

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
September 7, 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 September 7, 2000. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Boyer at 5:05 p.m. CDT (4:05 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
James Meismer
Robert Petersen
Jim Rubenthaler
Douglas Stack
Frank Svoboda
Jerry Weaver

BOARD MEMBERS

ABSENT & EXCUSED

Todd Kramer
Roric Paulman
Joe Wahlgren

BOARD MEMBERS

ABSENT

NRCS PERS PRESENT

Mary Reece, D Cons
Kristen Miller, R Mgm Spec

OTHERS PRESENT

STAFF PRESENT

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

DISTRICT REPORT

Water Programs – Ground Water Program – District Programs – Mr. Bowers reported on the District’s ground water monitoring program activities.

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. Wahlgren were excused.

DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Directors Notebooks Containing Information Items Available for Handout - Mr. Boyer

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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 Conservation Plans for the Conservation Reserve Program and Emergency Haying & Grazing Plans for the Conservation Reserve 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.

INFORMAL PUBLIC HEARING

An Informal Public Hearing relating to the proposed Twin Platte Natural Resources District 2000-2001 Fiscal Year Budget was held. Minutes were prepared and may be referenced for information.

2001 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET

Restricted Funds Authority - Mr. Miller reported that the Nebraska Statutes provide that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District may exceed the budget limit for the 2000-2001 Fiscal Year by an additional one percent and carry forward to future budget years the full amount of the increase as unused restricted funds authority upon the affirmative vote of at least seventy-five percent of the Board of Directors. No action was considered, as eight members of the Board of Directors were present which would not allow for the opportunity for at least seventy-five percent of the Board of Directors to approve exceeding the budget limit for the 2000-2001 Fiscal Year by an additional one percent.

Final Approval -

Mr. Stack moved to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, a legal notice of budget hearing and budget summary was published in the North Platte Telegraph on August 30, 2000 for a hearing scheduled for September 7, 2000 by the Board of Directors of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District for the purpose of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions and observations of taxpayers relating to the proposed budget; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District on September 7, 2000 held a public hearing in compliance with the provisions of State Statute Sections 13-501 to 13-515 for the purpose of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions and observations of taxpayers relating to the proposed budget;

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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors approves the 2000-2001 Fiscal Year Budget as presented for public hearing.

Mr. Petersen seconded the motion and it carried. (Motion #1)

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Kramer, Paulman, Wahlgren

Set Property Tax Request -

Mr. Rubenthaler moved to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the 1999-2000 Fiscal Year property tax request for the Twin Platte Natural Resources Districts was \$283,303.00; and

WHEREAS, the 2000-2001 Fiscal Year Budget requires a property tax request for the Twin Platte Natural Resources Districts of \$283,303.00; and

WHEREAS, the property tax request for the 2000-2001 Fiscal Year will be the same as the property tax request for the 1999-2000 Fiscal Year, a special hearing by the Board of Directors of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District to hear support, opposition, criticism, suggestions and observations of taxpayers relating to setting the final tax request at a different amount than the prior year tax request was not needed; and

WHEREAS, the tax request is in compliance with the provisions of State Statutes Sections 13-518 through 13-522 for budget limitations; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of State Statutes Section 77-3442 provides Natural Resources Districts a maximum levy of 0.04500 per one hundred dollars of taxable valuation of property and the taxable valuation of property for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District per the County Assessors of Arthur, Keith Lincoln and McPherson Counties is \$2,186,428,782.00 which would provide for a calculated levy for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District for the 2000-2001 Fiscal Year of 0.012957 per one hundred dollars of taxable valuation of property for the property tax request for the Twin Platte Natural Resources Districts of \$283,303.00;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors sets the final property tax request for the 2000-2001 Fiscal Year Budget at \$283,303.00.

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

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Kramer, Paulman, Wahlgren

AGENDA MODIFICATION

None presented.

GENERAL INFORMATION

No report presented.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Minutes for August 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. Stack moved that the Minutes of the August 10, 2000 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mr. Meismer seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #3)

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Kramer, Paulman, Wahlgren

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 – Mrs. Reece reported on a workshop titled “Managing Wildlife” scheduled for October 3, 2000 at the Haythorn Ranch and she distributed a pamphlet for the workshop. Mrs. Reece reported that the workshop was recommended by the local work group to be funded by the Environmental Quality Incentive Program “Educational Assistance Plan. Mrs. Reece reported that the District and the NRCS organized the workshop. Mrs. Reece reported that the NRCS would provide \$1,200.00 for the workshop available from the Environmental Quality Incentive Program for the “Educational Assistance Plan.

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USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - Programs - Conservation Reserve Program – Wellhead Protection – Mr. Miller reported on the Nebraska Wellhead Protection Program and on the technical assistance the District provides to communities within the District associated with the Wellhead Protection Program. Mr. Miller reported on a letter Michael Linder, Director of the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, had sent to the USDA dated July 5, 2000, explaining the role that the Conservation Reserve Program has in protecting public water supplies and on how the Conservation Reserve Program can be an important rural land use tool concerning ground water protection. Mr. Miller reported that the current 2,000 foot radius limitation around supply wells generally only allows for the Conservation Reserve Program to be established in the 2 to 5 year time of travel zones of a Wellhead Protection Area whereas the Nebraska Wellhead Protection Program uses a 20 year time of travel zone as it's basis.

Mr. Petersen moved that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District send a letter to the USDA requesting that the Conservation Reserve Program eligibility be expanded to include the entire Wellhead Protection Area which would provide for a 20 year time of travel zone in Nebraska. Mr. Meisner seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #4)

AYE: Baldrige, Boyer, Meisner, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Stack, Svoboda,
Weaver

NAY: None

ABSENT: Kramer, Paulman, Wahlgren

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. Rubenthaler 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. Meisner seconded the motion and it carried. (Motion #5)

AYE: Baldrige, Boyer, Meisner, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Stack, Svoboda,
Weaver

NAY: None

ABSENT: Kramer, Paulman, Wahlgren

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

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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 notebook 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.

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

No report presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Executive Subcommittee

No report presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Statement - Mr. Meisner reported that the Financial Statements for August

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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 August 2000 be received and placed on file for audit and that the Accounts Payable in the amount of \$9,729.12 be paid. Mr. Svoboda seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #6)

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Kramer, Paulman, Wahlgren

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 October 12, 2000 Board of Directors Meeting - Mr. Miller reported that bids/proposals were scheduled to be presented for consideration during the October 12, 2000 Board of Directors meeting for the purchase of Computer equipment. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout was a report prepared and presented to the Board during the preparation of the District's 2000-2001 Fiscal Year Budget listing the District's current computer equipment and computer equipment proposed for purchase during the 2000-2001 Fiscal Year. Mr. Miller reported that he would be presenting proposals during the October 12, 2000 Board of Directors meeting for the laptop computer budgeted for the General Manager. Mr. Miller reported that proposals for the desktop computer budgeted for the Water Programs Technician would be sought at a later date after approval is received for a new federal funded 319 Project.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts

Annual Conference, September 24-26, 2000, Kearney, NE - Program – Mr. Meismer reported that in the Directors' packet for information was the program for the NARD annual conference September 24-26, 2000.

Annual Conference, September 24-26, 2000, Kearney, NE - Resolutions – Mr. Meismer reported that in the Directors' packet for information were the resolutions that the office has received that will be considered during the conference. The Board of Directors reviewed each resolution and discussed how the District's five votes should be cast during

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the conference.

Mr. Stack moved that for Resolution 2000-3 “Ethanol Fuel Mandate” that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District's voting delegate submit a motion to table action on the resolution. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion, and it failed. (Motion #7)

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

Mr. Meismer asked for an indication of support or opposition for Resolution 2000-3 “Ethanol Fuel Mandate” of which half the Directors present indicated they supported the resolution and half the Directors present indicated they opposed the resolution.

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 \$58,344.47 was available.

Mr. Meismer moved to approve the September 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:				
01-017	NC-17	Irrigation Water Mgm	\$ 893.00	\$ 893.00

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01-018 NC-17	Irrigation Water Mgm	\$ 2,940.00	\$ 2,940.00
01-019 NC-10	Pasture Seeding	\$ 597.50	\$ 597.50
01-020 NC-17	Irrigation Water Mgm	\$ 2,730.00	\$ 2,730.00
01-021 NC-14	Planned Grazing System	\$ 6,640.43	\$ 6,640.43
01-022 NC-14	Planned Grazing System	\$ 5,886.00	\$ 5,886.00
01-023 NC-14	Planned Grazing System	\$ 3,542.50	\$ 3,542.50
Total Amount Of New Contracts			\$ 23,229.43
FUNDS AVAILABLE:	Practice NC-12, Windbreaks		\$ 35,000.00
	Other available practices		\$ 115.04

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

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Kramer, Paulman, Wahlgren

Cost-Share Programs - District Conservation Program – Contracts of Approved Programs for Fiscal Year 2001 – Sealing Abandoned Wells - No report presented.

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

Tree Program – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors’ packet for information were the tree stock prices established by the staff, which were determined from the stock and handling charges from the nursery. Mr. Slattery reported that the District’s charge to customers for bare root trees would be \$ 0.54/tree for 2001 and that with the Board of Directors previous action to set the machine planting charge at \$ 0.45/tree for 2001 that the total charge for machine planting and tree stock would be \$ 0.99/tree for 2001. Mr. Slattery reported that the District’s charge to customers for potted trees would be \$ 1.10/tree for 2001.

Range Programs – No report presented.

Soil Conservation Programs – No report presented.

Wildlife Habitat Programs – WILD Nebraska Program - Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout was copy of an application submitted by the National Wild Turkey Federation to the Nebraska Environmental Trust for a grant for a project titled "Nebraska Wild Turkey and Riparian Restoration Partnership". Mr. Miller reported that the project is being coordinated by the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission and that the Commission has invited the Natural Resources Districts in the Platte River Basin to join in the application.

Mr. Weaver moved that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District support the application to the Nebraska Environmental Trust for funding the project titled "Nebraska Wild Turkey and Riparian Restoration Partnership", that the Twin Platte Natural

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Resources District will participate in the project by dedicating \$1,000.00 per year for 5-years as a part of the WILD Nebraska Program and that the District expects to contribute staff time and input for the project. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion, and it carried.
(Motion #9)

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

Wildlife Habitat Programs – Corners for Wildlife Program - Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information was a report and map of the Corners for Wildlife Program sites in the Twin Platte Natural Resources District.

Water Programs – Ground Water Program – 319 Project – Mr. Miller reminded the Board that the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality personnel have approved extending the current 319 Project through the remainder of the 2000 calendar year utilizing current 319 funds. Mr. Miller reported that the District's current 319 Project was for three years from September 1, 1997 to August 31, 2000. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout was the District's application submitted to the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality to extend the 319 Project for an additional three years.

Water Programs – Ground Water Program – District Programs – Mr. Miller reported on the status of the project the District is participating in which was funded by the Nebraska Environmental Trust titled "Platte River Valley Irrigation Well Census". Mr. Miller reported that the equipment, which is funded by the grant, will be available this fall to begin the well census project. Mr. Miller reported that wells would be located using laser equipment, Global Positioning System equipment and a laptop computer. Mr. Miller reported that with the laser equipment, District personnel would not need to go to the well head if it can be seen from a public road. Mr. Miller reported that data would be converted and used to create Geographic Information System coverage's, that will be combined with other data to produce maps of well locations. Mr. Miller reported that the data set would be useful for hydrologic modeling for the Platte Basin, as planned in the Platte River Cooperative Hydrology Study. Mr. Miller reported that the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources will also use this data to identify unregistered, abandoned and incorrectly registered wells and that the District and Department will attempt to contact well owners to assist them in properly registering or abandoning their wells.

Water Programs –Watershed Program – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information was the District's report for the annual inspection of the Brule Watershed conducted on August 23, 2000. Mr. Miller reported that during 1998, the Union Pacific Railroad cleaned out part of the sediment under there bridge in the Brule Watershed outfall channel, the District cleaned sediment

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in the outfall channel below the railroad bridge and the Nebraska Department of Roads cleaned sediment in the road ditch above the railroad bridge. Mr. Miller reported that the railroad has not to date removed the remaining sediment under there bridge and that the District’s staff will be contacting the railroad in regard to removing the remaining sediment. Mr. Miller reported that the dam is in good condition.

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.

Water Programs – Platte River Activities - Cooperative Assessment & Management of Activities Impacting Threatened & Endangered Species Target Flows – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout was copy of an application submitted by the Central Platte Natural Resources District to the Nebraska Environmental Trust for a grant for a project titled "Cooperative Hydrology Modeling & Assessment” for the Platte River Basin in Nebraska. Mr. Miller reported that the Central Platte Natural Resources District is coordinating the project for 11 co-sponsors and 8 sponsor’s partners.

Mr. Meismer moved that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District support and co-sponsor the application to the Nebraska Environmental Trust for funding the project titled "Cooperative Hydrology Modeling & Assessment” for the Platte River Basin in Nebraska and that the District expects to contribute funding, staff time and input for the project. Mr. Rubenthaler seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #10)

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

Regulatory Programs – No report presented.

Information & Education Programs – No report presented.

Requests for Authorization to Travel – No requests were presented.

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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.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

BOARD DINNER

The Board of Directors participated in a dinner hoisted by Barb and Jeff Baldrige.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m. CDT (8:15 p.m. MDT).

Douglas Stack, Secretary

KOM:MSOMIN2:Bmin0900