

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
November 18, 2004

The Twin Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors meeting was held at the TierOne Bank Center Meeting Room, Second Floor, West Wing, 111 South Dewey Street, North Platte, Nebraska on November 18, 2004. Mr. Rubenthaler called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m. CST (2:06 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

Jeff Baldridge
Eric Hansen
James Meisner
Robert Petersen
Jim Rubenthaler
Douglas Stack
Joe Wahlgren
Jerry Weaver
Robert Wiseman

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Todd Kramer
Dennis Schilz

OTHERS PRESENT

Neil Betty
Rick Bode
Frank Fleecs
Dennis Brown
Roric Paulman
Blaine Runner
Frank Kwapnioski, Nebraska Public Power District
Mike Wheeler, Sargent Irrigation

NRCS PERSONNEL PRESENT

Mary Reece, District Conservationist

STAFF PRESENT

Ann Dimmitt, Water Programs Regulator Coordinator
Amy Mapes, Administrative Assistant
Kent O. Miller, General Manager

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Report of Directors Excused - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that Mr. Kramer and Mr. Schilz were excused.

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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.

Other Items - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that notebooks containing the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Conservation Plans 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 a thank you received from Clarence & Lila Arensdorf who received on November 8, 2004 the Twin Platte Natural Resources District's 2004 Outstanding Grassland Conservation Award for Lincoln/McPherson Counties.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Rubenthaler opened the Public Forum.

There were no comments.

Mr. Rubenthaler closed the Public Forum.

AGENDA MODIFICATION

None presented.

GENERAL INFORMATION

West Central Nebraska Water Users Coalition - Roric Paulman, President – West Central Nebraska Water Users Coalition, asked when the stakeholders would be selected and begin meeting for development of the Integrated Management Plan as required by LB962. Mr. Paulman stated that he again requests that the West Central Nebraska Water Users Coalition be designated as a member of the stakeholders to represent Ground Water Users. Mr. Paulman recommended that the District consider utilizing legal counsel and a professional hydrogeologist not associated with any agency or the University of Nebraska in developing the Integrated Management Plan. Mr. Paulman stated that the West Central Nebraska Water Users Coalition would like to be kept informed as much as possible with discussions involving development of the Integrated Management Plan and any revisions being considered for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District's Ground Water Management Plan.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

Minutes for October 14, 2004 Meeting - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the Minutes for

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the October 14, 2004 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 October 14, 2004 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mr. Baldrige seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #1)

AYE: Baldrige, Hansen, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Stack,
Wahlgren, Weaver, Wiseman

NAY: None

ABSENT & EXCUSED: Kramer, Schilz

COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORTS

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - District Conservationist Report – Mrs. Reece reported on current activities. Mrs. Reece reported that each month, notebooks containing the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Conservation Plans were available at the Board meeting for information and that the notebooks were passed around the Board table for review by each member of the Board of Directors present. Mrs. Reece asked the Board if they would like to continue seeing each conservation plan with the names of the producer as is currently done, if they would like to see each Conservation Plan without the names of the producer, or if they would like to see a monthly summary report of conservation plans and data with or without names of producers. The Board members agreed that they would like to see a monthly summary report of conservation plans and data with names of producers.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - Business Plan – Mrs. Reece reported that in the Directors' packet for information was the 2005 Business Plan for the North Platte and Ogallala Natural Resources Conservation Service offices that was prepared following consultation with the Twin Platte Natural Resources District personnel.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) – Mrs. Reece reported that she had information that needed to be presented to the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) Local Work Group, which includes Twin Platte Natural Resources District Directors, USDA Farm Service Agency County Committee members, and others, and she needed to give the Local Work Group an opportunity to offer comments. Mrs. Reece suggested that as an alternative to the local work group meeting, that she could present the information and receive comments from the Board at this time and she could meet later with each Farm Service Agency County Committees. The Board agreed to hear a report and offer comments at this time. Mrs. Reece provided a report and received comments.

Other Agencies – No reports presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT

Land Resources Subcommittee

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No report presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Water Resources Subcommittee

Mr. Meisner, Water Resources Subcommittee Chairperson, reported that the Water Resources Subcommittee met prior to the Board meeting this evening and he presented a report.

Ground Water Management - Ground Water Management Plan - Mr. Meisner reported that extensive discussion occurred and the Subcommittee agreed to continue discussion of revisions at a future meeting of the Subcommittee.

Integrated Management of Ground Water & Surface Water – Temporary Well Drilling Suspension – No report presented.

Integrated Management of Ground Water & Surface Water – Integrated Management Plan (IMP) – Mr. Meisner reported that the Subcommittee discussed various categories that should be considered for representation as a stakeholder during the development of the IMP. Mr. Meisner reported that this would be an agenda item for a future meeting of the Subcommittee.

Mr. Meisner reported that the Subcommittee only intends to prepare a recommendation for the Board of Directors in regard to stakeholder's participation, Board of Directors participation, and procedures and timelines. Mr. Meisner reported that the Subcommittee has no plans for discussing anything else in regard to the IMP as the IMP must be and should be developed in open sessions with the stakeholders.

Integrated Management of Ground Water & Surface Water – Certifying Irrigated Acres – Mr. Meisner reported that Sudheer Chadavada has been selected to be the GIS Coordinator and that he would begin working on December 1, 2004. Mr. Meisner reported that the resume for Mr. Chadavada was in the Directors' packet for information.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee

No report presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Executive Subcommittee

Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the Executive Subcommittee was continuing to meet to discuss the Board of Directors vacancy that will occur in Sub-District 1 in January 2005.

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FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Statement - Mr. Meismer reported that the Financial Statement for October 2004 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 2004 be received and placed on file for audit and to approve payment of the invoices presented on the Accounts Payable report on November 18, 2004 in the amount of \$14,245.70. Mr. Wiseman seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #2)

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

NAY: None

ABSENT & EXCUSED: Kramer, Schilz

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 October 14, 2004 Board meeting, that he reported, per District policy, that bids/proposals would be presented for consideration during the November 18, 2004 Board of Directors meeting for the purchase of computer equipment. Mr. Miller reported that the Budget provides for the purchase of this computer equipment. Mr. Miller reported that the bids/proposals being presented for approval were for a GIS computer workstation hardware and software for the new GIS Coordinator, a new laptop computer for the General Manager, and a new desktop computer for the Range Programs Coordinator. Mr. Miller reported that an approved agreement with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources provides the funds for the GIS Coordinator position and the GIS computer workstation hardware and software. Mr. Miller reported that the staff prepared the specifications for the GIS computer workstation hardware and software in consultation with Mr. Chadalavada and the Central Platte Natural Resources District GIS personnel. Mr. Miller reported that hardware bids/proposals were received from Gateway, Dell, and IBM. Mr. Miller reported that the software was only available from the provider and that the District was eligible for the government discount. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook was a report of the bids/proposals received. Mr. Miller recommended that the Board of Directors approve the low proposals received for the hardware and the proposals received for the software. Mr. Miller reported that the hardware and the ERDAS IMAGINE 8.7 software would be purchased immediately and the eCognition software would be purchased at a later time when the GIS Coordinator needs it, due to the necessity of having to purchase annual support and upgrades.

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Mr. Meisner moved that the Board of Directors approve the low proposal received from Gateway for a laptop computer in the amount of \$2,567.00, the low proposal received from Gateway for a desktop computer in the amount of \$1,369.00, the low proposal received from Dell for the GIS workstation in the amount of \$8,141.56, the proposal received from Leica Geosystems for the ERDAS IMAGINE 8.7 software and the annual support and upgrades in the amount of \$19,950.14, and the proposal received from Definiens Imaging for the eCognition software and the annual support and upgrades in the amount of \$11,860.00. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion. (Motion # 3)

Mr. Baldrige moved to divide motion #3 to allow a vote for the low proposal received from Gateway for a laptop computer in the amount of \$2,567.00, the low proposal received from Gateway for a desktop computer in the amount of \$1,369.00, and to allow a vote for the low proposal received from Dell for the GIS workstation in the amount of \$8,141.56, the proposal received from Leica Geosystems for the ERDAS IMAGINE 8.7 software and the annual support and upgrades in the amount of \$19,950.14, and the proposal received from Definiens Imaging for the eCognition software and the annual support and upgrades in the amount of \$11,860.00. Mr. Wiseman seconded the motion. The motion failed. (Motion #4)

AYE: Baldrige, Hansen, Wiseman
NAY: Meisner, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Stack, Wahlgren, Weaver
ABSENT & EXCUSED: Kramer, Schilz

Motion # 3 carried.

AYE: Hansen, Meisner, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Stack, Wahlgren, Weaver
NAY: Baldrige, Wiseman
ABSENT & EXCUSED: Kramer, Schilz

Bids/Proposals Scheduled To Be Presented for Consideration During the December 14, 2004 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 14, 2004 Board of Directors meeting for the purchase of a vehicle.

POLICIES

Operating Policy Number 26: Banking – Mr. Miller reported that the current Operating Policy Number 26: BANKING, was last updated May 11, 2000 and that the auditor recommends that the Board of Directors review this policy annually.

Mr. Stack moved to approve the following revisions for Operating Policy Number 26: BANKING (additions are underlined and deletions are lined through):

The following financial institutions shall be designated as depositories of the funds of

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the District: ~~TierOne United Nebraska Bank~~ - North Platte; First National Bank - North Platte; ~~Wells Fargo Western Nebraska National Bank~~ - North Platte; Adams Bank & Trust-Ogallala, Brule, North Platte, Sutherland; Gothenburg State Bank - Brady Branch - Brady; Bank of Keystone - Keystone; Nebraskaland National Bank - North Platte; Pinnacle Bank - Ogallala; and Valley Bank and Trust - Ogallala, and all checks, drafts, or other orders for payment of money may be endorsed for deposit by stamp or personal endorsement of any officer or employee and deposited in said accounts. The District Chairman or Treasurer is authorized to draw checks, drafts, or other orders for payment of money on said accounts and that these banks are authorized to honor the same, including checks and drafts payable to this District or to the bearer or to the order of the person signing the same.

Mr. Petersen seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #5)

A YE: Baldridge, Hansen, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Stack,
Wahlgren, Weaver, Wiseman

NAY: None

ABSENT & EXCUSED: Kramer, Schilz

DIRECTORS REPORTS

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts – Board of Directors Meeting – Mr. Meismer reported that the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Board of Directors meeting was held November 15, 2004 and he reported on the meeting.

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts – Water Policy Task Force – No report presented.

Platte River Citizens Advisory Council – No report presented.

Sandhills Resources, Conservation & Development Council – Mr. Hansen reported on recent activities of the Sandhills Resources, Conservation & Development Council.

Requests for Authorization to Travel - No requests were presented.

DISTRICT REPORT

Requests for Assistance – No requests for assistance were presented.

Cost-Share Programs - Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout was the monthly report. Mr. Miller reported that \$43,721.46 was available.

Mr. Petersen moved to approve the November 2004 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</u> |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------------|
|--------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------------|

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| | <u>Fund</u> |
|---|-------------------------|
| <u>PROPOSED NEW CONTRACTS:</u> | |
| 05-013 NC-1 Terraces | \$ 1,892.50 \$ 1,892.50 |
| 05-014 NC-17 Irrigation Water Management | \$ 2,086.50 \$ 2,086.50 |
| 05-015 NC-12 Trees | \$ 260.56 \$ 260.56 |
| 05-016 NC-12 Trees | \$ 831.00 \$ 831.00 |
| Total Amount of New Contracts | \$ 5,070.56 |
| FUNDS AVAILABLE: Practice NC-12, Windbreaks | \$ 22,177.07 |
| Practice NC-14, Planned Grazing | \$ 1,535.46 |
| Practice NC-17, Irrigation | \$ 12,177.53 |
| Other available practices | \$ 2,760.84 |

Mr. Wiseman seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #6)

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

NAY: None

ABSENT & EXCUSED: Kramer, Schilz

Cost-Share Programs - District Conservation Program – Sealing Abandoned Wells – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout was a report for information. Mr. Miller reported that \$7,414.10 was available for new contracts.

Tree Program – No report presented.

Range Programs – No report presented.

Soil Conservation Programs – No report presented.

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

Wildlife Habitat Programs – Corners for Wildlife Program – No report presented.

Water Programs – Ground Water Management – Monitoring Programs – No report presented.

Water Programs – Ground Water Management – Ground Water Management Plan – No report presented.

Water Programs – Integrated Management of Ground Water & Surface Water – Temporary Well Drilling Suspension – No report presented.

Water Programs – Integrated Management of Ground Water & Surface Water – Integrated Management Plan – No report presented.

Water Programs – Integrated Management of Ground Water & Surface Water – Certifying Irrigated Acres – No report presented.

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Water Programs – Integrated Management of Ground Water & Surface Water – Platte River Cooperative Agreement – No report presented.

Water Programs – Watershed Program - Brule – No report presented.

Water Programs – Watershed Program – Western Irrigation Watershed – Mr. Miller reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District, the South Platte Natural Resources District, and the Upper Republican Natural Resources District have jointly requested the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to prepare a Watershed Program Preliminary Plan for an area located in Keith, Perkins, and Deuel Counties Nebraska, identified as the Western Irrigation Watershed. Mr. Miller reported that extensive damage and the loss of one life occurred as a result of a storm in this area on July 6, 2002. Mr. Miller reported that the preliminary plan will identify conservation measures and structural measures within the watershed and determine feasibility based in part on a benefit cost ratio, and that the preliminary plan will take about 19 months to develop. Mr. Miller reported that the NRCS has begun preparation of the preliminary plan. Mr. Miller reported that NRCS personnel toured the Western Irrigation Watershed area on November 8-9, 2004. Mr. Miller reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District, the South Platte Natural Resources District, and the Upper Republican Natural Resources District jointly held a Public Information Meeting prior to the NRCS personnel beginning their tour to allow the local people an opportunity to hear the NRCS personnel describe what they will be doing over the next 19 months. Mr. Miller reported that letters were sent to all of the landowners within the area being considered inviting them to the Public Information Meeting, which was held on November 8, 2004 from 1:00 to 2:00 pm MST at the Brule Community Hall in Brule, NE. Mr. Miller reported that when the preliminary plan is completed, the Twin Platte Natural Resources District, the South Platte Natural Resources District, and the Upper Republican Natural Resources District will have the opportunity to determine whether to proceed to implementation.

Water Programs – Interlocal Cooperation Agreements - Cooperative Hydrology Study – Mr. Miller reported on the status of the Peer Review.

Water Programs – Interlocal Cooperation Agreements – Ground Water Management Coalition – No report presented.

Water Programs – Interlocal Cooperation Agreements – South Platte Coalition – No report presented.

Water Programs – Interlocal Cooperation Agreements – Nebraska Habitat Conservation Coalition – No report presented.

Regulatory Programs - Chemigation – No report presented.

Regulatory Programs – Erosion and Sediment Control - No report presented.

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Regulatory Programs – Ground Water Runoff - No report presented.

Trails – Lake Maloney – No report presented.

Information & Education Programs – 2004 Awards Program – Presentation, November 8, 2004 – Mr. Miller reported that the District’s 2004 Grassland Conservation Award for Lincoln/McPherson Counties was presented November 8, 2004 to Clarence & Lila Arensdorf 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.

Information & Education Programs – 2004 Awards Program – Presentation, December 14, 2004 – Mr. Miller reported that the District’s 2004 Tree Award for Keith/Arthur Counties would be presented December 14, 2004 to Wayne and Joan Hansmeier (Kingsley Cattle Company) 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.

Personnel - 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.

Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors’ notebook was a U.S. Geological Survey report titled “Water-Level Changes in the High Plains Aquifer, Predevelopment to 2003 and 2002 to 2003”.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m. CST (3:40 p.m. MST).

Jerry Weaver, Secretary