

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
Board of Directors Meeting  
December 11, 2007

The Twin Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors meeting was held in Keith County, Nebraska at the Kingsley Eagle Viewing Facility located east of Highway 61 at the base of Kingsley Dam, and at the Figure 4 Traditions at the Haythorn Ranch located west of Highway 61 four and one-half miles north of Kingsley Dam on December 11, 2007. Mr. Rubenthaler called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. MST (5:35 p.m. CST). 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  
Bob Petersen  
Jim Rubenthaler  
Doug Stack  
Shane Storer  
Joe Wahlgren

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Dennis Schilz  
Jerry Weaver  
Bob Wiseman

OTHERS PRESENT

Nathan Nielsen, CNPPID  
Marilyn Rubenthaler  
Mike Wheeler, Sargent Irrigation

NRCS PERSONNEL PRESENT

Traci Bates  
Carol Eakins  
Roger Hammer  
Kelsi Niederklein

STAFF PRESENT

Brad Carlson, Range Programs Technician  
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

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – December 11, 2007

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. Mr. Rubenthaler reported that Mr. Schilz, Mr. Weaver, 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 November 8, 2007 Meeting – Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the Minutes for the November 8, 2007 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 November 8, 2007 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mr. Margritz seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #1)

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

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – December 11, 2007

REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

No requests for assistance were presented.

COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORT

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service – District Conservationist Report – Mr. Rubenthaler reported that Mary Reece, District Conservationist, was unable to attend the Board meeting and that Carol Eakins would present the report. Ms. Eakins distributed and reviewed a written report for information.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT

Land Resources Subcommittee

No report presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT

Water Resources Subcommittee

No report presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT

Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee

No reported presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT

Executive Subcommittee

No report presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Statement - Mr. Meismer reported that the Financial Statement for November 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 November 2007 be received and placed on file for audit and to approve payment of the invoices presented on the Accounts Payable report on December 11, 2007 in the amount of \$27,053.02. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #2)

Aye: Hansen, Margritz, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Storer,

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – December 11, 2007

Wahlgren  
Nay: None  
Absent & Excused: Schilz, Weaver, Wiseman  
Absent: None  
Out of Room: Stack

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 January 10, 2008 Board of Directors Meeting – Mr. Miller reported that no bids/proposals were scheduled to be presented for consideration during the January 10, 2008 Board of Directors meeting.

POLICIES

Operating Policy Number 3: Board of Directors Elections – Mr. Miller reported that the Board of Directors, on October 11, 2001, approved election sub-district boundaries utilizing the 2000 census. Mr. Miller reported that the Board of Directors, on January 8, 2004, approved revisions for the election sub-district boundaries per the request of Rebecca Rossell, Lincoln County Clerk, due to the elimination of 7 rural precincts and combining them with adjoining precincts due to ADA compliance at polling sites. Mr. Miller reported that Rebecca Rossell, Lincoln County Clerk, recently notified the Twin Platte Natural Resources District that she had decided to eliminate the Rosedale precinct and the land area has been moved into the Hall precinct and the Hershey precinct. Mr. Miller reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District therefore needs to revise Operating Policy Number 3: Board of Directors Elections. Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors packet for information were a letter from Rebecca J. Rossell, Lincoln County Clerk, November 7, 2007, draft revisions for Operating Policy Number 3 within which Rosedale precinct is removed from Election Sub-district 1, a map of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District showing the proposed change, and a map of the City of North Platte which would not change.

Mr. Petersen moved to approve the following revisions for Operating Policy #3: Board of Director’s Elections (additions are underscored and deletions have a strikethrough line):

The District shall have equally populated sub-districts and the members of the Board shall be elected by sub-districts. The ten members of the Board of Directors representing sub-districts shall be elected by the voters in the sub-district and the one at-large member of the Board of Directors shall be elected by the voters of the District.

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – December 11, 2007

The election sub-district boundaries for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District are:

Sub-District 1 (Population 2000 Census 8,418)

VOTING PRECINCT

McPherson County

McPherson County (Part)

The precinct area west of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District eastern boundary (west of the township line between Range 31 West and Range 32 West)

Arthur County

Arthur County

Lincoln County

Hall

Rosedale

North Platte - 1

North Platte - 2

North Platte - 12

Keith County

Whitetail

Sub-District 2 (Population 2000 Census – 9,212)

VOTING PRECINCT

Lincoln County

Brady (Part)

The precinct area north of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District southern boundary (north of the north border of Sections 22, 23 and 24, Township 9 North, Range 26 West; east of the east border of Sections 4, 9 and 16, Township 9 North, Range 26 West; north of the north border of Sections 4, 5 and 6, Township 9 North, Range 26 West; east of the east border of Sections 24, 25 and 36, Township 10 North, Range 27 West; north of the north border of Sections 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24, Township 10 North, Range 27 West; east of the east border of Sections 1, 12, and 13, Township 10 North, Range 28 West; east of the east border of Sections 24, 25 and 36, Township 11 North, Range 28 West; and north of the north border of Sections 23 and 24, Township 11 North, Range 28 West)

Maxwell (Part)

The precinct area north of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District southern boundary (north of the north border of Sections 19, 20, 21 and 22, Township 11, North, Range 28 West)

Sellers (Part)

The precinct area north of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District southern boundary (north of the north border of Sections 19, 20 and 21, Township 11 North, Range 29 West; north of the north border of Sections 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24, Township 11

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – December 11, 2007

North, Range 30 West; and north of the north border of Sections 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, and 24, Township 11 North, Range 31 West)  
Osgood (Part)

The precinct area north of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District southern boundary (north of the north border of Sections 22, 23 and 24, Township 11 North, Range 29 West)

North Platte - 7A

North Platte - 7B

North Platte - 8

North Platte - 10

Sub-District 3 (Population 2000 Census - 8,425)

VOTING PRECINCT

Lincoln County

North Platte - 3

North Platte - 4

North Platte - 5

North Platte - 6

North Platte - 11

North Platte - 15

North Platte - 16

Sub-District 4 (Population 2000 Census – 8,493)

VOTING PRECINCT

Lincoln County

Hinman

Hershey

Sutherland

Wallace (Part)

The precinct area north of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District southern boundary (north of the north border of Sections 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24, Township 11 North, Range 33 West; and north of the north border of Sections 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24, Township 11 North, Range 34 West)

North Platte - 9

North Platte - 13

North Platte - 14

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – December 11, 2007

Sub-District 5 (Population 2000 Census - 8,549)  
VOTING PRECINCT

Keith County  
Ogallala 1  
Ogallala 2  
Ogallala 3  
Ogallala 4  
Ogallala 5  
Rural Ogallala  
Paxton  
Brule  
Logan  
Lonergan

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

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

DIRECTORS REPORTS

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

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts - Legislative Conference, February 5-6, 2008 – Mr. Meismer reported that the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts annual Legislative Conference will be held February 5-6, 2008 in Lincoln, Nebraska. Mr. Meismer reported that in the Directors' packet for information was the tentative agenda. Mr. Miller reported that Senator Tom Hansen will be invited to have a private dinner with representatives of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District attending the conference on Tuesday evening, February 5, 2008 following the reception. Mr. Miller reported that the panhandle Natural Resources Districts have a formal dinner, which Senator Philip Erdman traditionally participates and the Loup River Basin Natural Resources Districts have a formal dinner, which Senator Deb Fischer traditionally participates. Mr. Miller reported that Senator Fischer last year told him that she would like to have dinner with the Twin Platte Natural Resources District in 2008 and that he would invite her to have the private dinner with representatives of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District attending the conference on Tuesday evening, February 5, 2008 following the reception.

Mr. Hansen, Mr. Meismer, Mr. Petersen, Mr. Rubenthaler, Mr. Stack, Mr. Storer, and Mr. Wahlgren indicated that they plan to attend the Legislative Conference. Mr. Margritz

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – December 11, 2007

indicated that he was considering attending the Legislative Conference. Mr. Miller reported that the office would call Mr. Schilz, Mr. Weaver, and Mr. Wiseman to see if they are planning to attend the Legislative Conference.

Mr. Miller reported that the District needs to select a voting representative for the business session. Mr. Miller reported that Mr. Meismer is chair of the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Legislative Committee and he will be chairing the business session.

Mr. Rubenthaler appointed Mr. Wahlgren to be the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Voting Delegate and Mr. Hansen to be the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Alternate Voting Delegate for the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Legislative Conference February 5-6, 2008.

Water Policy Task Force – No report presented.

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

Board of Directors Elections 2008 – Mr. Miller reported that the deadline for incumbents filing for re-election is February 15, and the deadline for Non-Office Holders filing for election is March 3.

Mr. Miller reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Directors seats up for election in 2008 are:

- Sub-District 1 Shane Storer
- Sub-District 2 Robert Petersen
- Sub-District 3 Jerry Weaver
- Sub-District 4 Robert Wiseman
- Sub-District 5 Dennis Schilz

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 \$70,664.38 was available.

Mr. Wahlgren moved to approve the December 11, 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>
8.005	NC-14	Planned Grazing System	\$ 1,564.29	\$ 1,564.29
8.006	NC-12	Trees	\$ 330.75	\$ 330.75



TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – December 11, 2007

8.007	NC-12Trees	\$ 945.00	\$ 945.00
8.008	NC-12Trees	\$ 530.75	\$ 530.75
8.009	NC-12Trees	\$ 945.00	\$ 945.00
8.010	NC-12Trees	\$ 945.00	\$ 945.00
8.011	NC-12Trees	\$ 694.25	\$ 694.25
Total Amount of New Contracts			\$ 5,955.04
FUNDS AVAILABLE:		Practice NC-12, Windbreaks	\$ 19,015.73
		Practice NC-14, Planned Grazing	\$ 19,265.19
		Practice NC-17, Irrigation	\$ 18,626.28
		Other Available Practices	\$ 7,802.14

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

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

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 \$5,818.53 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 Plan - Twin Platte Natural Resources District – Stakeholders Meetings – Mr. Miller reported that the next meeting of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Stakeholders would be January 14, 2008 at 7:00 pm CST and would be held at the Holiday Inn Express in North Platte. Mr. Miller reported that the Stakeholders agreed to cancel the December 17, 2007 meeting.

Water Programs – Integrated Management Plan - Platte River Basin – Mr. Miller reported that during the last Platte River Basin Stakeholders meeting held June 20, 2007, an IMP subcommittee of Natural Resources District managers, Irrigation District

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – December 11, 2007

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. Miller reported that the IMP Subcommittee has met on July 17, 2007, August 7, 2007, September 14, 2007, and December 5, 2007. Mr. Miller reported that during the September 14, 2007 IMP Subcommittee meeting, that discussions were put on hold and a Fully Appropriated Subcommittee of the IMP Subcommittee was selected and requested to prepare a recommendation for consideration by the IMP Subcommittee of criteria for determining fully appropriated. Mr. Miller reported that the Fully Appropriated Subcommittee reported to the IMP Subcommittee on December 5, 2007 and would continue to meet. Mr. Miller reported that the IMP Subcommittee will also continue to meet and that the next meeting of the IMP Subcommittee will be February 8, 2008.

Water Programs – Platte River Recovery Implementation Program – Mr. Miller reported that the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program Governance Committee meeting scheduled for December 11 & 12, 2007 in Denver, Colorado will be a conference call on December 12, 2007 due to weather. Mr. Miller reported that he therefore will not be traveling to Denver, Colorado following the Board meeting and will be able to attend the awards banquet.

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 – Mr. Miller 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. 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 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 Twin Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors on March 15, 2007 took action “to approve an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement by and

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – December 11, 2007

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. Miller reported that the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Board of Directors on October 11, 2007 took action “to approve 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. Miller reported that the South Platte River Coalition sponsors on November 20, 2007, signed 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.

Mr. Miller reported that in the Directors’ packet for information was the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement formally signed by the South Platte River Coalition sponsors on November 20, 2007.

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

Water Programs – South Platte River Compact – No report presented.

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – December 11, 2007

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 – 2007 Awards Program – Presentation November 13, 2007 – Mr. Miller reported that the District’s 2007 Grassland Conservation Award for Lincoln / McPherson Counties was 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 participated in the award presentation.

Mr. Miller reported that the District’s 2007 Tree Award for Keith/Arthur Counties will be presented after the Board meeting to Tom Kalkowski of Ogallala during the District’s Awards Banquet at the Haythorn Ranch.

Requests for Authorization to Travel – Mr. Miller requested authorization to participate in the 2008 Nebraska Association of Resources Districts annual meetings in Washington, D.C. Mr. Miller reported that the meetings would be March 10-12, 2008. Mr. Miller reported that he had previously participated annually from 1976 through 1996. Mr. Miller reported that as a member of the Mid-Plains Community College Board of Governors, he had also traveled to Washington D.C. for the annual Community Colleges National Legislative Conference from 1983 through 2006. Mr. Miller reported that he stopped requesting authorization to participate in the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts annual meetings in Washington, D.C. after 1996, as he felt he was able to maintain Nebraska Congressional offices contacts for Twin Platte Natural Resources District related issues while attending the Community Colleges National Legislative Conference. Mr. Miller reported that due to a recent move by his family to a different house, that he had moved out of the election district he was representing on the Mid-Plains Community College Board of Governors and he had to resign. Mr. Miller reported that he therefore would not be participating in the Community Colleges National Legislative Conference in February 2008. Mr. Miller reported that he believed that it was important for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District to maintain annual contacts in the Nebraska Congressional offices.

Mr. Meismer moved to authorize Mr. Miller to participate in the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts meetings in Washington D.C. March 10-12, 2008. Mr. Storer seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #5)

Aye: Hansen, Margritz, Meismer, Petersen, Rubenthaler, Stack, Storer, Wahlgren

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – December 11, 2007

Nay: None  
Absent & Excused: Schilz, Weaver, Wiseman  
Absent: None

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

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

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

NEXT MEETING

Mr. Rubenthaler reported that the next Board of Directors meeting would be held on Thursday, January 10, 2008 at 3:00 pm CST (2:00 pm MST) at the TierOne Bank Center Meeting Room, 111 South Dewey Street, Second Floor, North Platte, Nebraska.

AWARDS DINNER

The District's 2007 Tree Award for Keith/Arthur Counties was presented to Tom Kalkowski of Ogallala during the District's Awards Banquet at the Haythorn Ranch.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. MST (9:00 p.m. CST).

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Jerry Weaver, Secretary