

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
November 8, 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 November 8, 2007. Mr. Rubenthaler called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m. CST (2:07 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
Dale Margritz
Jim Meisner
Robert Petersen
Jim Rubenthaler
Dennis Schilz
Doug Stack
Shane Storer
Jerry Weaver

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Joe Wahlgren
Bob Wiseman

OTHERS PRESENT

Mike Wheeler, Sargent Irrigation

NRCS PERSONNEL PRESENT

Mary Reece, District Conservationist

STAFF PRESENT

Ann Dimmitt, Water Programs Regulatory Coordinator
Amy Mapes, Administrative Assistant
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 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

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absent and that the minutes will reflect whether an absent Director is excused or unexcused. Mr. Rubenthaler reported that Mr. Wahlgren and Mr. Wiseman notified the office prior to the meeting that they would be absent and they are therefore excused.

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. There were no comments. Mr. Rubenthaler closed the Public Forum.

AGENDA MODIFICATION

None presented.

GENERAL INFORMATION

None presented.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

Minutes for October 11, 2007 Meeting – Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the Minutes for the October 11, 2007 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 October 11, 2007 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #1)

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

REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

No requests for assistance were presented.

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COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORT

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service – District Conservationist Report – Mrs. Reece distributed and reviewed a written report. Mrs. Reece reported that in the Directors’ Board meeting packet for information was the Business Plan for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District for the 2008 Fiscal Year developed in cooperation with the District staff and a report titled “2007 NRCS in Nebraska” for October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007.

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 November 8, 2007.

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

Ground Water Management – Variances - No report presented.

Ground Water Management - Village of Sutherland Well Field – Mr. Meismer reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District has received a request from the Village of Sutherland to comment on a proposed new well field for the Village. Mr. Meismer reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District legal counsel, Harriet Hageman, reviewed with the Subcommittee the Nebraska statutes in regard to municipalities and provided a draft of language that could be considered for the Integrated Management Plan. Mr. Meismer reported that the Subcommittee requested the staff and legal counsel to prepare and send a letter commenting on the proposed new well field for the Village of Sutherland.

Ground Water Management - Shores at Lake McConaughy – No report presented.

Ground Water Management - Duck Creek Wildlife Area – Mr. Meismer reported that he had previously reported to the Board of Directors that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District has received a request from Tim Holzfaster to use an irrigation well on Section 7 Township 14 North, Range 36 West, Keith County to fill a newly constructed wetland. Mr. Meismer reported that following the June 14, 2007 Subcommittee meeting, that Mr. Wahlgren, Mr. Miller, Mrs. Dimmitt, and he had met with Ann Bleed, Director of the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, and other staff of the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources to determine if the Department believes this would be a new depletion and if they believe it is a new depletion, the amount of the new depletion. Mr.

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Meismer reported that following that meeting there have been several conference calls which included Mr. Holzfaster, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources staff, and District staff. Mr. Meismer reported that the staff of the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources and the District are continuing to develop procedures for determining if this would be a new depletion and if it is a new depletion, the amount of the new depletion and Mr. Holzfaster is providing additional information to the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources for their consideration.

Ground Water Management – Platte River Conjunctive Management Study – Mr. Miller reported that on July 12, 2007, the Board of Directors approved the Twin Platte Natural Resources District participating in the Central Platte Natural Resources District, the Nebraska Public Power District, and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for a Conjunctive Management Project for portions of Dawson and Buffalo Counties for an expansion of the Surface Water Model to include the Twin Platte Natural Resources District and to authorize \$65,280.00 to fund the costs for an expansion of the Surface Water Model to include the Twin Platte Natural Resources District. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' Board meeting packet for information was the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources newsletter for October 2007 which included an article in regard to the Platte River Conjunctive Management Study.

Integrated Management Plan - Twin Platte Natural Resources District – Stakeholders Meetings – Mr. Meismer reported that the next meeting of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Stakeholders would be November 19 at 7:00 pm CST and would be held at the Holiday Inn Express in North Platte and he reviewed the agenda.

Integrated Management Plan - Platte River Basin – Mr. Meismer reported that during the last Platte River Basin Stakeholders meeting held June 20, 2007, a subcommittee of Natural Resources District managers, Irrigation District representatives, and the Director of the Department of Natural Resources was formed to prepare a recommendation for the stakeholders for a Basin Integrated Management Plan. Mr. Meismer reported that the Subcommittee has met on July 17, 2007, August 7, 2007, and September 14, 2007. Mr. Meismer reported that the meeting scheduled for October 23, 2007 was cancelled and that the next meeting will be December 5, 2007. Mr. Meismer reported that following the July 17, 2007 meeting that Mr. Miller had the Twin Platte Natural Resources District legal counsel, Harriet Hageman, review the draft and that Ms. Hageman and Mr. Miller had worked up a proposal that was presented and used for the discussion during the August 7, 2007 meeting. Mr. Meismer reported that the Managers for each of the Natural Resources Districts prepared a draft that was presented for consideration during the September 14, 2007 meeting. Mr. Meismer reported that during the September 14, 2007 meeting that discussions were put on hold and a Subcommittee of the Subcommittee was selected and requested to prepare a recommendation for consideration by the Subcommittee of criteria for determining fully appropriated.

South Platte River Coalition – Interlocal Cooperation Agreement – Mr. Meismer reported

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that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors on October 11, 2007 approved the 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 informally agreed to by the South Platte River Coalition sponsors on October 2, 2007 and to authorize the General Manager to sign the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District. Mr. Meismer reported that the sponsors who wish to participate are expected to sign the agreement on November 20, 2007

South Platte River Coalition – Hydrologic Assessment – Mr. Meismer reported that the Flatwater Group will present a preliminary report of the hydrologic assessment they are preparing to the South Platte River Coalition sponsors on November 20, 2007.

Cooperative Hydrology Study - Mr. Meismer reported that during the October 11, 2007 Board meeting, that the Board of Directors had been provided a brochure titled “Conclusions from the Cooperative Hydrology Study (COHYST)” presented at the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Fall Conference – September 25, 2007, a news article titled “NRDs, power provider at odds on irrigation analysis” from the September 30, 2007 Lincoln Journal Star, and a draft Letter to the Editor for Platte Basin Natural Resources Districts General Managers to consider submitting to the Lincoln Journal Star in regard to the news article. Mr. Meismer reported that the Subcommittee members on October 11, 2007 agreed that Mr. Miller should sign the Letter to the Editor provided the General Manager for the Central Platte Natural Resources District also signs the Letter to the Editor. Mr. Meismer reported that the Letter to the Editor was signed by Mr. Bishop and Mr. Miller and that it was published in the Lincoln Journal Star on October 31, 2007. Mr. Meismer reported that the Letter to the Editor published was in the Directors’ Board meeting packet for information.

Platte River Recovery Implementation Program – No report presented.

Legislation – No report presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee

No reported presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Executive Subcommittee

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No report presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Statement - Mr. Meismer reported that the Financial Statement for October 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 October 2007 be received and placed on file for audit and to approve payment of the invoices presented on the Accounts Payable report on November 8, 2007 in the amount of \$18,902.00. Mr. Margritz seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #2)

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

Nay: None

Absent & Excused: Wahlgren, Wiseman

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 December 11, 2007 Board of Directors Meeting – Mr. Miller reported that no bids/proposals were scheduled to be presented for consideration during the December 11, 2007 Board of Directors meeting.

DIRECTORS REPORTS

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

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

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

Requests for Authorization to Travel - No requests were presented.

DISTRICT REPORT

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Cost-Share Programs – Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation Program – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' notebook was the monthly report. Mr. Miller reported that \$78,021.58 was available.

Mr. Petersen moved to approve the November 8, 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>
8.001	NC-17	Irrigation Water Management	\$ 2,550.00	\$ 2,550.00
8.002	NC-14	Planned Grazing System	\$ 897.00	\$ 897.00
8.003	NC-14	Planned Grazing System	\$ 1,680.00	\$ 1,680.00
8.004	NC-17	Irrigation Water Management	\$ 2,230.20	\$ 2,230.20
Total Amount of New Contracts				\$ 7,357.20
FUNDS AVAILABLE:		Practice NC-12, Windbreaks		\$ 23,406.48
		Practice NC-14, Planned Grazing		\$ 20,829.48
		Practice NC-17, Irrigation		\$ 18,626.28
		Other Available Practices		\$ 7,802.14

Mr. Schilz seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #3)

Aye: Hansen, Meisner, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Schilz, Stack, Storer, Weaver
 Abstain: Margritz
 Nay: None
 Absent & Excused: Wahlgren, Wiseman
 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 \$7,391.35 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 – No report presented.

Water Programs –Integrated Management Plans – No report presented.

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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 – Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors' Board meeting packet for information was a report for the 2007 Chemigation Program. Mr. Miller reported that for 2007, there were 73 new permits and 1,206 renewal permits for a total of 1,279 active permits.

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

Regulatory Programs – Ground Water Runoff - No report presented.

Trails – No report presented.

Information & Education Programs – NE Rain Program – No report presented.

Information & Education Programs – 2007 Awards Program – Presentation November 13, 2007 – Mr. Miller reported that the District's 2007 Grassland Conservation Award for Lincoln/McPherson Counties will be presented November 13, 2007 to Edna Peterson of Brady during the North Platte Chamber Farmer/Rancher Appreciation Banquet. Mr. Miller reported that the Board Chairperson, Mr. Rubenthaler, and District staff will participate in the award presentation.

Information & Education Programs – 2007 Awards Program – Presentation December 11, 2007 – Mr. Miller reported that the District's 2007 Tree Award for Keith/Arthur Counties will be presented December 11, 2007 to Tom Kalkowski of Ogallala during the District's Awards Banquet. Mr. Miller reported that the Board of Directors meeting will be at 4:30 pm MST (5:30 pm CST) at the Lake McConaughy Kingsley Eagle Viewing

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Facility and the Awards Banquet will be at 6:00 pm MST (7:00 pm CST) at the Haythorn Ranch.

Requests for Authorization to Travel – No requests to travel were presented.

Meetings and Dates of Interest – Mr. Miller reported that various items of information were in the Directors' Board meeting packet.

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

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

NEXT MEETING

Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the next Board of Directors meeting would be held on Tuesday, December 11, 2007 at 4:30 pm MST (5:30 pm CST) at the Lake McConaughy Kingsley Eagle Viewing Facility near Ogallala, Nebraska.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:41 p.m. CST (2:41 p.m. MST).

Jerry Weaver, Secretary