

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
Board of Directors Meeting  
December 12, 2000

The Twin Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors meeting was held at the Figure 4 Traditions – Haythorn Ranch, Keith County, Nebraska on December 12, 2000. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Rubenthaler at 4:35 p.m. MST (5:35 p.m. CST). 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  
Eric Hansen  
Todd Kramer  
James Meisner  
Robert Petersen  
Jim Rubenthaler  
Douglas Stack  
Frank Svoboda  
Joe Wahlgren  
Jerry Weaver

BOARD MEMBERS  
ABSENT & EXCUSED

Roric Paulman

BOARD MEMBERS  
ABSENT

NRCS PERS PRESENT

Traci Bates, S Cons  
Jim Lott, S Cons  
Kristen Miller, R Mgm Spec  
Lee Morse, C Engr Tech  
Jeff Nichols, R Mgm Spec  
Mary Reece, D Cons  
Jay Rezek, C Engr

OTHERS PRESENT

Dennis Schilz, Dir Elect  
Robert Wiseman, Dir Elect  
(Others attending the Awards  
Dinner)

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  
Ardis Lehmkuhler, Adm Asst  
Kent O Miller, Gen Mgr

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Report of Directors Excused - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that Mr. Paulman was excused.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

BOARD VACANCIES

Sub-District 4 – Mr. Rubenthaler reported that Nebraska Statutes, Section 2-3215, provides the Board of Directors the authority to appoint a representative for Sub-District 4 to fill the vacancy on the Board. Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the appointment is for the remainder of the unexpired term, which expires at the end of calendar year 2002.

Mr. Petersen moved that Jeff Baldrige be appointed to fill the vacancy for the term which expires at the end of calendar year 2002 to represent Sub-District 4 on the Board of Directors and that the appointment be effective immediately. Mr. Kramer seconded the motion and it carried. (Motion #1)

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Paulman

Mr. Baldrige had previously signed an oath of office.

Sub-District 1 – Mr. Rubenthaler reported that Nebraska Statutes, Section 2-3215, provides the Board of Directors the authority to appoint a representative for Sub-District 1 to fill the vacancy on the Board. Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the appointment is for the remainder of the unexpired term, which expires at the end of calendar year 2002.

Mr. Svoboda moved that Eric Hansen be appointed to fill the vacancy for the term which expires at the end of calendar year 2002 to represent Sub-District 1 on the Board of Directors and that the appointment be effective immediately. Mr. Weaver seconded the motion and it carried. (Motion #2)

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Paulman

Mr. Hansen signed the oath of office.

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

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Conservation Plans for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program and 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. Mr. Rubenthaler reported that a notebook of the Cooperative Agreements with the State of Nebraska Board of Educational Lands and Funds for Conservation Plans was available for information, that the notebook 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.

Mr. Miller passed around the Board table thank you notes received.

AGENDA MODIFICATION

None presented.

GENERAL INFORMATION

No report presented.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Minutes for November 9, 2000 Meeting - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the Minutes for the November 9, 2000 Board of Directors meeting 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 November 9, 2000 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #3)

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Paulman

COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORTS

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - Monthly Report – Mrs. Reece reported that in the Directors' Packet for information was a narrative report and she reviewed the report. Mrs. Reece reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information was the "Nebraska Soil Quality Card" and the State Conservationist's December 11, 2000 report which included information of the first National Conference on Grazing Lands. Mrs. Reece reported that in the Directors' packet for information was the State Conservationist's December 1, 2000 report. The Natural Resources Conservation Service personnel present reported on their position's responsibilities.

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

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

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - Programs - Conservation Reserve Program – Wellhead Protection – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors’ notebook and available as a handout was a letter from Robert Stephenson, Director – Conservation and Environmental Programs Division – USDA Farm Service Agency, in regard to the District request to increase the current cropland eligibility for the Conservation Reserve Program beyond the required 2,000 foot limitation from an approved public wellhead. Mr. Miller reported that the Board had requested that the Conservation Reserve Program expand the eligibility requirement surrounding public wellheads to a 20-year time of travel similarly to the Nebraska Wellhead Protection Program and that the request was denied.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - Programs - Highly Erodible Lands Requirements – Conservation Plans – Mr. Rubenthaler reported that each member of the Board of Directors present had reviewed the notebook containing the Conservation Plans for the Highly Erodible Lands Program.

Mr. Meismer 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 #5)

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

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

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the notebook containing the Cooperative Agreements with the State of Nebraska Board of Educational Lands and Funds for Conservation Plans.

Mr. Svoboda 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 for land leases presented to and reviewed by each member of the Board of Directors present, with the assistance provided by the District dependent upon the amount of assistance available by the District, and to authorize the General Manager to sign each Cooperative Agreement as the District representative. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion and it carried. (Motion #6)

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Paulman

Nebraska Natural Resources Commission – Mr. Miller reported that Nebraska Natural Resources Commission members are selected by River Basins by the seated Natural Resources District Directors within the River Basin. Mr. Miller reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District is within the South Platte, North Platte and Middle Platte basins. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout was information for caucuses of Natural Resources District Directors residing in a river basin for the purpose of electing members of the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission.

Nebraska Natural Resources Commission - North Platte Basin - Caucus – January 9, 2001 – Gering, NE – Mr. Miller reported that the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission representative's term for the North Platte Basin expires in January 2001. Mr. Miller reported that Twin Platte Natural Resources District Directors, Mr. Baldridge, Mr. Kramer, Mr. Meismer, and Mr. Hansen, reside in the North Platte River basin and are eligible to participate in the North Platte Basin Caucus, which will be held on January 9, 2001 in Gering, NE to select a representative for the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission for a 4 year term. Mr. Miller reported that the North Platte Natural Resources District has 9 Directors that reside in the North Platte River basin and are eligible to participate in the North Platte Basin Caucus and the South Platte Natural Resources District has 1 Director that resides in the North Platte River basin and is eligible to participate in the North Platte Basin Caucus. Mr. Miller reported that the current representative for the North Platte Basin is LeRoy Pieper and that Mr. Pieper will be seeking re-election. Mr. Miller reported that Mr. Pieper resides in the North Platte Natural Resources District and is a current member of the North Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors. Mr. Miller reported that candidates eligible are any resident in the North Platte Basin of majority age of 19. Mr. Miller asked if there were any other known candidates and there were none indicated.

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Nebraska Natural Resources Commission - Middle Platte Basin - Caucus – January 11, 2001 – Grand Island, NE – Mr. Miller reported that the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission representative's term for the Middle Platte Basin expires in January 2001. Mr. Miller reported that Twin Platte Natural Resources District Directors, Mr. Rubenthaler and Mr. Wahlgren, reside in the Middle Platte River basin and are eligible to participate in the Middle Platte Basin Caucus, which will be held on January 11, 2001 in Grand Island, NE to select a representative for the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission for a 4 year term. Mr. Miller reported that the Central Platte Natural Resources District has 21 Directors that reside in the Middle Platte River basin and are eligible to participate in the Middle Platte Basin Caucus and the Tri-Basin Natural Resources District has 7 Directors that reside in the Middle Platte River basin and are eligible to participate in the Middle Platte Basin Caucus. Mr. Miller reported that the current representative for the Middle Platte Basin is Dick Mercer and that Mr. Mercer is not seeking re-election. Mr. Miller reported that candidates eligible are any resident in the Middle Platte Basin of majority age of 19. Mr. Miller asked if there were any other known candidates and there were none indicated.

Nebraska Natural Resources Commission - South Platte Basin - Mr. Miller reported that the representative's term for the South Platte basin expires in January 2003.

National Association of Conservation Districts – Dues Quota – 2001 – Mr. Miller reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District has not paid a District's dues quota since 1996 as directed by the Board of Directors in 1996. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet for information was a copy of a letter from Dayle Williamson to Tim Reich, National Association of Conservation Districts Secretary-Treasurer in which Mr. Williamson indicated that 22 of the 23 Natural Resources Districts in Nebraska have paid a quota for 2000 and that he was encouraging the Twin Platte Natural Resources District to contribute to bring Nebraska up to 100%. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet for information was an invoice from the National Association of Conservation Districts and the calculations for the minimum and maximum quota for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District and a letter dated March 6, 1996 from Jerry Vap, then the National Association of Conservation Districts President, in which Mr. Vap provided information requested by the Twin Platte Natural Resources District. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information was a listing of the National Association of Conservation Districts quota paid by each of the Natural Resources Districts in Nebraska for the 2000 calendar year. The Board of Directors agreed to consider during preparation of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District 2002 Fiscal Year Budget, budgeting funds to pay a quota for the National Association of Conservation Districts for the 2001 calendar year.

Other Agencies - No report presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT  
Land Resources Subcommittee

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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. Meismer reported that the Financial Statements for November 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 November 2000 be received and placed on file for audit and that the Accounts Payable in the amount of \$36,540.59 be paid. Mr. Stack seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #7)

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Paulman

Budget Status - Mr. Meismer reported that the Budget Status report was in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout.

Bids/Proposals - None were presented.

Bids/Proposals Scheduled To Be Presented for Consideration During the January 11, 2001 Board of Directors Meeting - Mr. Miller reported that no bids/proposals were scheduled to be presented for consideration during the January 11, 2001 Board of Directors meeting.

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DIRECTORS' REPORTS  
Nebraska Association of Resources Districts

Board of Directors Meetings – Mr. Meisner reported that in the Directors' packet for information were the minutes for the Board of Directors meeting held on November 6, 2000.

Special Assessment on Dues - Mr. Meisner reported that in the Directors' packet was information for a proposed special assessment on dues to make up for the loss of the funding previously available from the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Mr. Meisner reported that in the Directors' packet for information was the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts 2000-2001 Budget and a report of the dues paid by the Twin Platte Natural Resources District each year since 1983.

Mr. Meisner moved that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District accept the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts proposed 8.0% special assessment on dues for Fiscal Year 2000-2001 and an additional 8.0% special assessment on dues for Fiscal Year 2001-2002 for the loss of funding previously available from the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #8)

AYE: Kramer, Meisner, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Stack, Wahlgren, Weaver  
NAY: Baldrige, Hansen, Svoboda,  
ABSENT: Paulman

Legislative Conference, January 23-24, 2001, Lincoln, NE - Program – Mr. Miller reported on the Legislative conference that will be held January 23-24, 2001 in Lincoln, NE. Mr. Miller reported that Mr. Meisner, Mr. Rubenthaler, Mr. Wahlgren and Mr. Weaver are planning to attend the Conference.

Legislative Conference, January 23-24, 2001, Lincoln, NE – Voting Delegate –

Mr. Kramer moved that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Voting Delegate for the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Legislative Conference January 23-24, 2001 be James Meisner. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #9)

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

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.

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 \$32,853.95 was available.

Mr. Meismer moved to approve the December 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:				
01-030	NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 1,430.67	\$ 1,430.67
01-031	NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 148.50	\$ 148.50
01-032	NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 1,433.64	\$ 1,433.64
01-033	NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 647.63	\$ 647.63
01-034	NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 240.08	\$ 240.08
01-035	NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 1,848.45	\$ 1,848.45
01-036	NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 495.94	\$ 495.94
01-037	NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 1,426.00	\$ 1,426.00
01-038	NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 148.50	\$ 148.50
01-039	NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 1,347.33	\$ 1,347.33
01-040	NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 1,410.38	\$ 1,410.38
Total Amount Of New Contracts				\$ 10,577.12
FUNDS AVAILABLE:		Practice NC-12, Windbreaks	\$ 22,276.83	
		Other available practices	\$ 0.00	

Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #10)

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Paulman

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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 four contracts have been approved during the 2001 Fiscal Year for a total cost-share allocation of \$800.00 and that \$2,200.00 was available for additional contracts.

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. Mr. Miller reported that nine contracts have been approved during the 2001 Fiscal Year.

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 – No report presented.

Water Programs – Ground Water Program – Wellhead Protection – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout was information about the Nebraska Wellhead Protection Act, Community options for Wellhead Protection Areas and maps showing the Wellhead Protection areas delineated around the communities within the Twin Platte Natural Resources District.

Water Programs –Watershed Program – No report presented.

Water Programs – Platte River Activities - Cooperative Agreement Relating to Endangered Species – Mr. Miller reported on the status of extending the Cooperative Agreement. 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 sponsors as the representative for the District.

Regulatory Programs – No report presented.

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Information & Education Programs – 2000 Awards Program – Presentation, November 13, 2000 – Mr. Miller reported on the District’s Conservation Picture award for Lincoln/McPherson Counties which was presented to Richard and Elaine Bode 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 participated in the award presentation. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information was the program, the brochure the District prepared for the award and a copy of a North Platte Chamber Newsletter article.

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 to Korty Land & Cattle during the District’s Awards Dinner following the Board meeting.

Legislation – Mr. Miller reported on the meeting Mr. Meismer and he had with Senator-Elect Phil Erdman on December 4, 2000 in Gering, NE. Mr. Miller reported that the General Manager and one or two Directors from the North Platte Natural Resources District, the South Platte Natural Resources District and the Twin Platte Natural Resources District participated in the meeting.

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.

### OTHER BUSINESS

Board of Directors Per Diem – Mr. Svoboda reported that he believes that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District should reduce the Directors’ Per Diem from the current \$50.00 per day to \$5.00 per day.

Mr. Svoboda moved to waive the provision in the District’s Operating Policy “that any proposed change must be in writing and may not be approved unless the full text of the proposed change has been furnished to the Directors no less than five days before the meeting where the changes will be proposed” and that Operating Policy Number 14: BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES be revised as follows (additions are underlined and deletions have a strikethrough line):

Directors shall receive compensation and directors and employees shall be reimbursed for expenses in the following manner:

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1. Directors' compensation shall be at a per diem rate not to exceed the amount authorized by law and approved by the Board. Effective ~~March 1, 2000~~ December 12, 2000, the rate shall be ~~\$50.00~~ \$5.00 per day, with a maximum of \$2,000 per calendar year.

The motion died for lack of a second. (Motion #11)

AWARDS DINNER

An Awards Dinner was held during which the District's Grassland Conservation award for Keith/Arthur Counties was presented to Korty Land & Cattle.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. MST (9:35 p.m. CST).

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Douglas Stack, Secretary

KOM:MSOMIN3:Bmin1200