

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
October 12, 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 October 12, 2000. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Rubenthaler at 7:30 p.m. CDT (6:30 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
Todd Kramer
James Meisner
Robert Petersen
Jim Rubenthaler
Douglas Stack
Joe Wahlgren
Jerry Weaver

BOARD MEMBERS

ABSENT & EXCUSED

Roric Paulman
Frank Svoboda

BOARD MEMBERS

ABSENT

NRCS PERS PRESENT

Mary Reece, D Cons

OTHERS PRESENT

STAFF PRESENT

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

DEATH OF CHAIRPERSON, KENT BOYER

Moment of Silence – A moment of silence for Kent Boyer.

Letter to Sue Boyer – Mr. Rubenthaler distributed for information the following letter Mr. Miller and he had prepared to send to Sue Boyer:

Dear Sue:

Kent's death has saddened the Board of Directors and the staff of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District beyond words.

I am sure you know, Sue, the enormous positive influence Kent had with the Board and the staff. Kent was a true leader for natural resources and we will all miss him.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the staff, we extend to you our deepest sympathy.

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ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Rubenthaler reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information was Operating Policy Number 6: BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICERS and Operating Policy Number 7: DUTIES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICERS and he reviewed the policies. The Board of Directors agreed that the Chairperson position would remain vacant through the end of the calendar year and that the Vice-Chairperson, Jim Rubenthaler, would assume the duties of the Chair through the end of the calendar year as provided for in Operating Policy Number 7.

PLATTE RIVER CITIZENS ASVISORY COUNCIL

Board Representative – Mr. Rubenthaler reported that Mr. Boyer had been appointed by Governor Johanns to represent the District on the Platte River Citizens Advisory Council. Mr. Rubenthaler reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout was information for the Platte River Citizens Advisory Council which was appointed by Governor Johanns to become familiar with the work of the Platte River Governance Committee and once the program is completed that the Governor would rely on the Advisory Council to provide advice on whether the State of Nebraska should enter the program. Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the Board of Directors had passed a motion to submit the name of Mr. Boyer to Governor Johanns to represent the District on the Platte River Citizens Advisory Council. Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the Governor's office has indicated that the Governor would appoint a new representative recommended by the Board of Directors for the District on the Platte River Citizens Advisory Council.

Mr. Kramer moved that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District submit to Governor Johanns the name of James Meismer to represent the District on the Platte River Citizens Advisory Council. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion and it carried. (Motion #1)

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS VACANCY

Sub-District 4 – Report of District Policy and Previous Procedure - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that due to the death of Mr. Boyer that the Board has a vacancy in election sub-district 4. Mr. Rubenthaler reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information was Operating Policy Number 5: BOARD OF DIRECTORS VANANCIES. Mr. Rubenthaler reported that Nebraska Statutes governs vacancies in the office of a Director and authorizes the Board to fill such vacancies. Mr. Rubenthaler reported that Operating Policy Number 5 provides that notice of the vacancy shall be given to the Board of Directors at the first regular meeting following the vacancy and the Executive Subcommittee will seek persons interested in filling the vacated Director

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position and recommend one or more persons to the Board of Directors to fill the vacancy no later than the second regular meeting of the Board of Directors following the occurrence of the vacancy. Mr. Rubenthaler reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information were maps of the Twin Platte Natural Resources Districts' election sub-districts and Operating Policy Number 3: BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION SUBDISTRICTS which lists the election voting precincts of each Twin Platte Natural Resources District election sub-district. Mr. Rubenthaler reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information was a questionnaire for candidates that were used by the Executive Subcommittee when a vacancy last occurred. Mr. Rubenthaler asked the members of the Board of Directors to consider candidates for the vacancy and if a member of the Board of Directors contacts an individual who is interested, the Board member should inform Mr. Miller and Mr. Miller will send the individual information about the District and the questionnaire developed by the Executive Subcommittee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Report of Directors Excused - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that Mr. Paulman and Mr. Svoboda were excused.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Directors Notebooks Containing Information Items Available for Handout - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that each Director has a notebook containing information items that are available for handouts for others attending the meeting. Mr. Rubenthaler 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. Rubenthaler 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.

Newsletter – Mr. Miller distributed for information the Twin Platte Natural Resources District's Fall 2000 Newsletter. Mr. Miller reported that the newsletter would be mailed October 13, 2000 to all producers within the District.

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AGENDA MODIFICATION

None presented.

GENERAL INFORMATION

No report presented.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Minutes for September 7, 2000 Meeting - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the Minutes for the September 7, 2000 Board of Directors meeting were in the Directors' packet and the Minutes for the September 7, 2000 Public Hearing were in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout, and he asked if there were corrections or additions to the Minutes.

Mr. Stack moved that the Minutes of the September 7, 2000 Board of Directors meeting and the Minutes for the September 7, 2000 Public Hearing be approved. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #2)

AYE: Baldrige, Kramer, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Stack, Wahlgren

NAY: None

ABSENT: Paulman, Svoboda, 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 and she reviewed the report.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - Programs - Environmental Quality Incentive Program – Mrs. Reece reported on the workshop titled “Managing Wildlife” held on October 3, 2000 at the Haythorn Ranch. 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. Mrs. Reece reported that in the Directors’ packet for information was the “Educational Assistance Plan.

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

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USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - Programs - Highly Erodible Lands Requirements - Mrs. Reece 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 - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that each member of the Board of Directors present had reviewed the booklet containing the Cooperative Agreements with the State of Nebraska Board of Educational Lands and Funds for Conservation Plans.

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

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Paulman, Svoboda, Weaver

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.

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FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Statement - Mr. Meismer reported that the Financial Statements for September 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 September 2000 be received and placed on file for audit and that the Accounts Payable in the amount of \$27,247.13 be paid. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #4)

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Paulman, Svoboda, Weaver

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 - Computer - Mr. Miller reported that he had announced during the September 7, 2000 Board of Directors meeting that bids/proposals would be presented during the October 12, 2000 Board of Directors meeting for consideration for the purchase of Computer equipment. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet for information 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 in the Directors' packet and in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout were reports containing the minimum specifications, a listing of the vendors invited to submit a proposal and the proposals received for a laptop computer budgeted for the General Manager. Mr. Miller reported that he recommended the low proposal received from Gateway Computers for a Gateway laptop computer for a total cost of \$2,500.00 be accepted which meets the minimum specifications. Mr. Miller reported that the next lowest proposal received from Radio Shack for a Compaq laptop computer for a total cost of \$2,523.00 did not meet the minimum specifications as the Compaq laptop computer warranty was 1 year parts and labor and the minimum specifications requested a warranty of 3 years parts and labor.

Mr. Wahlgren moved to accept the proposal received from Gateway Computers for a Gateway laptop computer for a total cost of \$2,500.00. Mr. Meismer seconded the motion and it carried. (Motion #5)

AYE: Kramer, Meismer, Rubenthaler, Stack, Wahlgren

NAY: Baldridge, Petersen

ABSENT: Paulman, Svoboda, Weaver

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Bids/Proposals Scheduled To Be Presented for Consideration During the November 9, 2000 Board of Directors Meeting - Mr. Miller reported that no bids/proposals were scheduled to be presented for consideration during the November 9, 2000 Board of Directors meeting.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS
Nebraska Association of Resources Districts

Board of Directors Meetings – Mr. Meisner reported on the Board of Directors meeting held on September 26, 2000.

Annual Conference, September 24-26, 2000, Kearney, NE - Program – Mr. Meisner and Mr. Rubenthaler reported on the annual conference held on September 24-26, 2000. Mr. Miller reported that Mike and Cynthia Kelly of Sutherland, NE received the Outstanding Grassland award presented during the annual conference. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout was a news article from the Sutherland Courier Times of the Kelly's receiving the award and he passed around the Board table a thank you received from the Kelly's.

Annual Conference, September 24-26, 2000, Kearney, NE - Resolutions – Mr. Meisner and Mr. Rubenthaler reported on the resolutions considered during the annual conference held on September 24-26, 2000. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout were the minutes for the Business Sessions held during the annual conference during which the resolutions were discussed and voted on.

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

Mr. Meisner reported that in the Directors' packet were the minutes for the August 23, 2000 meeting of the Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District Water Conservation Task Force.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS
Platte River Citizens Advisory Council

No report presented.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS
Requests for Authorization to Travel

No requests were presented.

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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 \$35,336.05 was available.

Mr. Petersen moved to approve the October 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:				
01-024	NC-1	Terrace Systems	\$ 984.00	\$ 336.05
01-025	NC-10	Pasture Planting	\$ 312.65	\$ 0.00
01-026	NC-14	Planned Grazing System	\$ 902.85	\$ 0.00
Total Amount Of New Contracts				\$ 336.05
FUNDS AVAILABLE:		Practice NC-12, Windbreaks		\$ 35,000.00
		Other available practices		\$ 0.00

Mr. Baldrige seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #6)

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Paulman, Svoboda

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. Mr. Miller reported that two contracts have been approved during the 2000-2001 Fiscal Year for a total cost-share allocation of \$400.00 and that \$2,600.00 was available for additional contracts.

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

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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 for information was a report of the use of the District's water trailer during the spring and summer of 2000.

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. Meismer, Mr. Rubenthaler and Mr. Miller reported on the target flows meeting with representatives from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service held in Ogallala, NE. 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.

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 Vice-Chairperson, Mr. Rubenthaler 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 that will be presented December 12, 2000 during the District's Awards Banquet.

Information & Education Programs – Farm-A-Syst Program - Mr. Miller reported on the University of Nebraska – Lincoln Cooperative Extension Farm-A-Syst program.

Trails – Keith County – Mr. Miller reported that he had been working with the Keith County Trails Committee assisting with the development of a Master Plan for a Walking/Biking trail system in Keith County. Mr. Miller reported that the Master Plan

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provides for a trail around Lake McConaughy, a trail around Lake Ogallala, a trail connecting Lake McConaughy and Lake Ogallala to the City of Ogallala and a trail along the South Platte River from the City of Ogallala to the Village of Brule and the new museum planned west of the Village of Brule. Mr. Miller reported that the Master Plan was presented to the Keith County Commissioners October 4, 2000 and that he anticipated that the Commissioners would approve the Master Plan in the near future. Mr. Miller reported that an Engineering consultant has been working with the Trails Committee preparing the Master Plan and preparing an application for funds administered by the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission for construction of the trail around Lake Ogallala. Mr. Miller reported that he anticipated that the Keith County Commissioners would sponsor the application for funds. Mr. Miller reported that the Keith County Trails Committee has requested the Twin Platte Natural Resources District to support the application and if the Keith County Commissioners decide not to sponsor this application, that the District sponsor the application. Mr. Miller reported that the Keith County Trails Committee is not requesting financial assistance for this project, as the local match will be in-kind for work done by the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission and the Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District and the Game & Parks Commission and Central will provide operation and maintenance for the trail.

Mr. Stack moved that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District supports the Keith County Trails Committee's application for funds administered by the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission for construction of a trail around Lake Ogallala and if the Keith County Commissioners are unable to sponsor the grant application, the Twin Platte Natural Resources District will sponsor the grant application provided that there shall be no financial assistance from the Twin Platte Natural Resources District for the project and provided that agreements with other agencies are entered into that the other agencies shall carryout and fund the operation and maintenance of the project. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #7)

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

Requests for Authorization to Travel – No requests were presented.

Meetings and Dates of Interest – Mr. Miller reported that the January through March 2000, meetings of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors were held at 3:00 p.m. CST (2:00 p.m. MST). Mr. Miller reported that during the March 2000 Board meeting, 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. Mr. Miller reported that the December Board of Directors meeting is scheduled in the evening to coincide with the District's Awards Banquet in Ogallala.

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Mr. Petersen moved that meeting times for the Board of Directors meeting this winter be as follows:

November 9, 2000	Board Meeting-North Platte	3:00 pm CST (2:00 pm MST)
December 12, 2000	Board Meeting-Ogallala	4:30 pm MST (5:30 pm CST)
	Awards Banquet-Ogallala	6:00 pm MST (7:00 pm CST)
January 11, 2001	Board Meeting-North Platte	3:00 pm CST (2:00 pm MST)
February 8, 2001	Board Meeting-North Platte	3:00 pm CST (2:00 pm MST)
March 8, 2001	Board Meeting-North Platte	3:00 pm CST (2:00 pm MST)

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

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Paulman, Svoboda

Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the Board of Directors meetings would return to 7:30 p.m. CDT (6:30 p.m. MDT) April 2001 – October 2001.

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

Mr. Petersen and the rest of the Board of Directors thanked Mr. Baldridge for the wonderful dinner that Barb and he had hoisted for the Board and the staff following the September 7, 2000 Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m. CDT (7:42 p.m. MDT).

Douglas Stack, Secretary

KOM:MSOMIN2:Bmin1000