

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
August 10, 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 August 10, 2000. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Boyer at 7:45 p.m. CDT (6:45 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

Kent Boyer
James Meisner
Douglas Stack
Frank Svoboda
Joe Wahlgren
Jerry Weaver

BOARD MEMBERS

ABSENT & EXCUSED

Jeff Baldrige
Todd Kramer
Roric Paulman
Robert Petersen
Jim Rubenthaler

BOARD MEMBERS

ABSENT

NRCS PERS PRESENT

Mary Reece, D Cons

OTHERS PRESENT

STAFF PRESENT

Glen Bowers, Water P Coor
Bill Carhart, Range P Coor
Ardis Lehmkuhler, Adm Asst
Kent O Miller, Gen Mgr
Dave Slattery, Cons 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. Baldrige, Mr. Kramer, Mr. Paulman, Mr. Petersen, and Mr. Rubenthaler 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.

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Documents for Review Prior to Action Scheduled Later on the Agenda - Mr. Boyer reported that notebooks of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service containing Conservation Plans for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program, Conservation Plans for the Conservation Reserve Program, Emergency Haying & Grazing Plans for the Conservation Reserve Program, and Conservation Plans for the Highly Erodible Lands 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.

Newsletter – Mr. Miller distributed for information the Twin Platte Natural Resources Summer 2000 Newsletter. Mr. Miller reported that the newsletter had been mailed last week to all producers within the District.

AGENDA MODIFICATION

None presented.

GENERAL INFORMATION

No report presented.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Minutes for July 13, 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 July 13, 2000 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mr. Weaver seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #1)

AYE: Boyer, Meismer, Stack, Svoboda, Wahlgren, Weaver

NAY: None

ABSENT: Baldrige, Kramer, Paulman, Petersen, Rubenthaler

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.

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.

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Mr. Wahlgren 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. Meismer seconded the motion and it carried. (Motion #2)

AYE: Boyer, Meismer, Stack, Svoboda, Wahlgren, Weaver

NAY: None

ABSENT: Baldrige, Kramer, Paulman, Petersen, Rubenthaler

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. Stack 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. Wahlgren seconded the motion and it carried. (Motion #3)

AYE: Boyer, Meismer, Stack, Svoboda, Wahlgren, Weaver

NAY: None

ABSENT: Baldrige, Kramer, Paulman, Petersen, Rubenthaler

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 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

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

AYE: Boyer, Meismer, Stack, Svoboda, Wahlgren, Weaver

NAY: None

ABSENT: Baldrige, Kramer, Paulman, Petersen, Rubenthaler

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - Programs – Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program - No report presented.

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

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

Mr. Weaver, Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee Chairperson presented the report.

Urban Forestry Program - Program Report - Mr. Weaver reported on the Urban Forestry Program. Mr. Weaver reported that in the Directors' Board meeting notebook and available as a handout for information was the District's policy for the Urban Forestry Program, a written report for the Urban Forestry Program, a copy of the Urban Forestry Program guidelines, the application used by the District for the Urban Forestry Program and a summary report for programs in North Platte, Ogallala, Sutherland, Brady, Paxton and Hershey. Mr. Weaver reported that the District's policy provides for funding for a program during a three-year period.

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Urban Forestry Program - Approved Community Programs – Mr. Weaver reported that for the Sutherland Urban Forestry Program, their first program began during the 1997 Fiscal Year and their second program began during the 2000 Fiscal Year. Mr. Weaver reported that in the Directors' Board meeting notebook and available as a handout for information was a report for the current program in Sutherland listing the cooperators receiving funds in the community. Mr. Weaver reported that the District's policy provides that \$1,670.99 could be allocated for the Sutherland Urban Forestry Program for the 2001 Fiscal Year. Mr. Weaver reported that for the Brady Urban Forestry Program, their first program began during the 2000 Fiscal Year. Mr. Weaver reported that in the Directors' Board meeting notebook and available as a handout for information was a report for the current program in Brady listing the cooperators receiving funds in the community. Mr. Weaver reported that the District's policy provides that \$452.00 could be allocated for the Brady Urban Forestry Program for the 2001 Fiscal Year.

Mr. Weaver moved the Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee's recommendation to the Board of Directors to authorize \$1,670.99 for funding the Sutherland Urban Forestry Program July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001 and to authorize \$452.00 for funding the Brady Urban Forestry Program July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001. Mr. Stack seconded the motion and it carried. (Motion #5)

AYE: Boyer, Meismer, Stack, Svoboda, Wahlgren, Weaver

NAY: None

ABSENT: Baldridge, Kramer, Paulman, Petersen, Rubenthaler

Urban Forestry Program - Applications for Community Programs - Mr. Weaver reported that for the North Platte Urban Forestry Program, their first program began during the 1995 Fiscal Year and their second program began during the 1998 Fiscal Year. Mr. Weaver reported that North Platte has requested a third program that could begin during the 2001 Fiscal Year. Mr. Weaver reported that in the Directors' Board meeting notebook and available as a handout for information was a report for the current program in North Platte listing the cooperators receiving funds in the community. Mr. Weaver reported that the District's policy provides that \$2,000.00 could be allocated for a new North Platte Urban Forestry Program for the 2001 Fiscal Year. Mr. Weaver reported that for the Ogallala Urban Forestry Program, their first program began during the 1995 Fiscal Year and their second program began during the 1998 Fiscal Year. Mr. Weaver reported that Ogallala has requested a third program that could begin during the 2001 Fiscal Year. Mr. Weaver reported that in the Directors' Board meeting notebook and available as a handout for information was a report for the current program in Ogallala listing the cooperators receiving funds in the community. Mr. Weaver reported that the District's policy provides that \$2,000.00 could be allocated for a new Ogallala Urban Forestry Program for the 2001 Fiscal Year.

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Mr. Weaver moved the Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee's recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve a new North Platte Urban Forestry Program for fiscal years 2001, 2002 and 2003 and to authorize \$2,000.00 for funding the North Platte Urban Forestry Program July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001 and to approve a new Ogallala Urban Forestry Program for fiscal years 2001, 2002 and 2003 and to authorize \$2,000.00 for funding the Ogallala Urban Forestry Program July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001. Mr. Stack seconded the motion and it carried. (Motion #6)

AYE: Boyer, Meisner, Stack, Wahlgren, Weaver

NAY: Svoboda

ABSENT: Baldrige, Kramer, Paulman, Petersen, Rubenthaler

Urban Forestry Program - Communities Considering Programs - Mr. Weaver reported that the Subcommittee knows of no other communities that were considering a program at this time.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Executive Subcommittee

No report presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Statement - Mr. Meisner reported that the Financial Statements for July 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 July 2000 be received and placed on file for audit and that the Accounts Payable in the amount of \$9,456.93 be paid. Mr. Stack seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #7)

AYE: Boyer, Meisner, Stack, Svoboda, Wahlgren, Weaver

NAY: None

ABSENT: Baldrige, Kramer, Paulman, Petersen, Rubenthaler

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.

Leased Vehicle Options – Mr. Miller reported that for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District's 319 Project, the District had leased a vehicle for use by the Water Programs Technician. Mr. Miller reported that the three-year lease of the vehicle ends October 26, 2000. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet was a report of options available

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for the District in regard to the leased vehicle.

Mr. Meismer moved that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District purchase the 1998 pickup leased by the District as provided for in the terms of the lease for \$15,647.24. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #8)

AYE: Boyer, Meismer, Stack, Svoboda, Wahlgren, Weaver

NAY: None

ABSENT: Baldrige, Kramer, Paulman, Petersen, Rubenthaler

Bids/Proposals - None were presented.

Bids/Proposals Scheduled To Be Presented for Consideration During the September 7, 2000 Board of Directors Meeting - Mr. Miller reported that no bids/proposals were scheduled to be presented for consideration during the September 7, 2000 Board of Directors meeting.

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

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monthly report. Mr. Miller reported that \$76,218.04 was available.

Mr. Meisner moved to approve the August 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:				
01-009	NC-14	Planned Grazing System	\$ 7,270.29	\$ 7,270.29
01-010	NC-14	Pasture Seeding	\$ 3,370.89	\$ 3,370.89
01-011	NC-14	Planned Grazing System	\$ 1,552.00	\$ 1,552.00
01-012	NC-14	Planned Grazing System	\$ 893.00	\$ 893.00
01-013	NC-14	Planned Grazing System	\$ 1,717.80	\$ 1,717.80
01-014	NC-14	Planned Grazing System	\$ 2,205.00	\$ 2,205.00
01-015	NC-17	Planned Grazing System	\$ 645.58	\$ 645.58
01-016	NC-10	Planned Grazing System	\$ 1,251.08	\$ 1,251.08
Total Amount Of New Contracts				\$ 18,905.64
FUNDS AVAILABLE				\$ 57,312.40

Mr. Stack seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #9)

AYE: Boyer, Meisner, Stack, Svoboda, Wahlgren, Weaver

NAY: None

ABSENT: Baldrige, Kramer, Paulman, Petersen, Rubenthaler

Cost-Share Programs - Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program – Miscellaneous Information - Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout was the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources Fund Report for June 30th for information.

Cost-Share Programs - District Conservation Program – Contracts of Approved Programs for Fiscal Year 2001 – Sealing Abandoned Wells - Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information was a report.

Cost-Share Programs – NE Buffer Strip Program - Contracts - Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information was a report.

Tree Program – No report presented.

Range Programs – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout was information for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District / Natural Resources Conservation Service Range Tour scheduled for August 17th at the Thalken Ranch located near Roscoe, NE.

Soil Conservation Programs – No report presented.

Wildlife Habitat Programs - No report presented.

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Water Programs – Ground Water Program – 319 Project – No report presented.

Water Programs – Ground Water Program – District Programs – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout was information in regard to the University of Nebraska – Lincoln Cooperative Extension Farm-A-Syst program. Mr. Meismer, Mr. Wahlgren and Mr. Weaver indicated that they were interested in participating in the Farm-A-Syst program. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout was copy of correspondence in regard to the Enterprise Partners Farrow Livestock operation in Arthur County for information.

Water Programs – Watershed Program – No report presented.

Water Programs – Platte River Activities - Cooperative Agreement Relating to Endangered Species – 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 he participates in the meetings of the sponsor as the representative for the District.

Regulatory Programs – No report presented.

Information & Education Programs – 2000 Awards Program – Presentation, November 13, 2000 – Mr. Miller reported on the District's Conservation Picture award for Lincoln/McPherson Counties that will be presented November 13, 2000 during the North Platte Chamber Farmer/Rancher Appreciation Banquet. Mr. Miller reported that the Board Chairperson, Mr. Boyer and District staff would participate in the award presentation.

Information & Education Programs – 2000 Awards Program – Presentation, December 2000 – Mr. Miller reported on the District's Grassland Conservation award for Keith/Arthur Counties. Mr. Miller reported that [Operating Policy Number 8 provides that "the regularly scheduled monthly meetings of the Board of Directors will be held in North Platte with the exception of the December meetings which will be held in the western part of the District"](#). Mr. Miller reported that for 1992 through 1996, the District had held an awards banquet in Ogallala in conjunction with the January Board of Directors meeting, that for 1997 the District had planned an awards banquet in Ogallala in conjunction with the December Board of Directors meeting that was canceled due to weather and that for 1998 and 1999 the District had held an awards banquet in Ogallala in conjunction with

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the December Board of Directors meeting. Mr. Miller reported that the District has the 2000 Keith/Arthur Grassland Conservation Award that would be presented. Mr. Miller reported that in previous years, the District has invited to these awards banquets members of the Board of Directors and their spouse, the District's full-time staff and their spouse, the NRCS field offices full-time staff and their spouse, the News media, the award recipients and their requested guests and other special guests. Mr. Miller reported that State Statutes provide that spouses or guests of Directors and the staff must pay for their meal. Mr. Miller reported that the Board meeting was changed to a Tuesday evening to accommodate the Keith County News coverage of the awards and that the Board meeting was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. MST and the Awards Banquet was scheduled for 7:00 p.m. MST. The Board of Directors agreed that the December 2000 Board of Directors meeting would be held on Tuesday, December 12, 2000 at 5:30 p.m. MST (6:30 p.m. CST) in Ogallala and that the District would host an awards banquet for presentation of awards on Tuesday, December 12, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. MST (8:00 p.m. CST) and that the District would invite to the awards banquet members of Board of Directors and their spouse, the District's full-time staff and their spouse, the NRCS field office full-time staff and their spouse, the News media, the award recipients and their requested guests and other special guests.

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.

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.

Third Review - Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet was the third draft (#3) of a budget for the 2001 fiscal year. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout was a revised third draft (#3b) and he reviewed the changes. 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.

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Approval for Public Hearings and Set Public Hearing Dates, Times and Location -

Mr. Stack moved to approve for public hearing the 2001 Fiscal Year Budget as proposed in Draft #3b with a property tax requirement of \$283,303.00 and a total requirement of \$796,422.29 and to set the Public Hearing for the 2001 Fiscal Year Budget for September 7, 2000 at 5:00 p.m. CDT (4:00 p.m. MDT) to be held in the United NE Bank Center Meeting Room located at 111 South Dewey Street in North Platte, NE for the Board of Directors to hear and consider public comments prior to action for approval of the 2001 Fiscal Year Budget. Mr. Meisner seconded the motion and it carried. (Motion #10)

AYE: Boyer, Meisner, Stack, Svoboda, Wahlgren, Weaver

NAY: None

ABSENT: Baldrige, Kramer, Paulman, Petersen, Rubenthaler

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m. CDT (7:47 p.m. MDT).

Douglas Stack, Secretary

KOM:MSOMIN2:Bmin0800