

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
Board of Directors Meeting  
December 10, 2002

The Twin Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors meeting was held at the Lake McConaughy Visitors Center located on Highway 61 one mile south of Kingsley Dam and at the Figure 4 Traditions at the Haythorn Ranch located on Highway 61 4½ miles north of Kingsley Dam in Keith County, Nebraska on December 10, 2002. Mr. Rubenthaler called the meeting to order at 4:55 p.m. MST (5:55 p.m. CST). 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  
Todd Kramer  
James Meisner  
Robert Petersen  
Jim Rubenthaler  
Dennis Schilz  
Douglas Stack  
Joe Wahlgren  
Jerry Weaver  
Robert Wiseman

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

None

OTHERS PRESENT

Darrel Eichner – Nebraska Game & Parks Commission  
Mitch Gerstenkorn - Nebraska Game & Parks Commission  
Robert O’ Dell – Big Mac Sports Club  
Mike Wheeler – Sargent Irrigation  
Award Recipients and Guests  
Spouses  
News Media

NRCS PERSONNEL PRESENT

Traci Bates, Soil Conservationist  
James Lott, Soil Conservationist  
Kristen Miller, Range Management Specialist  
Jeff Nichols, Range Management Specialist  
Marji Patz, Rangeland Management Specialist  
Mary Reece, District Conservationist

STAFF PRESENT

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

GENERAL INFORMATION

Lake McConaughy Visitors Center – Mitch Gerstenkorn, Park Superintendent, NE Game & Parks Commission, conducted a tour of the Lake McConaughy Visitors Center.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Report of Directors Excused – All Directors were present.

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.

AGENDA MODIFICATION

None presented.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

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

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

COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORTS

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service – Mrs. Reece distributed and reviewed a written 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.

Nebraska Natural Resources Commission – South Platte River Basin Caucus – Mr. Miller reported that the current Nebraska Department of Natural Resources was the result of a merger between the agencies named Natural Resources Commission and the Department of Water Resources. Mr. Miller reported that with this merger the Natural Resources Commission is still a functioning body within the Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Miller reported that three of the 16 members are appointed by the Governor to represent the specific interests of municipal water users, surface water irrigators, and ground water irrigators and the remaining thirteen members are selected for four-year terms at caucuses of the Natural Resources Districts directors to represent Nebraska's river basins. Mr. Miller reported that the Natural Resources Commission members are selected by River Basins by the seated Natural Resources District Directors within the River Basin. Mr. Miller reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District is within the South Platte, North Platte and Middle Platte basins and that the Natural Resources Commission's South Platte Basin representative's term expires in January 2003. Mr. Miller reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Directors residing in the South Platte River Basin (Mr. Petersen, Mr. Schilz, Mr. Stack, Mr. Weaver and Mr. Wiseman) are eligible to participate in the South Platte Basin Caucus, which has tentatively been scheduled to be held on January 14, 2003 in Sidney, NE to select a representative for the Natural Resources Commission for a 4 year term. Mr. Miller reported that the current representative for the South Platte Basin is Bob Hahn and Mr. Hahn is seeking re-election. Mr. Miller reported that Mr. Hahn resides in the South Platte Natural Resources District and is a former member of the South Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors. Mr. Miller reported that candidates eligible are any resident in the South Platte Basin of majority age of 19. Mr. Miller asked if there were any candidates from within the Twin Platte Natural Resources District and there were none indicated.

Other Agencies - No report presented.

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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 November 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 November 2002 be received and placed on file for audit and to approve payment of the invoices presented on the Accounts Payable report on December 10, 2002 in the amount of \$45,751.98. Mr. Kramer seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #2)

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

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 November 14, 2002 Board meeting, the staff reported, per District policy, that bids/proposals would be presented 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. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet for information was minimum specifications for proposed computer equipment and the letter sent to vendors inviting proposals. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors notebook and

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available for handout was a summary of proposals received from 7 vendors, a revised listing of current and proposed computer equipment, and a revised disposition of obsolete computer equipment.

Mr. Petersen moved to accept the low proposal received from Gateway for 1 desktop computer and 3 laptop computers for a total cost of \$7,665.00. Mr. Schilz seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #3)

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

NAY: Baldrige

ABSENT: None

Bids/Proposals Scheduled To Be Presented for Consideration During the December 10, 2002 Board of Directors Meeting – Mr. Miller reported that no bids/proposals were scheduled to be presented for consideration during the January 9, 2003 Board of Directors meeting.

#### DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts – Board of Directors Meeting – No report presented.

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

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts – Legislative Conference – Mr. Meismer reported that the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts annual Legislative Conference would be held January 28-29, 2003 in Lincoln, Nebraska and that in the Directors' packet for information was a tentative agenda. Mr. Miller reported that in the past, a plane has been chartered for Directors to attend and participate in the main day of the conference which this year is Tuesday, January 28, 2003 if there is sufficient interest to justify the cost compared to the savings in lodging, meals and per diem as well as the benefit of less time away from home. It was determined that there was not sufficient interest to justify the cost of a plane.

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.

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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 \$34,286.53 was available.

Mr. Stack moved to approve the November 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:				
03-018	NC-17	Irrigation Water Management	\$ 2,226.63	\$ 2,226.63
03-019	NC-17	Irrigation Water Management	\$ 2,225.00	\$ 2,225.00
03-026	NC-12	Trees	\$ 558.00	\$ 558.00
03-027	NC-12	Trees	\$ 86.62	\$ 86.62
03-028	NC-12	Trees	\$ 779.00	\$ 779.00
03-029	NC-12	Trees	\$ 42.07	\$ 42.07
03-030	NC-12	Trees	\$ 521.20	\$ 521.20
03-031	NC-12	Trees	\$ 542.82	\$ 542.82
03-032	NC-12	Trees	\$ 672.05	\$ 672.05
03-033	NC-12	Trees	\$ 423.50	\$ 423.50
03-034	NC-12	Trees	\$ 779.00	\$ 779.00
03-035	NC-12	Trees	\$ 99.00	\$ 99.00
03-036	NC-12	Trees	\$ 99.00	\$ 99.00
03-037	NC-12	Trees	\$ 139.15	\$ 139.15
03-038	NC-12	Trees	\$ 99.00	\$ 99.00
03-039	NC-12	Trees	\$ 49.50	\$ 49.50
03-040	NC-12	Trees	\$ 669.25	\$ 669.25
03-041	NC-12	Trees	\$ 659.67	\$ 659.67
03-042	NC-12	Trees	\$ 779.00	\$ 779.00
03-043	NC-12	Trees	\$ 421.35	\$ 421.35
03-044	NC-12	Trees	\$ 429.44	\$ 429.44
Total Amount Of New Contracts				\$ 12,300.25
FUNDS AVAILABLE: Practice NC-12, Windbreaks				\$ 15,518.36
Practice NC-14, Planned Grazing				\$ 955.74
Practice NC-17, Irrigation				\$ 833.52
Other available practices				\$ 4,678.66

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

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Wahlgren,

ABSENT: None

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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 8 contracts have been approved for a total cost-share allocation of \$1,550.00 and that \$3,450.00 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 on January 23, 2003, the District is coordinating a livestock producer's workshop that will be held in Ringgold, NE. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout was information about the workshop.

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' notebook and available as a handout was a Water Quality Programs report for the Nebraska Legislature as required by LB 329 enacted several years ago. Mr. Miller reported that the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts assembles the reports from each Natural Resources District and presents a unified report to the Nebraska Legislature.

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 – No report presented.

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 that a Natural Resources Districts Platte River Basin Meeting in regard to the Cooperative Agreement has been scheduled for December 17, 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

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Cooperative Agreement are Mr. Meismer, Mr. Rubenthaler, Mr. Schilz, 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.

Water Programs – Platte River Activities – Economic Coalition – No report presented.

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 hired 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 on November 27, 2002, Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District facilitated a conference call during which Parsons Engineering presented their findings and Mr. Miller reported on the findings.

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 was 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 participated in the award presentation.



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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 to the Grapes Farms (Ron Grapes and Todd Grapes) following the Board meeting during the District's Awards Banquet.

Requests for Authorization to Travel – No requests were presented.

Legislation – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet for information was a resolution adopted by the Nebraska State Irrigation Association and the Nebraska Water Resources Association during their November 2002 Annual Meetings.

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 reported that the Society for Range Management 2003 Annual Meeting is February 2-6, 2003 in Casper, Wyoming and he reported that Bill Carhart, Range Programs Coordinator, would be attending the Annual Meeting. Mr. Miller reported that he believed that this is a very worthwhile meeting and he encouraged Directors to consider attending. Mr. Miller reported that Mr. Carhart has participate in these meetings most years and that he believed that Mr. Carhart continues to benefit from these meetings. Mr. Miller reported that the District Policy provides that Board authorization is required for all staff or Director expenses for travel outside a 300-mile radius of the District and that Casper, Wyoming is within a 300-mile radius of the District.

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.

#### AWARDS DINNER

An Awards Dinner was held during which the District's 2002 Conservation Award for Keith/Arthur Counties was presented to the Grapes Farms (Ron Grapes and Todd Grapes).

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m. MST (8:57 p.m. CST).

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Jerry Weaver, Secretary

KOM:Minutes:Bmin1202