

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
July 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 July 11, 2002. Mr. Rubenthaler called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. CDT (6:45 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 Baldridge
Eric Hansen
James Meisner
Jim Rubenthaler
Dennis Schilz
Douglas Stack
Joe Wahlgren
Robert Wiseman

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Todd Kramer
Robert Petersen
Jerry Weaver

OTHERS PRESENT

NRCS PERSONNEL PRESENT

Kristin Miller, Rangeland Management Specialist
Jeff Nichols, Rangeland Management Specialist
Marji Patz, Rangeland Management Specialist
Mary Reece, District Conservationist

STAFF PRESENT

Bill Carhart, Range Programs Coordinator
Glen Bowers, Water Programs Coordinator
Amy Mapes, Administrative Assistant
Kent O Miller, General Manager
Dave Slattery, Conservation Programs Coordinator

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Report of Directors Excused - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that Mr. Kramer, Mr. Petersen and Mr. Weaver were excused.

DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Directors Notebooks Containing Information Items Available for Handout - Mr.

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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.

AGENDA MODIFICATION

None presented.

GENERAL INFORMATION

No report presented.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Minutes for June 13, 2002 Meeting - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the Minutes for the June 13, 2002 Board of Directors meeting were in the Directors' packet and he asked if there were corrections or additions to the Minutes.

Mr. Meismer moved that the Minutes of the June 13, 2002 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mr. Baldrige seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #1)

AYE: Baldrige, Hansen, Meismer, Rubenthaler, Schilz, Stack, Wahlgren,
Wiseman

NAY: None

ABSENT: Kramer, Petersen, Weaver

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.

Keith County Flooding – A power point presentation of pictures and a video were shown and photographs were passed around the Board table of the flooding that occurred in Keith County due to the heavy rain on July 6, 2002. Mr. Schilz, Mrs. Reece, Mr. Bowers and Mr. Nichols reported on the flooding that occurred and the damages.

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Other Agencies - No report presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Land Resources Subcommittee

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

Cost-Share Programs - Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program - Mr. Baldrige reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information was a listing of the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program eligible practices. Mr. Baldrige reported that for the 2002 Fiscal Year, the Board of Directors approved for the Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program that for Practice NC-12, Windbreaks, that 30% (\$26,453.68) of available funds be reserved from July 1, 2001 to January 30, 2002; for Practice NC-14, Planned Grazing Systems, that 30% (\$26,453.68) of available funds be reserved from July 1, 2001 to January 30, 2002; for Practice NC-17, Irrigation Water Management, that 30% (\$26,453.68) of available funds be reserved from July 1, 2001 to January 30, 2002; and that for the other eligible practices that 10% (\$8,817.90) of available funds be reserved from July 1, 2001 to January 30, 2002 and that any funds available after January 30, 2002 may be used for any eligible practice. Mr. Baldrige reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information were charts showing the funds spent for each practice during the 2002 Fiscal Year and from January 1, 1977 through June 30, 2002. Mr. Baldrige reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information were guidelines utilized by the staff during the 2002 Fiscal Year.

Mr. Baldrige reported that the Land Resources Subcommittee agreed that the District should continue with the current policy of eligible practices available for cost share within the Twin Platte Natural Resources District.

Mr. Baldrige reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information was a listing of the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission's distribution of funds to Districts for the 2003 Fiscal Year for the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program. Mr. Baldrige reported that the District's allocation for the 2003 Fiscal Year had been reported to the District to be \$77,953.66. Mr. Baldrige reported that the District's allocation for the 2002 Fiscal Year was \$92,683.06. Mr. Baldrige reported that the reduction was due to the Legislature reducing the funding for the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program. Mr. Baldrige reported that a Special Session of the Legislature will begin July 30th and that there was a possibility that the Legislature may further reduce the funding for the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program.

Mr. Baldrige reported that the Land Resources Subcommittee agreed to recommend to the Board of Directors that due to the uncertainty of funding for the 2003 Fiscal Year, to delay implementation of the Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program in the Twin Platte Natural Resources District until funding is known for the 2003 Fiscal Year.

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SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Water Resources Subcommittee

Mr. Meismer, Water Resources Subcommittee Chairperson, presented the report.

Cost-Share Programs - Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program -

Mr. Meismer reported that the Water Resources Subcommittee agreed that the District should continue with the current policy of eligible practices available for cost share within the Twin Platte Natural Resources District.

Mr. Meismer reported that the Water Resources Subcommittee agreed to recommend to the Board of Directors that for the Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program that for Practice NC-12, Windbreaks, that 30% of available funds be reserved from July 1, 2001 to January 30, 2002; for Practice NC-14, Planned Grazing Systems, that 30% of available funds be reserved from July 1, 2001 to January 30, 2002; for Practice NC-17, Irrigation Water Management, that 30% of available funds be reserved from July 1, 2001 to January 30, 2002; and that for the other eligible practices that 10% of available funds be reserved from July 1, 2001 to January 30, 2002 and that any funds available after January 30, 2002 may be used for any eligible practice.

The Board of Directors agreed that due to the uncertainty of funding for the 2003 Fiscal Year, to delay implementation of the Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program in the Twin Platte Natural Resources District until funding is known for the 2003 Fiscal Year.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Land Resources Subcommittee (Continued)

Tree Program - 2002 Report – Mr. Baldrige reported that Mr. Slattery presented a report to the Subcommittee on the 2002 Tree Program. Mr. Baldrige reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information was a report showing a history of the tree planting program from 1973 to present showing total trees sold, trees planted by the District's machine crew and the amount charged for machine planting, trees hand planted by a private contractor and the amount charged for hand planting, trees purchased by producers for individual planting and the stock charge, the profit or loss for the year, and the number of trees distributed to third grade students in the District for Arbor Day. Mr. Baldrige reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information was a cost-share summary report.

Tree Program - 2003 Planning – Mr. Baldrige reported that Mr. Slattery reported to the Subcommittee on the anticipated availability of trees from Halsey and from Colorado and that the Nursery's have not yet determined the charges for trees for 2003 for Districts. Mr. Baldrige reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information were reports showing the District's tree program funds for 2002 and the

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estimated surplus funds for 2003 utilizing the same planting charges as in 2002. Mr. Baldrige reported that the tree planting charge for planting by the District's machine crew was \$.37 per tree from 1985 through 1997, was \$.40 per tree for 1998, was \$.42 per tree for 1999 and was \$.45 per tree for 2000 through 2002. Mr. Baldrige reported that the requests for machine planting trees are anticipated to increase due to Federal Funding in the new Farm Bill. Mr. Baldrige reported that the District staff and the NRCS staff, are recommending that the District add a second tree planting crew beginning in 2003. Mr. Baldrige reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information were reports showing costs and revenue for a second tree planting crew. Mr. Baldrige reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information were reports showing revisions for the 2003 Fiscal Year Budget with the addition of a second tree planting crew. Mr. Baldrige reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information was a report of water conservation mulch installed in the District from 1991 to present.

Mr. Baldrige moved the Land Resources Subcommittee's recommendation to the Board of Directors that the District add a second tree planting crew beginning in 2003 and to revise the 2003 Fiscal Year Budget anticipating selling 170,000 trees and machine planting 140,000 of the trees sold. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #2)

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

Mr. Baldrige moved the Land Resources Subcommittee's recommendation to the Board of Directors that the District's tree stock and handling charges be those set by the nursery and that the District's machine planting charges be set at \$.45 per tree for 2003. Mr. Stack seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #3)

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

Range Program - District Range Tour - Mr. Baldrige reported that the District had co-sponsored an irrigated grass tour on June 12th that the Natural Resources Conservation Service had a major role in. Mr. Baldrige reported that Mr. Carhart was organizing a fall tour in late September or early October to be held in the canyons of southeast Lincoln County.

Range Program - Interseeding – Mr. Baldrige reported that from 1993 to 1999, Bayne Seed Company of Hershey leased the interseeder and that the lease agreement with Bayne Seed Company eventually stopped when they were unable to service the entire District effectively. Mr. Baldrige reported that during the last year, that Kory Land & Cattle leased the interseeder. Mr. Baldrige reported that Kory Land & Cattle has

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notified the District that they no longer will lease the interseeder. Mr. Baldrige reported that the Staff will prepare a report of options in regard to continuing or discontinuing an interseeding program for consideration by the Land Resources Subcommittee later this year.

Range Program - Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Outstanding Grassland Conservation Award – Mr. Baldrige reported that the Fear Ranch has been selected to receive the Nebraska Outstanding Grassland Conservation Award, which will be presented during the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Annual Conference in Kearney, Nebraska on September 23, 2002. Mr. Baldrige reported that the Fear Ranch received the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Outstanding Grassland Conservation Award in 2001 and that the District had nominated the Fear Ranch for the NARD award.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Water Resources Subcommittee (Continued)

Ground Water Program - Monitoring – Mr. Meisner reported that Mr. Bowers reported to the Subcommittee on the District's monitoring program.

Ground Water Program - Target Areas – Mr. Meisner reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information was a map showing the Ground Water Quality Target Areas and Table 10-3 "Ground Water Quality Triggering Mechanism – Summary for Target Areas" from the District's Ground Water Management Plan with current data. Mr. Meisner reported that the Subcommittee members discussed the Ground Water Quality Target Areas in eastern Lincoln County.

Ground Water Program - Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality Study - Mr. Meisner reported on the status of the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality study of Nonpoint Source Ground Water Contamination along the South Platte River, North Platte River and Platte River within the Twin Platte Natural Resources District.

Canal Screen Cleaning Demonstration Project - Mr. Meisner reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service will be conducting a "Canal Water Trash Cleaner Tour" on August 7, 2002.

Platte River Cooperative Agreement – Mr. Meisner reported that approximately two years ago, interested parties within the Platte River Basins in Nebraska and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources concluded that an economic analysis would be helpful for Nebraskans before decisions on a proposed Platte River Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Species is made. Mr. Meisner reported that the analysis would compare the economic impacts of entering into the Program with those of not entering into the Program. Mr. Meisner reported that the Legislature in 2001 approved a request from the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources to fund \$150,000.00 for an economic impact study, but with the current state budget problems that have forced reductions in the budgets of state agencies, the Nebraska Department of Natural

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Resources was not able to maintain the funds for the study. Mr. Meismer reported that there are discussions occurring to determine if an interlocal cooperative agreement should be established for an economic impact study. Mr. Meismer reported that the Subcommittee members agreed that an economic analysis would be helpful before decisions on a Proposed Platte River Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Species is made and that the District may wish to be a participant if an interlocal cooperative agreement is established for an economic impact study and that the Subcommittee would consider any proposals during future meetings of the Subcommittee. Mr. Meismer reported that funds are included in the proposed 2003 Fiscal Year Budget for the District to be a participant if an interlocal cooperative agreement is established for an economic impact study.

Mr. Meismer reported on the status of the Nebraska New Depletions Plan being developed for a proposed Platte River Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Species.

Ground Water Foundation - Mr. Meismer reported on the status of the Nebraska Ground Water Foundation program titled “Education To Action: Lake McConaughy”.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee

No report presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Executive Subcommittee

No report presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Statement - Mr. Meismer reported that the Financial Statement for June 2002 was in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information.

Accounts Payable - Mr. Meismer 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. Meismer moved that the Financial Statement for June 2002 be received and placed on file for audit and to approve payment of the invoices listed on the Accounts Payable report for July 2002 in the amount of \$14,254.09. Mr. Stack seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #4)

AYE: Baldridge, Hansen, Meismer, Rubenthaler, Schilz, Stack, Wahlgren,
Wiseman
NAY: None

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ABSENT: Kramer, Petersen, Weaver

Budget Status – No report presented.

Bids/Proposals – None were presented.

Bids/Proposals Scheduled To Be Presented for Consideration During the August 8, 2002 Board of Directors Meeting - Mr. Miller reported that no bids/proposals were scheduled to be presented for consideration during the August 8, 2002 Board of Directors meeting.

Audit for 2002 Fiscal Year - Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet was a proposal from the accounting firm of McChesney, Martin and Sagehorn to audit the Twin Platte Natural Resources District for the 2002 Fiscal Year. Mr. Miller reported that the firm had prepared the audit for the District in previous years. Mr. Miller reported that the estimated fee in previous proposals had never been exceeded, and that the estimated fee in the proposal for the 2002 Fiscal Year was \$2,150.00.

Mr. Wiseman moved that the proposal received from the accounting firm of McChesney, Martin and Sagehorn to perform the audit for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District for the 2002 Fiscal Year be accepted and to authorize the General Manager to sign the proposal as the District representative. Mr. Meismer seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #5)

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Kramer, Petersen, Weaver

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts – Mr. Meismer reported that in the Directors' packet for information were the minutes for the June 10, 2002 Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Board of Directors meeting. Mr. Meismer reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout was the agenda for the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Legislative Wrap Up Session on July 18, 2002 in Grand Island, NE. Mr. Meismer reported that in the Directors' packet for information was a listing of the members of the Water Policy Task Force appointed by Governor Johanns. Mr. Meismer reported that he was appointed to the Water Policy Task Force as one of the five Natural Resources Districts representatives. Mr. Meismer reported that Ken Schilz was appointed to the Water Policy Task Force as the South Platte River Basin Irrigator representative.

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

Platte River Citizens Advisory Council – No report presented.

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

Requests for Authorization to Travel - No requests were presented.

DISTRICT REPORT

Requests for Assistance – No requests for assistance were presented.

Cost-Share Programs – 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 – No report presented.

Water Programs – Ground Water Program – 319 Project – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet for information was the July 1,2002 Quarterly Report.

Water Programs –Watershed Program – No report presented.

Water Programs – Platte River Activities – No report presented.

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 a Special Session of the Legislature will begin July 30th.

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 2003 FISCAL YEAR

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Preparation Schedule - Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet for information was the schedule for preparing the 2003 Fiscal Year Budget for the District. Mr. Miller reported that the schedule for preparing the 2003 Fiscal Year Budget provides the Board four opportunities to review and discuss the Budget prior to final approval.

Review Draft #2 - Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet and available as a handout was the second draft of a budget for the 2003 Fiscal Year. Mr. Miller reviewed the information for the proposed budget for the 2003 Fiscal Year. Mr. Miller reported that the third draft of a budget for the 2003 Fiscal Year will include the revisions for adding a second tree planting crew authorized to begin in 2003 and revisions anticipating selling 170,000 trees and machine planting 140,000 of the trees sold.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m. CDT (8:50 p.m. MDT).

Jerry Weaver, Secretary

KOM:Minutes:Bmin0702