

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
Board of Directors Meeting  
May 10, 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 May 10, 2001. Mr. Rubenthaler called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. CDT (6:40 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  
Eric Hansen  
Jim Meisner  
Robert Petersen  
Douglas Stack  
Jerry Weaver

BOARD MEMBERS

ABSENT & EXCUSED

Todd Kramer  
Jim Rubenthaler  
Dennis Schilz  
Joe Wahlgren  
Robert Wiseman

NRCS PERS PRESENT

Chuck Markley, Soil Sci  
Mary Reece, Dist Cons

OTHERS PRESENT

STAFF PRESENT

Ardis Lehmkuhler, Adm Asst  
Kent O. Miller, Gen Mgr

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Report of Directors Excused - Mr. Stack reported that Mr. Kramer, Mr. Rubenthaler, Mr. Schilz, Mr. Wahlgren and Mr. Wiseman were excused.

DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – May 10, 2001

considered for approval.

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 April 12, 2001 Meeting - Mr. Stack reported that the Minutes for the April 12, 2001 Board of Directors meeting were in the Directors' packet and he asked if there were corrections or additions to the Minutes.

Mr. Baldrige moved that the Minutes of the April 12, 2001 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mr. Meismer seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #1)

AYE: Baldrige, Hansen, Meismer, Petersen Stack, Weaver

NAY: None

ABSENT: Kramer, Rubenthaler, Schilz, Wahlgren, Wiseman

COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORTS

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - Monthly Report – Mrs. Reece distributed her narrative report and she reported on activities for the North Platte and Ogallala field offices. Mrs. Reece introduced Chuck Markley, the new Soil Scientist in the North Platte Field office. Mrs. Reece presented a power point presentation of the Nebraska Resources Inventory. The Directors agreed that they would like the Natural Resources Conservation Service to prepare a resources inventory of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - Programs - Environmental Quality Incentive Program – No report presented.

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

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – May 10, 2001

Mr. Petersen 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. Weaver seconded the motion and it carried. (Motion #2)

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

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 - Mr. Stack 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. Meismer 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 #3)

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

Other Agencies - No report presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT  
Land Resources Subcommittee

No report presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT  
Water Resources Subcommittee

No report presented.

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – May 10, 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 April 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 April 2001 be received and placed on file for audit and that the Accounts Payable in the amount of \$28,219.84 be paid. Mr. Baldrige seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #4)

AYE: Baldridge, Hansen, Meisner, Petersen Stack, Weaver

NAY: None

ABSENT: Kramer, Rubenthaler, Schilz, Wahlgren, Wiseman

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 June 14, 2001 Board of Directors Meeting - Mr. Miller reported that no bids/proposals were scheduled to be presented for consideration during the June 14, 2001 Board of Directors meeting.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS  
Nebraska Association of Resources Districts

No report presented.

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

No report presented.

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – May 10, 2001

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 – Nebraska State Irrigation Association – Integrated Irrigation Improvement Project – Mr. Miller reported that the request for assistance from the Nebraska State Irrigation Association for an Integrated Irrigation Improvement Project affected the Western Irrigation District. Mr. Miller recommended that since Mr. Schilz, who is also a member of the Western Irrigation District Board, was not present, that consideration of this request occur during the June 14, 2001 Board of Directors meeting. The Directors agreed to consider the request for assistance from the Nebraska State Irrigation Association for an Integrated Irrigation Improvement Project during the June 14, 2001 Board of Directors meeting.

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 no funds were available for new contracts.

Cost-Share Programs - District Conservation Program – 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 for a total cost-share allocation of \$1,800.00 and that \$1,200.00 was available for additional contracts.

Cost-Share Programs – NE Buffer Strip Program - 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 – District Programs – Mr. Miller reported that

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – May 10, 2001

per the District's policy and at the request of the owners of the hog confinement operation in Arthur County, that the District's personnel obtain the samples of ground water from the monitoring wells required by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality. Mr. Miller reported that when the District personnel were obtaining samples this week, that a dead hog was observed floating in the waste pond. Mr. Miller reported that the hog confinement operation is required to incinerate dead hogs and that it is a violation for a dead hog to be in the waste pond. Mr. Miller reported that in the past the Board has indicated that the District personnel should not seek out violators of programs not administered by the District, but that if District personnel observe a violation while they are carrying out their normal District activities and if the violation could impact programs of the District, that the District personnel could report the violation to the appropriate agency. Mr. Miller asked if the Board had any objections of the District personnel notifying the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality that a dead hog was observed floating in the waste pond. The Board agreed that they had no objections of the District personnel notifying the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality that a dead hog was observed floating in the waste pond. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet was information in regard to a proposal for a ground water compact in Oklahoma and that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout was a USGS ground water report titled "Shallow Ground Water Quality in the Platte River Valley Alluvium".

Water Programs – Ground Water Program – 319 Project – No report presented.

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 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 sponsors as the representative for the District.

Water Programs – Platte River Activities – South Platte River Flows – Mr. Miller reported on slightly higher flows in the South Platte River expected this weekend.

Regulatory Programs - Chemigation – No report presented.

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – May 10, 2001

Regulatory Programs – Erosion and Sediment Control – Mr. Miller reported on two recent inquiries in regard to the District’s erosion and sediment control regulatory program. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors’ packet was information in regard to the inquiry for the Jandebour site south of the City of North Platte and information in regard to the inquiry for the Coyle site north of the Village of Brady.

Regulatory Programs – Ground Water Runoff – No report presented.

Information & Education Programs – Scholarships – Nebraska Range Youth Camp – Mr. Miller reported that the District’s policy provides for seven scholarships annually for the Nebraska Range Youth Camp. Mr. Miller reported that no applications have been received.

Information & Education Programs – Scholarships – Sandhills Academy for Youth – Mr. Miller reported that the District’s policy provides for three scholarships annually for the Nebraska Sandhills Academy for Youth. Mr. Miller reported that no applications have been received.

Information & Education Programs – Scholarships – Nebraska Family Range Camp – Mr. Miller reported that in the past, the Board has awarded one scholarship annually for the registration fee if requests are received from families within the District who plan to attend the Nebraska Family Range Camp. Mr. Miller reported that the District has received an application for a scholarship from Sandy Greiss of Ogallala for her and her daughter to attend the Nebraska Family Range Camp and that the registration fee for them to attend is \$75.00.

Mr. Meismer moved to approve a scholarship of \$75.00 for the registration fee for Sandy Greiss and her daughter of Ogallala to attend the Nebraska Family Range Camp. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #5)

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

Information & Education Programs – Scholarships – Nebraska Ranch Practicum – Mr. Miller reported that the Board has authorized 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. Miller reported that one application has been received. Mr. Miller reported that Mr. Carhart also plans to participate in the 2001-2002 Nebraska Ranch Practicum.

Information & Education Programs – Scholarships – Nebraska State Envirothon – Mr. Miller reported that the Ogallala High School Envirothon Team finished 12<sup>th</sup> in the 2001 Nebraska State Envirothon competition. Mr. Miller reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District paid the \$100.00 registration fee for the 2001 Nebraska State

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – May 10, 2001

Envirothon for the Ogallala High School Team.

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 final reading. 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.

Board of Directors Tour of North Platte River Basin - Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet were three itinerary options for the Board of Directors tour of the North Platte River Basin. The Directors agreed to consider the options during the June 14, 2001 Board of Directors 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.

BUDGET FOR 2002 FISCAL YEAR

Preparation Schedule - Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet was a schedule for preparing the 2002 Fiscal Year Budget for the District. Mr. Miller reported that the schedule provides for Board review of the first draft of the Budget during the June Board meeting which is the same schedule followed the last 3 years. Mr. Miller reported that the schedule provides the Board an opportunity to view the first draft of a Budget one-month earlier than the schedule that had been followed prior to 1999. Mr. Miller reported that the schedule for preparing the 2002 Fiscal Year Budget provides the Board four opportunities to review and discuss the Budget prior to final approval.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.



TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – May 10, 2001

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m. CDT (8:05 p.m. MDT).

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Jerry Weaver, Secretary

KOM:MSOMIN3:Bmin0501