

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
Board of Directors Meeting  
June 8, 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 June 8, 2006. Mr. Rubenthaler called the meeting to order at 7:51 p.m. CDT (6:51 p.m. MDT). A legal notice of the meeting was published in the NORTH PLATTE TELEGRAPH. A news release containing the agenda for the meeting and including the time and place was sent to the news media in the District.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Jeff Baldrige  
James Meisner  
Robert Petersen  
Jim Rubenthaler  
Doug Stack  
Shane Storer  
Joe Wahlgren  
Jerry Weaver  
Robert Wiseman

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Eric Hansen  
Dennis Schilz

OTHERS PRESENT

Mike Wheeler, Sargent Irrigation - Ogallala

NRCS PERSONNEL PRESENT

Lee Morse

STAFF PRESENT

Bill Carhart, Range Programs Coordinator  
Ann Dimmitt, Water Programs Regulatory Coordinator  
Amy Mapes, Administrative Assistant  
Kent O. Miller, General Manager  
Dave Slattery, Conservation Programs Coordinator

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nebraska Open Meeting Act – Mr. Rubenthaler reported that Legislative Bill 898 – 2006 amended the Nebraska Open Act effective July 14, 2006 to require public bodies to make available at least one current copy of the Open Meeting Act posted in the meeting room at a location accessible to members of the public and at the beginning of the meeting, the public shall be informed about the location of the posted information. Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the amended Open Meeting Act is not currently available in Nebraska Statutes. Mr. Rubenthaler reported that Legislative Bill 898, approved by the 2006 Nebraska Legislature and signed by the Governor, is posted on the back wall of the

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meeting room which is accessible to members of the public.

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. Hansen and Mr. Schilz had notified the office prior to the meeting and that they would be absent and therefore they are excused.

DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Directors Notebooks Containing Information Items – 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

None presented.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

Minutes for May 11, 2006 Meeting – Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the Minutes for the May 11, 2006 meeting were in the Directors packet and he asked if there were corrections or additions to the Minutes.

Mr. Meismer moved that the Minutes of the May 11, 2006 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #1)

Aye: Baldridge, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Stack, Storer,  
Wahlgren, Weaver, Wiseman

Nay: None

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Absent & Excused: Hansen, Schilz  
Absent: None

REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission – Teaming with Wildlife – Mr. Rubenthaler reported that this agenda item was to consider the invitation the Twin Platte Natural Resources District has received from the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission to be a part of Teaming with Wildlife. Mr. Rubenthaler reported that in the Directors’ packet was information received from the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission which included a letter dated May 22, 2006, a Fact Sheet, and a Statement of Endorsement. Discussion occurred.

The Board of Directors agree that this item be placed on the agenda for the July 13, 2006 Board of Directors meeting.

COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORT

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service – District Conservationist Report – Mr. Rubenthaler reported that Mary Reece, District Conservationist, had called the office prior to the meeting to report that she was not able to attend the Board meeting and that Lee Morse would be attending the Board meeting and would present a report.

Mr. Morse reported on recent activities and distributed for information a 2005 Irrigation Summary.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT

Land Resources Subcommittee

Mr. Baldrige, Land Resources Subcommittee Chairperson, presented a report for the Land Resources Subcommittee meeting held on June 8, 2006.

Awards Program - Conservation Award for 2006 - Mr. Baldrige reported that the Subcommittee agreed to select Don & Marcia Colvin to receive the 2006 Conservation Award for Lincoln/McPherson Counties.

Awards Program – Grassland Conservation Award for 2006 – Mr. Baldrige reported that the Subcommittee agreed to select the Robert F. Lute Trust – Mick & Toni Knott to receive the 2006 Grassland Conservation Award for Keith/Arthur Counties.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT

Water Resources Subcommittee

Mr. Meismer, Water Resources Subcommittee Chairperson, presented a report for the Water Resources Subcommittee meeting held on June 8, 2006.

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Ground Water Management - Rules & Regulations – Mr. Meisner reported that no discussion occurred.

Ground Water Management - Variances – Mr. Meisner reported that stays have been imposed on increasing the number of acres historically irrigated within the Over-Appropriated area of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District. Mr. Meisner requested that Mrs. Dimmitt present a report.

Mrs. Dimmitt reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District has received a request from Bayside Investments requesting a variance on the property described as Section 23, Township 15 North, Range 40 West, Keith County, Nebraska. Mrs. Dimmitt reported that Bayside Golf Course located on the south side of Lake McConaughy would like to drill a well for human consumption only. Mrs. Dimmitt reported that Bayside would like to add a convention center and some condos at their facility. Mrs. Dimmitt reported that the water from the well would only be for human consumption and operation of the convention center and that water from the well would not be used for watering lawns or for the golf course as they have an existing well that may be used for that purpose. Mrs. Dimmitt reported that in the Directors' notebook for information was the Twin Platte Natural Resources District variance application and a map of the area in question.

Mr. Meisner moved the Water Resources Subcommittee's recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve granting a variance to Bayside Investments requesting a variance on the property described as Section 23, Township 15 North, Range 40 West, Keith County, Nebraska, for drilling a well for human consumption. Mr. Stack seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #2)

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

Ground Water Management - Certifying Irrigated Acres - Mrs. Dimmitt reported on the status for certification of irrigated acres.

Ground Water Management - Cooperative Agreement – Mr. Meisner reported that in the Directors' notebook for information was a draft Cooperative Agreement with the Upper Republican Natural Resources District prepared by Jasper Fanning, General Manager, Upper Republican Natural Resources District. Mr. Meisner reported that Patrick Ensz requested certified acres in the Upper Republican Natural Resources District that are watered by a well in the Twin Platte Natural Resources District. Mr. Meisner reported that the Upper Republican Natural Resources District Board of Directors approved the request, conditioned on the Twin Platte Natural Resources District and the Upper Republican Natural Resources District approving a Cooperative Agreement. Mr.

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Meismer reported that Mr. Fanning modified the draft agreement from a Cooperative Agreement between the Republican Basin Natural Resources Districts.

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee's recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve the Cooperative Agreement between the Upper Republican Natural Resources District and the Twin Platte Natural Resources District as presented and to authorize the General Manager to sign the Cooperative Agreement for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District. Mr. Stack seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #3)

Aye: Baldridge, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Stack, Storer, Wahlgren, Weaver, Wiseman

Nay: None

Absent & Excused: Hansen, Schilz

Absent: None

Ground Water Management - Municipal & Industrial – Mr. Meismer reported that a proposed industrial development was being considered in the Twin Platte Natural Resources District. Mr. Meismer reported that it is critical for economic development that the names and even the type of industry or company are kept confidential until the industry or company is ready to release the information that they are going to build and locate in the area. Mr. Miller reported that Mr. Miller reviewed a request for an opinion he had submitted to the Twin Platte Natural Resources District legal counsel, Harriet Hageman.

Ground Water Management - Modeler - Mr. Meismer reported that there is an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for a Ground Water Modeling Coalition to hire a Hydrologist / Ground Water Modeler for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District, the Central Platte Natural Resources District, and the Tri Basin Natural Resources District with the Hydrologist / Ground Water Modeler to be housed in the Twin Platte Natural Resources District offices in North Platte and an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for a Ground Water Modeling Coalition to hire a Hydrologist / Ground Water Modeler for the North Platte Natural Resources District and 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. Mr. Meismer reported that the two coalitions are cooperating in the advertising and interviewing to select two Hydrologist / Ground Water Modelers. Mr. Meismer reported that interviews were held, that one individual was selected to be offered a job, and that he will be visiting North Platte and Gering this summer to select which position he would accept. Mr. Meismer reported the advertising would continue and interviews will be held again to select a second individual.

South Platte River Compact – Mr. Meismer reported that the District's legal counsel, Harriet Hageman, is continuing to research options for filing the necessary documents, materials, and permit applications in regard to the Board of Directors approval of Motion #14 on April 13, 2006.

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SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT  
Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee

No report presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT  
Executive Subcommittee

Mr. Rubenthaler, Executive Subcommittee Chairperson, presented a report for the Executive Subcommittee meeting held on June 8, 2006.

Personnel Salaries for 2007 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. Meismer moved the Executive Subcommittee recommendation to the Board of Directors:

- Authorize a Full-Time Technician position that will be filled by a current Temporary Technician, Susan Johnson
  - Estimated distribution of annual hours
    - 600 Hours - NRCS Field Offices
    - 575 Hours - Tree Program (Planting Crew)
    - 575 Hours - Ground Water Programs
    - 330 Hours - Chemigation Program
    - 2,080 Hours
- Eliminate three authorized Temporary Conservation Aide positions
  - ~~Conservation Aides – NRCS Field Offices (600 Hours Maximum)~~
  - ~~Conservation Aide – NRCS Field Offices (Technical Service Provider)~~
  - ~~Conservation Aide – Twin Platte Natural Resources District Programs~~
- That the Salary Schedule steps for each position be increased 3.0% for the 2007 Fiscal Year in recognition of the cost of living to maintain the value of the salary compensation
- Authorize the General Manager to advance the following employees two steps on the salary schedule for outstanding work in developing the data and methods for the certification of irrigated acres
  - Sudheer Chadavada – GIS Coordinator
  - Ann Dimmitt – Water Programs Regulatory Coordinator
- Set the General Manager's salary at \$70,000.00 for the 2007 FY.

Mr. Stack seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #4)

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

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FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Statement - Mr. Meisner reported that the Financial Statement for May 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 May 2006 be received and placed on file for audit and to approve payment of the invoices presented on the Accounts Payable report on June 8, 2006 in the amount of \$66,929.60. Mr. Storer seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #5)

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

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

Audit for 2006 Fiscal Year - Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet was 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 2006 Fiscal Year, which ends June 30, 2006. 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 2006 Fiscal Year is \$3,100.00.

Mr. Petersen moved that the proposal received from the accounting firm of McChesney, Martin, Sagehorn to perform an audit of the financial statements of the Twin Platte District for the 2006 Fiscal Year which ended June 30, 2006 be accepted, to authorize the General Manager to sign the proposal as the District representative, and to appoint Kent O. Miller, General Manager and Amy Mapes, Administrative Assistant, as the individuals to be responsible and accountable for overseeing the services outlined in the engagement letter. Mr. Meisner seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #6)

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

DIRECTORS REPORTS

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

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

Platte River Citizens Advisory Council – No report presented.

Sandhills Resources, Conservation & Development Council – No report presented.

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 \$9,898.08 was available.

Mr. Wahlgren moved to approve the June 8, 2006 report as presented, 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>
6.065	NC-12	Trees	\$ 114.00	\$ 114.00
6.066	NC-14	Planned Grazing System	\$ 9,784.08	\$ 9,784.08
Total Amount of New Contracts				\$ 9,898.08

FUNDS AVAILABLE: \$ 0.00

and for Contract #6.066 for the Buckboard Ranch to authorize for the 2006 Fiscal Year, if allowed by the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission, to exceed the Twin Platte Natural Resources District policy that “Cooperators will be limited annually to a cost-share of \$7,500.00” and that the Buckboard Ranch maximum allowed cost-share for the 2006 Fiscal Year and the 2007 Fiscal Year shall not exceed a combined \$15,000.00. Mr. Wiseman seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #7)

Aye: Baldridge, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Stack, Storer,  
Wahlgren, Wiseman



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Nay: None  
Absent & Excused: Hansen, Schilz, Weaver  
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 \$100.90 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 – Variances – No report presented.

Water Programs – Ground Water Management – Certifying Irrigated Acres – No report presented.

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 Platte River Recovery Implementation Program Final Environmental Impact Statement has been released and in the Directors' notebook for information is a “Summary” and the “Program Purposes and Proposed Actions”.

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.

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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 River 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 – Lake Maloney – No report presented.

Information & Education Programs – No report presented.

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.

### BUDGET FOR 2007 FISCAL YEAR

Preparation Schedule - Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' packet was a schedule for preparing the 2007 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 2007 fiscal year. Mr. Miller reviewed the information for the proposed budget for the 2007 fiscal year.

### OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Wahlgren requested that the Board review the Chemigation Program policies in regard to irrigation systems that cross flowing water. Mr. Rubenthaler requested that the Water Resources Subcommittee review the Chemigation Program policies in regard to irrigation systems that cross flowing water and bring a report to the Board of Directors.

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There was no other business.

NEXT MEETING

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

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:44 p.m. CDT (8:44 p.m. MDT).

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Jerry Weaver, Secretary

KOM:D:Minutes:Bmin0606