

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
November 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 November 14, 2002. Mr. Rubenthaler called the meeting to order at 3:09 p.m. CST (2:09 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

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Jeff Baldrige
Robert Wiseman

OTHERS PRESENT

Glen Waltemath – McChesney, Martin, Sagehorn, PC (Auditor)

NRCS PERSONNEL PRESENT

Lee Morse – Civil Engineering Technician
Mary Reece, District Conservationist

STAFF PRESENT

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Report of Directors Excused - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that Mr. Wiseman 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.

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – November 14, 2002

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.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Audit for 2002 Fiscal Year – Mr. Meismer reported that the audit for the District for the 2002 Fiscal Year was mailed to each member of the Board of Directors prior to the Board meeting.

Mr. Meismer moved that the Audit for the 2002 Fiscal Year be received. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #1)

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Baldrige, Hansen, Schilz, Wiseman

Glen Waltemath prepared the audit for the District and he was present and available for questions.

Mr. Wahlgren moved that the Audit for the 2002 Fiscal Year be allowed and to approve the Financial Statements for the 2002 Fiscal Year as acceptable and settled. Mr. Kramer seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #2)

AYE: Kramer, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Schilz, Stack, Wahlgren,
Weaver,

NAY: None

ABSENT: Baldrige, Hansen, Wiseman

AGENDA MODIFICATION

None presented.

GENERAL INFORMATION

No report presented.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – November 14, 2002

Minutes for October 10, 2002 Meeting - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the Minutes for the October 10, 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 October 10, 2002 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #3)

AYE: Kramer, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Schilz, Stack, Wahlgren,
Weaver,

NAY: None

ABSENT: Baldrige, Hansen, Wiseman

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.

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 on the status of the agreement, which includes \$55,100.00 in financial assistance for damage caused by the July 6, 2002 storm of the Western Irrigation District facilities.

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 October

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – November 14, 2002

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 October 2002 be received and placed on file for audit and to approve payment of the invoices presented on the Accounts Payable report on November 14, 2002 in the amount of \$16,793.96. Mr. Schilz seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #4)

AYE: Kramer, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Schilz, Stack, Wahlgren,
Weaver,

NAY: None

ABSENT: Baldrige, Hansen, Wiseman

Budget Status – Mr. Meismer 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 December 10, 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 December 10, 2002 Board of Directors meeting for the purchase of computer equipment. Mr. Miller reported that the Budget provides for the purchase of computer equipment.

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 - No report presented.

Requests for Authorization to Travel - No requests were presented.

DISTRICT REPORT

Requests for Assistance – No requests for assistance were presented.

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – November 14, 2002

Cost-Share Programs - Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program – Mr. Miller reported that the Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program contracts provide that if any of the installed practices shall be removed, altered, or modified so as to lessen their effectiveness without consent of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District for a period of ten years after the date of receiving payment, that portion of the claimed amount shall be refunded to the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors’ packet for information was correspondence in regard to a contract in which the installed practices were removed and he reported that the funds had been refunded from the producer to the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources.

Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout was the monthly report. Mr. Miller reported that \$32,859.95 was available.

Mr. Meismer moved to approve the October 2002 report as presented and to approve the 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:				
03-024	NC-14	Planned Grazing Systems	\$ 2,140.00	\$ 2,140.00
03-025	NC-12	Trees	\$ 779.00	\$ 779.00
Total Amount Of New Contracts				\$ 2,919.00
FUNDS AVAILABLE:				
Practice NC-12, Windbreaks				\$ 23,366.98
Practice NC-14, Planned Grazing				\$ 310.16
Practice NC-17, Irrigation				\$ 1,585.15
Other available practices				\$ 4,678.66

Mr. Schilz seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #5)

- AYE: Kramer, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Schilz, Stack, Wahlgren, Weaver,
 NAY: None
 ABSENT: Baldrige, Hansen, 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 7 contracts have been approved for a total cost-share allocation of \$1,450.00 and that \$3,550.00 was available for additional contracts.

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

Tree Program – Mr. Miller reported that during the July 11, 2002 Board of Directors meeting, that the Board approved the Land Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation 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. Miller reported that in the Directors’ packet for information was an analysis prepared by the District personnel for setting tree stock prices for 2003. Mr. Miller reported that the District personnel, based on the analysis, have set the tree stock charges for 2003 at \$ 0.54 for

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – November 14, 2002

Bare Root, \$ 1.15 for Large Potted and \$ 0.70 for Small Potted.

Range Programs – Mr. Miller reported that on January 23, 2003, the District is coordinating a livestock producer's workshop that will be held indoors in Ringgold, NE. Mr. Miller reported that Mr. Carhart is working with Kristin Miller (NRCS) and Steve Gramlich (University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension) and he will be coordinating the workshop with the Upper Loup Natural Resources District as Ringgold, NE is just over the line into that District. Mr. Miller reported that the speakers are not all confirmed but it is intended to cover drought management on upland pastures, irrigated pasture and subirrigated meadows, tax implications of herd reductions, livestock disease issues, calving management and an overview of cost-share programs.

Soil Conservation Programs – No report presented.

Wildlife Habitat Programs - No report presented.

Water Programs – Ground Water Program – District Programs – Mr. Bowers reported on the ground water monitoring wells being installed by the U.S. Geological Survey within District.

Water Programs – Ground Water Program – 319 Project – No report presented.

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

Water Programs – Watershed Program – Mr. Miller reported that the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources periodically conducts inspections of the high hazard dams in Nebraska and on July 8, 2002, the Department conducted an inspection of the Brule Watershed Dam. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet for information was the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources report for the inspection of the Brule Watershed.

Water Programs – Platte River Activities - Cooperative Agreement – 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 on the proposed National Academy of Science review of the proposed Platte River Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Species and the science on which the proposed program is based.

Water Programs – Platte River Activities - Cooperative Hydrology Study – Mr. Miller

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – November 14, 2002

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.

Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet for information was a October 28, 2002 letter from the Budd-Falen Law Offices to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service notifying the Service of the Nebraska Habitat Conservation Coalition's intent to sue the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in regard to the designation of critical habitat for the northern Great Plains breeding population of the piping plover, a January 23, 2002 letter from the Twin Platte Natural Resources District to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in regard to "Comments Regarding Draft Piping Plover Critical Habitat Designation, Draft Economic Analysis and Draft Environmental Assessment", and the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement.

Water Programs – Platte River Activities – Economic Coalition – Mr. Miller reported on the need for a Nebraska Economic Study in regard to the cost with and without a program in the Platte River Basin to protect threatened and endangered species. 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 that he had been meeting with a group to form a Nebraska Economic Coalition to develop an Economic Study for Nebraska that would allow the state, the Twin Platte Natural Resources District and other Natural Resources Districts and the public to fully evaluate a program proposed from the Cooperative Agreement. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet for information was a draft of an agreement to form the Nebraska Economic Coalition for guiding the conduct of a proposed economic impacts study and a draft scope for an economic study. Mr. Miller reported that some entities are listed as participants and that there is other entities that have been contacted that may also participate. Mr. Miller reported that the overall goal is \$170,000.00 in funding and that could go up or down depending on participation and funds available. Mr. Miller reported that the group that has been meeting to put together a coalition needs to have pretty firm commitments on participation and funding levels by a meeting scheduled for December 17th so that an agreement can be finalized and the coalition can start seeking a contractor early next year. Mr. Miller reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District budget provides for \$10,000.00 for a Nebraska Economic Study.

Mr. Meismer moved that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District participate in the Nebraska Economic Coalition as a sponsor member provided there is sufficient participation to fully fund a Nebraska Economic Study in regard to the cost with and without a program in the Platte River Basin to protect threatened and endangered species.

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – November 14, 2002

to authorize up to \$10,000.00, to authorize the General Manager to sign the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for the Nebraska Economic 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 Economic Coalition. Mr. Schilz seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #6)

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

Water Programs – Platte River Activities – North Platte River – Mr. Miller reported that on September 9, 2002, the National Weather Service lowered the flood stage on the North Platte River at the City of North Platte from 6.0 feet to 5.7 feet due to flooding. Mr. Miller reported that the flow rate at 6.0 feet in 1994 was rated at 3,804 cfs and currently is rated at 2,584 cfs and the flow rate at 5.7 feet is currently rated at 1,980 cfs. Mr. Miller reported that the landowners along the North Platte River at the City of North Platte have several times over the past years inquired if the Twin Platte Natural Resources District could do anything to prevent flooding around their homes. Mr. Miller reported that the Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District over the last two years has been facilitating discussions with local, state and federal agencies and landowners in an attempt to determine the cause for the flooding and that it has been hoped that the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers would provide assistance in determining the cause for the flooding, but the assistance has not been available. Mr. Miller reported that the Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District during the last month facilitated a conference call with representatives of the Nebraska Public Power District, the City of North Platte, Lincoln County, the Nebraska Department of Roads, the National Weather Service, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Twin Platte Natural Resources District to discuss Central's proposal to hire Parsons Engineering to perform a field inspection and initial assessment of causes and potential remedies for the flooding along the North Platte River at the City of North Platte. Mr. Miller reported that the Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District requested that the parties participating in the conference call consider contributing to the cost of the study, which is estimated to be \$10,660.00. Mr. Miller reported that following the conference call, Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District authorized Parsons Engineering to do the work as presented in their proposal, as the participants in the conference call agreed that due to the annual flooding in recent years, that it was desirable to determine potential remedies as soon as possible. Mr. Miller reported that Gary Lewis will be doing the work for Parsons Engineering and that he has known Dr. Lewis for 30 years and believes that he is the best that could be hired for this analysis. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet for information was the proposal for Parsons Engineering Services and a National Weather Service letter dated September 9, 2002. Mr. Miller recommended that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District contribute \$1,000.00 for the Parsons Engineering work.

Following discussion, there was no action.

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – November 14, 2002

Water Programs – Platte River Activities – South Platte River – 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 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.

Water Programs – Platte River Activities - Cooperative Agreement (Continued) – Mr. Meismer, Mr. Rubenthaler, Mr. Wahlgren and Mr. Miller reported on the Natural Resources Districts Platte River Basin Meeting in regard to the Cooperative Agreement held on November 5, 2002.

Mr. Miller reported that another Natural Resources Districts Platte River Basin Meeting in regard to the Cooperative Agreement has been scheduled for December 16, 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.

OTHER BUSINESS

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – November 14, 2002

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m. CST (4:55 p.m. MST).

Jerry Weaver, Secretary

KOM:Minutes:Bmin1102