

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
February 9, 2012

The Twin Platte Natural Resources District (TPNRD) Board of Directors meeting was held at the Great Western Bank Meeting Room, Second Floor, 111 South Dewey Street, North Platte, Nebraska on February 9, 2012. Mr. Schilz called the meeting to order at 3:07 pm CST (2:07 pm 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 S Hansen
James Meisner
Robert L Petersen
Bob Peterson
Dennis Schilz
Douglas L Stack
Shane Storer
Joe Wahlgren
Jerry Weaver

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

John W Williams
Robert Wiseman

NRCS PERSONNEL PRESENT

Mary Reece, District Conservationist

STAFF PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Bart Nichols, Sargent Irrigation
Jeff Shafer, NPPD

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nebraska Open Meeting Act – Mr. Schilz reported that the Nebraska Open Meeting Act requires public bodies to make available at least one current copy of the Open Meeting Act which may be 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. Schilz reported that the current Open Meeting Act was on the wall in the back of the meeting room and accessible to members of the public.

Report of Directors Excused – Mr. Schilz reported that Operating Policy Number 4: BOARD

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OF DIRECTORS ABSENCES provides that a Director will be considered excused if the Director notifies the office prior to the meeting that he will be absent and that the minutes will reflect whether an absent Director is excused or unexcused. Mr. Schilz reported that Mr. Williams and Mr. Wiseman had notified the office that they would be absent and are therefore excused.

Information Packet and Notebook available for the Public – Mr. Schilz reported that on the shelf in the back of the room is a copy of the Board Meeting Notebook and the Board Meeting Information Packet that each Board member has that are available for viewing by the public attending the Board of Directors meeting.

Other Announcements – None presented.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Schilz opened the Public Forum. There were no comments. Mr. Schilz closed the Public Forum.

AGENDA MODIFICATION

None presented.

GENERAL INFORMATION

None presented.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

Minutes for January 12, 2012 Meeting – Mr. Schilz reported that the Minutes for the January 12, 2012 Board of Directors meeting was available for the Directors' and he asked if there were any corrections or additions.

Mr. Meismer moved that the Minutes of the January 12, 2012 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Mr. Stack seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #1)

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

REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

None presented.

COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORT

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USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) – District Conservationist Report – Mrs. Reece presented a written report which was available for the Directors’.

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 Subcommittee meeting held on February 9, 2012.

Ground Water Management – Variances – Ron & Judy Gross – Mr. Meismer reported that the TPNRD received a request for a variance from Ron & Judy Gross. Mr. Meismer asked Mrs. Dimmitt to report on the request.

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve granting a variance to Ron & Judy Gross to drill a new irrigation well at the location where they currently have 136.76 certified acres in the NE¼ Section 5, Township 12 North, Range 28 West, Lincoln County, Nebraska. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #2)

Aye: Hansen, Meismer, Petersen, Schilz, Stack, Storer, Wahlgren, Weaver
Nay: Peterson
Absent & Excused: Williams, Wiseman

Ground Water Management – Variances – Ken Younghans – Mr. Meismer reported that the TPNRD received a request for a variance from Ken Younghans. Mr. Meismer asked Mrs. Dimmitt to report on the request.

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve granting a variance to Ken Younghans to transfer 23.0 flood irrigated acres within the SW¼ Section 9, Township 13 North, Range 31 West, Lincoln County, Nebraska, that only the portion of the 23.0 acres transferred that could be irrigated by the center pivot irrigation system without using the end gun would be certified, and any additional acres from the 23.0 acres transferred could be placed in the water bank. Mr. Weaver seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #3)

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

Ground Water Management – Variances – Paul Heinrich – Mr. Meismer reported that the TPNRD received a request for a variance from Paul Heinrich. Mr. Meismer asked Mrs.

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Dimmitt to report on the request.

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee's recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve granting a variance to Paul Heinrich to transfer 91.4 irrigated acres within the NW¼ Section 21, Township 13 North, Range 35 West, Keith County, Nebraska. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #4)

Aye: Hansen, Meismer, Petersen, Peterson, Schilz, Stack, Storer, Wahlgren, Weaver

Nay: None

Absent & Excused: Williams, Wiseman

Ground Water Management – Variances – Mike Star – Mr. Meismer reported that the TPNRD received a request for a variance from Mike Star. Mr. Meismer asked Mrs. Dimmitt to report on the request.

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee's recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve granting a variance to Mike Star to transfer 5.05 co-mingled irrigated acres from the NE¼ Section 18, Township 14 North, Range 31 West, Lincoln County, Nebraska, to re-locate those 5.05 co-mingled acres under a new wiper pivot within the same section, and conditioned on the surface water rights being transferred by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources within the next two years. Mr. Weaver seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #5)

Aye: Hansen, Meismer, Petersen, Peterson, Schilz, Stack, Storer, Wahlgren, Weaver

Nay: None

Absent & Excused: Williams, Wiseman

Ground Water Management – Variances – David Krajewski – Mr. Meismer reported that the TPNRD received a request for a variance from David Krajewski. Mr. Meismer asked Mrs. Dimmitt to report on the request.

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee's recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve granting a variance to David Krajewski to transfer 80.8 acres from the W½ Section 23, Township 13 North, Range 39 West, Keith County, Nebraska, and to re-locate 78.38 acres in the NE¼ Section 22, Township 13 North, Range 39 West, Keith County, Nebraska. Mr. Weaver seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #6)

Aye: Hansen, Meismer, Petersen, Peterson, Schilz, Stack, Storer, Wahlgren, Weaver

Nay: None

Absent & Excused: Williams, Wiseman

Ground Water Management – Variances – Jan Kraus – Mr. Meismer reported that the TPNRD received a request for a variance from Jan Kraus. Mr. Meismer asked Mrs. Dimmitt to report on the request.

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Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve granting a variance to Jan Kraus to transfer 27.85 acres from the NW¼ Section 8, Township 12 North, Range 39 West, Keith County, Nebraska, and to re-locate 18.66 of those acres to a new pivot that Con Smith has been adding acres to in order to complete the pivot in the NE¼ Section 22, Township 13 North, Range 39 West, Keith County, Nebraska. Mr. Wahlgren seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #7)

Aye: Hansen, Meismer, Petersen, Peterson, Schilz, Stack, Storer, Wahlgren, Weaver

Nay: None

Absent & Excused: Williams, Wiseman

Ground Water Management – Violations – No report presented.

Brule Watershed – Maintenance - No report presented.

Legislature - Legislative Resolution 314 Interim Study – No report presented.

Integrated Management Plan – Offset Water – Mr. Meismer reported that when the Water Resources Subcommittee met with the Surface Water Irrigation Districts in Lincoln County on January 17, 2012 to discuss Conjunctive Management of Ground Water and Surface Water options for offset water, the Irrigation Districts asked for a list of the options discussed to use during their annual meetings that were occurring in January and February. Mr. Meismer reported that available for the Directors was a document listing options for offset water prepared by the TPNRD. Mr. Weaver reviewed the options and an example of using several of the options provided in the document.

Personnel – Authorized Positions – Mr. Meismer reported that the TPNRD currently has unfilled authorized positions for a Ground Water Modeler and a Water Programs Technician.

Mr. Meismer reported that the TPNRD needs an employee with a good understanding of hydrology with either an Engineering degree or a Water Science degree. Mr. Meismer reported that the Water Resources Subcommittee is recommending that the Board of Directors authorize a Hydrology position with requirements for an Engineering degree using the current Ground Water Modeler salary schedule or a Water Science degree using the current Programs Coordinator salary schedule, and eliminate the Ground Water Modeler position.

Mr. Meismer asked Mr. Miller to report on the request.

Mr. Miller reported that he would like to maintain the Water Programs Technician position. Mr. Miller reported that he believes that with revising the job descriptions of some of the existing personnel and revising how some of the TPNRD programs are carried out, that the work previously done by the Water Programs Technician could be carried out by existing personnel without adversely effecting TPNRD programs and the Water Programs Technician position would be filled only when additional work is needed in the Water Programs.

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Mr. Miller reviewed a document he had prepared that was available for the Directors. Mr. Miller reviewed programs of the TPNRD and personnel working within each program, revisions that would occur in carrying out the Tree Program, and revisions in personnel job descriptions for carrying out the chemigation requirements in the Regulatory Program and the monitoring requirements in the Water Programs. Mr. Miller reviewed the revisions for the job descriptions for the Water Programs Field Coordinator, the Conservation Programs Coordinator, and the Grasslands Stewardship Coordinator (formerly Range Programs Coordinator).

Mr. Meismer moved the Water Resources Subcommittee’s recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve authorizing a Hydrology position with requirements for an Engineering degree using the current Ground Water Modeler salary schedule or a Water Science degree using the current Programs Coordinator salary schedule, and eliminating the Ground Water Modeler position. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #8)

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

Cost-Share Programs – Soil Moisture Probes - No report presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Wildlife Habitat & Urban Affairs Subcommittee

No report presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS REPORT
Executive Subcommittee

No report presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Statement - Mr. Meismer reported that the Financial Statement for January 2012 was available for the Directors’.

Accounts Payable - Mr. Meismer reported that the Accounts Payable report was available for the Directors’ and that he had reviewed the Accounts Payable and found the report to be in order.

Mr. Meismer moved that the Financial Statement for January 2012 be received and placed on file for audit and to approve payment of the invoices presented on February 9, 2012 in the amount of \$41,058.40. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #9)

Aye: Hansen, Meismer, Petersen, Peterson, Schilz, Stack, Storer, Wahlgren,

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Weaver
Nay: None
Absent & Excused: Williams, Wiseman

Budget Status – Mr. Meismer reported that the Budget Status report was available for the Directors’.

Bids/Proposals – None presented.

Bids/Proposals Scheduled to be Presented for Consideration during the March 8, 2012 Board of Directors Meeting – Mr. Miller reported that the District Policy provides that “The staff will notify the Board during the Board meeting immediately prior to the Board meeting at which bids will be presented for consideration”. Mr. Miller reported that no bids/proposals would be presented for the March 8, 2012 Board of Directors meeting.

DIRECTORS REPORTS

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD) – Board of Directors – No report presented.

Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD) – Legislative Conference, January 23-25, 2012 – Mr. Meismer reported on the NARD annual Legislative Conference that was held January 23-25, 2012 in Lincoln, Nebraska. Mr. Meismer reported that various items of information were available for the Directors’.

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

Board of Directors Elections 2012 – Mr. Schilz reported that the deadline for Incumbents filing for re-election is February 15 and the deadline for Non-Office Holders filing for re-election is March 1. Mr. Schilz reported that the TPNRD Director seats up for election in 2012 are Sub-District 1 (Shane Storer), Sub-District 2 (Robert L Petersen), Sub-District 3 (Jerry Weaver), Sub-District 4 (Robert Wiseman), and Sub-District 5 (Dennis Schilz).

Requests for Authorization to Travel – No requests presented.

DISTRICT REPORT

Cost-Share Programs – NE Soil & Water Conservation Program – Mr. Miller reported that in the Director’s notebook was a report and \$31,077.45 was available for funding contracts.

Mr. Petersen moved to approve the February 9, 2012 report 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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12.022	NC-12	Trees	\$ 1,109.00	\$ 1,109.00
12.023	NC-12	Trees	\$ 1,109.00	\$ 1,109.00
12.024	NC-12	Trees	\$ 1,109.00	\$ 1,109.00
12.025	NC-12	Trees	\$ 887.20	\$ 887.20
12.026	NC-12	Trees	\$ 1,109.00	\$ 1,109.00
12.027	NC-12	Trees	\$ 942.65	\$ 942.65
12.028	NC-10	Range Seeding	\$ 961.40	<u>\$ 961.40</u>
		Total Amount of New Contracts		\$ 7,227.25
	FUNDS AVAILABLE	Practice NC-12, Windbreaks		\$ 1,640.10
		Practice NC-14, Planned Grazing		\$ 0.00
		Practice NC-17, Irrig Water Mgt		\$ 17,817.60
		Other available practices		\$ 5,523.06

Mr. Meisner seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Motion #10)

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

Cost-Share Programs – District Conservation Programs – Mr. Miller reported that a report was available for the Directors’ and \$5,201.31 was available for new contracts.

Tree Program – Mr. Miller reported that various items of information were available for the Directors’.

Range Programs – No report presented.

Water Programs – No report presented.

Soil Conservation Programs – No report presented.

Wildlife Habitat Programs – No report presented.

Regulatory Programs – No report presented.

Information & Education Programs – No report presented.

Brule Watershed – No report presented.

Interlocal Cooperation Agreements – No report presented.

Upper Republican NRD Proposal - Proposed Radio Advertisement – Mr. Miller reported that the Upper Republican NRD was proposing that western NRDs join together to fund radio advertising in Omaha, Lincoln, and central Nebraska in regard to the role NRDs have in managing ground water. Mr. Miller reported that various items of information from the Upper Republican NRD were available for the Directors’.

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No action occurred. The Board of Directors agreed to maintain the policy of the TPNRD to not pay for advertising.

UNL Department of Agronomy - Request for Data – Mr. Miller reported that Jim Specht, Professor of Agronomy & Horticulture at the University of Nebraska Lincoln is requesting each NRD to provide yield and crop management data, and to provide the NRDs mailing list for producers in the NRD. Mr. Miller reported that various items of information from Jim Specht were available for the Directors’.

Mr. Miller reported that the TPNRD does not obtain reports on producer yield and crop management data.

Mr. Miller reported that the TPNRD policy is not to provide mailing address lists. Mr. Miller reported that the TPNRDs only mailing list is for the TPNRD Newsletter which would include all addresses within the TPNRD of which most would not be land owners of production agriculture.

No action occurred. The Board of Directors agreed that the TPNRD did not have the data requested and agreed to maintain the policy of not providing mailing address lists.

Legislature - Mr. Miller reported that various items of information from the NARD were available for the Directors’.

Requests for Authorization to Travel – No report presented.

Meetings and Dates of Interest – Mr. Miller reported that various items of information were available for the Directors’.

Miscellaneous Information – Mr. Miller reported that various items of information were available for the Directors’.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:17 pm.

Jerry Weaver, Secretary