

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
June 14, 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 June 14, 2001. Mr. Rubenthaler called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. CDT (6:32 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 Baldridge
Eric Hansen
Jim Meisner
Robert Petersen
Jim Rubenthaler
Dennis Schilz
Douglas Stack
Joe Wahlgren
Jerry Weaver
Robert Wiseman

BOARD MEMBERS

ABSENT & EXCUSED

Todd Kramer

NRCS PERS PRESENT

Mary Reece, Dist Cons

OTHERS PRESENT

STAFF PRESENT

Glen Bowers, W Prog Coor
Bill Carhart, R Prog Coor
Ardis Lehmkuhler, Adm Asst
Kent O. Miller, Gen Mgr

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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 containing the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Conservation Plans for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, the Conservation Reserve Program and the Highly Erodible Lands Requirements were available for information, 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

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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.

Other Items - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that District received a thank you from the Ogallala High School Envirothon team for the assistance provided by the District.

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 May 10, 2001 Meeting - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the Minutes for the May 10, 2001 Board of Directors meeting were in the Directors' packet and he asked if there were corrections or additions to the Minutes.

Mr. Weaver moved that the Minutes of the May 10, 2001 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mr. Stack seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #1)

AYE: Meisner, Rubenthaler, Schilz, Stack, Weaver, Wiseman

NAY: None

ABSENT: Baldrige, Hansen, Kramer, Petersen, Wahlgren

COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORTS

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - Monthly Report – Mrs. Reece used a power point projector to present her monthly report.

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

Personnel Salaries for 2002 Fiscal Year – Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the Subcommittee reviewed the authorized positions, reviewed the salary schedules, reviewed the cost-of-living, and reviewed the General Managers salary.

Mr. Weaver moved to approve the Executive Subcommittee's recommendation to the Board of Directors that the salary schedule steps for each position be increased 3.0% for the 2002 Fiscal Year in recognition of the cost-of-living to maintain the value of the salary compensation and to approve the Executive Subcommittee's recommendation to the Board of Directors that the General Manager's salary be set at \$56,000.00 for the 2002 Fiscal Year. Mr. Stack seconded the motion and it carried. (Motion #2)

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Kramer

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Statement - Mr. Meisner reported that the Financial Statements for May 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 May 2001 be received and placed on file for audit and that the Accounts Payable in the amount of \$25,848.29 be paid. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #3)

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

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NAY: None
ABSENT: Kramer

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

Audit for 2001 Fiscal Year - Mr. Miller reported that the District has received a proposal from the accounting firm of McChesney, Martin and Sagehorn to audit the Twin Platte Natural Resources District for the 2001 Fiscal Year. Mr. Miller reported that the firm had prepared the audit for the District in previous years. Mr. Miller reported that the estimated fee in previous proposals had never been exceeded, and that the estimated fee in the proposal for the 2001 Fiscal Year was \$2,045.00.

Mr. Petersen moved that the proposal received from the accounting firm of McChesney, Martin and Sagehorn to perform the audit for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District for the 2001 Fiscal Year be accepted and to authorize the General Manager to sign the proposal as the District representative. Mr. Stack seconded the motion, and it carried.
(Motion #4)

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

NAY: None
ABSENT: Kramer

OPERATING POLICIES REVISIONS

Number 29 – Mr. Miller reported that a draft revision for Operating Policy Number 29: CREDIT CARDS, was in the Directors' packet for consideration by the Board. Mr. Miller reported that he was requesting an increase of the credit limit for the VISA cards utilized by the Conservation Programs Coordinator and the General Manager. Mr. Miller reported that the primary utilization of the VISA cards by the Program Coordinators is for fuel purchase, as we prefer not to carry and utilize multiple oil company credit cards. Mr. Miller reported that the Conservation Programs Coordinator annually exceeds the \$500 credit limit during tree planting for the purchase of fuel for the two vehicles and the tractor. Mr. Miller reported that Mr. Slattery has utilized his own funds for fuel purchases when the credit limit has been exceeded for which he is reimbursed, but not until after the next Board meeting. Mr. Miller reported that the primary utilization of the VISA card by the General Manager is for meals and lodging when traveling on District business. Mr. Miller reported that in anticipation of the North Platte River Basin tour, that

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he estimated that the meals and the fuel for the rental van could be \$1,200. Mr. Miller reported that the lodging during the North Platte River Basin tour could be direct billed to the District. Mr. Miller reported that purchases for most items are charged and direct billed to the District whenever possible.

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

Operating Policy Number 29: CREDIT CARDS

The General Manager, on behalf of the District, is authorized to apply for and receive Visa or Master Card credit cards each of which would be in the custody of the General Manager and the Program Coordinators and may be used only for District expenses for travel, meals, lodging, general operational expenses of the District and the operation and repair of District-owned vehicles and equipment. Each credit card will be a separate account with a credit limit of \$500 ~~per credit card~~ for the Range Programs Coordinator, \$500 for the Water Programs Coordinator, \$1,000 for the Conservation Programs Coordinator and \$1,500 for the General Manager. ~~and the~~
The credit cards will be obtained through First National Bank of North Platte.

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

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Kramer

Number 60 – Mr. Miller reported that a draft for a new Operating Policy Number 60: Reporting Violations, was in the Directors' packet for consideration by the Board. Mr. Miller reported that the Board of Directors have informally conveyed to the District personnel that they will not seek out violations of Non-District Programs that may impact the purpose and mission of the District and that when District personnel observe violations of Non-District Programs that may impact the purpose and mission of the District while they are carrying out their normal assigned duties, the District personnel should report such observed violations to the appropriate agency.

Mr. Petersen moved to approve the following new Operating Policy:

Operating Policy Number 60: Reporting Violations

NON-DISTRICT PROGRAMS

The District personnel will not seek out violations of Non-District Programs that may impact the purpose and mission of the District.

When District personnel observe violations of Non-District Programs that may impact the purpose and mission of the District while they are carrying out their normal assigned duties, the District personnel shall report such observed

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violations to the General Manager, the General Manager shall report the observed violation to the appropriate agency and the General Manager shall report to the Board of Directors during the next regular meeting of the Board the actions taken in reporting the observed violation.

Mr. Hansen seconded the motion. (Motion #6)

Following discussion, Mr. Petersen and Mr. Hansen agreed to withdraw Motion #6. The Board agreed to request Mr. Miller to prepare additional options for a policy in regard to reporting violations for consideration during the July 12, 2001 Board meeting.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts

Mr. Meisner reported on the June 4, 2001 meeting of the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Board of Directors. Mr. Meisner reported that the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts would hold a Legislative Wrap Up Session on July 18, 2001 in Grand Island, NE.

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 – 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. Schilz, who is also a member of the Western Irrigation District Board, reported that the Western Irrigation District is interested in the Project and he requested that consideration of this request occur during the July 12, 2001 Board of Directors meeting to give the Western Irrigation District additional time to investigate the proposed project. The Directors agreed to consider the request for assistance from the Nebraska State Irrigation Association for an Integrated Irrigation

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Improvement Project during the July 12, 2001 Board of Directors meeting.

Requests for Assistance - High Plains Water Expo - Mr. Miller reported that the 9th annual High Plains Water Expo is scheduled to be held in North Platte, NE on September 19, 2001. Mr. Miller reported that the High Plains Water Expo is for Middle School students in Lincoln, Keith, Arthur, McPherson, Logan and Perkins Counties. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet for information was a letter requesting financial support from the Twin Platte Natural Resources District of \$225.00. Mr. Miller reported that the District has provided financial support each year for the Expo.

Mr. Petersen moved that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District provide \$225.00 for the 2001 High Plains Water Expo. Mr. Weaver seconded the motion and it carried. (Motion #7)

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

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 \$3,693.87 was available and that the proposed new contracts would be funded with the available funds, funds not utilized by approved contracts or with the new funds if available July 1, 2001.

Mr. Petersen moved to approve the June 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:				
01-085	NC-1	Terraces	\$ 1,283.00	\$ 1,283.00
01-086	NC-1	Terraces	\$ 1,640.00	\$ 1,640.00
01-087	NC-1	Terraces	\$ 5,275.00	\$ 770.87
Total Amount Of New Contracts			\$ 8,198.00	\$ 3,693.87
FUNDS AVAILABLE: Practice NC-12, Windbreaks				\$ 0.00
Other available practices				\$ 0.00

Mr. Stack seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #8)

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

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 ten contracts have been approved during the 2001 Fiscal Year for a total

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cost-share allocation of \$1,900.00 and that \$1,100.00 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. Bowers used a power point projector to present a report on the Well Census project.

Mr. Bowers used a power point projector to present a report on the ground water monitoring activities of the District at and near the hog confinement operation in Arthur County. The Board discussed the concerns of the neighboring landowners. Mr. Bowers reported that the staff had obtained a proposal from Sargent Irrigation for the installation of monitoring wells south of the cropland where effluent from the hog confinement operation will be placed.

Mr. Stack moved to approve the placement of two monitoring wells south of the cropland where effluent from the hog confinement operation in Arthur County will be placed and to authorize the General Manager to execute a contract with Sargent Irrigation for the installation of the two monitoring wells. Mr. Meismer seconded the motion and it carried. (Motion #9)

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Kramer

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 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.

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Water Programs – Platte River Activities - 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 Compact – Mr. Schilz and Mr. Miller reported on a meeting with representatives from Colorado and Nebraska in regard to the South Platte Compact that they had attended.

Regulatory Programs - Chemigation – Mr. Miller reported that the District's policy, enacted June 10, 1999, is to deny an application for a chemigation permit for an irrigation system in which any portion of the equipment passes directly over flowing waters of the state. Mr. Miller reported that the purpose of this policy was to not allow a chemigation permit for an irrigation system that would cause the operator to be in violation of state regulations due to chemicals injected into the irrigation water coming in contact with flowing waters of the state. Mr. Miller reported that Irrigation systems now may have the technology such that all of the chemigation system can be turned on or off for different locations in the field and/or selected nozzles can be turned off while the irrigation system is operating. Mr. Miller reported that producers have requested chemigation permits for irrigation systems in which a portion of the equipment passes directly over flowing waters of the state that have been denied. Mr. Miller distributed a draft policy for consideration of the Board in regard to revising the current policy to take into consideration irrigation systems, which have the capability of mechanically, electrically, manually, or some other means to prevent the chemical from coming in contact with the flowing waters of the state. No action was taken to revise the current policy.

Regulatory Programs – Erosion and Sediment Control – No report presented.

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 one application was received.

Information & Education Programs – Scholarships – Nebraska Family Range Camp – Mr. Miller reported that in the Nebraska Family Range Camp has been cancelled and that therefore the scholarship approved for Sandy Greiss of Ogallala and her daughter to attend would not be utilized.

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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.

Legislation – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet and in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information were the final Legislative reports prepared by the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Miller reported that LB 667 was approved by the Legislature and signed by Governor Johanns. Mr. Miller reported that an amendment was added to LB 667, which contained the provisions of LB 518. Mr. Miller reported that only wells drilled within 50 feet of the bank of a “channel” of a stream would now 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 two itinerary options for the Board of Directors tour of the North Platte River Basin. The Directors agreed that the tour should be two days, September 5–6, 2001.

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.

COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORTS (Continued)

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - Programs and Nebraska Board of Educational Lands and Funds - Cooperative Agreements - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that each member of the Board of Directors present had reviewed the notebooks containing the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Conservation Plans for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, the Conservation Reserve Program and the Highly Erodible Lands Requirements and the notebook of the Cooperative Agreements with the State of Nebraska Board of Educational Lands and Funds for Conservation Plans. Mr. Rubenthaler suggested the Board consider one motion for approval of the Conservation Plans.

Mr. Wahlgren moved to approve the Conservation Plans for the USDA Natural

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Resources Conservation Service Environmental Quality Incentives Program, the Conservation Reserve Program and the Highly Erodible Lands Requirements 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 and 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. Meismer seconded the motion and it carried. (Motion #10)

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Kramer

BUDGET FOR 2002 FISCAL YEAR

Preparation Schedule - Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet for information was the 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. 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.

Review Draft #1 - Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout was the first draft of a budget for the 2002 fiscal year. Mr. Miller reviewed the information for the proposed budget for the 2002 fiscal year.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 p.m. CDT (9:35 p.m. MDT).

Jerry Weaver, Secretary

KOM:MSOMIN3:Bmin0601