

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
October 10, 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 October 10, 2002. Mr. Rubenthaler called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. CDT (6:33 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
James Meisner
Robert Petersen
Jim Rubenthaler
Douglas Stack
Joe Wahlgren

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Jeff Baldrige
Todd Kramer
Dennis Schilz
Jerry Weaver
Robert Wiseman

OTHERS PRESENT

John Webster

NRCS PERSONNEL PRESENT

Mary Reece, District Conservationist

STAFF PRESENT

Glen Bowers, Water Programs Coordinator
Amy Mapes, Administrative Assistant
Kent O Miller, General Manager

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Report of Directors Excused - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that Mr. Baldrige, Mr. Kramer, Mr. Schilz, Mr. Weaver and Mr. Wiseman 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

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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 the Fear Ranch received the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Outstanding Grassland Conservation Award on September 23rd and he passed around the Board table a picture of the presentation.

PUBLIC FORUM

The Public Forum of the meeting was opened.

John Webster representing Jerry Remus Chevrolet presented information for the vehicle the dealership had submitted a bid as requested by the District that would be considered later during the Board meeting.

AGENDA MODIFICATION

None presented.

GENERAL INFORMATION

No report presented.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Minutes for September 12, 2002 Meeting - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the Minutes for the September 12, 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 September 12, 2002 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mr. Meismer seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #1)

AYE: Hansen, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Stack, Wahlgren

NAY: None

ABSENT: Baldrige, Kramer, Schilz, Weaver, Wiseman

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 on September 24, 2002, the Twin Platte Natural Resources District entered into a Cooperative Agreement with the USDA-NRCS for federal assistance for repair of damages of the Western Irrigation District facilities available in the Emergency Watershed Protection program. Mrs. Reece reported that the agreement includes \$55,100.00 in financial assistance for damage caused by the July 6, 2002 storm of the Western Irrigation District facilities. Mrs. Reece reported on information and education activities and Environmental Quality Incentive Program applications approved during the last month. Mrs. Reece distributed

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for information the 2003 Business Plan for the North Platte and Ogallala Natural Resources Conservation Service offices that was prepared following consultation with the Twin Platte Natural Resources District personnel. Mrs. Reece reviewed the USDA-NRCS Memorandum of Understanding and the Cooperative Working Agreement with the Twin Platte Natural Resources District.

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. Meismer reported that the Financial Statement for September 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 September 2002 be received and placed on file for audit and to approve payment of the invoices presented on the Accounts Payable report on October 10, 2002 in the amount of \$16,282.62. Mr. Stack seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #2)

AYE: Hansen, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Stack, Wahlgren

NAY: None

ABSENT: Baldrige, Kramer, Schilz, Weaver, Wiseman

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 September 12, 2002 Board meeting, the staff reported, per District policy, that bids/proposals would be presented for

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consideration during the October 10, 2002 Board of Directors meeting for the purchase of a vehicle and a trailer. Mr. Miller reported that the vehicle and a trailer are for the District adding a second tree planting crew beginning in 2003.

Mr. Miller reported that the vehicle to be purchase is a heavy-duty ¾ ton pickup that has the capacity to pull a trailer carrying a tractor and tree planter. Mr. Miller reported that the vehicle would replace the current sport utility vehicle assigned to the Water Programs Coordinator (Glen Bowers). Mr. Miller reported that the vehicle will better serve the current needs of the Water Programs and will be utilized each year in the tree program during tree planting. Mr. Miller reported that the Budget provides for the purchase of a vehicle for the Water Programs Coordinator. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet for information were the specifications and a summary of proposals received. Mr. Miller reported that the staff requested an alternative #1 with a gas engine, minimum size 8.0 liter, and an alternative #2 with a diesel engine, minimum size 5.9 liters.

Mr. Stack moved that the Board accept the low proposal for alternative #2 received from Bill Summers Ford for the purchase of a 2003 Ford Pickup with trade of the replacement vehicle for a total cost of \$20,599.66. Mr. Meismer seconded the motion, and it failed. (Motion #3)

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

Mr. Wahlgren moved that the Board accept the low proposal for alternative #1 received from Jerry Remus Chevrolet for the purchase of a 2003 Chevrolet Pickup with trade of the replacement vehicle for a total cost of \$20,635.00. Mr. Hansen seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #4)

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

Mr. Miller reported that the trailer to be purchased is a heavy-duty gooseneck trailer that has the capacity to carry a tractor and tree planter. Mr. Miller reported that the Budget provides for the purchase of a trailer for the Tree Program. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet for information were the specifications and a summary of proposals received.

Mr. Stack moved that the Board accept the low proposal received from Kohler Trailer Sales for the purchase of a Trailer for a total cost of \$5,680.00. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #5)

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

Bids/Proposals Scheduled To Be Presented for Consideration During the November 14, 2002 Board of Directors Meeting – Mr. Miller reported that no bids/proposals were scheduled to be presented for consideration during the November 14, 2002 Board of

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Directors meeting.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts – Annual Conference – Mr. Meisner reported that the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts annual conference was held September 23-24, 2002 in Kearney, Nebraska. Mr. Meisner reported that Mr. Rubenthaler, Mr. Miller and he attended the conference. Mr. Meisner reported that the Fear Ranch received the Outstanding Grassland Conservation Award, which was presented during the noon luncheon on Monday, September 23. Mr. Meisner reported that the Fear Ranch received the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Outstanding Grassland Conservation Award in 2001 and the District nominated the Fear Ranch for the Nebraska Association of Resources District award. Mr. Meisner reported Mr. Carhart and Mr. Petersen attended the luncheon. Mr. Meisner reported that in the Directors' packet for information were the minutes for the business session held during the Annual Conference and the resolutions approved during the business session and news articles of the Outstanding Grassland Conservation Award presented to the Fear Ranch during the conference.

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts – Board of Directors Meeting – Mr. Meisner reported that the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Board of Directors meeting was held September 24, 2002 and he reported on the meeting.

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts – Water Policy Task Force – Mr. Meisner reported on recent activities of the Water Policy Task Force.

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 recent activities of the Sandhills Resources, Conservation & Development Council.

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 - Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout was the monthly report. Mr. Miller reported that \$80,486.60 was available.

Mr. Stack moved to approve the September 2002 report as presented and to approve the

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following new contracts:

<u>Cont#</u>	<u>Practice</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>App Amt</u>	<u>Prop Amt To Fund</u>
PROPOSED NEW CONTRACTS:				
03-001	NC-17	Irrigation Water Management	\$ 852.75	\$ 852.75
03-002	NC-14	Planned Grazing Systems	\$ 4,268.11	\$ 4,268.11
03-003	NC-17	Irrigation Water Management	\$ 1,203.00	\$ 1,203.00
03-004	NC-17	Irrigation Water Management	\$ 6,716.00	\$ 6,716.00
03-005	NC-14	Planned Grazing Systems	\$ 2,359.51	\$ 2,359.51
03-006	NC-14	Planned Grazing Systems	\$ 1,988.94	\$ 1,988.94
03-007	NC-17	Irrigation Water Management	\$ 2,035.00	\$ 2,035.00
03-008	NC-14	Planned Grazing Systems	\$ 1,824.13	\$ 1,824.13
03-009	NC-17	Irrigation Water Management	\$ 1,695.83	\$ 1,695.83
03-010	NC-1	Terraces	\$ 2,780.00	\$ 2,780.00
03-011	NC-17	Irrigation Water Management	\$ 7,602.00	\$ 7,500.00
03-012	NC-14	Planned Grazing Systems	\$ 3,590.40	\$ 3,590.40
03-013	NC-14	Planned Grazing Systems	\$ 1,126.97	\$ 1,126.97
03-014	NC-14	Planned Grazing Systems	\$ 2,058.76	\$ 2,058.76
03-015	NC-17	Irrigation Water Management	\$ 2,558.25	\$ 2,558.25
03-016	NC-1	Terraces	\$ 590.00	\$ 590.00
03-017	NC-14	Planned Grazing Systems	\$ 4,479.00	\$ 4,479.00
Total Amount Of New Contracts				\$ 47,626.65
FUNDS AVAILABLE: Practice NC-12, Windbreaks				\$ 24,145.98
Practice NC-14, Planned Grazing				\$ 2,450.16
Practice NC-17, Irrigation				\$ 1,585.15
Other available practices				\$ 4,678.66

Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #6)

AYE: Hansen, Meismer, Petersen, Stack, Wahlgren

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Rubenthaler

ABSENT: Baldridge, Kramer, Schilz, Weaver, Wiseman

Cost-Share Programs - District Conservation Program – 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 6 contracts have been approved for a total cost-share allocation of \$1,050.00 and that \$3,950.00 was available for additional contracts.

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

Tree Program – No report presented.

Range Programs – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet for information was a listing of the participants in the “Fire and Its Impact on Rangeland Field Tour” held on September 27, 2002. Mr. Miller reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources was one of the sponsors.

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Soil Conservation Programs –No report presented.

Wildlife Habitat Programs – WILD Nebraska Program – Mr. Miller reported that the allocation for fiscal year 2003 for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District is \$17,000.00.

Wildlife Habitat Programs – Corners for Wildlife Program - 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 Quarterly Report.

Water Programs – Ground Water Program – Ground Water Coalition – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet was an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for the Nebraska Ground Water Coalition. Mr. Miller reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District has been invited to participate in the coalition. Mr. Miller reported that the need for a Nebraska Ground Water Coalition is to be prepared and have legal advise, in case some of the court cases currently filed or being considered/rumored threaten the Ground Water Management Act authorities of Natural Resources District's. Mr. Miller reported that the proposed contribution for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District during the 2003 Fiscal Year is \$6,000.00 and that the Budget provides funds for the District to participate in the coalition

Mr. Stack moved that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District participate in the Nebraska Ground Water Coalition, to authorize an initial contribution of \$2,000.00, to authorize the General Manager to sign the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for the Nebraska Ground Water Coalition 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 Ground Water Coalition. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #7)

AYE: Meismer, Rubenthaler, Stack, Wahlgren

NAY: Hansen, Petersen

ABSENT: Baldrige, Kramer, Schilz, Weaver, Wiseman

Water Programs –Watershed Program – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet for information was the District's report for the annual inspection of the Brule Watershed conducted on September 30, 2002.

Water Programs – Platte River Activities - Cooperative Agreement – Mr. Miller reported on the status of the Cooperative Agreement.

Mr. Miller reported on the proposed National Academy of Science review of the proposed Platte River Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Species and the

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science on which the proposed program is based.

Mr. Miller reported on the need for a Nebraska Economic Study in regard to the cost with and without a program. Mr. Miller reported that funds budgeted by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources for a Nebraska Economic Study were no longer available due to budget cuts and that local agencies including Platte River Basin Natural Resources Districts may need to fund a Nebraska Economic Study.

Mr. Miller reported on discussions in regard to the flooding that occurs during the summer along the North Platte River north of the City of North Platte.

Mr. Miller reported that a Natural Resources Districts Platte River Basin Meeting in regard to the Cooperative Agreement has been scheduled for November 5, 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. Schilz, Mr. Wahlgren and Mr. Miller.

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 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.

Water Programs – Platte River Activities – South Platte River Compact – Mr. Miller reported on discussions in regard to the South Platte River Compact.

Regulatory Programs – No report presented.

Information & Education Programs – 2002 Awards Program – Presentation, November 18, 2002 – Mr. Miller reported that the District's 2002 Tree Award for Lincoln/McPherson Counties would be presented November 18, 2002 to R.T. (Skip) Marlin during the North Platte Chamber Farmer/Rancher Appreciation Banquet. Mr. Miller reported that the Board Chairperson, Mr. Rubenthaler and the District staff would participate in the award presentation.

Information & Education Programs – 2002 Awards Program – Presentation, December 10, 2002 – Mr. Miller reported that the District's 2002 Conservation Award for

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Keith/Arthur Counties would be presented December 10, 2002 to the Grapes Farms (Ron Grapes and Todd Grapes) during the District's Awards Banquet. Mr. Miller reported that the Board of Directors meeting will be at 4:30 pm MST (5:30 pm CST) at the Lake McConaughy Visitors Center and the Awards Banquet would be at 6:00 pm MST (7:00 pm CST) at the Haythorn Ranch.

Requests for Authorization to Travel – No requests were presented.

Legislation – No report 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 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 9:08 p.m. CDT (8:08 p.m. MDT).

Jerry Weaver, Secretary

KOM:Minutes:Bmin1002