

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
Board of Directors Meeting  
October 9, 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 October 9, 2003. Mr. Stack called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. CDT (6:34 p.m. MDT). A legal notice of the meeting was published in the NORTH PLATTE TELEGRAPH. A news release containing the agenda for the meeting and including the time and place was sent to the news media in the District.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Jeff Baldridge  
Eric Hansen  
James Meismer  
Robert Petersen  
Dennis Schilz  
Douglas Stack  
Joe Wahlgren  
Jerry Weaver  
Robert Wiseman

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Todd Kramer  
Jim Rubenthaler

OTHERS PRESENT

Mike Wheeler, Sargent Irrigation

NRCS PERSONNEL PRESENT

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. 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

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Platte Natural Resources District representative were available for information and that the notebooks would be passed around the Board table for review by each member of the Board of Directors present.

PUBLIC FORUM

The Public Forum of the meeting was opened. There were no comments, and the Public Forum was closed.

AGENDA MODIFICATION

None presented.

GENERAL INFORMATION

No report presented.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Minutes for September 11, 2003 Meeting - Mr. Stack reported that the Minutes for the September 11, 2003 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 September 11, 2003 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #1)

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Kramer, Rubenthaler

COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORTS

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

City of Ogallala / Western Irrigation District Flood Control – Mrs. Reece reported that the Natural Resources Conservation Service in cooperation with the Western Irrigation District, the City of Ogallala, Keith County and the Twin Platte Natural Resources District would be investigating the feasibility of developing a PL566 Watershed for protection of the areas that saw damage during the July 6, 2002 storm.

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 the Natural Resources Commission and the Department of Water Resources. Mr. Miller reported that with this merger the Natural

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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. Mr. Miller reported that the remaining thirteen members are selected for four-year terms at caucuses of the seated Natural Resources Districts directors within the River Basin to represent Nebraska's river basins. Mr. Miller reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District is within the South Platte, North Platte and Middle Platte Basins. Mr. Miller reported that the Natural Resources Commission's South Platte Basin representative, Bob Hahn, would be resigning in the next few months, as he will be moving out of state. Mr. Miller reported that Mr. Hahn began his current four-year term in January 2003. Mr. Miller reported that a caucus would need to be scheduled within 30 days of official notification of the resignation, which is expected to occur in December or January. Mr. Miller reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Directors residing in the South Platte River Basin are Mr. Petersen, Mr. Schilz, Mr. Stack, Mr. Weaver and Mr. Wiseman and that these Directors are eligible to participate in the South Platte Basin Caucus to select a representative for the Natural Resources Commission. Mr. Miller reported that the South Platte Natural Resources District has 6 Directors that reside in the South Platte River Basin and are eligible to participate in the South Platte Basin Caucus. Mr. Miller reported that typically, the South Platte River Basin caucus has been held in conjunction with a regular meeting of either the South Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors or the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors. Mr. Miller reported that Keith Rexroth is interested in being elected to represent the South Platte River Basin. Mr. Miller reported that Mr. Rexroth resides in the South Platte Natural Resources District and is a current 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.

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.

Ground Water Programs - Integrated Management of Ground Water & Surface Water – Mr. Meismer reported that Roger Patterson, Director, Nebraska Department of Natural

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Resources, had requested to meet with two or three members of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Board and two or three members of the Central Platte Natural Resources District Board on September 15, 2003 in North Platte, as he was traveling to Scottsbluff, Nebraska that day for Water Policy Task Force meetings the following day. Mr. Meismer reported that Mr. Patterson requested the meeting to discuss his recommendation that the Central Platte Natural Resources District and Twin Platte Natural Resources District initiate a temporary suspension of the drilling of new wells within the Stream Depletion Factor (SDF) lines, which is an area approximately six to eight miles either side of the North Platte, South Platte and Platte Rivers. Mr. Meismer reported that within the SDF area, 28% of the consumption of a well would impact the river within 40 years. Mr. Meismer reported that Mr. Rubenthaler asked Mr. Wahlgren, Mr. Miller and he to join him in meeting with Mr. Patterson. Mr. Meismer reported that the Chairperson of the Central Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors, Dick Mercer, and Ron Bishop, General Manager, Central Platte Natural Resources District participated in the meeting.

Mr. Meismer reported that on September 25, 2003, the Central Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors took action to notify the Director of the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources that the District wishes to initiate the process of a joint action plan for the integrated management of hydrologically connected ground water and surface water and proposed a temporary suspension of the drilling of new wells in a portion of the District. Mr. Meismer reported that the portion of the Central Platte Natural Resources District being considered is an area the length of the District approximately six to eight miles either side of the Platte River from Columbus to Gothenburg, Nebraska. Mr. Meismer reported that the Central Platte Natural Resources District plans to conduct public hearings in regard to the temporary suspension in early November with a final decision on implementing the temporary suspension scheduled for November 20, 2003. Mr. Meismer reported that if approved on November 20, 2003, the Central Platte Natural Resources District temporary suspension is proposed to be effective immediately. Mr. Meismer reported that the Central Platte Natural Resources District currently has a Ground Water Management Area and requires that all new wells have a permit prior to installation. Mr. Meismer reported that individuals with permits have one year to install the well. Mr. Meismer reported that if the Central Platte Natural Resources District decides to implement the temporary suspension, the District plans to honor all permits approved by November 20, 2003.

Mr. Meismer reported that Mr. Rubenthaler has invited Mr. Patterson to meet with the Board of Directors of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District during the regular monthly meeting on November 13, 2003 for discussion of Mr. Patterson's recommendation. Mr. Meismer reported that Mr. Rubenthaler had invited Mr. Patterson to meet with the Board during the October 9<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, but Mr. Patterson has a conflict and cannot meet with the Board that evening. Mr. Meismer reported that if the Board would desire to initiate a temporary suspension of the drilling of new wells, the Board would need to take action to notify the Director of the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources that the District wishes to initiate the process of a joint action plan for

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the integrated management of hydrologically connected ground water and surface water, and the Board would need to schedule public hearings in regard to the District implementing a temporary suspension of the drilling of new wells in a portion of the District.

Mr. Meismer distributed a map showing the SDF lines within the Twin Platte Natural Resources District.

Mr. Meismer reported that the subcommittee members agreed to recommend to the Board of Directors the following timeline for the Board's consideration of action to notify the Director of the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources that the District wishes to initiate the process of a joint action plan for the integrated management of hydrologically connected ground water and surface water, and consideration of a temporary suspension of the drilling of new wells within the Stream Depletion Factor (SDF) lines which is an area approximately six to eight miles either side of the North Platte, South Platte and Platte Rivers:

October 9, 2003 Board of Directors meeting

- Preliminary discussion

November 13, 2003 Board of Directors meeting

- Presentation by Roger Patterson
- Questions/Discussion with Roger Patterson
- Board discussion

December 9, 2003 Board of Directors meeting

- Board consideration of action to initiate development of a joint action plan for integrated management
- Board consideration of action to schedule public hearing(s) for a temporary suspension for irrigation wells

January 2004

- Public Hearings in North Platte and Ogallala

February 12, 2004

- Board consideration of action for a temporary suspension for irrigation wells

?????, 2004

- Effective date for a temporary suspension for irrigation wells

Extensive discussion occurred.

The Board of Directors agreed to utilize the timeline recommended by the Water Resources 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. Meisner reported that the Financial Statement for September 2003 was in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout for information.

Accounts Payable - Mr. Meisner 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. Meisner moved that the Financial Statement for September 2003 be received and placed on file for audit and to approve payment of the invoices presented on the Accounts Payable report on October 9, 2003 in the amount of \$11,048.94. Mr. Schilz seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #2)

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Hansen, Kramer, Rubenthaler

Budget Status – Mr. Meisner 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 November 13, 2003 Board of Directors Meeting – Mr. Miller reported that no bids/proposals were scheduled to be presented for consideration during the November 13, 2003 Board of 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 22-23, 2003 in Kearney, Nebraska. Mr. Meisner reported that Mr. Rubenthaler, Mr. Miller and he attended the conference. Mr. Meisner reported that in the Directors' packet for information were the resolutions considered and the actions taken for each resolution during the business sessions.

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 23, 2003 and he reported on the meeting.

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

Platte River Citizens Advisory Council – Mr. Meismer reported on recent activities of the Platte River Citizens Advisory Council.

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 \$56,575.86 was available.

Mr. Meismer moved to approve the October 9, 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:				
04-004	NC-1	Terraces	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
Total Amount Of New Contracts				\$ 400.00
FUNDS AVAILABLE:				
		Practice NC-12, Windbreaks		\$ 23,388.61
		Practice NC-14, Planned Grazing		\$ 9,385.95
		Practice NC-17, Irrigation		\$ 23,388.61
		Other available practices		\$ 12.69

Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion, and it carried. (Motion #3)

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Kramer, 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 for information. Mr. Miller reported that 7 contracts have been approved for cost-share and that \$8,139.48 was available for additional contracts.

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

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Tree Program – Mr. Miller reported that during the September 11, 2003 Board of Directors meeting, the Board approved the Land Resources Subcommittee's recommendation that the District's tree stock charges be set by the General Manager based on the nursery charges to the District and that the District's machine planting charges be set at \$.45 per tree for 2004. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook for information was an analysis prepared by the District personnel for setting tree stock prices for 2004. Mr. Miller reported that he, based on the analysis, has set the tree stock charges for 2004 at \$ 0.54 for Bare Root, \$ 1.15 for Large Potted and \$ 0.70 for Small Potted.

Range Programs – No report presented.

Soil Conservation Programs – No report presented.

Wildlife Habitat Programs – No report presented.

Water Programs – Ground Water Program – District Programs – Mr. Miller reported that during the last state audit of the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, the auditors asked the Department to perform a limited audit on a few Natural Resources Districts to determine that the state Natural Resources Water Quality Funds and the Natural Resources District's matching funds had been properly expended. Mr. Miller reported that the Department randomly selected four Natural Resources Districts to audit this year and that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District was one of the four Districts selected. Mr. Miller reported that he has submitted information to the Department.

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

Water Programs – Ground Water Program – Ground Water Management Coalition – Mr. Miller reported on the status of the Ground Water Management Coalition. Mr. Miller reported that he participates in the meetings of the sponsors as the representative for the District.

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.

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.



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

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 reported on meetings and discussions in regard to the South Platte River Compact.

Irrigation Districts – Western Irrigation District – Mr. Schilz reported on meetings and discussions in regard to the South Platte River Compact.

Regulatory Programs – No report presented.

Trails – Lake Maloney – No report presented.

Information & Education Programs – 2003 Awards Program – Presentation, November 17, 2003 – Mr. Miller reported that the District's 2003 Conservation Award for Lincoln/McPherson Counties would be presented November 17, 2003 to Larry & Phyllis Kracman 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 – 2003 Awards Program – Presentation, December 9, 2003 – Mr. Miller reported that the District's 2003 Grassland Conservation Award for Keith/Arthur Counties would be presented December 9, 2003 to Krab, Inc (Gene Krab) during the District's Awards Banquet. Mr. Miller reported that the Board of Directors meeting would 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.

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

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There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m. CDT (7:59 p.m. MDT).

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Jerry Weaver, Secretary

KOM:Minutes:Bmin1003