

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
May 8, 2003

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 May 8, 2003. Mr. Stack called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m. CDT (6:36 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
James Meisner
Robert Petersen
Dennis Schilz
Douglas Stack
Joe Wahlgren
Jerry Weaver
Robert Wiseman

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Eric Hansen
Todd Kramer
Jim Rubenthaler

OTHERS PRESENT

Mike Wheeler, Sargent Irrigation

NRCS PERSONNEL PRESENT

Kristen Miller, Range Management Specialist
Mary Reece, District Conservationist

STAFF PRESENT

Amy Mapes, Administrative Assistant
Kent O Miller, General Manager

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Report of Directors Excused – Mr. Stack reported that Mr. Hansen, Mr. Kramer and Mr. Rubenthaler were excused.

DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Directors Notebooks Containing Information Items Available for Handout - Mr. Stack reported that each Director has a notebook containing information items that are available for handouts for others attending the meeting.

Other Items - Mr. Stack reported that notebooks containing the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Conservation Plans signed by the General Manager as the Twin

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2003

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.

Mr. Miller passed around the Board table the results of the 2003 Nebraska Envirothon competition, which was held on May 3, 2003 at Niobrara State Park. Mr. Miller reported that a team from Ogallala High School qualified to participate in the 2003 Nebraska State Envirothon and that the Board had previously agreed to provide the \$100.00 registration fee for the Ogallala High School Envirothon Team to participate. Mr. Miller reported that qualification is based on the results of the competition at the Regional Envirothons. Mr. Miller reported that the Ogallala High School Team was the only team from within the Twin Platte Natural Resources District to qualify. Mr. Miller reported that the Nebraska State Envirothon is coordinated and sponsored by the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts.

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 April 10, 2003 Meeting - Mr. Stack reported that the Minutes for the April 10, 2003 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 April 10, 2003 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mr. Meisner seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #1)

AYE: Baldridge, Meisner, Petersen, Schilz, Stack, Wahlgren, Weaver, Wiseman

NAY: None

ABSENT: Hansen, Kramer, Rubenthaler

COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORTS

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - District Conservationist Report – Mrs. Reece distributed a written report and she reviewed the report.

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2003

Mrs. Reece reported that the EQIP Local Work Group would be meeting on May 14, 2003 at 1:00 p.m. CDT in Sutherland, NE. Mr. Miller reported that Mrs. Reece was the non-voting chairperson of the Local Work Group, that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District representatives on the Local Work Group are Mr. Meismer, Mr. Petersen, Mr. Baldrige and Mr. Kramer and that there is a Farm Service Agency representative from each of the counties within the Twin Platte Natural Resources District on the Local Work Group.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - Competitive Sourcing – Mr. Miller reported that during the April 10, 2003 Board of Directors meeting, Dean Edson, Executive Director, Nebraska Association of Resources Districts, reported on the movement within the Natural Resources Conservation Service to implement Competitive Sourcing. Mr. Miller reported that this movement is being mandated by the Bush administration with a goal of reducing the federal work force. Mr. Miller reported that the NRCS has approximately 12,000 employees nationwide and that approximately 8,400 of the positions will be designated for Competitive Sourcing over the next five years and that it is estimated that half of the 8,400 positions will be replaced through Competitive Sourcing. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors’ packet for information was a letter from Central Platte Natural Resources District to Senator Ben Nelson and a draft letter from Twin Platte Natural Resources District to Nebraska’s Congressional Delegation.

Mr. Meismer moved to authorize the Chairperson of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors to send a letter to each member of the Nebraska Congressional Delegation requesting them to stop the restructuring of the Natural Resources Conservation Service through Competitive Sourcing. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #2)

AYE: Meismer, Petersen, Schilz, Stack, Wahlgren, Weaver, Wiseman

NAY: Baldrige

ABSENT: Hansen, Kramer, Rubenthaler

Other Agencies - No report presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT

Land Resources Subcommittee

No report presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT

Water Resources Subcommittee

Mr. Meismer, Water Resources Subcommittee Chairperson, reported that the Water Resources Subcommittee met prior to the Board of Directors meeting and he presented a report.

Cost-Share Programs - Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program - Mr. Meismer

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2003

reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information were charts showing the funds spent for each practice during the 2003 Fiscal Year and from January 1, 1977 through the 2003 Fiscal Year and a listing of the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program eligible practices. Mr. Meisner reported that the current policy of the District provides that Practice NC-12, Windbreaks, parts F & G, Practice, NC-14, Planned Grazing Systems, part C, Practice NC-16, Windbreak Renovation, Practice NC-17, Irrigation Water Management, selected components in part B and Practice NC-19, Repair of Practices, are not available for cost-share in the District. Mr. Meisner reported that for the 2003 Fiscal Year, the Board of Directors approved for the Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program that for Practice NC-12, Windbreaks, that 30% (\$24,145.98) of available funds be reserved from July 1, 2002 to January 30, 2003; for Practice NC-14, Planned Grazing Systems, that 30% (\$24,145.98) of available funds be reserved from July 1, 2002 to January 30, 2003; for Practice NC-17, Irrigation Water Management, that 30% (\$24,145.98) of available funds be reserved from July 1, 2002 to January 30, 2003; and that for the other eligible practices that 10% (\$8,048.66) of available funds be reserved from July 1, 2002 to January 30, 2003 and that any funds available after January 30, 2003 may be used for any eligible practice.

Mr. Meisner reported that the 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. Meisner reported that the Governors Budget for the 2004 Fiscal Year provides for \$2,765,610.00 which is \$50,000.00 more than what was allocated for the 2003 Fiscal Year and that the Legislature's Appropriations Committee recommended Budget is the same as the Governor's. Mr. Meisner reported that it is likely that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District's allocation for the 2004 Fiscal Year will be the same as the District received for the 2003 Fiscal Year, but that the actual allocation will not be known until sometime in June after the Legislature approves the State's budget and the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission determines the allocation for each Natural Resources District.

Mr. Meisner moved the Water Resources Subcommittee's recommendation 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, 2003 to January 30, 2004; for Practice NC-14, Planned Grazing Systems, that 30% of available funds be reserved from July 1, 2003 to January 30, 2004; for Practice NC-17, Irrigation Water Management, that 30% of available funds be reserved from July 1, 2003 to January 30, 2004; and that for the other eligible practices that 10% of available funds be reserved from July 1, 2003 to January 30, 2004 and that any funds available after January 30, 2004 may be used for any eligible practice. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #3)

AYE: Baldridge, Meisner, Petersen, Schilz, Stack, Wahlgren, Weaver, Wiseman

NAY: None

ABSENT: Hansen, Kramer, Rubenthaler

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2003

Cost-Share Programs - District Conservation Program - Mr. Meismer reported that the District's Cost-Share Program for the 2003 Fiscal Year provided cost-share for sealing abandoned wells. Mr. Meismer reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information was a brochure for the District's cost-share program for sealing abandoned wells and the April 2003 report for the Board of Directors. Mr. Meismer reported that the District policy provides that one well may be cost-shared per producer per year and 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. Meismer reported that the 2003 Fiscal Year Budget provided for \$5,000.00. Mr. Meismer reported that the Cost-Share Program for Sealing Abandoned Wells was initiated during the 1994 Fiscal Year and \$3,000.00 was provided each Fiscal Year through the 2002 Fiscal Year. Mr. Meismer reported that until the 2002 Fiscal Year the funds were not fully utilized during any of the previous Fiscal Years. Mr. Meismer reported that during the 2002 Fiscal Year, that the Board of Directors made available additional funds during the year to meet the demand.

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee's recommendation to the Board of Directors that for the District Conservation Program that the District provide \$5,000.00 of cost-share funds for the sealing of abandoned wells within the District for the 2004 Fiscal Year using the current District guidelines. Mr. Schilz seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #4)

AYE: Baldridge, Meismer, Petersen, Schilz, Stack, Wahlgren, Weaver, Wiseman

NAY: None

ABSENT: Hansen, Kramer, Rubenthaler

Ground Water Program - Monitoring – Quality - Monitoring Wells Located in T17R36 and T18R36 – Mr. Meismer reported that in the Directors' notebook for information were charts and aerial photos of the facilities and monitoring wells located in T17R36 and T18R36 in Arthur County and he reviewed the information.

Ground Water Program - Monitoring – Quality - Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality Study – Nonpoint Source Ground Water Contamination along the South Platte River, North Platte River and Platte River within the Twin Platte Natural Resources District – Mr. Meismer reported that during the May 16, 2002 Board meeting, the Board of Directors approved that the District request that the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality conduct “A Study of Nonpoint Source Ground Water Contamination in the South Platte River Valley and the North Platte River Valley and the land area between the South Platte River Valley and the North Platte River Valley and in the Platte River Valley within the Twin Platte Natural Resources District” and that the District request that the area within Keith County be addressed first and the area within Lincoln County be addressed second. Mr. Meismer reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information was an interim report for the

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2003

sampling in Keith County during 2002. Mr. Meisner reported that activities in 2003 would include sampling ground water and surface water in Lincoln County. Mr. Meisner reported that a report summarizing the sampling results from 2002 and 2003 with interpretations and recommendations would be issued in 2004.

Ground Water Program - Sealing Abandoned Wells – Community Programs – Mr. Meisner reported that during the September 13, 2001 Board of Directors meeting, that the Board approved a request from the Village of Brule to enter into an agreement with the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and the Village of Brule to participate in the Nebraska Environmental Partnership Program for closing abandoned wells and to authorize up to \$2,000.00 for the Nebraska Environmental Partnership Program for closing abandoned wells in the Village of Brule. Mr. Meisner reported that the program provided that the District contributes 65% and the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality contributes 35% of the cost for the closure of abandoned wells within villages. Mr. Meisner reported that the Board of Directors had agreed on September 13, 2001 that the staff should contact each village within the Twin Platte Natural Resources District to determine if the village would be interested in participating in the Nebraska Environmental Partnership Program for closing abandoned wells and that the Board of Directors would consider requests from a village. Mr. Meisner reported that the other villages were not contacted, as the Nebraska Environmental Partnership Program funds were depleted and no longer available. Mr. Meisner reported that the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality has received funding from the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund to offer, in cooperation with the Natural Resources Districts' well closure programs, 100% funding to properly close abandoned wells in Wellhead Protection Areas and the associated community. Mr. Meisner reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout was information on how the program would work. Mr. Meisner reported that \$3,000.00 was budgeted for the 2003 Fiscal Year to participate in the Nebraska Environmental Partnership Program which will not be utilized.

Mr. Meisner moved the Water Resources Subcommittee's recommendation to the Board of Directors that the District participate in the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality program for closing abandoned wells in Wellhead Protection Areas and the associated community, that the District will contribute 65% and the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality will contribute 35% of the cost for the closure of abandoned wells in Wellhead Protection Areas and the associated community, that the District Budget \$4,000.00 in addition to the \$3,000.00 budgeted for the 2003 Fiscal Year which will not be utilized for a total of \$7,000 of cost-share funds in the 2004 Fiscal Year Budget and to authorize the District personnel during the 2004 Fiscal Year to work with the Village of Paxton and the Village of Brady and the Village of Hershey if either the Village of Paxton or the Village of Brady chooses to not participate in the program. Mr. Schilz seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #5)

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

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2003

Ground Water Program - Management Plan Implementation – Mr. Meismer reported that during the March 13, 2003 Board meeting, that the Board of Directors approved that the District establish a District-wide Ground Water Management Area, to direct the Water Resources Subcommittee to prepare draft rules and regulations for a District-wide Ground Water Management Area and that the Board of Directors shall determine the rules and regulations to be presented for Public Hearing. Mr. Meismer reported that the staff has not had time to begin preparing draft rules and regulation for consideration by the Water Resources Subcommittee and that as he had reported to the Board on March 13, 2003, that it would probably be late in calendar year 2003 when a District-wide Ground Water Management Area is implemented due to limitations of staff time and the necessary procedures as required in the authorities of Natural Resources Districts in Nebraska Statutes.

Canal Screen Cleaning Demonstration Project – Mr. Meismer reported that the Water Resources Subcommittee did not have time to hear a status report on the District’s Canal Screen Cleaning Demonstration Project and that the Subcommittee members requested that this be an agenda item for a future meeting of the Subcommittee.

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 April 2003 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 April 2003 be received and placed on file for audit and to approve payment of the invoices presented on the Accounts Payable report on May 8, 2003 in the amount of \$51,883.39. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #6)

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

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2003

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 May 8, 2003 Board of Directors Meeting – Mr. Miller reported that no bids/proposals were scheduled to be presented for consideration during the June 5, 2003 Board of Directors meeting.

Audit for 2003 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 2003 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 2003 Fiscal Year was \$2,275.00.

Mr. Petersen 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 2003 Fiscal Year be accepted and to authorize the General Manager to sign the proposal as the District representative. Mr. Schilz seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #7)

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

DIRECTORS REPORTS

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 – Board of Directors Meeting – No report presented.

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts – Republican River Basin Tour – Mr. Meismer reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout was information for the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Republican River Basin Tour, which will be held June 16-17, 2003.

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts – Ground Water Report – Mr. Meismer reported that in the Directors' packet for information was a report prepared by the Nebraska Association of Resources District for Governor Johanns titled “Natural Resources Districts - Generalized Report on Ground Water Levels - April, 2003”.

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

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2003

report presented.

Platte River Citizens Advisory Council – Mr. Meisner reported on recent activities of the Platte River Citizens Advisory Council. Mr. Meisner reported that in the Directors’ packet for information was the National Academies of Science Committee Membership for the “Endangered and Threatened Species in the Platte River Basin” project and the agenda for the “First Meeting of the Committee on Endangered and Threatened Species in the Platte River Basin” May 6, 2003 in Kearney, NE. Mr. Meisner reported that in the Directors’ packet for information was a status report on the Cooperative Hydrology Study (COHYST) studies and model development

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 - 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 District guidelines provide that from January 31 – June 30, the funds from each reserved category shall be merged and applications on file shall be considered for funding in the order they are signed by the producer and only one application may be approved for partial funding at any time. Mr. Miller reported that District guidelines also provide that on June 30, all applications not approved by the Board of Directors shall be cancelled. Mr. Miller reported that any un-obligated funds on March 1, 2002 were required to be returned to the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources for re-distribution to Natural Resources Districts. Mr. Miller reported that \$1,701.27 was available for funding additional contracts..

Mr. Wahlgren moved to approve the April 2003 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:				
03-073	NC-17	Irrigation Water Management	\$ 847.92	\$ 847.92
03-074	NC-17	Irrigation Water Management	\$ 850.00	\$ 850.00
Total Amount Of New Contracts				\$ 1,697.92
FUNDS AVAILABLE:				\$ 3.35

Mr. Petersen seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #8)

AYE: Baldridge, Meisner, Petersen, Schilz, Stack, Wahlgren, Weaver, Wiseman

NAY: None

ABSENT: Hansen, Kramer, Rubenthaler

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2003

Mr. Miller reported that the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission in 1999 enacted a policy that if the amount of Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program funds obligated but not spent exceeded \$1,000,000.00 on July 1st, that the allocation for Natural Resources Districts with obligated but not spent funds would be reduced to \$1,000,000.00 in the next Fiscal Year and each District shall be apportioned a percentage of its obligated but not spent funds with the percentage determined by dividing \$1,000,000.00 by the total of obligated but not spent funds. Mr. Miller reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors on July 8, 1999 approved the following policy:

If an application for cost share through the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program is approved by the Board of Directors after September 30th of any fiscal year beginning July 1, 1999, the applicant must complete the practice and submit the paper work required for the payment in sufficient time and no later than June 15th for the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission to process the completed application before the end of the fiscal year. An applicant's failure may result in the loss of all or part of the cost share. Applicants will be required to sign a document stating their knowledge of this policy and agreeing to the terms thereof.

Mr. Miller reported that the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources has notified Districts that the cutoff this year for submitting claims is June 6th to ensure that claims get paid in June. Mr. Miller reported that the Natural Resources Conservation Service personnel within the Twin Platte Natural Resources District are currently reviewing the status of all contracts approved that have not been completed.

Mr. Wahlgren moved that if additional funds become available following the May 8, 2003 Board meeting and if the work can be completed such that claims could be submitted by June 6, 2003, to authorize the General Manager to approve contracts during this time frame and report any such contracts approved to the Board of Directors during the June 5, 2003 Board meeting. Mr. Wiseman seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #9)

AYE: Baldridge, Petersen, Schilz, Stack, Wahlgren, Weaver, Wiseman

NAY: None

ABSENT: Hansen, Kramer, Meismer, Rubenthaler

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 10 contracts have been approved for a total cost-share allocation of \$1,750.00 and that \$3,250.00 was available for additional contracts.

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

Tree Program – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout was a Keith County News article “Program success seen years later” in regard to

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2003

the Twin Platte Natural Resources District's annual program of giving Third Grade Students within the District a tree on Arbor Day.

Range Programs – Mr. Miller reported that the Board of Directors during the March 13, 2003 Board meeting authorize up to 4 - \$125.00 scholarships for the 2003 Nebraska Ranch Practicum. Mr. Miller reported that the Nebraska Ranch Practicum is conducted at the University of Nebraska West Central Research and Extension Center in North Platte and at the Gudmunsen Sandhills Lab. Mr. Miller reported that the District has received one application

Soil Conservation Programs – No report presented.

Wildlife Habitat Programs – WILD Nebraska Program – No report presented.

Wildlife Habitat Programs – Corners for Wildlife Program – Mr. Miller reported that the current Corners for Wildlife program funding period is the third out of three for the Environmental Trust grant that provides the Corners for Wildlife program annual payments. Mr. Miller reported that materials cost sharing is provided by local Pheasants Forever chapters and the Twin Platte Natural Resources District staff works with landowners to get projects enrolled and coordinated, as well as providing the machine planting for trees and shrubs on Corners for Wildlife sites. Mr. Miller reported that there are 32 existing Corners for Wildlife program sites in the District. Mr. Miller reported that previous Board of Directors action has allowed District staff to proceed in signing up corners in the Corners for Wildlife program as funds become available. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet for information was a memo dated May 1, 2003 to Jerry Weaver, Chair, Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee from Bill Carhart, Range Programs Coordinator listing one additional new Corners for Wildlife program project to be enrolled in 2003

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 – 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.

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2003

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 – No report presented.

Water Programs – Platte River Activities – Economic Coalition – Mr. Miller reported on the status of the Economic Coalition. Mr. Miller reported that he participates in the meetings of the sponsors as the representative for the District.

Water Programs – Platte River Activities – North Platte River – No report presented.

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

Water Programs – Irrigation Districts – Western Irrigation District – Mr. Miller reported that the construction for the Western Irrigation District Emergency Watershed Protection Project was completed and on April 4, 2003, a final inspection of the work was performed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Western Irrigation District, area landowners, the Contractor and the Twin Platte Natural Resources District during which the work was found to have met the design and specifications. Mr. Miller reported that during the inspection, the Western Irrigation District expressed concern with the amount of slope protection specified on site #2 and site #3 as the amount of debris removed left a portion of the canal banks unprotected and they felt the stability of the side slopes were in jeopardy. Mr. Miller reported that the Natural Resources Conservation Service State Office determined that additional Emergency Watershed Protection funds could be available and a modification to the contract could occur as the Natural Resources Conservation Service Engineers determined that additional slope protection was needed on site #2 and site #3 to protect the stability of the canal side slopes. Mr. Miller reported that on April 21, 2003, the Twin Platte Natural Resources District received from the Natural Resources Conservation Service construction drawings, construction specifications and the Engineer's cost estimate for additional slope protection on site #2 and site #3 to protect the stability of the canal side slopes. Mr. Miller reported that the Engineer's estimate was \$8,462.00. Mr. Miller reported that the Natural Resources Conservation Service authorized utilizing the original contractor provided the bid received did not exceed the Engineer's cost estimate. Mr. Miller reported that the construction drawings and construction specifications were delivered to Western Irrigation District and that the Western Irrigation District requested that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District proceed with the work specified and requested that the work be done as soon as possible. Mr. Miller reported that Mr. Rubenthaler, Twin Platte Natural Resources District Board Chairperson, agreed that the work should be done as soon as possible. Mr. Miller reported that on April 21, 2003, the Twin Platte Natural Resources District prepared a letter to Korty Land Improvement that was

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2003

delivered April 22, 2003, that the letter indicated that the Natural Resources Conservation Service has authorized utilizing the original contractor provided the bid received does not exceed the Engineer's cost estimate and Korty Land Improvement was invited to prepare a bid. Mr. Miller reported that Korty Land Improvement was asked to submit a bid no later than April 24, 2003 at 5:00 pm CDT. Mr. Miller reported that on April 21, 2003, the Western Irrigation District began diverting water into the canal. Mr. Miller reported that on April 24, 2003, a bid was received from Korty Land Improvement in the amount of \$11,390.80 with a note that the costs were higher with water in the canal than they would be if the canal was dry. Mr. Miller reported that on April 24, 2003, the Western Irrigation District agreed that with the current wet conditions, that as soon as the canal was cleaned out, that they could de-water the canal for a few days. Mr. Miller reported that on April 24, 2003, Korty Land Improvement submitted a revised bid in the amount of \$8,342.30 provided that there is no water in the canal and agreed that they would implement the work as soon as the canal was de-watered and dry and they anticipated that the work would take 3 to 4 days. Mr. Miller reported that on April 25, 2003, the Twin Platte Natural Resources District and Korty Land Improvement signed a contract with a completion date of May 6, 2003. Mr. Miller reported that Western Irrigation District stopped diverting water April 27, 2003, that the work was completed on April 30, 2003 and a final inspection of the work was performed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Mr. Miller reported that on May 1, 2003, the Twin Platte Natural Resources District issued a check in the amount of the bid, \$8,342.30, to Korty Land Improvement. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet for information was a Justification Statement, the Korty Land Improvement bid, the Construction Agreement contract and the Construction drawings.

Regulatory Programs – No report presented.

Information & Education Programs – Nebraska State Envirothon – Mr. Miller reported that the team from Ogallala High School placed 9th in the 2003 Nebraska State Envirothon. Mr. Miller reported that the Ogallala High School Team was the only team from within the Twin Platte Natural Resources District to qualify. Mr. Miller reported that the Board authorized the Twin Platte Natural Resources District to contribute the registration fee of \$100.00 for the Ogallala team.

Information & Education Programs – Scholarships – 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 has not received any applications. Mr. Miller reported that the staff in early April distributed a news release and a E-Mail to Schools within the District with information about the scholarships available and on May 6th, the staff distributed another E-Mail to Schools within the District with information about the scholarships available

Requests for Authorization to Travel – No requests were presented.

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2003

Legislation – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet for information was the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources “Legislative Memo #11” which includes a report on LB 619 passed by the Legislature on April 11, 2003.

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 2004 FISCAL YEAR

Preparation Schedule - Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet was a schedule for preparing the 2004 Fiscal Year Budget for the District. Mr. Miller reported that the schedule provides for Board review of the first draft of the Budget during the June Board meeting which is the same schedule followed the last 5 years. Mr. Miller reported that the schedule provides the Board an opportunity to view the first draft of a Budget one-month earlier than the schedule that had been followed prior to 1999. Mr. Miller reported that the schedule for preparing the 2004 Fiscal Year Budget provides the Board four opportunities to review and discuss the Budget prior to final approval.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:31 p.m. CDT (8:31 p.m. MDT).

Jerry Weaver, Secretary

KOM:Minutes:Bmin0503