

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
February 9, 2006

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 February 9, 2006. Mr. Rubenthaler called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. CST (2:05 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 Meismer
Robert Petersen
Dennis Schilz
Douglas Stack
Joe Wahlgren
Jerry Weaver
Robert Wiseman

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Shane Storer

OTHERS PRESENT

Neil Betty
Glen Waltemath, McChesney Martin Sagehorn PC (Auditor)
Mike Wheeler, Sargent Irrigation

NRCS PERSONNEL PRESENT

Roger Hammer
Lee Morse
Jeff Nichols
Alvin Perez

STAFF PRESENT

Sudheer Chadalavada, GIS Coordinator
Ann Dimmitt, Water Programs Regulatory Coordinator
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

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unexcused. Mr. Rubenthaler reported that Mr. Storer had notified the office prior to the meeting and that he would be absent and that he is therefore excused.

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. Mr. Rubenthaler reported that a notebook containing the Cooperative Agreements between the Nebraska Board of Educational Lands and Funds and Lessees that were signed by the General Manager as the Twin Platte Natural Resources District representative for the District to assist in the development and the application of a complete resources conservation plan was available for information, and that the notebook would be passed around the Board table for review by each member of the Board of Directors present. Mr. Miller reported that on the Board table for each Board member and available as a handout was the Twin Platte Natural Resources District newsletter, Winter 2006, Volume 21.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Rubenthaler opened the Public Forum.

There were no comments.

Mr. Rubenthaler closed the Public Forum.

AGENDA MODIFICATION

None presented.

GENERAL INFORMATION

None presented.

AUDIT

2005 Fiscal Year – Mr. Meismer reported that the Audit for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District for the 2005 Fiscal Year was mailed to each member of the Board of Directors prior to the Board meeting.

Mr. Petersen moved that the Audit for the 2005 Fiscal Year be received. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #1)

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

Mr. Meismer reported that Glen Waltemath prepared the Audit for the District and that he was present and available for questions.

Mr. Schilz moved that the Audit for the 2005 Fiscal Year be allowed and to approve the Financial Statements for the 2005 Fiscal Year as acceptable and settled. Mr. Wiseman seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #2)

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

Minutes for January 19, 2006 Meeting – Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the Minutes for the January 19, 2006 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 January 19, 2006 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mr. Schilz seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #3)

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

COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORT

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service – District Conservationist Report – Mr. Nichols reported that in the Directors’ notebook was a written report and he reviewed the report. Mr. Nichols reported that in the Directors’ notebook was a letter from the Stephen Chick, State Conservationist, dated February 2, 2006, providing information about the conservation programs available for all people. Mr. Nichols reported that in the Directors’ packet for information was a letter from Stephen Chick, State Conservationist, dated January 13, 2006, providing information about the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative and the Conservation Innovation Grants.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service – Soil Survey Report – Mr. Hammer reported on the status of soil survey work in the Twin Platte Natural Resources District.

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SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Land Resources Subcommittee

No report presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Water Resources Subcommittee

Mr. Meismer reported that the Water Resources Subcommittee meeting scheduled for this afternoon had been cancelled and that he therefore had no report to present.

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 January 2006 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 January 2006 be received and placed on file for audit and to approve payment of the invoices presented on the Accounts Payable report on February 9, 2006 in the amount of \$28,663.28. Mr. Schilz seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #4)

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

Budget Status – Mr. Meismer reported that the Budget Status report was in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout.

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Bids/Proposals – None were presented.

Bids/Proposals Scheduled To Be Presented for Consideration During the March 9, 2006 Board of Directors Meeting – Mr. Miller reported that no bids/proposals were scheduled to be presented for consideration during the March 9, 2006 Board of Directors meeting.

DIRECTORS REPORTS

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts – Legislative Conference, January 24-25, 2006 – Mr. Meismer reported that Mr. Hansen, Mr. Stack, Mr. Petersen, Mr. Wiseman, Mr. Weaver, and Mr. Miller attended the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts annual Legislative Conference held on January 24-25, 2006 in Lincoln, Nebraska. Mr. Meismer reported that in the Directors notebook for information was a summary of Legislation considered during the conference and the position the association took for each Legislative Bill considered. Mr. Meismer reported that Senator Pederson had a private dinner with representatives of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District attending the conference on Tuesday evening, January 24, 2006 following the reception. Mr. Meismer reported that the panhandle Natural Resources Districts have a formal dinner, which Senator Phillip Erdman participates and the Loup River Basin Natural Resources Districts have a formal dinner, which Senator Deb Fischer participates.

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts – Board of Directors Meeting – Mr. Meismer reported on the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Board of Directors meeting held on January 25, 2006.

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts – Deferred Compensation Plan for Natural Resources District Employees – Mr. Meismer reported that in the Directors’ packet was a resolution for Natural Resources Districts Board of Directors to adopt, to participate in the new Nebraska Association of Resources Districts 457 Retirement Program. Mr. Miller reported that this is an optional retirement program for Natural Resources District employees to voluntarily participate and that this program is in addition to the mandatory 414(h) program. Mr. Miller reported that this 457 Retirement Program does not provide for any Natural Resources District funds. Mr. Miller reported that participating employees are allowed to have funds deducted from their pay checks for this supplemental retirement program. Mr. Meismer reported that the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Board approved the plan document at the January 25, 2006 Board Meeting.

Mr. Meismer reported that two proposals regarding the existing Internal Revenue Code Section 457 eligible deferred compensation plan were being submitted to the Board of Directors of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District (the “NRD”) on February 9, 2006. Mr. Meismer reported that the first proposal was a recommendation to amend and restate the existing 457 deferred compensation plan of the NRD as a Participating Employer of the newly adopted Section 457 deferred compensation plan of the Nebraska Association of Resources District, known as the Nebraska Association of Resources

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Districts 457 Deferred Compensation Plan (the “NARD Plan”), effective as of January 1, 2006. Mr. Meisner reported that the second proposal was a recommendation to merge the existing Section 457 deferred compensation plan of the NRD with and into the new NARD Plan, effective as of January 1, 2006. Review and full discussion of the proposals occurred.

Mr. Meisner moved to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the amendment and restatement of the existing 457 deferred compensation plan of the NRD as a Participating Employer of the newly adopted Nebraska Association of Resources Districts 457 Deferred Compensation Plan (the “NARD Plan”) by the Nebraska Association of Resources District, effective as of January 1, 2006, is hereby authorized and approved;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that any officer of the NRD shall be authorized to execute the Participation Agreement to effectuate the participation in the NARD Plan;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the consent to the appointment of Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Board of Directors as the Trustee, pursuant to the trust which is made a part of the NARD Plan, is hereby authorized and approved;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the consent to the Plan Year of the NARD Plan as the 12-month period commencing on January 1st of each year and ending on December 31st of each year is hereby authorized and approved;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that, effective as of January 1, 2006, the merger of the existing Section 457 deferred compensation plan of the NRD with and into the NARD Plan, such that the NARD Plan shall be the surviving and successor Section 457 Plan, is hereby authorized and approved;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the adoption of the NARD Plan and the merger of the existing Section 457 deferred compensation plan of the NRD shall be carried out and accomplished as provided in the NARD Plan and the articles of merger;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that any officer of the NRD shall be authorized to execute the Articles of Merger to effectuate the merger of the existing Section 457 deferred compensation plan of the NRD with and into the NARD Plan;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the officers of the NRD are hereby authorized and directed to establish such reasonable, non-discriminatory, and uniformly applied rules and regulations for the administration of the NARD Plan as they deem appropriate from time to time, such rules in all cases are to be consistent with the provisions of the NARD Plan document and applicable laws;

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RESOLVED FURTHER, that the officers of the NRD be, and they hereby are, authorized and directed to take such actions as may be necessary or appropriate to fully implement the foregoing Resolutions including, but not limited to the execution of the Participation Agreement, the Articles of Merger and any other necessary documentation, and the preparation and distribution of appropriate notification, explanatory booklets and materials to participants and beneficiaries of the NARD Plan;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that any and all actions taken and documentation executed by the management or the officers of the NRD to effectuate the foregoing Resolutions and the transactions described therein be, and they hereby are, approved and ratified.

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

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

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts – Water Policy Task Force – Mr. Miller 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.

Subcommittee Appointments for 2006 - Mr. Rubenthaler announced the following appointments for the Subcommittees for 2006:

Water Resources Subcommittee

Jim Meismer - Chairperson
Robert Petersen
Joe Wahlgren
Jerry Weaver
Robert Wiseman
Dennis Schilz - Alternate

Land Resources Subcommittee

Jeff Baldridge - Chairperson
Eric Hansen
Shane Storer

Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee

Douglas Stack - Chairperson

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Jim Rubenthaler
Dennis Schilz

Board of Directors Elections 2006 – Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the deadline for incumbents filing for re-election is February 15, and the deadline for Non-Office Holders filing for election is March 1. Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Directors seats up for election in 2006 are:

Sub-District 1	Eric Hansen
Sub-District 2	Joe Wahlgren
Sub-District 3	Doug Stack
Sub-District 4	Jeff Baldridge
Sub-District 5	Jim Meisner
At-Large	Jim Rubenthaler

Mr. Rubenthaler reported that in the Directors' packet for information was the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Operating Policy Number 3: Board of Directors Election Sub-Districts which is the official listing of voting precincts for each election Sub-District and maps of the election Sub-Districts.

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 on the following Twin Platte Natural Resources District guidelines for the Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program:

- Funding adjustments shall go back to the reserved category established by the Board of Directors that the funds came from.
- Applications will be considered in the order the producers sign them.
- From July 1 – January 30, applications shall be considered for funding only when funds are available to fully fund the contract.
- 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.
- On June 30, all applications not approved by the Board of Directors shall be cancelled.

Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook and available as a handout was the monthly report.

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Mr. Miller reported that \$46,419.00 is available for funding additional contracts. Mr. Miller reported that if the Board approves all the applications currently on file in the amount of \$21,357.26, that there would be \$25,061.74 of un-obligated funds. Mr. Miller reported that any un-obligated funds on March 1, 2006 are required to be returned to the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources for re-distribution to Natural Resources Districts.

Mr. Wahlgren moved to approve the February 9, 2006 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>
6.032	NC-12	Trees	\$ 896.90	\$ 896.90
6.033	NC-12	Trees	\$ 634.10	\$ 634.10
6.034	NC-12	Trees	\$ 769.29	\$ 769.29
6.035	NC-12	Trees	\$ 914.00	\$ 914.00
6.036	NC-12	Trees	\$ 891.20	\$ 891.20
6.037	NC-12	Trees	\$ 499.85	\$ 499.85
6.038	NC-12	Trees	\$ 675.44	\$ 675.44
6.039	NC-12	Trees	\$ 379.90	\$ 379.90
6.040	NC-12	Trees	\$ 282.15	\$ 282.15
6.041	NC-12	Trees	\$ 153.43	\$ 153.43
6.042	NC-12	Trees	\$ 594.10	\$ 594.10
6.043	NC-12	Trees	\$ 591.25	\$ 591.25
6.044	NC-12	Trees	\$ 914.00	\$ 914.00
6.045	NC-14	Planned Grazing System	\$ 1,161.50	\$ 1,161.50
6.046	NC-12	Trees	\$ 916.00	\$ 916.00
6.047	NC-12	Trees	\$ 608.40	\$ 608.40
6.048	NC-12	Trees	\$ 859.75	\$ 859.75
6.049	NC-17	Irrigation Water Management	\$ 3,920.00	\$ 3,920.00
6.050	NC-17	Irrigation Water Management	\$ 1,360.00	\$ 1,360.00
6.051	NC-17	Irrigation Water Management	\$ 4,336.00	\$ 4,336.00
Total Amount of New Contracts				\$ 21,357.26

FUNDS AVAILABLE: \$ 25,061.74

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

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

Mr. Stack moved to authorize the General Manager to approve additional contracts in the order they are signed by the producer and received in the office prior to March 1, 2006

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for any eligible practices available for cost share within the Twin Platte Natural Resources District up to and not to exceed the funds available. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #7)

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

Cost-Share Programs – Well Abandonment Contracts – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' Board meeting notebook was a report for information. Mr. Miller reported that \$3,982.81 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 – Ground Water Management Area – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook for information was the “Order Establishing the District-Wide Ground Water Management Area and Adoption of Rules and Regulations for the District-Wide Ground Water Management Area” adopted by the Board of Directors on January 19, 2006 and which will become effective on February 24, 2006.

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 – Mr. Miller reported on the meetings held and the schedule for future meetings of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Stakeholders. Mr. Miller reported on the meetings held and the schedule for future meetings of the Platte River Basin Stakeholders. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook for information was a letter received from Russell Schilz, Superintendent, Lancaster County Weed Control Authority.

Water Programs – Integrated Management of Ground Water & Surface Water – Certifying Irrigated Acres – Mr. Miller reported on the status of certifying irrigated acres within the Twin Platte Natural Resources District.

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Water Programs – Integrated Management of Ground Water & Surface Water – Platte River Cooperative Agreement – Mr. Miller reported on the status of the Platte River Cooperative Agreement.

Water Programs – Watersheds - Brule – No report presented.

Water Programs – Watersheds – Western Irrigation – 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.

Water Programs – South Platte Compact – Nebraska Environmental Trust Grant Application – Mr. Miller reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District’s application to the Nebraska Environmental Trust for a project titled “South Platte River Water Improvements” was not approved for funding by the Trust. Mr. Miller reported that the proposed project, which the Board of Directors approved August 11, 2005, was to research the South Platte River Compact to look at the winter provisions of the Compact and to obtain the necessary information that would be needed for filing an application for the water right for the winter provisions of the South Platte River Compact. Mr. Miller reported that he would be discussing with the Western Irrigation District other options for doing the project.

Regulatory Programs - Chemigation – No report presented.

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

Regulatory Programs – Ground Water Runoff - No report presented.

Trails – No report presented.

Information & Education Programs – No report presented.

Legislation – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors’ packet for information was a Nebraska Association of Resources Districts report dated February 3, 2006.

Requests for Authorization to Travel – No requests for authorization to travel.

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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.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

NEXT MEETING

Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the next Board of Directors meeting would be held on Thursday, March 9, 2006 at 3:00 pm CST (2:00 pm MST) in North Platte, Nebraska.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m. CST (3:38 p.m. MST).

Jerry Weaver, Secretary

KOM:MINUTES:Bmin0206