

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
Board of Directors Meeting  
March 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 March 9, 2006. Mr. Rubenthaler called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m. CST (2:10 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

Eric Hansen  
James Meisner  
Robert Petersen  
Jim Rubenthaler  
Dennis Schilz  
Douglas Stack  
Jerry Weaver  
Robert Wiseman

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Jeff Baldrige  
Shane Storer  
Joe Wahlgren

OTHERS PRESENT

Frank Kwapnioski, Nebraska Public Power District  
Larry Vasquez, Logan County Coop  
Mike Wheeler, Sargent Irrigation  
Duane Woodward, Central Platte Natural Resources District

NRCS PERSONNEL PRESENT

Lee Morse  
Mary Reece

STAFF PRESENT

Bill Carhart, Range Programs 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 unexcused. Mr. Rubenthaler reported that Mr. Storer and Mr. Wahlgren had notified the office prior to the meeting and that they would be absent and therefore excused. Mr.

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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.

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.

Larry Vasquez of the Logan County Coop requested that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District provide cost-share for soil sampling. Mr. Vasquez reported that the Upper Loup Natural Resources District provides cost-share for soil sampling.

Mr. Rubenthaler closed the Public Forum.

AGENDA MODIFICATION

Mr. Meismer, Water Resources Subcommittee Chairperson, reported that for the South Platte River Compact agenda item, the Water Resources Subcommittee is recommending that the Board of Directors go into Executive Session to discuss legal matters relating to the South Platte River Compact. Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the Water Resources Subcommittee agenda for the South Platte River Compact would occur at the end of the Board meeting.

GENERAL INFORMATION

None presented.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

Minutes for February 9, 2006 Meeting – Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the Minutes for the February 9, 2006 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 February 9, 2006 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mr. Meismer seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #1)

Aye: Hansen, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Schilz, Stack, Weaver, Wiseman

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Nay: None  
Absent & Excused: Storer, Wahlgren  
Absent: Baldrige

REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

Logan County Coop – Mr. Rubentahler reported that this agenda item was to consider the request presented during the Public Forum by Mr. Vasquez of the Logan County Coop that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District provide cost-share for soil sampling. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors’ packet was information the staff requested and received from the Upper Loup Natural Resources District in regard to there cost-share program for soil sampling. Mr. Miller reported that the Upper Loup Natural Resources District was utilizing Nebraska Water Quality Funds for this cost-share program and that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District was using the Nebraska Water Quality Funds for other programs. Mr. Miller reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District last provided a cost-share program for soil sampling during the 2000 Fiscal Year. Mr. Miller recommended that if the Board is interesting in again offering a cost-share program for soil sampling, that the Board may wish to consider such a program during the preparation of the Budget for the 2007 Fiscal Year.

The Board agreed that they would like to consider during the April 13, 2006 Board of Directors meeting the request that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District provide cost-share for soil sampling.

UNL Summer Water Conference – Mr. Rubentahler reported that this agenda item was to consider a request from the University of Nebraska West Central Research and Extension Center in North Platte. Mr. Miller reported that the West Central Research and Extension Center is planning a second annual Summer Water Conference for August 17, 2006. Mr. Miller reported that Dan Smith, General Manager, Middle Republican Natural Resources District, is participating in the planning and was requested by the planning committee to contact the Tri-Basin Natural Resources District, the Upper Republican Natural Resources District, the Central Platte Natural Resources District, and the Twin Platte Natural Resources District and request that each District contribute \$500.00. Mr. Miller reported that last year, there was a \$20.00 charge per person to attend the conference and that this year they would like it to be free for the producers.

The Board took no action and therefore the Twin Platte Natural Resources District will not be contributing funds for the University of Nebraska West Central Research and Extension Center’s second annual Summer Water Conference which will be held on August 17, 2006.

COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORT

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

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SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT  
Land Resources Subcommittee

No report presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT  
Water Resources Subcommittee

Mr. Meismer, Water Resources Subcommittee Chairperson, presented a report for the Water Resources Subcommittee meeting held on March 9, 2006.

Ground Water Management - Interlocal Cooperation Agreement – Ground Water Modeling Coalition – Mr. Meismer reported that the Cooperative Hydrology Study (COHYST) model is nearing completion and that each Natural Resources District now needs the services of a ground water modeler to use the COHYST model for administration of the required integrated management of ground water and surface. Mr. Meismer requested that Mr. Miller present a report.

Mr. Miller reported that currently, only the Central Platte Natural Resources District has a modeler on staff. Mr. Miller reported that Interlocal Cooperation Agreements for two Ground Water Modeling Coalitions are being recommended by the General Managers of the Tri Basin Natural Resources District, the Central Platte Natural Resources District, the South Platte Natural Resources District, the North Platte Natural Resources District, and the Twin Platte Natural Resources District to hire two Hydrologist / Ground Water Modelers.

Mr. Miller reported that the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for one of the Ground Water Modeling Coalitions was being recommended for the Tri Basin Natural Resources District, the Central Platte Natural Resources District, and the Twin Platte Natural Resources District to hire one of the ground water modelers with funding being shared 60% by the Twin Platte Natural Resources District, 25% by the Tri Basin Natural Resources District, and 15% by the Central Platte Natural Resources District with the Hydrologist / Ground Water Modeler to be housed in the Twin Platte Natural Resources District offices in North Platte.

Mr. Miller reported that the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for the second Ground Water Modeling Coalitions was being recommended for the North Platte Natural Resources District and the South Platte Natural Resources District to hire one of the ground water modelers with funding being shared 70% by the North Platte Natural Resources District, 30% by the South Platte Natural Resources District with the Hydrologist / Ground Water Modeler to be housed in the North Platte Natural Resources District offices in Gering.

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Mr. Miller reported that the budget for each Ground Water Modeling Coalition is \$85,000.00 with \$45,000.00 to \$50,000.00 for the Hydrologist / Ground Water Modeler's salary and \$35,000.00 to \$40,000.00 for the personnel benefits, expenses, equipment, and travel. Mr. Miller reported that the Natural Resources District within which the Hydrologist /Ground Water Modeler is housed will provide the administrative overhead and a vehicle. Mr. Miller reported that the vehicle costs would be billed out at the IRS State of Nebraska mileage rate. Mr. Miller reported that the annual cost for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District would be \$51,000 plus administrative overhead. Mr. Miller reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District would initially provide the use of an existing vehicle and would charge the other Natural Resources Districts the State of Nebraska mileage rate.

Mr. Miller reported that the current GIS Coordinator, Sudheer Chadalavada, will be leaving the Twin Platte Natural Resources District later this calendar year when the project he was hired to do is completed. Mr. Miller reported that Mr. Chadalavada will be married in June and will be moving to the Chicago area. Mr. Miller reported that the GIS Coordinator position is currently funded using Nebraska funds available for implementation of the Platte River Cooperative Agreement. Mr. Miller reported that these funds could be used for the modeler position. Mr. Miller reported that these funds, however, are not currently in the state budget for the 2007 Fiscal Year, but are included in a supplemental budget for the 2007 Fiscal Year currently before the Nebraska Legislature. Mr. Miller reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District 2006 Fiscal Year Budget for the current fiscal year included \$30,000 from local funds for use of a ground water modeler, none of which have been spent.

Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook for information was a job description prepared by Duane Woodward, Engineering Hydrologist, Central Platte Natural Resources District.

Mr. Miller reported that the Central Platte Natural Resources District Board has approved entering into the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement effective April 1, 2006 and the Tri-Basin Natural Resources District Board will be considering on March 14 entering into the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement effective July 1, 2006.

Mr. Miller reported that Mr. Woodward was attending the Board meeting and was available for question. Mr. Miller reported that Mr. Woodward does ground water modeling for the Central Platte Natural Resources District.

Mr. Meismer reported that the Water Resources Subcommittee was recommending that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District participate in a Interlocal Cooperation Agreements for a Ground Water Modeling Coalition with the Tri-Basin Natural Resources District and the Central Platte Natural Resources District and to authorize a full-time Twin Platte Natural Resources District Hydrologist / Ground Water Modeler position subject to the continuation of the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with an estimated start time between April 1, 2006 and July 1, 2006.

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Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee's recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve the following:

- Entering into an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for a Ground Water Modeling Coalition to hire a Hydrologist / Ground Water Modeler in cooperation with the Central Platte Natural Resources District and the Tri Basin Natural Resources District
  - Effective April 1, 2006 with the Central Platte Natural Resources District
  - Effective July 1, 2006 with the Central Platte Natural Resources District and the Tri Basin Natural Resources District
- Budget for the Interlocal Cooperation Agreements
  - April 1, 2006 to June 30, 2006 - \$21,250 (25% of \$85,000)
    - Twin Platte Natural Resources District - \$18,000 (60% + 25%)
    - Central Platte Natural Resources District - \$3,250 (15%)
  - July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007 - \$85,000
    - Twin Platte Natural Resources District - \$51,000 (60%)
    - Tri Basin Natural Resources District - \$21,250 (25%)
    - Central Platte Natural Resources District - \$12,750 (15%)
- The Hydrologist /Ground Water Modeler to be housed in the Twin Platte Natural Resources District offices in North Platte
- Authorizing the General Manager to execute the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District
- A full-time Twin Platte Natural Resources District Hydrologist / Ground Water Modeler position subject to the continuation of the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement

Mr. Wiseman seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #2)

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

Ground Water Management - Variances – Mr. Meismer reported that stays have been imposed on the use of existing water wells in within the Twin Platte Natural Resources District and stays have been imposed on increasing the number of acres historically irrigated. Mr. Meismer requested that Mrs. Dimmitt present a report.

Mrs. Dimmitt reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District has received a request from McGinley-Schilz, requesting a variance on the property described as Section 19, Township 13 North, Range 39 West, Keith County, Nebraska to provide water for an addition to there feedlot in exchange for eliminating existing irrigated acres. Mrs. Dimmitt reported that the feedlot expansion was for 11,000 head of cattle. Mrs. Dimmitt reported that the staff has calculated that the 11,000 head of cattle would consume 50.5 million gallons of water a year which is equal to 155.25 acre-feet/year.

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Mrs. Dimmitt reported that the feedlot expansion would take 76 acres of irrigated corn out of production which currently consumes 95.00 acre-feet/year. Mrs. Dimmitt reported that an additional 60.25 acre-feet/year would be needed which is equal to taking an additional 48.16 acres of irrigated corn out of production adjacent to the feedlot expansion. Mrs. Dimmitt reported that initially, McGinley-Schilz is requesting a variance for the 76 acres of irrigated corn that would be taken out of production at the site of the feedlot expansion which would allow for a consumptive use of 95.00 acre-feet/year which would allow for 6,730 head of cattle. Mrs. Dimmitt reported that McGinley-Schilz would request another variance at a later date for the additional 4,270 head of cattle the expanded feedlot has the capacity for which would require 48.16 acres of irrigated corn to be taken out of production adjacent to the feedlot.

Mr. Meisner moved the Water Resources Subcommittee's recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve granting a variance to McGinley-Schilz to expand there feedlot for an additional 6,730 head of cattle in Section 19, Township 13 North, Range 39 West, Keith County, Nebraska in exchange for taking 76 acres of irrigated corn out of production at the site of the feedlot expansion. Mr. Weaver seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #3)

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

Mrs. Dimmitt reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District has received a request from Clifford and Adeline McBride, requesting a variance on the property described as Section 12, Township 12 North, Range 40 West, Keith County, Nebraska. Mrs. Dimmitt reported that the McBride's currently use one well located in the SW ¼ of Section 12 to irrigate land under two pivot irrigation systems located in the SW ¼ and the NW ¼ of Section 12. Mrs. Dimmitt reported that the variance request is to construct a well to irrigate 128 acres in the NW ¼ of Section 12 and to utilize the existing well only to irrigate the currently irrigated acres in the SW ¼ of Section 12. Mrs. Dimmitt reported that the request would not increase the acres currently irrigated.

Mr. Petersen moved the Water Resources Subcommittee's recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve granting a variance to Clifford and Adeline McBride, requesting a variance on the property described as Section 12, Township 12 North, Range 40 West, Keith County, Nebraska, to construct a well to irrigate 128 acres in the NW ¼ of Section 12 and to utilize the existing well only to irrigate the currently irrigated acres in the SW ¼ of Section 12. Mr. Schilz seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #4)

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

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Mrs. Dimmitt reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District has received a request from Daniel Peckham, requesting a variance on the property described as Section 22, Township 11 North, Range 26 West, Lincoln County, Nebraska. Mrs. Dimmitt reported that the Peckham's currently use surface water to irrigate 130 acres of land located in the SE ¼ of Section 22. Mrs. Dimmitt reported that the variance request is to construct a well to irrigate the 130 acres in the SE ¼ of Section 22 with ground water when surface water is not available as provided by Twin Platte Natural Resources District policy. Mrs. Dimmitt reported that the District policy provides that a new well may be constructed and used to irrigate acres that were irrigated with surface water in the last two years and the owner of the well executes an agreement with the Twin Platte Natural Resources District in which the landowner agrees: (1) that the new well will only be used to supplement the surface water supply for the tract involved and will only be used when that supply has been exhausted and is no longer available to the operator at his or her normal rotation of schedule time(s), (2) to not relinquish the surface water right and to take reasonable measures to protect it from adjudication because of non use, (3) that the number of acres collectively irrigated with surface water and through use of the new supplemental well will not exceed the maximum number of acres irrigated with surface water in any one of the last two years, and (4) any other requirement or condition the board may impose consistent with the purposes of these guidelines.

Mrs. Dimmitt reported that the District policy provides that an expedited permit may be granted by the General Manager, or his designated representative, without prior approval of the Board of Directors for this variance. Mrs. Dimmitt reported that the Subcommittee agreed that this agreement and future similar agreements should also include a provision that any allocation of surface water for the property should not be leased, transferred, or otherwise conveyed to another property during any calendar year within which the well is used.

Mr. Petersen moved the Water Resources Subcommittee's recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve granting a variance for good cause shown to Daniel Peckham for the construction of a new well that may be used only when and to the extent that surface water is not available from the Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District for the irrigation of 130 acres located in the SE ¼ of Section 22, Township 11 North, Range 26 West of the 6<sup>th</sup> P.M., Lincoln County, Nebraska provided that Daniel Peckham agrees that the well will only be used when the surface water supply has been exhausted and is no longer available to the operator at his normal rotation of schedule time(s), agrees that any allocation of surface water for this property shall not be leased, transferred, or otherwise conveyed to another property during any calendar year within which the well is used, agrees that he will maintain the surface water right, and agrees that the irrigated acres will not exceed the acres irrigated with surface water during 2004 and 2005. Mr. Schilz seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #5)

Aye: Hansen, Meisner, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Schilz, Weaver,  
Wiseman

Nay: None



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Absent & Excused: Stack, Storer, Wahlgren  
Absent: Baldridge

Ground Water Management - Crop Irrigation Requirement – Mr. Meisner reported that the staff presented information to the Subcommittee in regard to calculating Crop Irrigation Requirement (CIR). Mr. Meisner reported that the staff had this week became aware of information on a Nebraska Department Natural Resources Web Site for calculating Crop Irrigation Requirement (CIR). Mr. Meisner reported that the Central Platte Natural Resources District utilizes this information and procedures for calculating consumptive use of water in the Central Platte Natural Resources District. Mr. Meisner reported that the Subcommittee agreed that this information and procedures should be utilized for calculating consumptive use of water in the Twin Platte Natural Resources District.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT  
Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee

Mr. Rubenthaler reported that Mr. Stack, Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee Chairperson, was absent and excused and he asked Mr. Carhart to present a report for the Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee meeting held on March 9, 2006.

Wildlife Habitat Programs - WILD Nebraska Program – Mr. Carhart reported that information was in the Directors' notebooks. Mr. Carhart provided a WILD Nebraska program (WILD) overview and explained that the program still includes active contracts from the preceding Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP). Mr. Carhart reported that a total of \$13,650.40 is allocated to cover existing WHIP/WILD annual payment obligations during FY2006. Mr. Carhart reported that 75% or \$10,237.80 of the total funds is from the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission and the remaining 25% or \$3,412.60 is the District's contribution. Mr. Carhart noted that the \$10,237.80 in Commission funds is a slight reduction from last year, which reflects the previous years' agreements that had expired. Mr. Carhart reported on two annual payment projects that left the program prematurely in 2006 due to the sale of land formerly under contract since 1996 and 2000. Mr. Carhart noted that new contracts do not automatically go to the next owner.

Mr. Carhart reported that T. J. Walker, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, reported to the Subcommittee that for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row, the Commission is not willing to commit to any new annual payment obligations through WILD, but may resume them in the next year or two. Mr. Carhart reported that Mr. Walker reported on an alternative source of funding made available again this year for new projects. Mr. Carhart reported that Mr. Walker said Environmental Trust grant dollars obtained by the Commission will help offset the loss of Commission habitat funds for enrolling new projects with materials only cost-sharing. Mr. Carhart reported that Mr. Walker noted that many initial WILD inquiries made to the District or Commission staff eventually are directed into another

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State or Federal habitat program that offer annual payments.

Mr. Carhart reported that new projects this year would be supported by the District at the traditional 25% level, even though the Commission funds are from the Environmental Trust grant, rather than from the sale of Habitat Stamps. Mr. Carhart reported that among the total WILD dollars expended there would be \$497.50 worth of replants on existing sites, as allowed by their respective contract agreements.

Mr. Carhart reported that the Subcommittee was recommending two proposed new WILD Nebraska agreements that have no annual payments.

Mr. Weaver moved the Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve the following 2006 WILD Nebraska agreements:

<u>Agreement #</u>	<u>Cooperator</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Materials</u>
TP0601	Lee Sillasen	KE	5	\$400.00
TP0602	Jeff Durr	KE	15	\$249.57

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

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

Wildlife Habitat Programs - Corners For Wildlife Program - Mr. Carhart reviewed program information. Mr. Carhart reported that the Corners for Wildlife Program (CFW) is in the third year out of three to receive Environmental Trust grant funding, which provides the annual payments for CFW contracts. Mr. Carhart reported that most CFW habitat materials are cost shared at 75% by local Pheasants Forever chapters. Mr. Carhart reported that the District's contribution is to work with landowners to enroll qualifying projects and coordinate the habitat improvements and providing free machine planting of trees and shrubs on CFW sites.

Mr. Carhart reported that previous action by the Board of Directors has allowed the District staff to proceed in signing up acres in CFW as funds become available, since Pheasants Forever allocates funding on a first come, first served basis across Nebraska. Mr. Carhart said that the ability to enroll projects in advance was very helpful this year as all the program funds had been expended by the first of March.

Mr. Carhart reported that the following 13 CFW projects were enrolled for 2006 before the funding ran out.

<u>Cooperator</u>	<u>Co.</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Trees (Tree Planting Service Value)</u>	<u>Total of Annual Payments</u>
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Guy Jones	KE	6.4	0	\$1,280.00 Grass Only
Guy Jones	KE	7.1	458	\$2,662.50 (\$242.74)
Guy Jones	KE	6.2	0	\$1,240.00 Grass Only
Guy Jones	KE	7.1	0	\$1,420.00 Grass Only
Guy Jones	KE	7.8	458	\$2,925.00 (\$242.74)
Jeanine Lane	KE	11.6	0	\$2,320.00 Grass Only
Jeanine Lane	KE	6.7	0	\$1,340.00 Grass Only
Jeanine Lane	KE	9.0	0	\$1,800.00 Grass Only
M & T Farms	KE	7.7	0	\$1,540.00 Grass Only
Karen Sandberg	LN	6.9	0	\$1,380.00 Grass Only
Karen Sandberg	LN	7.5	0	\$1,500.00 Grass Only
Louis Schimonitz	KE	3.3	0	\$ 660.00 Grass Only
Louis Schimonitz	KE	6.1	0	\$2,287.50 Grass Only

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT  
Executive Subcommittee

No report presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Statement - Mr. Meisner reported that the Financial Statement for February 2006 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 February 2006 be received and placed on file for audit and to approve payment of the invoices presented on the Accounts Payable report on March 9, 2006 in the amount of \$17,611.04. Mr. Schilz seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #7)

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

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 April 13, 2006 Board of Directors Meeting – Mr. Miller reported that no bids/proposals were scheduled to be presented for consideration during the April 13, 2006 Board of Directors meeting.

DIRECTORS REPORTS

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

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.

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

Sub-District 1	Eric S. Hansen
Sub-District 2	Joe Wahlgren
Sub-District 3	Douglas Stack
Sub-District 4	Jeff Baldrige
Sub-District 5	James Meisner
At-Large	Jim Rubenthaler

Mr. Rubenthaler reported the filings for election for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors in 2006 are:

Sub-District 1	Eric S. Hansen
Sub-District 2	Joe Wahlgren

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Sub-District 3	Douglas Stack
Sub-District 4	Dale W. Margritz
Sub-District 5	James Meisner
At-Large	Jim Rubenthaler

Requests for Authorization to Travel - No requests were presented.

DISTRICT REPORT

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 \$0.00 was available.

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 \$2,782.81 was available for new contracts.

Tree Program – No report presented.

Range Programs – 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 in the Directors' packet was information for the 2006 Nebraska Ranch Practicum. Mr. Miller reported that in previous years, the Twin Platte Natural Resources District has authorized scholarships for ranchers from within the Twin Platte Natural Resources District to participate in the Nebraska Ranch Practicum. Mr. Miller reported that in 1999 and 2000 (\$500 Practicum Cost) up to 5 - \$100.00 scholarships were offered, in 2001 (\$550.00 Practicum Cost), up to 5 - \$100.00 scholarships were offered, and in 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005 (\$600.00 Practicum Cost) up to 4 - \$125.00 scholarships were offered. Mr. Miller reported that in 2006, the Practicum Cost is \$600.00).

Mr. Wiseman moved to authorize up to 4 - \$125.00 scholarships for the 2006 Nebraska Ranch Practicum. Mr. Hansen seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #8)

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

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.

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

Water Programs – Ground Water Management – Certifying Irrigated Acres – Mr. Miller reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District began the process of certifying irrigated acres with the first letters being mailed to the K1 area in northeastern Keith County on February 28, 2006. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet for information were a sample letter, a sample application form, a sample aerial photo, and a map of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District showing the areas.

Water Programs – Ground Water Management –Integrated Management Plans(IMP) – 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.

Water Programs –Platte River Cooperative Agreement – Mr. Miller reported that the Organizational Structure for the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program provides for the membership of the Governance Committee to include one representative for water users downstream of Lake McConaughy and the Western Canal and those water users upstream of Lake McConaughy who do not have federal storage contracts. Mr. Miller reported that the program provides for the identification of the Downstream Water Users Representative to the Governance Committee and that the Downstream Water Users will have 4 representatives with one vote to be cast. Mr. Miller reported that the General Managers of the North Platte Natural Resources District, the South Platte Natural Resources District, the Central Platte Natural Resources District, the Tri-Basin Natural Resources District and he had met and selected Ron Bishop, General Manager of the Central Platte Natural Resources District and he as the two representatives from the Platte Basin Natural Resources Districts. Mr. Miller reported that the Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District and the Nebraska Public Power District will each select one for the other two representatives.

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 – Mr. Miller reported on the status of the report being prepared by Hydrosience for the South Platte Coalition.

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

Water Programs – South Platte Compact – 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 – 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 March 3, 2006.

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

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.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT (Continued)  
Water Resources Subcommittee (Continued)

South Platte River Compact – Mr. Meismer reported that the Water Resources Subcommittee recommends that the Board of Directors meet in an Executive Session to discuss legal matters relating to the South Platte River Compact.

Mr. Meismer moved that the Board of Directors go into Executive Session to discuss legal matters relating to the South Platte River Compact. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #9)

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

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The Board of Directors went into Executive Session at 4:38 pm CST (3:38 pm MST).

Mr. Rubenthaler opened the door to the Board meeting room at 5:46 pm CST (4:46 pm MST).

Mr. Petersen moved that the Board of Directors return to open session. Mr. Wiseman seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #10)

Aye: Hansen, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Schilz, Weaver,  
Wiseman

Nay: None

Absent & Excused: Stack, Storer, Wahlgren

Absent: Baldrige

Mr. Meismer moved to authorize legal expenditures for research and to identify options for surface water rights. Mr. Schilz seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #11)

Aye: Hansen, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Schilz, Weaver,  
Wiseman

Nay: None

Absent & Excused: Stack, Storer, Wahlgren

Absent: Baldrige

NEXT MEETING

Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the next Board of Directors meeting would be held on Thursday, April 13, 2006 at 7:30 pm CDT (6:30 pm MDT) in North Platte, Nebraska.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m. CST (4:48 p.m. MST).

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Jerry Weaver, Secretary

KOM: D: Board Meeting Minutes: Bmin0306