

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
February 14, 2002

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 February 14, 2002. Mr. Rubenthaler called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m. CST (2:10 p.m. MST). 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
James Meisner
Robert Petersen
Jim Rubenthaler
Dennis Schilz
Douglas Stack
Joe Wahlgren
Jerry Weaver
Robert Wiseman

BOARD MEMBERS

ABSENT

Todd Kramer

NRCS PERS PRESENT

Jim Lott, Soil Cons

OTHERS PRESENT

STAFF PRESENT

Glen Bowers, Water P Coor
Bill Carhart, Range P Coor
Ann Fisher, Water P Tech
Ardis Lehmkuhler, Adm Asst
Kent O Miller, Gen Mgr

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Report of Directors Excused - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that there were no Directors 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.

Other Items - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that notebooks containing the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Conservation Plans signed by the General Manager as the Twin Platte Natural Resources District representative 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. Rubenthaler reported that a notebook containing the Cooperative Agreements between the Nebraska Board of Education Lands and Funds and Lessees that were signed by the General Manager as the Twin Platte Natural Resources District representative for the District to assist in the development and

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the application of a complete resources conservation plan was available for information and that the notebook 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 Forum was closed.

AGENDA MODIFICATION

None presented.

GENERAL INFORMATION

No report presented.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Minutes for January 10, 2002 Meeting - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the Minutes for the January 10, 2002 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 January 10, 2002 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mr. Meismer seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #1)

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Kramer

COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORTS

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service –Mr. Lott reported that in the Directors' packet for information was a written report prepared by Mary Reece, District Conservationist and he reviewed the report. Mr. Lott distributed for information the 2001 Nebraska Report.

Other Agencies - No report presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT

Land Resources Subcommittee

No report presented.

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SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Water Resources Subcommittee

Mr. Meismer, Water Resources Subcommittee Chairperson, reported that the Water Resources Subcommittee met prior to the Board of Directors meeting and he presented a report.

Ground Water Programs - Southwestern Keith County – UNL Study Status Report – Mr. Meismer reported that Dave Gosselin, University of Nebraska Conservation and Survey Division, reported to the Water Resources Subcommittee that the uniqueness of the geology and the influences of the ground water movement and the surface water in the South Platte River and the Western Irrigation District canal combine to create a complex area to analyze. Mr. Meismer reported that Mr. Gosselin reported on the analysis of data within the target areas in southwestern Keith County.

Ground Water Programs - Sutherland Ethanol Company Facilities - Status Report – Mr. Bowers provided information in regard to the Sutherland Ethanol Company facility.

Canal Screen Cleaning Demonstration Project – Mr. Bowers reported on the status of the Canal Screen Cleaning Demonstration Project. Mr. Bowers reported that the \$5,000.00 allocated had been utilized at 6 sites. Mr. Bowers reported that the U.S. Bureau of reclamation has agreed to provide an additional \$5,000.00 to continue the demonstration project.

Abandoned Well Program - Village of Brule – Mr. Bowers reported that during the September 13, 2001 Board of Directors meeting, that the Board had approve a request from the Village of Brule to enter into an agreement with the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and the Village of Brule to participate in the Nebraska Environmental Partnership Program for closing abandoned wells and to authorize up to \$2,000.00 for the Nebraska Environmental Partnership Program for closing abandoned wells in the Village of Brule. Mr. Bowers reported that the program provides that the District contributes 65% and the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality contributes 35% of the cost for the closure of abandoned wells within villages. Mr. Bowers reported that 37 wells have been identified within the Village of Brule and that the low proposal received from well drillers was \$4,491.26 from Sizer Well Service. Mr. Bowers reported that the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality has agreed to contribute \$2,491.26 and the District will contribute the \$2,000.00 authorized by the Board of Directors.

Abandoned Well Program - Other Villages - Mr. Bowers reported during the February 14, 2002 Board of Directors meeting. Mr. Bowers reminded the Board that the Board of Directors had agreed on September 13, 2001 that the staff should contact each village within the Twin Platte Natural Resources District to determine if the village would be interested in participating in the Nebraska Environmental Partnership Program for closing

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abandoned wells and that the Board of Directors would consider requests from a village. Mr. Bowers reported that the other villages would be contacted after the program with the Village of Brule is completed.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee

Mr. Weaver, Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee Chairperson, reported that the Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee met prior to the Board of Directors meeting and he presented a report.

Wildlife Habitat Programs – WILD Nebraska Program – Mr. Weaver reported that Mr. Carhart provided a WILD Nebraska program review for the Subcommittee. Mr. Weaver reported that a total of \$29,333.00 was available, of which 75% or \$22,000.00 were funds from the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission and the remaining \$7,333.00 were the District's 25% contribution. Mr. Weaver reported that of the total funds, \$16,614.00 was committed to annual payments for existing contracts and \$1,236.00 would be utilized for replanting on existing sites. Mr. Weaver reported that \$11,483.00 was available for new contracts and that the proposals brought to the Board of Directors from the Subcommittee totaled \$4,645.00. Mr. Weaver reported that several of the proposals were designed to compliment Continuous CRP, where that USDA program was utilized to plant trees at 90% cost-share, including fabric mulch. Mr. Weaver reported that with such high cost-share and 15 years of Continuous CRP rental payments, it was challenging to find many sites to enroll in WILD Nebraska.

Mr. Weaver moved to approve the Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve the following new 10-year agreements:

Contract #	Cooperator	Co.	Acres	Payments (Materials)
TP0201	Marjorie Reicks	LN	4	\$0 (\$ 760.00)
TP0202	Jim & Carol Frame	LN	7	\$0 (\$ 783.75)
TP0203	Charles Engel	KE	7	\$ 840.00 (\$ 442.75)
TP0204	Guy Jones	KE	7	\$0 (\$ 276.54)
TP0205	George Huebner	LN	18	\$2,592.00 (\$1,078.50)
TP0206	Southwell Trust	KE	7	\$ 840.00 (\$ 442.75)
TP0207	Richard Seaworth	KE	2	\$240.00 (\$ 189.75)

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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 – Mr. Miller reported that during the January 10, 2002 Board meeting, the staff reported, per District policy, that bids/proposals would be presented for consideration during the February 14, 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. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet for information were a summary of proposals received, specifications and information for the projectors bid.

Mr. Stack moved that the Board of Directors accept the low proposal received from CDW for an InFocus LB350 Projector, Replacement Lamp and Hard Case for a total cost of \$3,616.15. Mr. Meismer seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #4)

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

Bids/Proposals Scheduled To Be Presented for Consideration During the March 14, 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 March 14, 2002 Board of Directors meeting for the purchase of a new vehicle for the Range Programs Coordinator. Mr. Miller reported that the District procedure is to replace vehicles when they reach 100,000 miles. Mr. Miller reported that the vehicle utilized by the Range Programs Coordinator recently reach 100,000 miles and that replacing vehicles when they reach 100,000 miles has served the District well as we have had no major maintenance occurrences. Mr. Miller reported that the Budget provides for the purchase of a new vehicle for the Range Programs Coordinator.

POLICIES

Personnel Policy Number 3: Term of Employment – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet was a draft revision for the Personnel Policies to require that all Full-Time employees reside and maintain their voting registration within the District. Mr. Miller reported that the primarily issue is should employees of a local tax supported governmental agency reside within the area from which the taxes are levied. Mr. Miller reported that the draft revision was a suggestion for discussion and that he had no recommendation. No action was taken.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

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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 was held January 29-30, 2002 in Lincoln, Nebraska. Mr. Meismer reported that Mr. Rubenthaler, Mr. Wahlgren, Mr. Weaver, Mr. Hansen, Mr. Miller and he participated in the Legislative conference.

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts – Board of Directors Meeting – January 30, 2002 – Mr. Meismer reported on the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Board of Directors meeting held on January 30, 2002.

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.

Board of Directors Election – Mr. Rubenthaler reported on the status of filings for the 2002 election for the Twin Platte Natural Resources Board of Directors.

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 - Contracts - Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout was the monthly report. Mr. Miller reported that \$1,668.49 was available for funding additional contracts and that there was one application, #2.038, on file that has not been approved requesting \$6,823.00. Mr. Miller reported that any un-obligated funds on March 1, 2002 are required to be returned to the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources for re-distribution to Natural Resources Districts.

Mr. Stack moved 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:				
None			\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
PROPOSED NEW CONTRACTS:				
02-031 NC-17		Irrigation Water Management	\$ 5,266.00	\$ 5,266.00
02-032 NC-17		Irrigation Water Management	\$ 2,357.25	\$ 2,357.25
02-038 NC-17		Irrigation Water Management	\$ 6,823.00	\$ 1,668.49

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Total Amount Of New Contracts	\$ 9,291.74
FUNDS AVAILABLE: Practice NC-12, Windbreaks	\$ 0.00
Practice NC-14, Planned Grazing	\$ 0.00
Practice NC-17, Irrigation	\$ 0.00
Other available practices	\$ 0.00

and to approve for Contract 02.038 NC-17 Irrigation Water Management additional funds, up to a total of \$6,823.00, returned from approved contracts prior to March 1, 2002. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #5)

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Kramer

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- Nebraska Ranch Practicum – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors’ packet for information was the Itinerary and information for the 2001 Nebraska Ranch Practicum. Mr. Miller reported that the Nebraska Ranch Practicum, is conducted at the University of Nebraska West Central Research and Extension Center in North Platte and at the Gudmunsen Sandhills Lab. 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 2001 Nebraska Ranch Practicum. Mr. Miller reported that each of those years the cost for the Practicum was \$500.00 and that for the 2002 Practicum, the cost will be \$600.00.

Mr. Wiseman moved that the Board of Directors authorize up to 4 - \$125.00 scholarships for ranchers from within the Twin Platte Natural Resources District to participate in the 2002 Nebraska Ranch Practicum. Mr. Schilz seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #6)

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Kramer

Soil Conservation Programs – No report presented.

Wildlife Habitat Programs - No report presented.

Water Programs – Ground Water Program – District Programs – No report presented.

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Water Programs – Ground Water Program – 319 Project – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors’ packet for information was a report to the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality for 2001 and a request for reimbursement for the funds spent in 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.

Water Programs – Platte River Activities – Nebraska Habitat Conservation Coalition – Mr. Miller reported that during the December 2001 Board meeting, the Board approved 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. Miller reported that the name for this activity has been changed to the Nebraska Habitat Conservation Coalition. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors’ packet for information was a January 22, 2002 letter that he submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on behalf of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District in regard to a “Request for Extension of Time to File Comments on Piping Plover Draft Environmental Assessment, Draft Economic Analysis and Draft Critical Habitat Designation on behalf of the Nebraska Habitat Conservation Coalition” and a January 23, 2002 letter that he submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on behalf of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District in regard to “Comments Regarding Draft Piping Plover Critical Habitat Designation, Draft Economic Analysis and Draft Environmental Assessment on behalf of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District”. Mr. Miller reported on the status of activities of the Nebraska Habitat Conservation Coalition. Mr. Miller reported that he participates in the meetings of the Board of Directors as the representative for the District.

Water Programs – Platte River Activities – Pumpkin Creek – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors’ packet for information was a Pumpkin Creek update prepared by the North Platte Natural Resources District.

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Water Programs – Platte River Activities – North Platte River Flooding at the City of North Platte – Mr. Miller reported on the status of discussions in regard to the flooding that occurred during the summer of 2001 along the north side of the North Platte River north of the City of North Platte. Mr. Miller reported that Kevin Boyd of the Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District was coordinating the discussions.

Regulatory Programs – No report presented.

Information & Education Programs – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available for handout was information for a Prescribed Burn School that will be held March 19, 2002 in Brady, Nebraska.

Requests for Authorization to Travel – No requests were presented.

Legislation – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available for handout for information was a Nebraska Department of Natural Resources Legislative report.

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.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m. CST (3:20 p.m. MST).

Jerry Weaver, Secretary

KOM:MSOMIN3:Bmin0202