

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
April 12, 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 April 12, 2001. Mr. Rubenthaler called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. CDT (6:34 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 Baldrige
Jim Meismer
Robert Petersen
Jim Rubenthaler
Dennis Schilz
Douglas Stack
Joe Wahlgren
Robert Wiseman

BOARD MEMBERS
ABSENT & EXCUSED

Todd Kramer
Jerry Weaver

BOARD MEMBERS

ABSENT
Eric Hansen

NRCS PERS PRESENT

OTHERS PRESENT

STAFF PRESENT

Glen Bowers, Water P Coor
Ardis Lehmkuhler, Adm Asst
Kent O. Miller, Gen Mgr

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Report of Directors Excused - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that Mr. Kramer and Mr. Weaver were excused. (Mr. Hansen called the office following the Board meeting to report that he was unable to attend the Board meeting due to the power outage at his ranch.)

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, 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.

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PUBLIC FORUM

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

AGENDA MODIFICATION

None presented.

GENERAL INFORMATION

No report presented.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Minutes for March 8, 2001 Meeting - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the Minutes for the March 8, 2001 Board of Directors meeting were in the Directors' packet and he asked if there were corrections or additions to the Minutes.

Mr. Petersen moved that the Minutes of the March 8, 2001 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #1)

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Hansen, Kramer, Weaver, Wiseman

COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORTS

Mr. Rubenthaler reported that Mrs. Reece was unable to attend the Board meeting due to the power outage at her ranch and he asked Mr. Miller to present the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service report.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - Monthly Report – Mr. Miller reported that Mrs. Reece's narrative report and the 2001 Business Plan for the North Platte and Ogallala field offices were in the Directors' Packet for information.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - Programs - Environmental Quality Incentive Program – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' Packet was information for the meeting of the Environmental Quality Incentive Program Local Work Group held March 28, 2001 in Sutherland, NE. Mr. Miller reported that the Local Work Group agreed to continue the current approved priority area of northern Keith County and Arthur County for the next two years and to submit a request for a priority area for the South Platte River Watershed within the District.

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

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - Programs – Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program - No report presented.

Nebraska Board of Educational Lands and Funds - Cooperative Agreements - No report presented.

Other Agencies - No report presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Land Resources Subcommittee

No report presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Water Resources Subcommittee

No report presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee

No report presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Executive Subcommittee

No report presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Statement - Mr. Meisner reported that the Financial Statements for March 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. Miller reported that check #10196 was to pay the \$100.00 registration fee for the 2001 Nebraska State Envirothon for the Ogallala High School Team. Mr. Miller asked the Board if

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they wished to remove this check from the accounts payable and consider payment of the registration fee later in the agenda. Mr. Miller reported that the Ogallala High School Team qualified to participate in the 2001 Nebraska State Envirothon and that the last time a team from within the District qualified, the District paid the team's registration fee for the Nebraska State Envirothon. Mr. Miller reported that the Ogallala High School Team was the only team from within the Twin Platte Natural Resources District to qualify. Mr. Miller reported that the 2001 Nebraska State Envirothon is May 5, 2001 at Camp Comeca in Cozad, NE and that the registration fee is \$100.00 per team. Mr. Miller reported that the Nebraska State Envirothon is coordinated and sponsored by the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts and he recommends that the District provide financial support for the team from Ogallala. The Board of Directors by consent agreed that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District pay the \$100.00 registration fee for the 2001 Nebraska State Envirothon for the Ogallala High School Team and to consider check #10196 with the accounts payable.

Mr. Miller reported that check #10221 was to pay the Cooperative Hydrology Study for the used Computer for sale for \$500.00 as the Computer meets our needs for a new computer for the Water Programs Technician. Mr. Miller reported that bids/proposals that had been scheduled to be presented for consideration during the April 12, 2001 Board of Directors meeting for the purchase of Computer equipment budgeted for the Water Programs Technician had been suspended with the purchase of the used Computer.

Mr. Meismer moved that the Financial Statement for March 2001 be received and placed on file for audit and that the Accounts Payable in the amount of \$18,845.32 be paid. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #2)

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Hansen, Kramer, Weaver, Wiseman

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 April 12, 2001 Board of Directors Meeting - Mr. Miller reported that no bids/proposals were scheduled to be presented for consideration during the May 10, 2001 Board of Directors meeting.

COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORTS (Continued)

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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. Meismer 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. Schilz seconded the motion and it carried. (Motion #3)

AYE: Baldridge, Meismer, Petersen Rubenthaler, Schilz, Stack, Wahlgren, Wiseman

NAY: None

ABSENT: Hansen, Kramer, Weaver

OPERATING POLICIES REVISIONS

Number 14

Mr. Wahlgren moved to remove from the table Motion #6 - March 8, 2001, which had been tabled to the April 12, 2001 Board of Directors meeting. Mr. Schilz seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #4)

AYE: Baldridge, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Schilz, Stack, Wahlgren, Wiseman

NAY: None

ABSENT: Hansen, Kramer, Weaver

Motion #6 -March 8, 2001 To approve the following revisions for the Operating Policies (Deletions have a strikethrough line. Additions are underlined):

Operating Policy Number 14: BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES

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

2. Directors and employees shall receive reimbursement for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in connection with their duties, including but not limited to, at educational workshops, conferences, training programs, official functions, hearings, or meetings, whether incurred within or outside the boundaries of the District. Board authorization is required for all staff or Director expenses for travel outside a 300-mile radius of the District or for travel that requires the individual to be out of the District more than three successive nights. Authorized expenses may include:
 - Mileage at the rate allowed by the State of Nebraska for state employees or actual travel expense if travel is authorized by commercial or charter means, provided however that for out-of-state meetings, reimbursement shall be the lesser of actual mileage or the commercial costs for those directors or

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employees who elect to drive for which the compensation provided shall not increase as a result of driving

- ~~Reimburse the General Manager for mileage driven for business of the District utilizing a personal vehicle. Reimbursement shall be for mileage driven for District business to points outside of a 4 mile radius of the District's offices.~~

The General Manager shall be paid \$700.00/month for mileage driven for business of the District utilizing a personal vehicle.

Motion #6 -March 8, 2001 Failed.

AYE: Rubenthaler, Schilz, Wahlgren,

NAY: Baldrige, Meismer, Petersen, Stack, Wiseman

ABSENT: Hansen, Kramer, Weaver

Number 8 – Mr. Miller reported that January through March 2000, November 2000 and January through March 2001 the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Board meetings were held at 3:00 p.m. CST (2:00 p.m. MST) and that the December Board of Directors meetings have been being scheduled in the evening to coincide with the District's Awards Dinner held in the western portion of the District and has for many years been held on the second Tuesday to facilitate news coverage in the Keith County News of the Awards presented. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' Packet were suggested revisions for Operating Policy Number 8 to continue in the future the schedule followed the previous two years.

Mr. Petersen moved to approve the following revisions for the Operating Policies (Deletions have a strikethrough line. Additions are underlined):

Operating Policy Number 8: BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Unless otherwise designated by the Board, the regularly scheduled monthly meetings of the Board of Directors will be held in North Platte with the exception of the December meetings, which will be held in the western part of the District. Other meetings of the Board of Directors may be scheduled somewhere other than North Platte as determined by the Board of Directors. The meeting of the Board shall be held on the second Thursday of each month with the exception of the December meeting of the Board, which shall be held on the second Tuesday of December. ~~The April, May, June, July, August, September and October meetings~~ Each meeting shall begin at 7:30 p.m. Central Time, the November, January, February and March meetings shall begin at 3:00 p.m. Central Time and the December meeting shall begin at a time determined each year to facilitate the scheduling of the awards dinner which may be scheduled to coincide with the December meeting ~~the year round.~~ If the General Manager and the Chair determine that weather conditions are or will be dangerous for travel to or from the meeting, the meeting shall be canceled or postponed and rescheduled to a later date. If the General Manager and the Chair have reason to believe that the scheduled meeting place will not be large enough to accommodate

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the public, then they shall move the location to a larger place, and may delay the starting time in order to provide notice of the change of location and to allow for travel time.

Mr. Wiseman seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #5)

AYE: Baldridge, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Schilz, Wahlgren, Wiseman

NAY: Stack

ABSENT: Hansen, Kramer, Weaver

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts

Board of Directors Meetings – Mr. Meismer reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout were the minutes and support material for the April 10, 2001 meeting of the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Legislative Committee and he reported on the discussions in regard to water quality funding.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District Water Conservation Task Force

No report presented.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Platte River Citizens Advisory Council

Mr. Meismer, Board representative, reported on the Platte River Citizens Advisory Council meeting held on March 26, 2001.

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 \$0.00 was available and that the proposed new contracts would be funded with funds not utilized by approved contracts or with the new funds if available July 1, 2001.

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Mr. Stack moved to approve the April 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:				
01-083	NC-17	Irrigation Water Management	\$ 3,801.75	\$ 0.00
01-084	NC-14	Planned Grazing Systems	\$ 1,150.50	\$ 0.00
Total Amount Of New Contracts			\$ 4,952.25	\$ 0.00
FUNDS AVAILABLE:		Practice NC-12, Windbreaks		\$ 0.00
		Other available practices		\$ 0.00

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

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

Cost-Share Programs - District Conservation Program – No report presented.

Cost-Share Programs – NE Buffer Strip Program - Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information was a report of the Buffer strips approved within the District.

Tree Program – Mr. Miller reported that the District personnel began tree planting in the District on March 29, 2001. Mr. Miller reported that 44,630 trees were purchased from the Colorado State Nursery and 12,950 trees from the Nursery at Halsey, NE were purchased from the Nebraska Forest Service. Mr. Miller reported that the District's machine crew was scheduled to plant 36,837 trees at 85 sites, that 117 orders were processed for purchase of 19,713 trees to be planted by individuals and that Mike Ekdahl was scheduled to place 141,705 feet of water conservation mulch material at 49 sites.

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' packet for information was the letter and the reporting form sent to producers south of the South Platte River within the Target Areas located in southwestern Keith County as a result of the discussions with the producers during the information meeting held February 27,

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2001 in Brule, NE. Mr. Miller reported that along with the letter, a brochure in regard to the service offered by the District for measuring flow rates in irrigation systems utilizing a portable Ultrasonic Flow Meter was included and a note that the District had waived the service fee. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet for information was a news article in regard to the Well Census project.

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 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.

Water Programs – Platte River Activities – Nebraska v. Wyoming Lawsuit – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet was information received from Governor Mike Johanns and Attorney General Don Stenberg in regard to the settlement of the litigation in regard to the North Platte River between Nebraska and Wyoming.

Regulatory Programs – No report presented.

Information & Education Programs – Scholarships – Nebraska Range Youth Camp – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet was information for the Nebraska Range Youth Camp. Mr. Miller reported that the District's policy provides for seven scholarships annually for the Nebraska Range Youth Camp.

Information & Education Programs – Scholarships – Sandhills Academy for Youth – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet was information for the Nebraska Sandhills Academy for Youth. Mr. Miller reported that the District's policy provides for three scholarships annually for the Nebraska Sandhills Academy for Youth.

Information & Education Programs – Scholarships – Nebraska Family Range Camp – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet was information for the Nebraska Family Range Camp. Mr. Miller reported that in the past, the Board has awarded one scholarship annually if a request is received from a family within the District who plans to attend the Nebraska Family

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Range Camp. The Board of Directors by consent agreed that if applications for scholarships for the Nebraska Family Range Camp were received, the Board would consider the applications.

Information & Education Programs – Scholarships – Nebraska Ranch Practicum – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet was information for the Nebraska Ranch Practicum, which will be conducted at the University of Nebraska West Central Research and Extension Center in North Platte and at the Gudmunsen Sandhills Lab from June 2001 to January 2002. Mr. Miller reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District authorized up to 5 - \$100.00 scholarships for ranchers from within the Twin Platte Natural Resources District to participate in the 1999-2000 and the 2000-2001 Nebraska Ranch Practicum.

Mr. Wiseman moved that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District authorize up to 5 - \$100.00 scholarships for ranchers from within the Twin Platte Natural Resources District to participate in the 2001 - 2002 Nebraska Ranch Practicum. Mr. Stack seconded the motion and it carried. (Motion #7)

AYE: Baldridge, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Schilz, Stack, Wahlgren, Wiseman

NAY: None

ABSENT: Hansen, Kramer, Weaver

Information & Education Programs – Scholarships – Nebraska State Envirothon – Previously discussed during the Financial Report.

Legislation – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet and in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information was Legislative reports prepared by the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Miller reported on the status of LB 667, which has been advanced to select file, the second level of consideration by the Legislature. Mr. Miller reported that an amendment has been added to LB 667 which contains the provisions of LB 518, which would change the current law so that only wells drilled after July 1, 2000 and within 50 feet of the bank of a "channel" of a stream would be subject to surface water law, not those drilled anywhere within 50 feet of the outer banks of a multi-channel stream. 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.

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 in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout was the itinerary for tours for the Board of Directors of the North Platte River

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Basin and the South Platte River Basin that occurred in 1979 and 1989. Mr. Miller reported that several Directors have expressed an interest in scheduling a tour of the North Platte River Basin and/or the South Platte River Basin. The Board of Directors by consent agreed to direct the staff to schedule a tour for the Board of Directors of the North Platte River Basin for September 5-7, 2001.

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 9:48 p.m. CDT (8:48 p.m. MDT).

Jerry Weaver, Secretary

KOM:MSOMIN3:Bmin0401