

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
June 9, 2005

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 June 9, 2005. Mr. Rubenthaler called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. CDT (6:33 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

Eric Hansen
James Meisner
Robert Petersen
Jim Rubenthaler
Dennis Schilz
Douglas Stack
Shane Storer
Joe Wahlgren

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Jeff Baldrige
Jerry Weaver
Robert Wiseman

OTHERS PRESENT

Neil Betty
Mike Wheeler, Sargent Irrigation
Frank Kwapnioski, NPPD

NRCS PERSONNEL PRESENT

Edwin Martinez
Mary Reece, District Conservationist

STAFF PRESENT

Amy Mapes, Administrative Assistant
Kent O. Miller, General Manager

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Report of Directors Excused – Mr. Rubenthaler reported that Operating Policy Number 4: BOARD OF DIRECTORS ABSENCES, provides that a Director will be considered excused if the Director notifies the office prior to the meeting that he or she will be absent and that the minutes will reflect whether an absent Director is excused or unexcused. Mr. Rubenthaler reported that Mr. Weaver and Mr. Wiseman had notified the office prior to the meeting that they would be absent and that they therefore are excused. Mr. Rubenthaler reported that Mr. Baldrige had not notified the office prior to the meeting that he would be absent and that he therefore is unexcused.

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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 monthly summary reports of NRCS conservation plans were available for information and that the reports would be passed around the Board table for review by each member of the Board of Directors present.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Rubenthaler opened the Public Forum.

There were no comments.

Mr. Rubenthaler closed the Public Forum.

AGENDA MODIFICATION

None presented.

GENERAL INFORMATION

No report presented.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

Minutes for May 12, 2005 Meeting - Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the Minutes for the May 12, 2005 Board of Directors meeting was in the Directors' packet and he asked if there were corrections or additions to the Minutes.

Mr. Petersen moved that the Minutes of the May 12, 2005 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mr. Stack seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #1)

Aye: Hansen, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Schilz, Stack, Storer,
Wahlgren

Nay: None

Absent & Excused: Weaver, Wiseman

Absent: Baldrige

COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORTS

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

Other Agencies – No reports presented.

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SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Land Resources Subcommittee

Mr. Hansen, Land Resources Subcommittee member, reported that the Land Resources Subcommittee met prior to the Board meeting and he presented a report.

Awards Program - Conservation Award for 2005 - Mr. Hansen reported that the Subcommittee agreed to select Chuck & Connie Frates and P & T Farms, Brule, NE to receive the 2005 Conservation Award for Keith /Arthur Counties.

Awards Program - Tree Award for 2005 – Mr. Hansen reported that the Subcommittee agreed to select Rocky Hoffman, North Platte, NE to receive the 2005 Tree Award for Lincoln / McPherson Counties.

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

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

Personnel Salaries for 2006 Fiscal Year – Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the Subcommittee reviewed the authorized positions, reviewed the salary schedules, reviewed the cost-of-living, and reviewed the General Manager's salary.

Mr. Stack moved the Executive Subcommittee recommendation to the Board of Directors that the salary schedule steps for each position be increased 2.86% for the 2006 Fiscal Year in recognition of the cost-of-living to maintain the value of the salary compensation and that the General Manager's salary be set at \$67,000.00 for the 2006 Fiscal Year. Mr. Meismer seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #2)

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Aye: Hansen, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Schilz, Stack, Storer,
Wahlgren
Nay: None
Absent & Excused: Weaver, Wiseman
Absent: Baldrige

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Statement - Mr. Meismer reported that the Financial Statement for May 2005 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 May 2005 be received and placed on file for audit and to approve payment of the invoices presented on the Accounts Payable report on June 9, 2005 in the amount of \$54,974.54. Mr. Schilz seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #3)

Aye: Hansen, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Schilz, Stack, Storer,
Wahlgren
Nay: None
Absent & Excused: Weaver, Wiseman
Absent: Baldrige

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 July 14, 2005 Board of Directors Meeting – Mr. Miller reported that no bids/proposals were scheduled to be presented for consideration during the July 14, 2005 Board of Directors meeting.

Audit for 2005 Fiscal Year - Mr. Miller reported that the District has received a proposal from the accounting firm of McChesney, Martin and Sagehorn to audit the financial statements of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District for the 2005 Fiscal Year, which ends June 30, 2005. Mr. Miller reported that the audit would be performed by Glen Waltemath. Mr. Miller reported that the audit of the financial statements of the District is required by Nebraska Statutes. 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 2005 Fiscal Year was \$2,975.00.

Mr. Stack moved that the proposal received from the accounting firm of McChesney,

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Martin and Sagehorn to audit the financial statements of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District for the 2005 Fiscal Year be accepted and to authorize the General Manager to sign the proposal as the District representative. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #4)

Aye: Hansen, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Schilz, Stack, Storer,
Wahlgren
Nay: None
Absent & Excused: Weaver, Wiseman
Absent: Baldrige

DIRECTORS REPORTS

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

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts – Blue River Basin Tour – June 20-21, 2005 – Mr. Meismer reported that the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts annual basin tour for 2005 will be held in the Blue River Basin June 20-21, 2005. Mr. Meismer reported that in the Directors Board meeting packet was an information letter, the Itinerary, and the registration form.

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

Platte River Citizens Advisory Council – Mr. Meismer reported on the Platte River Citizens Advisory Council meeting held on June 2, 2005. Mr. Meismer reported that in the Directors Board meeting packet for information was a Lake McConaughy Update report prepared by the Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District and a Lake McConaughy Environmental Account Update report prepared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service which were distributed during the Advisory Council meeting.

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 \$5,841.56 was available.

Mr. Wahlgren moved to approve the June 9, 2005 report as presented and to approve the

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following new contracts:

<u>Cont#</u>	<u>Practice</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>App Amt</u>	<u>Prop Amt To</u> <u>Fund</u>
<u>PROPOSED NEW CONTRACTS:</u>				
05-068	NC-14	Planned Grazing System	\$ 1,369.70	\$ 1,369.70
Total Amount of New Contracts				\$ 1,369.70
FUNDS AVAILABLE:				\$ 4,471.86

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

Aye: Hansen, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Schilz, Stack, Storer, Wahlgren
 Nay: None
 Absent & Excused: Weaver, Wiseman
 Absent: Baldrige

Cost-Share Programs - District Conservation Program – Sealing Abandoned Wells – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' Board meeting notebook was a report for information. Mr. Miller reported that \$2,725.99 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 – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors Board meeting packet for information was a letter from Roger Patterson, Director, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources dated May 26, 2005 approving the requested revisions for Chapter 8 of the Ground Water Management Plan. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors Board meeting packet for information was Chapter 8 of the Ground Water Management Plan approved by the Director of Natural Resources. Mr. Miller reported that the staff hopes to have a draft of the required rules and regulations available for the Water Resources Subcommittee to review prior to the July 14, 2005 Board of Directors meeting. Mr. Miller reported that the rules and regulations will need to be approved by the Board of Directors for public hearing, a public hearing will need to be held and final approval of the rules and regulations by the Board of Directors will need to be approved before the Ground Water Management Area can be initiated. Mr. Miller reported that he anticipated that the following schedule could be accomplished:

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August 11	Rules and regulations approved by the Board of Directors for public hearing
August/September	Public Hearing(s)
September 8 or October 13	Final approval of the rules and regulations by the Board of Directors

Water Programs – Integrated Management of Ground Water & Surface Water – Temporary Well Drilling Suspension – Mr. Miller reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District received a letter dated May 20, 2005 from Chuck Frates, requesting a variance.

Mr. Stack moved to approve the following agreement:

This Agreement made and entered into effective on the latest date signed between the Twin Platte Natural Resources District and Chuck Frates.

RECITALS

Stays have been imposed on the use of existing water wells in an affected area within the Twin Platte Natural Resources District to increase the number of acres historically irrigated.

The Twin Platte Natural Resources District received a letter dated May 20, 2005 from Chuck Frates, requesting a variance on the property described as:

- Sections 32 and 34, Township 13 North, Range 40 West of the 6th P.M., Keith County, Nebraska.

to irrigate lands not presently irrigated by allowing:

- An additional 6.00 acres of dry land to be irrigated in the NE ¼ Section 32, Township 13 North, Range 40 West from a ground water well, Registration Number G-011694
- An additional 1.0 acre of dry land to be irrigated in the NW ¼ Section 34, Township 13 North, Range 40 West from a ground water well, Registration Number G-042589

in exchange for returning to dry land

- 10.74 acres of irrigated land in the SE ¼ Section 32, Township 13 North, Range 40 West.

The edge of the parcel of land within which the acres are being taken out of irrigated production is within one mile of the edge of the parcel of land to be irrigated.

The total new acres not presently irrigated would be 7.0 acres and the total acres returning to dry land would be 10.74 acres.

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NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the above recitals:

Chuck Frates agrees

- That in the NE ¼ Section 32, Township 13 North, Range 40 West, ground water well, Registration Number G-011694, will only be used to irrigate 145.9 acres (139.9 acres plus 6.0 acres) and not to increase that amount of irrigated acres.
- That in the NW ¼ Section 34, Township 13 North, Range 40 West, ground water well, Registration Number G-042589, will only be used to irrigate 145.1 acres (144.1 acres plus 1.0 acre) and not to increase that amount of irrigated acres.
- That in the SE ¼ Section 32, Township 13 North, Range 40 West, ground water well, Registration Number G-044206, will only be used to irrigate 142.8 acres (153.54 acres less 5.98 acres and less 4.76 acres) and not to increase that amount of irrigated acres.

Chuck Frates agrees to complete the Farm Service Agency Certification of Identity form, Nebraska Notice INFO-272, to allow the TPNRD access to acreage data for the E ½ Section 32, Township 13 North, Range 40 West and the NW ¼ Section 34, Township 13 North, Range 40 West.

The Twin Platte Natural Resources District agrees to grant a variance to Chuck Frates to irrigate 145.9 acres in the NE ¼ Section 32, Township 13 North, Range 40 West, to irrigate 145.1 acres in the NW ¼ Section 34, Township 13 North, Range 40 West, and to irrigate 142.8 acres in the SE ¼ Section 32, Township 13 North, Range 40 West, in exchange for not irrigating 10.74 acres currently irrigated in the SE ¼ Section 32, Township 13 North, Range 40 West of the 6th P.M., Keith County, Nebraska.

and to authorize the General Manager to sign the agreement as the District representative.

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

Aye: Hansen, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Schilz, Stack, Storer, Wahlgren

Nay: None

Absent & Excused: Weaver, Wiseman

Absent: Baldrige

Water Programs – Integrated Management of Ground Water & Surface Water – Integrated Management Plan – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors Board meeting packet for information was a schedule for Twin Platte Natural Resources District Stakeholder meetings.

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

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 – No report presented.

Water Programs – Interlocal Cooperation Agreements - Cooperative Hydrology Study – No report presented.

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.

Regulatory Programs – Ground Water Runoff - No report presented.

Trails – Lake Maloney – No report presented.

Information & Education Programs – Mr. Miller reported that the District's policy provides for seven scholarships annually for the Nebraska Range Youth Camp. Mr. Miller reported that the District provides the full cost of the camp (transportation is not included). Mr. Miller reported that the District received three applications which were awarded. Mr. Miller reported that the cost is \$250.00 and that the camp is held at the State 4-H Camp at Halsey.

Mr. Miller reported that the District's policy provides for three scholarships annually for other Natural Resources and Leadership related camps for youth. Mr. Miller reported that the District provides the full cost of the camp (transportation is not included). Mr. Miller reported that the District received two applications for the Explorer Camp which were awarded. Mr. Miller reported that the cost for the Explorer camp is \$233.00 and that the camp is held at the State 4-H Camp at Halsey.

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Mr. Miller reported that the District's policy provides that if applications for other scholarships for youth or teachers are received, the Board would consider the applications. Mr. Miller reported that none were received.

Legislation – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors Board meeting packet for information was the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Legislative Report – May 31, 2005 and the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Legislative Interim Study Resolutions Report – May 31, 2005.

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' Board meeting packet.

Miscellaneous Information – Mr. Miller reported that various items of information were in the Directors' Board meeting packet and in the Directors' Board meeting notebook.

Mr. Miller reported that the District has hired a college student for the summer, Wacey Krull, to work with Mr. Carhart in the Chemigation Program and with Mr. Bowers in the Ground Water Data Collection Program.

BUDGET FOR 2006 FISCAL YEAR

Preparation Schedule - Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet was a schedule for preparing the 2006 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 and provides the Board four opportunities to review and discuss the Budget prior to final approval.

Review Draft #1 - Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout was the first draft of a budget for the 2006 fiscal year. Mr. Miller reviewed the information for the proposed budget for the 2006 fiscal year.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m. CDT (8:02 p.m. MDT).

Jerry Weaver, Secretary