

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
Board of Directors Meeting  
April 11, 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 April 11, 2002. Mr. Rubenthaler called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. CDT (6:30 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

Eric Hansen  
Todd Kramer  
James Meisner  
Robert Petersen  
Jim Rubenthaler  
Douglas Stack  
Joe Wahlgren  
Jerry Weaver  
Robert Wiseman

BOARD MEMBERS

ABSENT

Jeff Baldrige  
Dennis Schilz

NRCS PERS PRESENT

Mary Reece, Dist Cons

OTHERS PRESENT

STAFF PRESENT

Glen Bowers, Water P Coor  
Ardis Lehmkuhler, Adm Asst  
Kent O Miller, Gen Mgr

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Report of Directors Excused - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that Mr. Baldrige and Mr. Schilz 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.

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 March 14, 2002 Meeting - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the Minutes for the March 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 March 14, 2002 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mr. Meismer seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #1)

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Baldrige, Schilz

COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORTS

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service – Mrs. Reece reported that in the Directors' packet for information was a written 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

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Executive Subcommittee

No report presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Statement - Mr. Meisner reported that the Financial Statements for March 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 March 2002 be received and placed on file for audit and to approve payment of the invoices listed on the Accounts Payable report for April 2002 in the amount of \$12,953.86. Mr. Stack seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #2)

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Baldrige, Schilz

Budget Status - Mr. Meisner 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 May 2002 Board of Directors Meeting - Mr. Miller reported that no bids/proposals were scheduled to be presented for consideration during the May 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 – Mr. Meisner reported on the Platte River Citizen Advisory Council meeting held on March 28, 2002.

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

Requests for Authorization to Travel - No requests were presented.

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DISTRICT REPORT

Requests for Assistance – No requests for assistance were presented.

Cost-Share Programs - Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program - No report presented.

Cost-Share Programs - District Conservation Program – Contracts for Approved Programs for Fiscal Year 2002 – Sealing Abandoned Wells – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information was a report. Mr. Miller reported that 16 contracts have been approved during the 2002 Fiscal Year for a total cost-share allocation of \$2,816.72 and that \$183.28 was available for additional contracts.

Mr. Miller reported that the District policy provides that one well may be cost-shared per producer per year and that for new applications, a signed Cost-Share application from the producer must be submitted and approved by the District Staff prior to the practice being performed, unless a contractor is on site in which instance verbal approval may be given by the District Staff provided that a signed application from the producer is submitted within two working days. Mr. Miller reported that the staff prepares a summary report that is submitted to the Board of Directors. Mr. Miller reported that the 2002 Fiscal Year Budget provides for \$3,000.00. Mr. Miller reported that with the possibility of funds being depleted prior to the end of the Fiscal Year on June 30, 2002, the staff is recommending that additional funds be made available. Mr. Miller reported that this recommendation is based on the opinion that we would not want to miss an opportunity to seal an abandoned well that is a safety hazard and a direct link for potential contamination of the ground water.

Mr. Stack moved to that an additional \$1,000.00 be transferred from Account #43890 – Other Special Projects to Account #47011 – Land Treatment Programs – Sealing Abandoned Wells. Mr. Meismer seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #3)

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Baldrige, Schilz

Cost-Share Programs – NE Buffer Strip Program - No report presented.

Tree Program – Mr. Miller reported that the District personnel had begun tree planting in the District. Mr. Miller reported that 50,880 trees were purchased from the Colorado State Nursery, 34,125 trees from the Nursery at Halsey, NE were purchased from the Nebraska Forest Service and 5,550 trees were purchased from the Lincoln Oakes Nursery. Mr. Miller reported that the District's machine crew was scheduled to plant 67,295 trees at 86 sites and that 127 orders were processed for purchase of 23,260 trees to be planted by individuals. Mr. Miller reported that Mike Ekdahl was scheduled to place

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466,440 feet of water conservation mulch material at 63 sites. Mr. Miller reported that 73% of the machine crew planted sites would have water conservation mulch.

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 in the Directors' packet for information was the April 3, 2002 letter to producers within the District's Target Areas located in southwestern Keith County. Mr. Bowers reported on the revised reporting forms for the District's Target Areas located in southwestern Keith County.

Water Programs – Ground Water Program – 319 Project – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information was the April 1, 2002 Quarterly Report.

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. 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 – Nebraska State Envirothon – Mr. Miller reported

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that a team from Ogallala High School has qualified to participate in the 2002 Nebraska State Envirothon based on the results of the competition at the Regional Envirothon. Mr. Miller reported that historically, when a team from within the District has qualified to participate in the State Envirothon, the District has paid the team's registration fee for the Nebraska State Envirothon. Mr. Miller reported that the Ogallala High School Team is the only team from within the Twin Platte Natural Resources District to qualify. Mr. Miller reported that the 2002 Nebraska State Envirothon is May 4th at the State 4H Camp at Halsey, NE and that the registration fee is \$100.00 per team. Mr. Miller reported that the Nebraska State Envirothon is coordinated and sponsored by the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts

Mr. Meismer moved to that that the District provide the \$100.00 registration fee for the Ogallala High School Envirothon Team to participate in the 2002 Nebraska State Envirothon. Mr. Kramer seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #4)

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Baldrige, Schilz

Information & Education Programs – Scholarships – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors Packet was information for the Nebraska Range Youth Camp, the Nebraska Sandhills Academy for Youth, the Nebraska Family Range Camp and the Nebraska Range Short Course. Mr. Miller reported that the District's policy provides for seven scholarships annually for the Nebraska Range Youth Camp and three scholarships annually for the Nebraska Sandhills Academy for Youth. Mr. Miller reported that the District's previous procedure has been that if applications for scholarships for the Nebraska Family Range Camp were received, the Board would consider the applications and if applications for scholarships for the Nebraska Range Short Course were received, the Board would consider the applications.

Requests for Authorization to Travel – No requests were presented.

Legislation – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information was the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts April 5 Update and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources Legislative Memo #9.

Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information was a Nebraska Association of Resources Districts report in regard to the Water Policy Task Force Legislation currently pending in the Legislature.

Mr. Stack moved that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District recommend to Governor Johanns that Dennis Schilz be appointed to the Water Policy Task Force as an Irrigator from the South Platte River Basin and that Dale Wahlgren be appointed to the Water Policy Task Force as an Irrigator from the Middle Platte River Basin and that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District recommend to the Nebraska Association of Resources

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Districts that Jim Meismer be one of the five representatives recommended by the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts to Governor Johanns to be appointed to the Water Policy Task Force and that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District recommend to the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts that Kent O. Miller be one of the five representatives recommended by the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts to Governor Johanns to be appointed to the Water Policy Task Force if Jim Meismer is not selected. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #5)

AYE: Hansen, Kramer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Stack, Wahlgren, Weaver,  
Wiseman

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Meismer

ABSENT: Baldrige, Schilz

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 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.

Mr. Miller asked the Board to consider changing the May Board meeting from May 9<sup>th</sup> to May 16<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Miller reported that Mr. Weaver's son and his son's 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Awards night at Adams Middle School was May 9<sup>th</sup>, that Mr. Schilz could not attend the May 9<sup>th</sup> Board meeting and that Mrs. Lehmkuhler could not attend the May 9<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. The Board agreed to change the May Board meeting from May 9<sup>th</sup> to May 16<sup>th</sup>.

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 during the April Board meeting, that the Board agreed that the Computer Equipment that is no longer utilized and listed on a report to the Board may be given to members of the staff if there is any interest and any Computer equipment listed not taken by the staff may be given to a school if there is any interest and any Computer equipment listed not taken by a school may be given to Goodwill or any other charitable organization and any Computer equipment listed not able to be given away may be discarded. Mr. Miller reported that following the April Board meeting, that Mr. Baldrige purchased two of the Computers to give to a Pre-School and that the third Computer was given to Kathy Clark, the District's Secretary in the North Platte Natural Resources Conservation Service field office.

Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet for information was an article from the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources Newsletter in regard to the Flood Mitigation Planning Study for the City of North Platte

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OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. CDT (8:00 p.m. MDT).

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Jerry Weaver, Secretary

KOM:MSOMIN3:Bmin0402