

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
August 9, 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 August 9, 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
Robert Petersen
Jim Rubenthaler
Douglas Stack
Joe Wahlgren
Robert Wiseman

BOARD MEMBERS

ABSENT & EXCUSED

Todd Kramer
Jim Meisner
Dennis Schilz
Jerry Weaver

BOARD MEMBERS

ABSENT

None

NRCS PERS PRESENT

Mary Reece, Dist Cons
Kristen Miller, R Mgm Spec

OTHERS PRESENT

Alicia Childress, NE G&P
Jayne Jonas, Nat Cons

STAFF PRESENT

Bill Carhart, R Prog Coor
Ardis Lehmkuhler, Adm Asst
Kent O. Miller, Gen Mgr
Dave Slattery, C Prog Coor

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Report of Directors Excused - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that Mr. Kramer, Mr. Meisner, Mr. Schilz and Mr. Weaver were 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.

Other Items - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that notebooks containing the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Conservation Plans were available for information and that the notebooks would be passed around the Board table for review by each member of the Board of Directors present.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

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Forum was closed.

AGENDA MODIFICATION

None presented.

GENERAL INFORMATION

No report presented.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Minutes for July 12, 2001 Meeting - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the Minutes for the July 12, 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 July 12, 2001 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #1)

AYE: Baldridge, Hansen, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Stack, Wahlgren, Wiseman

NAY: None

ABSENT: Kramer, Meismer, Schilz, Weaver

COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORTS

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

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service – Programs Report – Mrs. Reece reported that notebooks containing the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Conservation Plans had been passed around the Board table for review by each member of the Board of Directors present.

Nebraska Board of Educational Lands and Funds - Cooperative Agreements Report – No agreements were presented.

Other Agencies - No report presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee

Mr. Stack, Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee member, presented the report.

Urban Forestry Program - Program Report - Mr. Stack reported on the Urban Forestry

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Program and he reported that in the Directors' Board meeting notebook and available as a handout for information was a summary report for programs in North Platte, Ogallala, Sutherland and Brady.

Urban Forestry Program - Approved Community Programs – Mr. Stack reported that for the North Platte Urban Forestry Program, their first program began during the 1995 Fiscal Year, their second program began during the 1998 Fiscal Year and their third program began during the 2001 Fiscal Year, that for the Ogallala Urban Forestry Program, their first program began during the 1995 Fiscal Year, their second program began during the 1998 Fiscal Year and their third program began during the 2001 Fiscal Year, that for the Sutherland Urban Forestry Program, their first program began during the 1997 Fiscal Year and their second program began during the 2000 Fiscal Year and for the Brady Urban Forestry Program, their first program began during the 2000 Fiscal Year.

Mr. Stack moved the Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee's recommendation to the Board of Directors to authorize \$1,665.02 for funding the North Platte Urban Forestry Program July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2002, to authorize \$1,900.00 for funding the Ogallala Urban Forestry Program July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2002, to authorize \$1,487.03 for funding the Sutherland Urban Forestry Program July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2002 and to authorize \$452.00 for funding the Brady Urban Forestry Program July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2002. Mr. Wiseman seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #2)

AYE: Baldridge, Hansen, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Stack, Wahlgren, Wiseman

NAY: None

ABSENT: Kramer, Meismer, Schilz, Weaver

Urban Forestry Program - Applications for Community Programs – Mr. Stack reported that there were no applications for new community programs.

Urban Forestry Program - Communities Considering Programs - Mr. Stack reported that the staff knows of no other communities that were considering a program at this time.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Land Resources Subcommittee

Mr. Baldridge, Land Resources Subcommittee Chairperson, presented the report.

Cost-Share Programs - NE Soil & Water Conservation Programs – 2002 Planning – Eligible Practice NC-12, Windbreaks – Mr. Baldridge reported that Mr. Slattery had provided a data sheet that showed that 91% of the cooperators planted less than 500 trees through the NE Soil & Water Conservation Program Windbreaks practice. Mr. Baldridge reported that because of this data and the desire to stretch the cost-share dollars, the Subcommittee was recommending that maximums for trees planted and mulch applied through NE Soil & Water Conservation Program be lowered.

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Mr. Baldrige moved the Land Resources Subcommittee's recommendation to the Board of Directors for the NE Soil & Water Conservation Program to cost-share 50% for trees and mulch up to a maximum of 200 trees, with a minimum of 150 trees, and 2,000 feet of mulch per cooperater and to not allow cost-share for replanting trees or first year chemical weed control. Mr. Hansen seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #3)

AYE: Baldrige, Hansen, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Stack, Wahlgren, Wiseman

NAY: None

ABSENT: Kramer, Meismer, Schilz, Weaver

Awards Program - Tree Award - Mr. Baldrige reported that the Subcommittee agreed to select R.W. Newman to receive the 2001 Tree Planting Award for Keith/Arthur Counties.

Awards Program - Grassland Conservation Award - Mr. Baldrige reported that the Subcommittee agreed to select the Fear Ranch to receive the 2001 Grassland Conservation Award for Lincoln/McPherson Counties.

Range Program - District Range Tour – Mr. Rubenthaler and Mr. Carhart reported on the August 8, 2001 Range Tour at the Tom Johnson Ranch in Lincoln Co. southeast of Ringgold. Mr. Carhart reported that due to the location, the tour was held jointly with the Upper Loup NRD and noted that of the 56 people attending, 23 were producers from the Twin Platte Natural Resources District, 19 were producers from the Upper Loup and 14 were presenters or sponsors.

Range Program - Interseeding – Mr. Baldrige reported that Cal Schulz of Korty Land Improvement is interested in providing interseeding service within the District using the District's Buffalo Interseeder.

Mr. Baldrige moved the Land Resources Subcommittee's recommendation to the Board of Directors that the District enter into an agreement with Korty Land Improvement to provide interseeder planting service in the Twin Platte Natural Resources District utilizing the District's interseeding machine with no lease fee charged to Korty Land Improvement as long as they maintain the interseeder in working condition and to authorize the General Manager to execute and sign the agreement as the District representative. Mr. Hansen seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #4)

AYE: Baldrige, Hansen, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Stack, Wahlgren, Wiseman

NAY: None

ABSENT: Kramer, Meismer, Schilz, Weaver

Range Program - Prescribed Burn Task Force – Mr. Baldrige reported that Alicia Childress and Jayne Jonas had written a grant and had been awarded funds for prescribed burn equipment for the Prescribed Burn Task Force and that they had attended the Land Resources Subcommittee meeting to request additional funds to fully fund the purchase of the equipment. Ms. Childress and Ms. Jonas presented background information on the

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grant and the pickup-mounted spray rig that the funding would be for and they reported that an additional \$350.00 was needed to fully fund the purchase of the equipment. Mr. Baldrige reported that the Land Resources Subcommittee took no action and made no recommendation to the Board of Directors on the request for assistance.

Mr. Stack moved to approve contributing \$350.00 to the Prescribed Burn Task Force to be utilized for the purchase of a pickup-mounted spray rig. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #5)

AYE: Petersen, Rubenthaler, Stack, Wahlgren, Wiseman

NAY: Baldrige, Hansen

ABSENT: Kramer, Meismer, Schilz, Weaver

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Water Resources Subcommittee

No report presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Executive Subcommittee

No report presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Rubenthaler asked Mr. Miller to present the financial report.

Financial Statement - Mr. Miller reported that the Financial Statements for July 2001 was in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information.

Accounts Payable - Mr. Miller 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. Petersen moved that the Financial Statement for July 2001 be received and placed on file for audit and to approve payment of the invoices for August 2001 in the amount of \$12,013.78. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #6)

AYE: Baldrige, Hansen, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Stack, Wahlgren, Wiseman

NAY: None

ABSENT: Kramer, Meismer, Schilz, Weaver

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

Bids/Proposals - None were presented.

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Bids/Proposals Scheduled To Be Presented for Consideration During the September 13, 2001 Board of Directors Meeting - Mr. Miller reported that no bids/proposals were scheduled to be presented for consideration during the September 13, 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.

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 for assistance were presented.

Cost-Share Programs - Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program - Guidelines - Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout were draft guidelines for the Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program.

Mr. Stack moved to approve the following guidelines for the Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program:

- Funding adjustments shall go back to the reserved category established by the Board of Directors that the funds came from.
- Applications will be considered in the order the producers signs them.
- From July 1 – January 30, applications shall be considered for funding only when funds are available to fully fund the contract.
- From January 31 – June 30, the funds from each reserved category shall be merged and applications on file shall be considered for funding in the order they are signed by the producer and only one application may be approved for partial

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funding at any time.

- On June 30, all applications not approved by the Board of Directors shall be cancelled.

Mr. Petersen seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #7)

AYE: Baldridge, Hansen, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Stack, Wahlgren, Wiseman

NAY: None

ABSENT: Kramer, Meismer, Schilz, Weaver

Mr. Miller reported that the Board of Directors annually, prior to July 1, should develop guidelines for the succeeding fiscal year. Mr. Miller reported that the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the District personnel plan to develop draft guidelines in regard to the benefits of the various activities available within each practice during the fall and winter of 2001 for consideration by the Subcommittees and that the Subcommittees will meet in May and/or June 2002 to consider guidelines for recommendation to the Board of Directors.

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. Baldridge moved to approve the August 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 Fund</u>
PROPOSED NEW CONTRACTS:				
01-011	NC-14	Planned Grazing Systems	\$ 4,119.75	\$ 4,119.75
01-012	NC-10	Pasture Planting	\$ 2,102.16	\$ 2,102.16
01-013	NC-10	Pasture Planting	\$ 395.00	\$ 395.00
01-014	NC-10	Pasture Planting	\$ 372.00	\$ 372.00
01-015	NC-10	Pasture Planting	\$ 820.00	\$ 820.00
01-018	NC-14	Planned Grazing Systems	\$ 3,649.75	\$ 3,649.75
01-019	NC-17	Irrigation Water Management	\$ 2,343.00	\$ 2,343.00
01-020	NC-17	Irrigation Water Management	\$ 710.00	\$ 710.00
01-021	NC-17	Irrigation Water Management	\$ 1,092.75	\$ 1,092.75
01-022	NC-17	Irrigation Water Management	\$ 1,845.69	\$ 1,845.69
01-023	NC-17	Irrigation Water Management	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00
01-024	NC-17	Irrigation Water Management	\$ 5,397.00	\$ 5,397.00
01-025	NC-17	Irrigation Water Management	\$ 5,397.00	\$ 5,397.00
Total Amount Of New Contracts				\$ 35,744.10
FUNDS AVAILABLE: Practice NC-12, Windbreaks				\$ 26,453.68
Practice NC-14, Planned Grazing				\$ 1,050.27
Practice NC-17, Irrigation				\$ 2,168.24
Other available practices				\$ 207.29

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

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

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 two contracts have been approved during the 2002 Fiscal Year for a total cost-share allocation of \$600.00 and that \$2,400.00 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 – 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.

Water Programs – Platte River Activities - Cooperative Hydrology Study – Mr. Miller reported on the status of 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 – North Platte River – Mr. Miller reported on calls the office has received in regard to water around homes and buildings north of the North Platte River north of the City of North Platte.

Regulatory Programs – No report presented.

Information & Education Programs – No report presented.

Board of Directors Tour of North Platte River Basin - Mr. Miller reported on the Board of Directors tour of the North Platte River Basin that will occur September 5–6, 2001.

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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 for information was the schedule for preparing the 2002 Fiscal Year Budget for the District. 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 #3 - Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet was the third draft (#3) of a budget for the 2002 fiscal year. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout was a revised third draft (#3a) and he reviewed the changes. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout was information for the Natural Resources Enhancement Funds and the 319 Project Funds in the 2001 fiscal year budget and the draft 2002 fiscal year budget and he reviewed the information.

Approval for Public Hearings and Set Public Hearing Dates, Times and Location -

Mr. Petersen moved to approve for public hearing the 2002 Fiscal Year Budget as proposed in Draft #3a with a property tax requirement of \$349,328.01 and a total requirement of \$848,038.99 and to set the Public Hearings for the 2002 Fiscal Year Budget for September 13, 2001 at 7:30 p.m. CDT (6:30 p.m. MDT) to be held in the United NE Bank Center Meeting Room located at 111 South Dewey Street in North Platte, NE for the Board of Directors to hear and consider public comments prior to action for approval of the 2002 Fiscal Year Budget. Mr. Stack seconded the motion and it carried. (Motion #9)

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

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:52 p.m. CDT (8:52 p.m. MDT).

Jerry Weaver, Secretary

KOM:MSOMIN3:Bmin0801