

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
December 11, 2001

The Twin Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors meeting was held at the Lake McConaughy Visitors Center located on Highway 61 one mile south of Kingsley Dam and at the Figure 4 Traditions at the Haythorn Ranch located on Highway 61 4½ miles north of Kingsley Dam in Keith County, Nebraska on December 11, 2001. Mr. Rubenthaler called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. MST (5:35 p.m. CST). 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
Todd Kramer
James Meisner
Robert Petersen
Jim Rubenthaler
Dennis Schilz
Douglas Stack
Joe Wahlgren
Jerry Weaver
Robert Wiseman

BOARD MEMBERS
ABSENT

None

NRCS PERS PRESENT

Traci Bates, Soil Cons
Kristen Miller, Range M Sp
Lee Morse, C Engr Tech
Mary Reece, Dist Cons
Jay Rezek, C Engr
James Lott, Soil Cons
Jeff Nichols, Range M Sp

OTHERS PRESENT

Mitch Gerstenkorn, NE G&P
Award Recipients and Guests
Spouses
News Media

STAFF PRESENT

Rona Ansley, NRCS Sec
Glen Bowers, Water P Coor
Bill Carhart, Range P Coor
Ann Fisher, Water P Tech
Ardis Lehmkuhler, Adm Asst
Kent O Miller, Gen Mgr
Dave Slattery, Cons P Coor

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Report of Directors Excused - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that all Directors were 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

Lake McConaughy Visitors Center - Tour – Mitch Gerstenkorn, Park Superintendent, NE Game & Parks Commission, conducted a tour of the Lake McConaughy Visitors Center.

Lake McConaughy Visitors Center – Request for Assistance – Mr. Miller reported that Tom Plumber, Commission Member, NE Game & Parks Commission, Mr. Gerstenkorn, Mr. Schilz and he met recently, at the request of Mr. Plummer, to discuss the possibility of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District assisting with the development of the native grasses and trees at the Lake McConaughy Visitors Center. Mr. Gerstenkorn discussed with the Board his thoughts for development of the native grasses and trees at the Lake McConaughy Visitors Center. Mr. Miller reported that Bill Carhart, Range Programs Coordinator, and Dave Slattery, Conservation Programs Coordinator, would be working with the NE Game & Parks Commission staff this winter to develop a plan. Mr. Miller reported that if financial assistance were desired from the Twin Platte Natural Resources District after a plan is developed, a request for assistance would be presented to the Board of Directors.

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. Mr. Miller passed around the Board table a thank you received from the Fear Ranch, the District's 2001 Grassland Conservation Award recipient for Lincoln/McPherson Counties, presented November 19, 2001.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

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

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

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORTS

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service –Mrs. Reece reported that in the Directors’ packet for information was her report and she reviewed the report.

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 November 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.

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Mr. Meismer moved that the Financial Statement for November 2001 be received and placed on file for audit and to approve payment of the invoices listed on the Accounts Payable report for December 2001 in the amount of \$32,196.09. Mr. Stack seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #2)

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

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 January 10, 2002 Board of Directors Meeting - Mr. Miller reported that the District Policy provides that the staff will notify the Board during the Board meeting immediately prior to the Board meeting at which bids will be presented for consideration. Mr. Miller reported that the staff plans to present bids/proposals for consideration during the January 10, 2002 Board of Directors meeting for the purchase of an LCD projector. Mr. Miller reported that the Budget provides for the purchase of an LCD projector.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts - Legislative Conference, January 29-30, 2002, Lincoln, NE – Mr. Meismer reported on the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Legislative conference that will be held January 29-30, 2002 in Lincoln, NE.

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts - Board of Directors Meetings – Mr. Meismer reported that in the Directors' packet for information were the minutes for the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Board of Directors meeting held on November 5, 2001.

Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District Water Conservation Task Force - No report presented.

Platte River Citizens Advisory Council - No report presented.

Sandhills Resources, Conservation & Development Council - No report presented.

NE Water Resources Association Annual Conference - Mr. Petersen reported on the NE Water Resources Association Annual Conference.

Requests for Authorization to Travel - No requests were presented.

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Western Irrigation District - Mr. Schilz and Mr. Miller reported on the Western Irrigation District's meeting with the Director and staff from the NE Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information was a draft South Platte River Work Plan prepared by the NE Department of Natural Resources.

DISTRICT REPORT

Requests for Assistance – Piping Plover Designation Coalition – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet for information was a draft Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for the Nebraska Water Conservation Cooperative and a draft budget for the Nebraska Water Conservation Cooperative. Mr. Miller reported that several Natural Resources Districts, other local agencies and organizations are forming a coalition concerning or effecting the designation of critical habitat for piping plovers in Nebraska by the U.S. Department of Interior, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Mr. Miller reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District has been invited to participate in the coalition. Mr. Miller reported that the proposed level of membership for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District is a sponsor member at level 2 at a cost of \$4,000.00 for the first year and not to exceed \$12,000.00 over three years.

Mr. Petersen moved that the Board of Directors approve the Twin Platte Natural Resources District participating in the Nebraska Water Conservation Cooperative as a sponsor member, to authorize, \$4,000.00 for the first year and up to \$12,000.00 over three years, to authorize the General Manager to sign the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for the Nebraska Water Conservation Cooperative as the Twin Platte Natural Resources District representative, and to designate the General Manager as the District representative on the Board of Directors of the Nebraska Water Conservation Cooperative. Mr. Stack seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #3)

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

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. Petersen moved to approve the December 2001 report as presented and to approve the following amendments and new contracts:

<u>Cont#</u>	<u>Practice</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>App Amt</u>	<u>Prop Amt To Fund</u>
FUNDING AMENDMENTS:				
02-016 NC-1		Terrace Systems	\$ 598.60	\$ 598.60

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PROPOSED NEW CONTRACTS:

02-041 NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 779.00	\$ 779.00
02-042 NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 99.00	\$ 99.00
02-043 NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 322.57	\$ 322.57
02-044 NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 779.00	\$ 779.00
02-045 NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 691.52	\$ 691.52
02-046 NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 99.00	\$ 99.00
02-047 NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 708.52	\$ 708.52
02-048 NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 762.00	\$ 762.00
02-049 NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 779.00	\$ 779.00
02-050 NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 631.70	\$ 631.70
02-051 NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 532.50	\$ 532.50
02-052 NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 688.72	\$ 688.72
02-053 NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 86.62	\$ 86.62
02-054 NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 540.67	\$ 540.67
02-055 NC-12	Windbreaks	\$ 99.00	\$ 99.00
Total Amount Of New Contracts			\$ 7,598.82

FUNDS AVAILABLE:	Practice NC-12, Windbreaks	\$ 17,195.46
	Practice NC-14, Planned Grazing	\$ 2,018.65
	Practice NC-17, Irrigation	\$ 1,486.23
	Other available practices	\$ 448.50

Mr. Hansen seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #4)

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

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

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 Legislative Bill 329 past last year directs that Natural Resources Districts provide a report of Water Quality Programs to the Legislature’s Natural Resource Committee. Mr. Miller reported that the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts has requested that each District submit a report to the Association and that the Association will compile the 23

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reports and provide them to the Legislature's Natural Resources Committee. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet for information was the Twin Platte Natural Resources District's Water Quality Programs LB 329 Report submitted to the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts.

Water Programs – Ground Water Program – 319 Project – Mr. Miller distributed for information the Twin Platte Natural Resources District's newsletter, which was mailed December 6, 2001.

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.

Regulatory Programs - Chemigation – Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information was a letter from the NE Department of Environmental Quality dated November 30, 2001 in regard to Subsurface Drip Irrigation systems.

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

Regulatory Programs – Ground Water Runoff – No report presented.

Information & Education Programs – 2001 Awards Program – Presentation, November 19, 2001 – Mr. Miller reported that the District's 2001 Grassland Conservation Award for Lincoln/McPherson Counties was presented November 19, 2001 to the Fear Ranch during the North Platte Chamber Farmer/Rancher Appreciation Banquet and that the Board Chairperson, Mr. Rubenthaler, and the District and NRCS staff participated in the award presentation.

Information & Education Programs – 2001 Awards Program – Presentation, December 11, 2001 – Mr. Miller reported that the District's 2001 Tree Planting Award for Keith/Arthur Counties would be presented this evening to R.W. Newman during the District's Awards Banquet at the Haythorn Ranch.

National Association of Conservation Districts - Dues Quota - Mr. Miller reported that in

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the Directors' packet for information were an invoice from the National Association of Conservation Districts for the dues quota contribution, the quota calculation for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District, a letter dated November 27, 2000 from Dayle Williamson, Special Assistant to the Director of the NE Department of Natural Resources, a listing of the quota paid by Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts for the 2000 quota and a letter dated March 6, 1996 from Gerald Vap, President of the National Association of Conservation Districts. Mr. Miller reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District has not paid a dues quota since 1996 as directed by the Board of Directors in 1996. Mr. Miller reported that the November 27, 2000 letter from Dayle Williamson to Tim Reich, National Association of Conservation Districts Secretary-Treasurer, indicated that 22 of the 23 Natural Resources Districts in Nebraska have paid a quota for 2000 and that he was encouraging the Twin Platte Natural Resources District to contribute to bring Nebraska up to 100%. Mr. Miller reported that the March 6, 1996 letter from Jerry Vap, then the National Association of Conservation Districts President, provided information requested by the Twin Platte Natural Resources District. Mr. Miller reported that during the December 12, 2000 Board of Directors meeting, the Board agreed to consider during preparation of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District 2002 Fiscal Year Budget, budgeting funds to pay a quota for the National Association of Conservation Districts. Mr. Miller reported that the 2002 Fiscal Year Budget includes funds to pay the minimum quota for the National Association of Conservation Districts.

Mr. Petersen moved that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District be a member of the National Association of Conservation Districts and to authorize payment of the minimum quota contribution. Mr. Meisner seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #5)

AYE: Kramer, Meisner, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Schilz, Wahlgren
NAY: Baldrige, Hansen, Stack, Weaver, Wiseman
ABSENT: None

Nebraska State Irrigation Association – Integrated Irrigation Improvement Project – Mr. Miller reported that during the November 8, 2001 Board of Directors meeting, it was reported that the Nebraska State Irrigation Association had submitted an application to the Nebraska Environmental Trust for funding a project titled "Integrated Irrigation Improvement Project" and the Board approved the Nebraska State Irrigation Association request that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District participate in the Integrated Irrigation Improvement Project as a partner by contributing staff time and input for the project. Mr. Miller reported that during the Board meeting a question was asked why the project only included irrigation districts in the North Platte and South Platte River Basins. Mr. Miller reported that he contacted LeRoy Sievers, Legal Counsel, for the Nebraska State Irrigation Association, who prepared the application to the Nebraska Environmental Trust for the Integrated Irrigation Improvement Project and that Mr. Sievers reported that the association chose to include only irrigation districts in the North Platte and South Platte River Basins, as it would be a more manageable project for the association. Mr. Miller reported that Mr. Sievers reported that if the Nebraska Environmental Trust funds the project and if the project is successful, that the association will consider future

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projects in the Platte River Basin and the Loup River Basin

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 the City of North Platte has submitted two applications to the Nebraska Department of Roads for federal funds for trails. Mr. Miller reported that the Nebraska Department of Roads Selection Committee was meeting tomorrow in Lincoln, NE and that he would be representing the North Platte Trails Committee and the City of North Platte when the Selection Committee considers the two applications.

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.

AWARDS DINNER

An Awards Dinner was held during which the District's 2001 Tree Planting Award for Keith/Arthur Counties was presented to R.W. Newman.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. MST (9:30 p.m. CST).

Jerry Weaver, Secretary

KOM:MSOMIN3:Bmin1201