the 2000 fiscal year budget and the draft 2001 fiscal year budget and he reviewed the information.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m. CDT (8:38 p.m. MDT).

Douglas Stack, Secretary

KOM:MSOMIN2:Bmin0700