

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

The Twin Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors meeting was held at the United Nebraska Bank Center Meeting Room, Second Floor, West Wing, 111 South Dewey Street, North Platte, Nebraska on November 9, 2000. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Rubenthaler at 3:05 p.m. CST (2:05 p.m. MST). A legal notice of the meeting was published in the NORTH PLATTE TELEGRAPH. A news release containing the agenda for the meeting and including the time and place was sent to the news media in the District.

BOARD MEMBERS

PRESENT

Jeff Baldrige
James Meisner
Robert Petersen
Jim Rubenthaler
Douglas Stack
Joe Wahlgren
Jerry Weaver

BOARD MEMBERS

ABSENT & EXCUSED

Todd Kramer
Roric Paulman
Frank Svoboda

BOARD MEMBERS

ABSENT

NRCS PERS PRESENT

Mary Reece, D Cons

OTHERS PRESENT

Darlene Maline, Accountant

STAFF PRESENT

Ardis Lehmkuhler, Adm Asst
Kent O Miller, Gen Mgr

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Report of Directors Excused - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that Mr. Kramer, 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 notebooks of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service containing Conservation Plans for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program were available for review, that the notebooks would be passed around the Board table for review by each member of the Board of Directors present, and that later in the meeting the Conservation

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Plans would be considered for approval.

AGENDA MODIFICATION

None presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Audit for 2000 Fiscal Year - The audit for the District for the 2000 Fiscal Year was mailed to each member of the Board of Directors prior to the Board meeting.

Mr. Petersen moved that the Audit for the 2000 Fiscal Year be received. Mr. Meismer seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #1)

AYE: Baldridge, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Wahlgren, Weaver

NAY: None

ABSENT: Kramer, Paulman, Stack, Svoboda

Darlene Maline prepared the audit for the District and she was present and available for questions.

Mr. Petersen moved that the Audit for the 2000 Fiscal Year be allowed and to approve the Financial Statements for the 2000 Fiscal Year as acceptable and settled. Mr. Weaver seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #2)

AYE: Baldridge, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Wahlgren, Weaver

NAY: None

ABSENT: Kramer, Paulman, Stack, Svoboda

GENERAL INFORMATION

No report presented.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Minutes for October 12, 2000 Meeting - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the Minutes for the October 12, 2000 Board of Directors meeting were in the Directors' packet and he asked if there were corrections or additions to the Minutes.

Mr. Meismer moved that the Minutes of the October 12, 2000 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mr. Weaver seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #3)

AYE: Baldridge, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Wahlgren, Weaver

NAY: None

ABSENT: Kramer, Paulman, Stack, Svoboda

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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. Rubenthaler 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. Meismer moved to approve the Conservation Plans for the USDA Environmental Quality Incentive Program presented to and reviewed by each member of the Board of Directors present and to authorize the General Manager to sign the Conservation Plans as the District representative. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion and it carried. (Motion #4)

AYE: Baldridge, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Wahlgren, Weaver

NAY: None

ABSENT: Kramer, Paulman, Stack, Svoboda

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

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - Programs - Highly Erodible Lands Requirements - No report presented.

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.

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SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee

No report presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Executive Subcommittee

Board of Directors Vacancy – Mr. Rubenthaler reported that due to the death of Kent Boyer that the Board has a vacancy in election Sub-District 4. 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 the Twin Platte Natural Resources Districts' Operating Policy Number 5: BOARD OF DIRECTORS VACANCIES, 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 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 notice of the vacancy in Sub-District 4 was given to the Board of Directors on October 12, 2000. Mr. Rubenthaler reported that in the Directors' Board meeting packet for information were the Twin Platte Natural Resources Districts' 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 and maps of the Districts' election sub-districts. Mr. Rubenthaler reported that in the Directors' Board meeting packet for information was a questionnaire for candidates that were used by the Executive Subcommittee when a vacancy last occurred. Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the members of the Subcommittee agreed to utilize the questionnaire. Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the members of the Subcommittee agreed that they would schedule interviews with identified candidates prior to the December 12, 2000 meeting of the Board of Directors and to take a recommendation to the Board of Directors on December 12, 2000. Mr. Rubenthaler reported that Marvin Rousey had indicated to Mr. Miller that he was interested in being considered to fill the vacancy in Sub-District 4 and that Dave Steffes had indicated to Mr. Baldrige that he was interested in being considered to fill the vacancy in Sub-District 4. Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the Subcommittee agreed to schedule interviews with Mr. Rousey and Mr. Steffes and to not seek additional candidates at this time. Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the members of the Subcommittee agreed that if members of the Board of Directors identified other candidates, that they would also schedule interviews with those individuals. Mr. Baldrige reported that Mitch Huebner had indicated to him that he might be interested in being considered to fill the vacancy in Sub-District 4.

During discussion, it was discovered that Mr. Baldrige lives in Sub-District 4 rather than Sub-District 1. Mr. Baldrige was appointed to represent Sub-District 1 in February 1999.

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The Twin Platte Natural Resources Districts' Operating Policy Number 3: BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION SUB-DISTRICTS, describes the County election precincts, which legally delineate the Twin Platte Natural Resources District's election Sub-Districts. During discussion, it was determined that Mr. Baldrige's residence is in Lincoln County's Hershey election precinct and the Hershey election precinct is in the Twin Platte Natural Resources Districts' Sub-District 4. Mr. Miller reported that the District has produced maps of the election Sub-Districts as indicators for potential candidates to determine which Sub-District they may live in and the map along with the District's Operating Policy Number 3 are provided to potential candidates. Mr. Miller reported that a map of the County election precincts the District obtained from Lincoln County a number of years ago showed a northern boundary for the Hershey precinct being the North Platte River. Mr. Miller reported that the map produced by the District of the election Sub-Districts therefore showed a northern boundary of the District's Sub-District 4 being the North Platte River. Mr. Baldrige's residence is north of the North Platte River.

Upon the discovery that Mr. Baldrige resides in the Hershey precinct, which is in the District's Sub-District 4, Mr. Baldrige could no longer remain seated on the Board and represent Sub-District 1.

During discussion, the Board noted that Mr. Baldrige could be considered for appointment to the vacancy in Sub-District 4. During discussion, the Board noted that Eric Hansen had ran unsuccessfully for election to represent Sub-District 1 during the November 7, 2000 General Election in which Todd Kramer won re-election and that Mr. Hansen could be considered for appointment to the vacancy in Sub-District 1.

The Board of Directors agreed to suspend the seeking of candidates for Sub-District 4 on Monday, November 13, 2000 at 5:00 p.m. CST. The Board agreed that Mr. Miller should contact Marvin Rousey and that Mr. Baldrige should contact Dave Steffes and Mitch Huebner prior to Monday, November 13, 2000 to explain the circumstances in regard to Mr. Baldrige and to give each of them time to consider if they wished to be considered for the appointment.

The Board of Directors agreed that Mr. Miller should contact Eric Hansen to determine if he is interest in being appointed to the Board to represent Sub-District 1.

The Board of Directors agreed that Mr. Baldrige would be a candidate for consideration for appointment to the vacancy in Sub-District 4 during the Board meeting on December 12, 2000.

The Board of Directors agreed that Eric Hansen, if he were interested in being appointed to the Board to represent Sub-District 1, would be a candidate for consideration for appointment to the vacancy in Sub-District 1 during the Board meeting on December 12, 2000.

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FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Statement - Mr. Meismer reported that the Financial Statements for October 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 October 2000 be received and placed on file for audit and that the Accounts Payable in the amount of \$10,595.07 be paid. Mr. Stack seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #5)

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Kramer, Paulman, Svoboda

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 December 12, 2000 Board of Directors Meeting - Mr. Miller reported that no bids/proposals were scheduled to be presented for consideration during the December 12, 2000 Board of Directors meeting.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts

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

Legislative Conference, January 23-24, 2001, Lincoln, NE – Mr. Miller reported on the Legislative conference that will be held January 23-24, 2001 in Lincoln, NE. Mr. Miller reported that Trego Aviation did not have a plane that could be chartered for Directors to attend one day of the Conference as has been done in the past. Mr. Meismer, Mr. Rubenthaler, Mr. Wahlgren and Mr. Weaver indicated that they planned to attend the Conference.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District Water Conservation Task Force

No report presented.

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DIRECTORS' REPORTS
Platte River Citizens Advisory Council

No report presented.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS
Requests for Authorization to Travel

No requests were presented.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS
Board of Directors Election Results

Mr. Rubenthaler reported that unofficially that Todd Kramer was re-elected to represent Sub-District 1, that Robert Petersen was re-elected to represent Sub-District 2, that Jerry Weaver was re-elected to represent Sub-District 3, that Robert Wiseman was elected to represent Sub-District 4 and that Dennis Schilz was elected to represent Sub-District 5.

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 \$35,000.00 was available.

Mr. Stack moved to approve the November 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:				
01-027	NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 1,488.85	\$ 1,488.85
01-028	NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 657.20	\$ 657.20
01-029	NC-17	Irrigation Water Mgm	\$ 4,579.00	\$ 0.00
Total Amount Of New Contracts				\$ 2,146.05
FUNDS AVAILABLE:		Practice NC-12, Windbreaks		\$ 32,853.95
		Other available practices		\$ 0.00

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

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Kramer, Paulman, Svoboda

Mr. Wahlgren asked that the Land Resources Subcommittee consider a reserve for

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Practice NC-17, Irrigation Water Management for the 2002 Fiscal Year.

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 three contracts have been approved during the 2001 Fiscal Year for a total cost-share allocation of \$500.00 and that \$2,500.00 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 – No report presented.

Water Programs – Ground Water Program – District Programs – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information was a news article from the North Platte Telegraph on November 7, 2000 of the District's water trailer and in the Directors' packet for information was a letter in regard to the District's use of the water trailer during the High Plains Water Expo.

Water Programs – Ground Water Program – Wellhead Protection – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet was information about the Nebraska Wellhead Protection Act and Community options for Wellhead Protection Areas.

Water Programs –Watershed Program – No report presented.

Water Programs – Platte River Activities - Cooperative Agreement Relating to Endangered Species – Mr. Rubenthaler reported that each Natural Resources District in the Upper Platte Basin is requested to select three Directors to participate along with the General Manager in Basin Meetings in regard to the Cooperative Agreement. Mr. Rubenthaler reported that on November 10, 1999, Mr. Boyer had appointed Mr. Rubenthaler, Mr. Meismer and Mr. Boyer to represent the Twin Platte Natural Resources District during Upper Platte Basin Meetings in regard to the Cooperative Agreement. Mr. Rubenthaler reported that due to the death of Mr. Boyer he has appointed Mr. Wahlgren to fill the vacancy to represent the Twin Platte Natural Resources District during Upper Platte Basin Meetings in regard to the Cooperative Agreement. Mr. Rubenthaler, Mr. Meismer and Mr. Wahlgren reported on the Upper Platte Basin Meeting held on November 8, 2000 in North Platte.

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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 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. 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. Mr. Miller reported that the Awards Banquet and the December 12, 2000 Board of Directors meeting would be at the Haythorn Ranch's Figure Four Traditions facility which located 4 ½ miles north of Lake McConaughy's Kingsley Dam.

Trails – Keith County – Mr. Miller reported on the status of the Keith County Trails Committee's Master Plan for a Walking/Biking trail system in Keith County. Mr. Miller reported that the Keith County Commissioners had agreed to sponsor the application for funds administered by the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission for construction of a trail around Lake Ogallala. Mr. Miller reported that he had sent a letter to the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission indicating 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 as authorized by the Board during the October 12, 2000 meeting of the Board of Directors.

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.

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Miscellaneous Information - Mr. Miller reported that various items of information were in the Directors' packet and in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout.

Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet was information in regard to the District's Web site and obtaining a domain name, tpnrd.org, for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District to allow easier access by the public to the District's Web site. Mr. Miller reported that the domain name registered by the District is exclusive for the District as long as the District maintains the name. Mr. Miller reported that Internet Nebraska, which currently is the District's Internet provider, would be hoisting the Twin Platte Natural Resources District's Web site and E-Mail accounts. Mr. Miller reported that the District's new Web Site address would be www.tpnrd.org and the new E-Mail addresses for the Districts staff would be:

Glen Bowers, Water Programs Coordinator	gbowers@tpnrd.org
Bill Carhart, Range Programs Coordinator	bcarhart@tpnrd.org
Ann Fisher, Water Programs Technician	afisher@tpnrd.org
Ardis Lehmkuhler, Administrative Assistant	alehmkuhler@tpnrd.org
Kent O. Miller, General Manager	komiller@tpnrd.org
Dave Slattery, Conservation Programs Coordinator	dslattery@tpnrd.org

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m. CST (3:50 p.m. MST).

Douglas Stack, Secretary

KOM:MSOMIN3:Bmin1100