

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
February 8, 2001

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 February 8, 2001. Mr. Rubenthaler called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m. CST (2:08 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 Baldridge
Eric Hansen
Todd Kramer
Jim Meisner
Robert Petersen
Jim Rubenthaler
Dennis Schilz
Douglas Stack
Jerry Weaver
Robert Wiseman

BOARD MEMBERS

ABSENT & EXCUSED

Joe Wahlgren

BOARD MEMBERS

ABSENT

NRCS PERS PRESENT

Mary Reece, D Cons

OTHERS PRESENT

STAFF PRESENT

Bill Carhart, Range P Coor
Ann Fisher, Water P Tech
Ardis Lehmkuhler, Adm Asst
Kent O. Miller, Gen Mgr

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Report of Directors Excused - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that Mr. Wahlgren was 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 notebook of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Conservation Plans for the Conservation Reserve Program was available for information,

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – February 8, 2001

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 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.

AGENDA MODIFICATION

None presented.

GENERAL INFORMATION

No report presented.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Minutes for January 11, 2001 Meeting - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the Minutes for the January 11, 2001 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 January 11, 2001 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #1)

AYE: Hansen, Meismer, Petersen Rubenthaler, Schilz, Stack, Wiseman

NAY: None

ABSENT: Baldrige, Kramer, Wahlgren, 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 that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout was a report of the allocation of funds in Nebraska for priority areas and for outside priority areas and she reviewed the report.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - Programs - Highly Erodible Lands Requirements – Mrs. Reece reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout was the January listing of completed Highly Erodible Lands determinations.

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – February 8, 2001

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 notebook 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 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. Meisner seconded the motion and it carried. (Motion #2)

AYE: Hansen, Kramer, Meisner, Petersen Rubenthaler, Schilz, Stack, Wiseman

NAY: None

ABSENT: Baldrige, Wahlgren, Weaver

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

Mr. Kramer 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 #3)

AYE: Hansen, Kramer, Meisner, Petersen Rubenthaler, Schilz, Stack, Wiseman

NAY: None

ABSENT: Baldrige, Wahlgren, Weaver

Other Agencies - No report presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Land Resources Subcommittee

No report presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Water Resources Subcommittee

Mr. Meisner, Water Resources Subcommittee Chairperson, presented the report. Mr.

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – February 8, 2001

Meismer reported that in the Directors’ packet for information were the minutes for the January 26, 2001 meeting of the Water Resources Subcommittee.

Ground Water Program - Target Areas – Southwestern Keith County –Currently Collected and Available Data – Mr. Meismer reported that the Subcommittee received a report on the collection of data within the target areas in southwestern Keith County.

Ground Water Program - Target Areas – Southwestern Keith County – Analysis of the Data – Mr. Meismer reported that the Subcommittee received a report from Dave Gosselin, UNL Conservation & Survey Division, Lincoln, and Jim Goeke UNL Conservation & Survey Division, North Platte, on the analysis of data within the target areas in southwestern Keith County. Mr. Meismer reported that the uniqueness of the geology and the influences of the ground water movement and the surface water in the South Platte River and the Western Irrigation District canal combine to create a complex area to analyze. Mr. Meismer reported that the uniqueness of the geology and the influences of the ground water movement and the surface water in the South Platte River and the Western Irrigation District canal combine to create a complex area to analyze. Mr. Meismer reported that Mr. Gosselin recommended that the District provide funding for additional stable isotope data for water samples collected by the District during 1999 and 2000. Mr. Meismer reported that the purpose of the expanded analysis is to increase the understanding of the relationship between the movement of water and the occurrence of nitrate contamination in the area. Mr. Meismer reported that Mr. Gosselin presented two options, with Option 1 using samples from 1999 and 2000 and Option 2 using samples from 1999. Mr. Meismer reported that Option 1 allowed analysis of two years, which represent distinctly different climate conditions of drought versus normal precipitation. Mr. Meismer reported that by obtaining additional isotopic data, Mr. Gosselin would be able to constrain the source of ground water to the ongoing District’s annual monitoring program. Mr. Meismer reported that the estimates cost for Option 1 was \$2,820.00 and for Option 2 was \$1,140.00. Mr. Meismer reported that Mr. Gosselin reported to the Subcommittee that he believes that the source of the nitrate contamination in the area is from the over application of commercial fertilizer.

Mr. Meismer moved to approve the Water Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors to authorize funding for additional stable isotope data for water samples collected by the District within the Target Areas located in southwestern Keith County during 1999 and 2000 as provided for in Option 1 estimated to cost \$2,820.00. Mr. Stack seconded the motion and it carried. (Motion #4)

AYE: Baldridge, Hansen, Kramer, Meismer, Petersen Rubenthaler, Schilz, Stack,
Wiseman
NAY: None
ABSENT: Wahlgren, Weaver

Ground Water Program - Target Areas – Southwestern Keith County – Schedule – Mr. Meismer reported that the Subcommittee discussed providing information for the producers in the area. Mr. Meismer reported that the Subcommittee agreed that the District should conduct an information meeting for producers south of the South Platte River within the Target Areas located in southwestern Keith County. Mr. Meismer

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – February 8, 2001

reported that the Subcommittee agreed that the information meeting should provide for a report by the Twin Platte Natural Resources District of the authorities of Natural Resources Districts, a report of the Districts Ground Water Management Plan and a report of the options of voluntary actions or management for the area. Mr. Meisner reported that the Subcommittee agreed that the information meeting should provide for a report by Mr. Goeke of the history and an overview of the Area and a report by Mr. Gosselin of the data collected and the analysis of the data. Mr. Meisner reported that the Subcommittee agreed that the information meeting should provide information of how to reduce the application of nitrogen through the use of best management practices and the economic benefits of providing best management practices. Mr. Meisner reported that the Subcommittee agreed to schedule the information meeting for February 27, 2001 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm MST and to hold the meeting in Brule, NE. Mr. Meisner reported that in the Directors' packet for information was the agenda for the information meeting.

Ground Water Program - Transect Wells in Lincoln County – Currently Collected and Available Data – Mr. Meisner reported that the Subcommittee received a report on the collection of data from the monitoring wells installed along the transect crossing the South Platte River valley and the North Platte River valley near Highway 83 in Lincoln County.

Ground Water Program - Transect Wells in Lincoln County – Analysis of the Data – Mr. Meisner reported that the Subcommittee received a report on the plans and schedule for continuing the collection of data from the monitoring wells installed along the transect.

Ground Water Program - Transect Wells in Lincoln County – Schedule – Mr. Meisner reported that Mr. Goeke reported to the Subcommittee that he believed that a report could be prepared for the transect well study following another year of data collection. Mr. Meisner reported that the Subcommittee agreed that they would like another status report on the monitoring wells installed along the transect crossing the South Platte River valley and the North Platte River valley near Highway 83 in Lincoln County as soon as new information is available.

Canal Screen Cleaning Demonstration Project - Status Report - Mr. Meisner reported that the Subcommittee received a report on the status of the Cooperative Agreement with the US Bureau of Reclamation approved by the Board of Directors during the January 13, 2000 Board meeting for a Canal Trash Screening Demonstration Project. Mr. Meisner reported that the cooperative agreement provides that the US Bureau of Reclamation will provide funds up to \$5,000.00 for the purchase of or the construction of canal screening devices. Mr. Meisner reported that the Subcommittee received a report on the installation of demonstrations for canal screening at two sites within the Western Irrigation District. Mr. Meisner reported that the Subcommittee received a report on the designs being prepared for demonstrations for canal screening at one additional site within the Western Irrigation District, at one site within the Suburban Irrigation District and at two sites within the Keith-Lincoln Irrigation District.

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – February 8, 2001

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 January 2001 was in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information.

Accounts Payable - Mr. Meisner reported that the Accounts Payable report was in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout and that he had reviewed the Accounts Payable and found the report to be in order.

Mr. Meisner moved that the Financial Statement for January 2001 be received and placed on file for audit and that the Accounts Payable in the amount of \$6,961.52 be paid. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #5)

AYE: Baldridge, Hansen, Kramer, Meisner, Petersen Rubenthaler, Schilz, Stack,
Weaver, Wiseman

NAY: None

ABSENT: Wahlgren

Budget Status - Mr. Meisner 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 February 8, 2001 Board of Directors Meeting - Mr. Miller reported that bids/proposals were scheduled to be presented for consideration during the March 8, 2001 Board of Directors meeting for the purchase of Computer equipment. Mr. Miller reported that proposals would be presented for a desktop computer budgeted for the Water Programs Technician provided written approval is received for the new federal funded 319 Project. Mr. Miller reported that the District has been told verbally that the new 319 Project has been approved.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS
Nebraska Association of Resources Districts

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – February 8, 2001

Board of Directors Meetings – No report presented.

Legislative Conference, January 23-24, 2001, Lincoln, NE - Program – Mr. Meismer reported that Mr. Rubenthaler, Mr. Wahlgren, Mr. Weaver, Mr. Miller and he had attended the Conference. Mr. Meismer reported that in the Directors’ packet for information was a document prepared by the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts which provides a summary of Legislative Bills introduced this session that are of interest to Natural Resources Districts and the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts position adopted by the member Districts during the Conference. Mr. Meismer distributed for information the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts 2001 Policy Book.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District Water Conservation Task Force

No report presented.

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 \$11,229.68 was available.

Mr. Meismer moved to approve the January 2001 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:				
01-058	NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 247.50	\$ 247.50
01-059	NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 123.75	\$ 123.75
01-060	NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 535.32	\$ 535.32
01-061	NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 65.84	\$ 65.84

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – February 8, 2001

01-062 NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 286.81	\$ 286.81
01-063 NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 313.41	\$ 313.41
01-064 NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 589.20	\$ 589.20
01-065 NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 49.50	\$ 49.50
01-066 NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 49.50	\$ 49.50
01-067 NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 269.78	\$ 269.78
01-068 NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 160.88	\$ 160.88
01-069 NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 420.84	\$ 420.84
01-070 NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 646.14	\$ 646.14
01-071 NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 148.50	\$ 148.50
01-072 NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 99.00	\$ 99.00
01-073 NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 222.25	\$ 222.25
01-074 NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 799.92	\$ 799.92
01-075 NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 79.20	\$ 79.20
01-076 NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 483.24	\$ 483.24
01-077 NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 247.50	\$ 247.50
01-078 NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 118.80	\$ 118.80
01-079 NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 837.75	\$ 837.75
01-080 NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 1,406.40	\$ 1,406.40
01-081 NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 1,551.45	\$ 1,551.45
01-082 NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 1,477.20	\$ 1,477.20
Total Amount Of New Contracts			\$ 11,229.68
FUNDS AVAILABLE:		Practice NC-12, Windbreaks	\$ 0.00
		Other available practices	\$ 0.00

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

AYE: Baldrige, Hansen, Kramer, Meismer, Petersen Rubenthaler, Schilz, Stack,
 Weaver, Wiseman

NAY: None

ABSENT: Wahlgren

Cost-Share Programs - District Conservation Program – Contracts for 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 five contracts have been approved during the 2001 Fiscal Year for a total cost-share allocation of \$900.00 and that \$2,100.00 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.

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – February 8, 2001

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 on the Nebraska Wellhead Protection Program. Mr. Miller reported on 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. Miller reported that the Board in September 2000 authorized sending 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. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet for information was a copy of the letter sent to the USDA and he reported that the request was denied due to national policy adopted based on the recommendation of the US Environmental Protection Agency. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet for information was a copy of a letter he had sent to the US Environmental Protection Agency 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.

Water Programs –Watershed Program – No report presented.

Water Programs – Platte River Activities – No report presented.

Regulatory Programs – No report presented.

Information & Education Programs – No report presented.

Legislation – Mr. Miller reported that on February 7, 2001, he had presented testimony before the Nebraska Legislature's Natural Resources Committee for Legislative Bill 518. Mr. Miller reported that Senator Don Pederson introduced LB 518 at the request of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District in regard to land south of the Platte River channel, which extends from the City of North Platte to east of the Village of Brady. Mr. Miller reported that currently, the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources is interrupting Nebraska statutes 46-636 and 46-637 to include any islands between channels within the Platte River. Mr. Miller reported that the Department of Natural Resources has determined that the land south of the Platte River channel, which extends from the City of North Platte to east of the Village of Brady is an island between two channels of the Platte River. Mr. Miller reported that this area is approximately 17,000 acres within which no irrigation wells may currently be drilled. Mr. Miller reported that Senators

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – February 8, 2001

Cudabach, Jones and Kremer were co-sponsors of LB 518. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information was the written testimony that he had presented. Mr. Miller reported that others testifying in support were Joe Wahlgren, Twin Platte Natural Resources District Board member, producer and landowner, Dale Wahlgren, producer and landowner and Ron Bishop, General Manager, Central Platte Natural Resources District. Mr. Miller reported that the Nebraska Farm Bureau and the Nebraska Cattlemen Association submitted letters of support. Mr. Miller reported that following the hearing, the Natural Resources Committee reported LB 518 to the full Legislature and LB 518 would be placed on General File.

Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information was the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources February 2, 2001 Legislative Memo #4 and the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts February 2, 2001 Legislative Update.

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

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. CST (3:30 p.m. MST).

Jerry Weaver, Secretary

KOM:MSOMIN3:Bmin0201