

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
Board of Directors Meeting  
March 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 March 14, 2002. Mr. Rubenthaler called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. CST (2:05 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

Mary Reece, Dist 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 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.

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.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

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AGENDA MODIFICATION

None presented.

GENERAL INFORMATION

No report presented.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Minutes for February 14, 2002 Meeting - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the Minutes for the February 14, 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 February 14, 2002 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mr. Schilz 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 – Mrs. Reece distributed for information a written report and she reviewed the report. Mrs. Reece reported that in the Directors' packet for information was a comparison of the House and Senate proposed Federal Farm Bills prepared by Steve Chick, State Conservationist.

Other Agencies - No report presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT

Land Resources Subcommittee

No report presented.

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 - Transect Wells in Lincoln County (Along Highway 83) – Mr. Meismer reported that Mr. Bowers and Ms. Fisher reported on the collection of data from

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the monitoring wells installed along a transect crossing the South Platte River valley and the North Platte River valley near Highway 83 in Lincoln County. Mr. Meismer reported on the analysis of the data provided to the Subcommittee by Jim Goeke, University of Nebraska Conservation & Survey Division. Mr. Meismer reported that the Subcommittee agreed that the District personnel should continue the collection of data from the monitoring wells installed along the transect near Highway 83 in Lincoln County and that the Subcommittee agreed that they would like to continue to receive status report on the monitoring wells.

Ground Water Programs - Target Area Meeting - Southwestern Keith County – Mr. Rubenthaler, Mr. Schilz and Mr. Wahlgren reported on the information meeting held on March 13, 2002 in Brule, NE for producers south of the South Platte River within the Target Areas located in southwestern Keith County. Mr. Miller reviewed Table 10-3, with current data, of the District's Ground Water Management Plan and graphs for each Target Area showing the triggering mechanism for a Strategic Subarea. Mr. Miller reported that the triggering mechanism for a Strategic Subarea for the Target Areas in T12R41, T13R40 and T13R41 would likely occur in 2003. Mr. Meismer reported that the Subcommittee agreed to direct the District personnel to prepare for the Subcommittee information in regard to initiation of management within Target Areas and initiation of management for the entire District. Mr. Meismer reported that the District personnel were revising the reporting forms for easier use by the producer as discussed during the March 13<sup>th</sup> meeting in Brule, NE and were making the forms available in electronic format utilizing Microsoft Excel.

Ground Water Programs - Monitoring – Annual Reports – Mr. Meismer reported that the Subcommittee reviewed the annual reports for the District's Ground Water Management Plan.

Ground Water Programs - Management Plan Implementation – Mr. Meismer reported that the ground water monitoring program data indicates that the District did not need to establish Management Areas for ground water quantity or quality at this time as provided in the District's Ground Water Management Plan. Mr. Meismer reported that the ground water monitoring program data indicates that the District did not need to establish additional Target Areas for ground water quantity or quality at this time as provided in the District's Ground Water Management Plan. Mr. Meismer reported that the ground water monitoring program data indicates that the District did not need to dissolve any of the current Target Areas for ground water quantity or quality at this time as provided in the District's Ground Water Management Plan.

Sutherland Ethanol Company Facilities – Mr. Bowers provided information in regard to the Sutherland Ethanol Company facility.

Report Scheduled for the Arthur County Commissioners in regard to the Sands Livestock Confinement Facilities –Mr. Bowers provided information in regard to the report scheduled for the Arthur County Commissioners in regard to the Sands Livestock

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Confinement Facilities.

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 February 2002 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 February 2002 be received and placed on file for audit and to approve payment of the invoices listed on the Accounts Payable report for March 2002 in the amount of \$18,092.12. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #2)

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Kramer

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

Bids/Proposals – Mr. Miller reported that during the February 14, 2002 Board meeting, the staff reported, per District policy, that bids/proposals would be presented 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 Budget provides for the purchase of a new vehicle for the Range Programs Coordinator. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet for information were specifications and a summary of proposals received.

Mr. Petersen moved that the Board accept the low proposal received from Jerry Remus Chevrolet for a 2002 Chevrolet Pickup with trade of the replacement vehicle for a total cost of \$19,050.00. Mr. Schilz seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #3)

AYE: Baldridge, Hansen, Meisner, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Schilz, Stack,

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Wahlgren, Weaver, Wiseman  
NAY: None  
ABSENT: Kramer

Bids/Proposals Scheduled To Be Presented for Consideration During the April 11, 2002 Board of Directors Meeting - Mr. Miller reported that no bids/proposals were scheduled to be presented for consideration during the April 11, 2002 Board of Directors meeting.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts – No report presented.

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 - Mr. Hansen reported on the Sandhills Resources, Conservation & Development Council meeting held on March 6, 2002.

Board of Directors Election – Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the deadline for Incumbents filing for re-election was February 15 and the deadline for Non-Office Holders filing for election was March 1 and that the final listing of Candidate Filings for the 2002 election for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District was Subdistrict 1- Eric S. Hansen, Subdistrict 2 - Joe Wahlgren, Subdistrict 3 - Douglas L. Stack, Subdistrict 4 - Jeff L. Baldrige, Subdistrict 5 - James Meismer and At Large - Jim Rubenthaler.

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 during the February 14, 2002 Board of Directors meeting, that for Contract 02.038 NC-17 Irrigation Water Management, \$6,823.00 was requested and \$1,668.49 was available and approved for funding and that additional funds returned from approved contracts prior to March 1, 2002, were approved, up to a total of \$6,823.00. Mr. Miller reported that for Contract 02.038 NC-17 Irrigation Water Management, that additional funds in the amount of \$40.32 were returned and available prior to March 1, 2002. Mr. Miller reported that \$375.11 was available for funding amendments to approved contracts and/or new contracts.

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Mr. Wahlgren 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</u> <u>Fund</u>
FUNDS AVAILABLE				\$ 375.11
FUNDING AMENDMENTS:				
02.035 NC-14		Planned Grazing System	\$ 375.11	\$ 375.11
PROPOSED NEW CONTRACTS:				
None			\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Total Amount Of New Contracts				\$ 0.00
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

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

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 – 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 the Nebraska State Irrigation Association’s application to the Nebraska Environmental Trust for funding a project titled "Integrated Irrigation Improvement Project" had been approved for funding. Mr. Miller reported that at the request of the Nebraska State Irrigation Association, the Board of Directors on November 8, 2001 had approved the Twin Platte Natural Resources District participating in the project as a partner by contributing staff time and input for the project.

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.

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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. Mr. Miller reported that a Natural Resources Districts Platte River Basin Meeting has been scheduled for June 7, 2002 in North Platte. Mr. Miller reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District representatives selected to participate in these Basin Meetings for discussions of the Cooperative Agreement are Mr. Meismer, Mr. Rubenthaler, Mr. Wahlgren and Mr. Miller.

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 on the status of the Nebraska Habitat Conservation Coalition that was established in regard to the Draft Piping Plover Critical Habitat Designation. Mr. Miller reported that he participates as the District representative on the Board of Directors.

Regulatory Programs – No report presented.

Information & Education Programs – No report presented.

Requests for Authorization to Travel – No requests were presented.

Legislation – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet for information was the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts report in regard to LB 1023, Water Policy Task Force Legislation, currently pending in the Legislature. Mr. Miller reported that he anticipates that LB 1023 will be enacted this year, as the Legislation is one of the Natural Resources Committee's priority bills. Mr. Miller reported that if LB 1023 is enacted this year, that he believes the Twin Platte Natural Resources District should be prepared to recommend to Governor Johanns and the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts individuals for each category that the District would like to see appointed to the Task Force. Mr. Miller reported that he expected that the task force will be active for 18 months to two years and that individuals selected for the task force would spend 1 – 2 days each month and individuals selected for the executive committee would spend an additional 1 – 2 days each month. The Board of Directors considered one or two individuals from each category and agreed that Mr. Miller should recommend them to Governor Johanns and the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts if LB 1023 is enacted.

Personnel – Mr. Miller reported that Ardis Lehmkuhler, Administrative Assistant, has decided to retire at the end of June 2002. Mr. Miller reported Mrs. Lehmkuhler began working for the District January 16, 1978 and that she is a very valuable member of the staff who will be missed. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet for information

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was a schedule for filling the vacancy.

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.

Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet for information was a listing of Computer Equipment that is no longer utilized. Mr. Miller reported that in the past, the District has sought bids to sell used Computer Equipment. Mr. Miller reported that this equipment is slow and he doubted that the District could recover the advertising costs and that there is also a lot of staff time involved in seeking bids to sell equipment. The Board agreed that the Computer equipment listed herein may be given to members of the staff if there is any interest and any Computer equipment listed herein not taken by the staff may be given to a school if there is any interest and any Computer equipment listed herein not taken by a school may be given to Goodwill or any other charitable organization and any Computer equipment listed herein not able to be given away may be discarded.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m. CST (3:45 p.m. MST).

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Jerry Weaver, Secretary

KOM:MSOMIN3:Bmin0302