

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
Board of Directors Meeting  
March 15, 2007

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 15, 2007. Mr. Rubenthaler called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. CDT (6:35 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  
Dale Margritz  
Jim Meisner  
Robert Petersen  
Jim Rubenthaler  
Dennis Schilz  
Doug Stack  
Shane Storer  
Joe Wahlgren  
Jerry Weaver  
Bob Wiseman

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

None

OTHERS PRESENT

Jack Albrecht  
Patricia Albrecht  
Neil Betty, West Central Water Coalition  
Jason Bode, West Central Water Coalition  
Richard Bode, West Central Water Coalition  
Joe Klosen  
Frank Kwapnioski, NPPD  
Glen Waltemath, McChesney, Martin, Sagehorn PC  
Mike Wheeler, Sargent Irrigation

STAFF PRESENT

Bill Carhart, Range Programs Coordinator  
Ann Dimmitt, Water Programs Regulatory Coordinator  
Harriet Hageman, Legal Counsel  
Kent O. Miller, General Manager

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nebraska Open Meeting Act – Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the Nebraska Open Act requires public bodies to make available at least one current copy of the Open Meeting

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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 current Open Meeting Act is posted on the wall of the meeting room and 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. No directors were absent.

Distribution of Information – Mr. Rubenthaler reported that handouts are available for the public in the back of the meeting room.

Other Announcements – Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the monthly summary report of NRCS conservation plans was available for information and that the report 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.

Jack Albrecht reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District still has on file a request he submitted to drill an irrigation well in the Upper Loup Natural Resources District and to transfer the water from the well into the Twin Platte Natural Resources District to irrigate 145 acres in Section 5, Township 16 North, Range 31 West, Lincoln County, Nebraska and he requested that the Board of Directors his request. Mr. Meisner reported that the Water Resources Subcommittee had discussed his request and agree to request that the District's Legal Counsel, Harriet Hageman, prepare a letter for the District to send to Mr. Albrecht explaining the back ground and history, the current situation, and what the Board of Directors would need from him to assure that the transfer of ground water would not increase mitigation requirements for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District.

Mr. Rubenthaler closed the Public Forum.

AGENDA MODIFICATION

None presented.

GENERAL INFORMATION

None presented.

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AUDIT

2006 Fiscal Year – Mr. Meismer reported that the Audit for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District for the 2006 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 2006 Fiscal Year be received. Mr. Meismer seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #1)

Aye Hansen, Margritz, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Schilz, Stack,  
Storer, Wahlgren, Weaver, Wiseman

Nay: None

Absent & Excused: None

Absent: None

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

Mr. Wiseman moved that the Audit for the 2006 Fiscal Year be allowed and to approve the Financial Statements for the 2006 Fiscal Year as acceptable and settled. Mr. Margritz seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #2)

Aye Hansen, Margritz, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Schilz, Stack,  
Storer, Wahlgren, Weaver, Wiseman

Nay: None

Absent & Excused: None

Absent: None

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

Minutes for February 15, 2007 Meeting – Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the Minutes for the February 15, 2007 meeting were in the Directors packet and he asked if there were corrections or additions to the Minutes.

Mr. Stack moved that the Minutes of the February 15, 2007 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mr. Meismer seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #3)

Aye: Hansen, Margritz, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Schilz, Stack,  
Storer, Wahlgren, Weaver, Wiseman

Nay: None

Absent & Excused: None

Absent: None

REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

No requests for assistance were presented.

COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORT

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USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service – District Conservationist Report – Mr. Miller reported that Mary Reece, District Conservationist, was unable to attend the Board meeting due to a previously scheduled conflict that resulted from the date of the Board meeting being changed to a week later than the normal Board meeting date. Mr. Miller distributed a written report prepared by Mrs. Reece for information.

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 February 15, 2007.

Ground Water Management - Variances – Frank Fleecs – Mr. Meismer reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District has received a request from Frank Fleecs. Mr. Meismer asked Mrs. Dimmitt to report on the request. Mrs. Dimmitt reported that the request from Frank Fleecs is to transfer approximately 94.7 acres from Section 8, Township 13 North, Range 34 West, and approximately 31.2 irrigated acres from Section 23, Township 13 North, Range 34 West, to a 125.9 acre pivot to be located on Section 26, Township 13 North, Range 34 West, Lincoln County. Mrs. Dimmitt reported that in the Directors’ notebook for information was a map of the area in question.

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve granting a variance to Frank Fleecs to transfer 94.7 certified irrigated acres on Section 8, Township 13 North, Range 34 West, and 31.2 certified irrigated acres on Section 23, Township 13 North, Range 34 West, to Section 26, Township 13 North, Range 34 West, Lincoln County, Nebraska. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #4)

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

Ground Water Management - Variances - Snyder Bros Land Company - Mr. Meismer reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District has received a request from Snyder Brothers Land Company. Mr. Meismer asked Mrs. Dimmitt to report on the request. Mrs. Dimmitt reported that the request is to certify 60.3 acres as irrigated on Section 3, Township 13 North, Range 36 West, Keith County. Mrs. Dimmitt reported that Mr. Snyder has provided 1991 and 1992 FSA documentation showing where these

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acres were classified as irrigated. Mrs. Dimmitt reported that since that time they have not been classified as irrigated. Mrs. Dimmitt reported that the Snyder's have had various crop planted during this time including rye, corn oats, and grass. Mrs. Dimmitt reported that in the Directors' notebook for information were a 1991 FSA map of the area in question and a 1992 FSA map of the area in question,

Mr. Meismer reported that the Subcommittee agreed that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Rules and Regulations allowed the 60.3 acres to be certified as irrigated in Section 3, Township 13 North, Range 36 West, Keith County.

Ground Water Management - Variances - Jack Albrecht - Mr. Meismer reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District still has on file a request received from Jack Albrecht. Mr. Meismer asked Mrs. Dimmitt to report on the request. Mrs. Dimmitt reported that the request is to drill an irrigation well in the Upper Loup Natural Resources District and pump it across Natural Resources District lines into the Twin Platte Natural Resources District to irrigate no more than 145 acres. Mrs. Dimmitt reported that the location of irrigated acres would be in Section 5, Township 16 North, Range 31 West, Lincoln County, Nebraska. Mrs. Dimmitt reported that the potential new well would be used to irrigate two separate fields to support his rotational grazing and/or some haying. Mrs. Dimmitt reported that in the Directors' notebook for information were the variance well request and a map of the area in question. Mr. Meismer reported that the Subcommittee discussed the request with the District's Legal Counsel, Harriet Hageman.

Mr. Meismer reported that the Subcommittee agree to request that the District's Legal Counsel, Harriet Hageman, prepare a letter for the District to send to Mr. Albrecht explaining the back ground and history, the current situation, and what the Board of Directors would need from Mr. Albrecht to assure that the transfer of ground water would not increase mitigation requirements for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District.

Ground Water Management - Rules & Regulations – Mr. Meismer reported that the Subcommittee reviewed and discussed the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Rules & Regulations with the District's Legal Counsel, Harriet Hageman. Mr. Meismer reported that the Subcommittee reviewed and discussed the Central Platte Natural Resources District Rules & Regulations comparing them with the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Rules & Regulations to consider where the Twin Platte Natural Resources District could revise the District's Rules & Regulations to be comparable with the Central Platte Natural Resources District Rules & Regulations.

Mr. Meismer reported that the Subcommittee agreed to request the District's Legal Counsel, Harriet Hageman, to prepare revisions for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Rules and Regulations to initiate a stay on increasing irrigated acres District-wide for review by the Subcommittee during the next meeting of the Subcommittee on April 12, 2007, and that where possible, to draft the revisions to be comparable with the Central Platte Natural Resources District Rules & Regulations.

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Ground Water Management - Certifying Irrigated Acres – Mr. Meismer asked Mrs. Dimmitt to report on the status of certifying irrigated acres. Mrs. Dimmitt reported on the status of certifying irrigated acres.

Mr. Meismer asked Mr. Miller to report on the status of staffing for certifying irrigated acres. Mr. Miller reported that Susan Johnson, Twin Platte Natural Resources District Technician, has submitted her resignation. Mr. Miller reported that Philip J Heimann had been previously hired as a Temporary Technician to work with the Water Program through the end of June 2007 certifying irrigated acres. Mr. Miller reported that state funds were available to fund the Temporary Technician position through June 30, 2007. Mr. Miller reported that Mr. Heimann has agreed to take the full time Technician position.

Ground Water Management - Modeler – Mr. Meismer asked Mr. Miller to report on the status of hiring a ground water modeler. Mr. Miller 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 Scottsbluff. Mr. Miller reported that the two coalitions cooperated in the advertising and interviewing to select two Hydrologist / Ground Water Modelers. Mr. Miller reported that one individual has accepted a job offer and will be locating in the North Platte Natural Resources District offices in Scottsbluff, Nebraska. Mr. Miller reported that another individual, Kevin Spelts, has accepted a job offer and will be locating in the Twin Platte Natural Resources District offices in North Platte, Nebraska.

Integrated Management Plan - Twin Platte Natural Resources District – Mr. Meismer reported that the next meeting of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Stakeholders would be March 19, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. CST and would be held at the Quality Inn in North Platte.

Mr. Meismer reported that a subcommittee of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Stakeholders had agreed to recommend to the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors that a consultant be hired to work with the Stakeholders to develop a water budget for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District. Mr. Meismer reported that the Subcommittee of the Stakeholders held a second meeting this afternoon and upon learning that additional information was soon to be available through the Cooperative Hydrology Study (COHYST), that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District was discussing with the Central Platte Natural Resources District and the Nebraska Public Power District the possibility of expanding into the Twin Platte Natural Resources District the development of a surface water modeling component for the COHYST

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ground water model which they are preparing to hire a consultant to prepare for Buffalo County, that the COHYST sponsors are considering developing a surface water modeling component for the COHYST ground water model, and that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District has hired a ground water modeler who will begin employment in late April, 2007, have agreed that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District should not at this time hire a consultant to work with the Stakeholder. Mr. Meisner reported that the Subcommittee of the Stakeholders agreed that they would like to have informal discussions with the Flatwater Group consultants and Brown and Caldwell consultants in regard to possibly working with the Stakeholders at some future time.

Integrated Management Plan - Platte River Basin – Mr. Meisner and Mr. Wahlgren reported on the Platte River Basin Stakeholders held on February 20, 2007 in North Platte. Mr. Meisner reported that the next meeting of the Platte River Basin Stakeholders would be April 9, 2007 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CDT and would be held at the Quality Inn in North Platte.

North Platte Natural Resources District - Joint Meeting of Water Resources Subcommittees – Mr. Meisner reported that the North Platte Natural Resources District Water Resources Subcommittee has been meeting with members of the Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District Board of Directors to discuss ways to resolve water supply issues involving surface water and ground water. Mr. Meisner reported that the North Platte Natural Resources District Water Resources Subcommittee had requested to meet with the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Water Resources Subcommittee to report on the issues being discussed between the North Platte Natural Resources District and the Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District. Mr. Meisner reported that an initial joint meeting was held during the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Annual Legislative Conference in Lincoln, Nebraska, as most of the Water Resources Subcommittee members from each District were in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Mr. Meisner reported that the next joint meeting of the North Platte Natural Resources District Water Resources Subcommittee with members of the Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District Board of Directors was scheduled for February 22, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. MST (11:00 a.m. CST) at the Visitors Center at Lake McConaughy. Mr. Meisner reported that the North Platte Natural Resources District and the Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District had requested that the Water Resources Subcommittee of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District participate in that meeting. Mr. Meisner reported that the Subcommittee, during the February 15, 2007 meeting of the Subcommittee had agreed to participate in the joint meeting on February 22, 2007 and had directed the staff to publish a legal notice for the meeting to allow any member of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors to attend. Mr. Meisner reported that following the February 15, 2007 Subcommittee meeting, Don Kraus, General Manager, Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District, had informed Mr. Miller that the joint meetings were closed meetings and that they did not wish the meeting to be legal noticed as an open public meeting. Mr. Meisner reported that Mr. Miller had told Mr. Kraus that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Board members

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would not then be able to participate on February 22, 2007 and that Mr. Kraus had told Mr. Miller that the meeting would proceed anyway.

Mr. Meisner reported that the next joint meeting of the North Platte Natural Resources District Water Resources Subcommittee with members of the Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District Board of Directors was scheduled for March 20, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. MDT (11:00 a.m. CDT) at the Visitors Center at Lake McConaughy. Mr. Meisner reported that the North Platte Natural Resources District and the Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District had requested that the Water Resources Subcommittee of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District participate in that meeting.

Mr. Meisner reported that the Subcommittee agreed to not participate in the joint meeting on March 20, 2007.

South Platte River Compact - Water Right – Mr. Meisner reported that the South Platte River Coalition sponsors on November 15, 2006, informally agreed to request that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors suspend their action that the District file the necessary documents, materials, and permit applications in order to fully use and exercise the rights and entitlements described in the South Platte Compact relating to the winter provision and allow the South Platte River Coalition to file the necessary documents, materials, and permit applications in order to fully use and exercise the rights and entitlements described in the South Platte Compact relating to the winter provision. Mr. Meisner reported that Mr. Schilz, Mr. Miller, and he have met with the District’s Legal Counsel, Harriet Hageman, to discuss this request and to prepare a proposal to present to the Board of Directors. Mr. Meisner recommended that the Board of Directors go into Executive Session with Ms. Hageman to discuss legal issues relating to the South Platte River Compact.

Mr. Meisner moved that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss legal issues relating to the South Platte River Compact. Mr. Weaver seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #5)

Aye	Margritz, Meisner, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Schilz, Stack, Storer, Wahlgren, Weaver, Wiseman
Nay:	None
Absent & Excused:	None
Absent:	None
Out of Board Room:	Hansen

Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the Board of Directors was going into Executive Session to discuss legal issues relating to the South Platte River Compact.

The Board of Directors went into Executive Session at 8:21 p.m. CDT (7:21 p.m. MDT).

Mr. Rubenthaler opened the door to the Board meeting room at 8:54 pm CDT (7:54 p.m. MDT).



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Mr. Petersen moved that the Board of Directors return to open session. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #6)

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

Mr. Meismer moved to approve an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement by and between the Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District, the Central Platte Natural Resources District, the Nebraska Public Power District, the South Platte Natural Resources District, the Twin Platte Natural Resources District, and the Western Irrigation Canal collectively referred to as the “South Platte River Compact Coalition” for the purpose to provide the authority, resources, services, studies, and facilities needed to pursue, apply for, obtain, and hold all necessary permits and/or water rights for exercising the rights and entitlements granted by the South Platte River Compact prepared by the Twin Platte Natural Resources District legal counsel and to include revisions as directed by the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors, and to present the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement to the Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District, the Central Platte Natural Resources District, the Nebraska Public Power District, the South Platte Natural Resources District, and the Western Irrigation Canal for their consideration to participate. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #7)

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

South Platte Compact - Hydrologic Assessment – Mr. Meismer asked Mr. Miller to report on the South Platte Compact Hydrologic Assessment. Mr. Miller reported that during the November 9, 2006 Board of Directors meeting, he presented and reported on a draft Request for Proposal to obtain the services of an independent consultant to perform an analysis of the flows as related to the South Platte River Compact. Mr. Miller reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District has received a grant from the Interrelated Water Management Plan Program Funds that can be used to fund 80% of the cost for this work with a required 20% local match.

Mr. Miller reported that the South Platte River Coalition sponsors on November 15, 2006, agreed to request that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District allow the Coalition to distribute the Request for Proposal and that the Coalition would fund the required 20% local match. Mr. Miller reported that the South Platte River Coalition sponsors are the Twin Platte Natural Resources District, the Central Platte Natural Resources District, the South Platte Natural Resources District, the Western Irrigation

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District, the Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District, the Nebraska Public Power District, and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Miller reported that the South Platte River Coalition sponsors on February 6, 2007, agreed to select the proposal submitted by the Flatwater Group located in Lincoln, Nebraska to perform an analysis of the flows as related to the South Platte River Compact, agreed to fund the required 20% local match from funds currently available from the Coalition, and agreed to authorize Kent O. Miller to execute a contract with the Flatwater Group to do the work as presented in the proposal. Mr. Miller reported that there will be no funding needed from the individual sponsors for this work. Mr. Miller reported that a Subcommittee of the South Platte River Coalition sponsors met on March 5, 2007, with the Flatwater Group to review the proposal and agreed he should execute a contract with the Flatwater Group to do the work as presented in the proposal. Mr. Miller reported that on March 7, 2007, that he had signed a contract with the Flatwater Group and they have begun the work which should be completed in November, 2007. Mr. Miller reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District will be responsible for monthly billings from the Flatwater Group. Mr. Miller reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District has received an advance of 60% of the funds available from the Interrelated Water Management Plan Program Funds and will receive the remainder of the grant funds and the Coalition funds as needed to complete the work. Mr. Miller reported that there will be no Twin Platte Natural Resources District funds utilized for this work.

Mr. Miller reported that on February 26, 2007, he had submitted an application for funding for Fiscal Year 2007-08 (Year 2) from the Interrelated Water Management Plan Program Fund for the previously approved South Platte River Compact Water Project. Mr. Miller reported that the South Platte River Coalition sponsors on February 6, 2007 agreed to request that this application be submitted. Mr. Miller reported that Interrelated Water Management Plan Program Funds are only available for Natural Resources Districts and that the South Platte Natural Resources District and the Central Platte Natural Resources District have joined the Twin Platte Natural Resources District in sponsoring this application. Mr. Miller reported that it is anticipated that additional funds will be needed for additional hydrologic assessments and that funds will be needed to begin preliminary engineering work during the Fiscal Year 2007-08. Mr. Miller reported that the required 20% local matching funds will be shared by all of the South Platte River Coalition sponsors except the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources.

Platte River Recovery Implementation Program – Mr. Meisner asked Mr. Miller to report on the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program.

Platte River Recovery Implementation Program – Downstream Water Users Representation – 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

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the Governance Committee. Mr. Miller reported that the Downstream Water Users have four representatives with one vote to be cast. Mr. Miller reported that the two representatives from the Platte Basin Natural Resources Districts are Ron Bishop, General Manager of the Central Platte Natural Resources District and Kent O. Miller, General Manager of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District. Mr. Miller reported that the Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District (Don Kraus) and the Nebraska Public Power District (Brian Barels) each have one representative. Mr. Miller reported that the four representatives plan to meet prior to each meeting of the Governance to prepare for the Governance Committee meetings.

Mr. Miller reported that the Downstream Water Users charter calls for the establishment of the Downstream Water Users Advisory Committee whose membership is comprised of representatives from farm and agricultural groups, water user groups (surface water and groundwater), municipalities, and surface water irrigation districts. Mr. Miller reported that the Downstream Water Users representatives have scheduled an organizational meeting for the Downstream Water Users Advisory Committee for 1:00 p.m. CDT on March 6, 2007, at the offices of Central Platte Natural Resources District in Grand Island, Nebraska. Mr. Miller reported that the meeting agenda would focus on establishment of a process to select the Downstream Water Users Advisory Committee members. Mr. Miller reported that the Downstream Water Users charter specifies that the Downstream Water Users Governance Committee representatives will meet at least twice annually with the Downstream Water Users Advisory Committee and can hold additional meetings or conference calls as needed. Mr. Miller reported that the Downstream Water Users Advisory Committee is being established to provide input from the Downstream Water Users to the Downstream Water Users Governance Committee representatives and a forum in which the Downstream Water Users Governance Committee representatives can communicate with the Downstream Water Users regarding the Program. Mr. Miller reported that it will be the responsibility of Downstream Water Users Advisory Committee to distribute information to the rest of their respective constituencies.

Platte River Recovery Implementation Program – Governance Committee Activities – Mr. Miller reported that the first meeting of the Governance Committee for the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program was held on February 7, 2007 in Denver, Colorado and that draft minutes for the February 7, 2007 Governance Committee meeting were in the Directors' packet for information.

Platte River Recovery Implementation Program – Executive Director - Mr. Miller reported that he has been appointed by the Governance Committee to a subgroup authorized to develop a shortlist of applicants for the Executive Director. Mr. Miller reported that members of the subgroup are Alan Berryman - Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, John Lawson – US Bureau of Reclamation, Mike Purcell – State of Wyoming, Mark Butler - US Fish & Wildlife Service, Dan Luecke, Ann Bleed - Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, Ted Kowalski - State of Colorado, himself.

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Platte River Recovery Implementation Program – North Platte River Restoration and Enhancement Project - Mr. Miller reported that a Request for Proposal for Engineering Services for the North Platte River Restoration and Enhancement Project was in the Directors' packet for information. Mr. Miller reported that the funds for the North Platte River Restoration and Enhancement Project for Engineering and Permitting are from the Program but any construction before Congressional authorization would require funds from Colorado and Wyoming. Mr. Miller reported that he has been appointed by the Governance Committee to a selection committee authorized to select and negotiate the contract. Mr. Miller reported that other members of the contractor selection committee are Mark Butler – US Fish & Wildlife Service, Mike Purcell – State of Wyoming, Mike Drain – Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District, Frank Kwapnioski – Nebraska Public Power District, Brian Dunnigan – Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, Alan Berryman – Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, Ted Kkowalski – State of Colorado. Mr. Miller reported that he has asked Jim Hawks – North Platte City Administrator, to participate in meetings of the contractor selection committee.

Platte River Recovery Implementation Program – Funding for offsets or mitigation for depletions to the Platte River that occurred after July 1, 1997 - Mr. Miller reported that a joint meeting would be held on March 2, 2007 in Lincoln of the General Managers, the Legal Counsels, and two members each from the Board of Directors of the Central Platte Natural Resources District and the Twin Platte Natural Resources District to discuss developing a joint strategy for promoting that the costs of post-1997 depletions should be offset or mitigated by the State of Nebraska as agreed to by the State of Nebraska for the Platte Recovery Implementation Program. Mr. Miller reported that the Subcommittee, on February 15, 2007, agreed that the two representatives from the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors would be Mr. Meismer and Mr. Wahlgren.

Instream Flow Water Rights – Platte River Basin – No discussion occurred.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT  
Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee

Mr. Stack, Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee Chairperson, presented a report for the Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee meeting held on February 15, 2007.

Wildlife Habitat Programs – WILD Nebraska Programs – Mr. Stack reported that information was in the Directors' notebooks. Mr. Stack reported that a total of \$11,061.20 is being spent this fiscal year on existing WHIP / WILD annual payment obligations. Mr. Stack reported that 75% or \$8,295.90 of the total funds are provided by the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, while the remaining 25% or \$2,765.30 is the District's contribution toward annual payments. Mr. Stack noted that the amounts are a reduction from the past fiscal year, which reflects agreements that expired at the end of last year from both WHIP and WILD, as many WILD agreements are now five years in

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length.

Mr. Stack reported that the Subcommittee was recommending two proposed new WILD Nebraska agreements that have no annual payments. Mr. Stack reported that the two proposed new WILD Nebraska agreements have \$1,254.90 to be expended for materials which would include 25 % or \$313.73 of District funds this fiscal year to complete.

Mr. Stack moved the Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve the following 2007 WILD Nebraska agreements:

<u>Agreement #</u>	<u>Cooperator</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Materials</u>
TP0701	Jorgensen	KE	13	\$598.40
TP0702	DaMoude LN	11		\$656.50

Mr. Wiseman seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #8)

Aye Hansen, Margritz, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Schilz, Stack, Storer, Wahlgren, Weaver, Wiseman

Nay: None

Absent & Excused: None

Absent: None

Mr. Stack reported that additional funds are available for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District for 2007.

Mr. Stack moved to authorize the General Manager to approve additional 2007 WILD Nebraska agreements that may be funded with funds available for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District for 2007. Mr. Storer seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #9)

Aye Hansen, Margritz, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Schilz, Stack, Storer, Wahlgren, Weaver, Wiseman

Nay: None

Absent & Excused: None

Absent: None

Wildlife Habitat Programs – Corners for Wildlife Program – Mr. Stack reported that the Corners for Wildlife Program has been an active program in the Twin Platte Natural Resources District since 1997 and that the program relies on an Environmental Trust grant for annual payments to be provided during the five years of the contract term. Mr. Stack reported that most Corners for Wildlife habitat materials are cost shared at 75% by local Pheasants Forever chapters, while the District's contribution is to work with landowners to enroll qualifying projects, coordinate the habitat improvements, and provide free machine planting of trees and shrubs on Corners for Wildlife sites. Mr. Stack reported that the Corners for Wildlife program recently received preliminary approval for three more years funding by a new Environmental Trust grant. Mr. Stack reported that though the money has not officially arrived from the Environmental Trust,

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Pheasants Forever is encouraging Districts to sign up potential contracts. Mr. Stack reported that the staff would be actively pursuing 2007 Corners for Wildlife contracts based on a current list of potential cooperators, as well as issuing news releases to the media and seeking leads from partnering agencies. Mr. Stack reported that previous action by the Board of Directors has allowed the District staff to proceed in signing up acres in Corners for Wildlife as funds become available, since Pheasants Forever allocates funding on a first come, first served basis across Nebraska..

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT

Executive Subcommittee

No report presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Statement - Mr. Meismer reported that the Financial Statement for February 2007 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 February 2007 be received and placed on file for audit and to approve payment of the invoices presented on the Accounts Payable report on March 15, 2007 in the amount of \$13,705.55. Mr. Wiseman seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #10)

Aye: Hansen, Margritz, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Schilz, Stack, Storer, Wahlgren, Weaver, Wiseman

Nay: None

Absent & Excused: None

Absent: None

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 April 12, 2007 Board of Directors Meeting – Mr. Miller reported that no bids/proposals were scheduled to be presented for consideration during the April 2007 Board of Directors meeting.

DIRECTORS REPORTS

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts – Board of Directors Meeting – Mr. Meismer reported on the Board of Directors meeting held on March 5, 2007.

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Water Policy Task Force – Mr. Meisner reported that the next meeting of the Water Policy Task Force is scheduled for March 19, 2007.

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

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.

Mr. Miller reported that \$8,259.08 was available for funding additional contracts following the February 15, 2007 Board of Directors meeting. Mr. Miller reported that any un-obligated funds on March 1, 2007 are required to be returned to the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources for re-distribution to Natural Resources Districts. Mr. Miller reported that District procedure established last year was 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<sup>st</sup> 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. Miller reported that \$8,204.13 was approved prior to March 1, 2007 and \$54.95 was returned to the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources.

Mr. Wahlgren moved to approve the March 15, 2007 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>
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7.050	NC-12Trees	\$ 629.00	\$ 629.00
7.051	NC-12Trees	\$ 663.00	\$ 663.00
7.052	NC-14Planned Grazing System	\$ 3,947.50	\$ 3,947.50
7.053	NC-12Trees	\$ 125.00	\$ 125.00
7.054	NC-12Trees	\$ 949.38	\$ 949.38
7.055	NC-12Trees	\$ 965.00	\$ 965.00
7.056	NC-12Trees	\$ 262.25	\$ 262.25
7.057	NC-12Trees	\$ 663.00	\$ 663.00
Total Amount of New Contracts			\$ 8,204.13
Funds returned to the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources:			\$ 54.95

Mr. Wiseman seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #11)

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

Cost-Share Programs - District Conservation Program – Well Abandonment Contracts –  
 Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' Board meeting notebook was a report of contracts approved by the Twin Platte Natural Resources District staff as provided for by District policy. Mr. Miller reported that \$5,171.78 was available for new contracts.

Tree Program – Mr. Miller reported that 11,770 trees were ordered from the Colorado State Nursery, 2,900 trees were ordered from the Lincoln-Oakes Nursery, and 23,825 trees were ordered from the Nursery at Halsey, NE for a total of 38,495 trees. Mr. Miller reported that District personnel will begin tree planting April 9, 2007. Mr. Miller reported that the District was using one machine crew this year which is scheduled to plant 21,000 trees at 50 sites. Mr. Miller reported that Mike Ekdahl was scheduled to place 180,875 feet (34.20 miles) of Water Conservation Mulch at 40 sites which is 80% of the machine crew planted sites. Mr. Miller reported that 16,450 trees have been sold to be planted by 83 individuals (producers).

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.



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Water Programs – Integrated Management Plans – No report presented.

Water Programs –Platte River Recovery Implementation Program – No report presented.

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 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 – No report presented.

Information & Education Programs – No report presented.

Legislation – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook for information was a Nebraska Association of Resources Districts reports dated March 2, 2007 and March 8, 2007.

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

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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, April 12, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. CDT (6:30 p.m. MDT) at TierOne Bank Center in North Platte, Nebraska.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m. CDT (8:33 p.m. MDT).

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Jerry Weaver, Secretary