

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD

Board Meeting Minutes

September 24, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: Vice-Chairman Tom Downey called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. He reported that the NRD abides by the Open Meetings Act in conducting business and said that a copy of the Open Meetings Act was displayed on the south wall of the conference room. The Board reserves the right to change the order of an item on the agenda, and some items on the agenda are subject to closed session.

ATTENDANCE: Board members present by roll call were:

Todd Arends	Barry Obermiller	Jay Richeson
Lon Bohn	Keith Ostermeier	Ed Stoltenberg
Tom Downey	Luke Ourada	John Stoltenberg
Ryan Kegley	Doug Reeves	Kevin Werner
Charles Maser	Marvion Reichert	Mike Wilkens
Jerry Milner	Mick Reynolds	

Excused Absences: Brian Keiser, Amy Kyes, Dwayne Margritz and Deb VanMatre

Staff present: Lyndon Vogt – General Manager, Kelly Cole – Administrative Assistant, Marcia Lee – Information/Education Specialist, Luke Zakrzewski – GIS Image Analyst, Courtney Widup – Water Resources Technician, Collin Quandt – Agronomist, Brody Vorderstrasse – Communications Assistant and Jesse Mintken – Assistant Manager.

Others present: Joe Krolkowski – District Conservationist and Jason Scholz – Hall County Resources Conservationist

MEETING NOTICES: Vice-Chairman Downey reported that the notices of the meeting had been published in the Grand Island Independent, and the news release was provided to other media outlets in the district.

MEETING MINUTES: Mick Reynolds made a motion to approve the August board meeting minutes. Keith Ostermeier seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Todd Arends, Tom Downey and Luke Ourada who abstained. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER BUSINESS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS: Vice-Chairman Downey asked if there were any announcements or suggestions for future meetings. There was none.

PUBLIC FORUM: Vice-Chairman Downey asked if anyone wanted to address the board on any item not included on the agenda. There was none.

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Vice-Chairman Downey reported that Brian Keiser, Amy Kyes, Dwayne Margritz and Deb VanMatre requested to be excused from the board

meeting.

Marvion Reichert made the motion to approve the absences as requested. Todd Arends seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

NRCS REPORTS: Jason Scholz, Hall County Resources Conservationist, reviewed the CSP Certifications (see attached).

Joe Krolkowski, District Conservationist, reviewed some of the programs that were used in the Central Platte NRD this past fiscal year (see attached).

BUILDING COMMITTEE: Mick Reynolds, Chairman, reported that the committee met earlier today out at the new building. He gave a brief update on the progress.

Reynolds reported that the Central Platte NRD has 116 hay bales from the Prairie/Silver/Moorse project. After some discussion the committee recommended donating those hay bales to landowners in Western Nebraska that were affected by the wildfires earlier this year.

Mick Reynolds made a motion to donate the 116 hay bales from the Prairie/Silver/Moorse project to landowners in Western Nebraska that were affected by wildfires earlier this year. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE: Jerry Milner, Chairman, reported that the committee met earlier today and discussed Nitrogen Management violations, no action was taken.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Lyndon Vogt, General Manager, reported that staff are currently working on updating the GWMP Rules & Regulations. They will bring those suggested changes to the board in November to review.

Vogt reported that staff is currently working on the OneRed Agreement and how Central Platte NRD will manage the program.

ANNUAL WATER USE REPORT: Jesse Mintken, Assistant Manager, gave a summary of the Annual Report of Water Use activities in the Central Platte NRD for the calendar year 2025. Central Platte NRD recorded 1,018,231 total certified irrigated acres, approved 74 transfer and issued 62 well permits.

COST SHARE PROGRAMS: Applications - Kelly Cole, Administrative Assistant, reported that we have received cost share applications for the following programs: Cover Crop (see enclosed). She said the applicants are in compliance with the District's rules and regulations, funds are available, and she recommended they be approved.

Marvion Reichert made a motion to approve the cost share applications as reported. Lon Bohn seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Lyndon Vogt, General Manager, reviewed the September financial report.

Marvion Reichert made a motion to approve the September financial report as presented. Doug Reeves seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICT: No Report

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION: No Report

UPCOMING EVENTS: Vice-Chairman Downey reviewed the upcoming events.

NEXT BOARD MEETING – Scheduled for the afternoon of Thursday, October 22. Details to follow.

OTHER BUSINESS: There was none.

ADJOURN: Vice-Chairman Downey adjourned the board meeting at 2:36 p.m.

CSP Certifications



General Overview

- Enrollment of entire operation
- 5 Year Contract
- Competitive ranking system like EQIP
- Practices/Enhancements
- Existing Activity Payment (EAP) for conservation threshold met
- Spring meeting each year
- Records need certified prior to end of September

Enhancement Examples

E340C - Multi-species cover crop to improve soil health and increase soil organic matter

- 4 species minimum
- Include crop types not in current rotation
- Can be grazed with a plan
- Must include winter small grain after fall harvest crop

E590A – Improve nutrient uptake efficiency and reducing risk of nutrient loss

- Aimed at management of nutrients in right place, amount, source and timing
- Use of new strategies to an operation may include; inhibitors, slow-release formulations, in season tissue or soil sampling
- Development of a nutrient budget

Enhancement Selection/Options

- Producers pick based upon requirements, willingness to adopt and interest for the practice
- Different requirements for each enhancement depending upon resource concern treating
- Some enhancements must be completed on same acres each year after initial implementation some can be rotated
- Practices can also be selected if no enhancement meets the producers needs and it is not already part of the operation

Records Review

- Records turned in so they can be certified by end of September
- Some practices IWM may not be entirely done when requested
 - In this case ask for records to date to certify and turn in the rest upon completion of activity
- If not completed mod/deletion of item
- May be able to certify practice not enhancement
- If records are not turned in start process of contract termination

Certification of Activities

- Records reviewed and certified prior to end of September
- If a practice does not meet it is removed via modification/153
- Certified in both Conservation Desktop (CD)/Protracts (PT)
- Payment occurs after systems rollover – October
 - Later if records deficient or modification required
- Option to defer payment to next calendar year

2026 Changes

- No more renewal option
- EAP is flat rate, no more formulas
- Structural practices
- Enhancements to supplemental worksheets

Questions



United States Department Of Agriculture


Natural Resources Conservation Service
Grand Island Field Office
703 South Webb Rd., Suite B
Grand Island, NE 68803
Phone (308) 395-8586 (Ext. 3)

<http://www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov>

September 22, 2026

Central Platte NRD
215 North Kaufman Avenue
Grand Island, NE 68803

September Report to CPNRD

Attached is a summary of FY2026 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) the Conservation Stewardship Program (CStP) and their activity in the Central Platte NRD (CPNRD). Also included are the timelines for FY 2027, and a copy of the application to be completed by an applicant before the application deadline. The application batching period for this fiscal year will be mid-October. We will not complete an outreach effort to promote the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, as the funds have all been obligated.
Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Joe Krolikowski

Joe Krolikowski
District Conservationist

Attachment: CPNRD FY 2026 EQIP Contract Summary
FY2027 Blank EQIP Application

FY 2026 EQIP/RCPP Contract Summary-CPNRD

Water Conservation: \$4,627,789.97 (29 contracts/2,676.6 acres)

- 8 Pipeline/Pivot/Pumping Plant/Dryland/FM/IWM
- 10 SDI/Pumping Plant/Dryland/FM/IWM
- 11 Dryland Only Contracts
- 0 IWM/FM
- 0 Combustion System Improvement

Grazing Lands: \$1,230,555.36 (47 contracts/18,886.9 acres)

- Brush Mgt/Prescribed Burn/Water Supply/X-Fence/PGS
- Soil Health: \$2,757,857.43 (20 contracts/17,566.9 acres)
 - Cover Crop/Terrace/Grassed Waterway/No-Till/Nutrient Mgmt
- Conservation Activity Plans & Burn: \$0.00 (0 contracts/0.0 acres)

- Prescribed Burn Management Plans & Burn

Forestry/Wetland/Wildlife Improvement: \$0.00 (0 contracts/0.0 acres)

- Windbreak establishment/WB Renovation/Forrest Stnd Imprvmt
- High Tunnels & SSUA Projects: \$0.00 (0 contracts/0.0 acres)

- High Tunnels/Irrigation & Nutrient Mgmt/Cover Crops

FY 2026 EQIP/RCPP Contract Summary Totals - CPNRD

Field Office Summary

Central City – 14 contracts - \$1,908,886 – 1,380.8 acres

Grand Island – 6 contracts - \$440,211.00 – 603.8 acres

Kearney – 34 contracts - \$4,854,678.23 – 8,066.8 acres

Lexington – 43 contracts - \$1,822,455.53 – 29,369.3 acres

Totals – 97 contracts - \$9,026,230.76 – 39,420.7 acres

What comes next?

FY 2027 EQIP Timeline

Continuous Signup with Application Cutoff Dates

First Application Cutoff Date: Mid-October

Second Application Cutoff Date: To Be Determined

Application Ranking Deadline: February 2027 TBD

Carryover CPNRD EQIP Applications:

Water Conservation: 100 - \$18 Million

Grazing Lands: 16 - \$150,000

Soil Health: 23 - \$500,000

Total Applications: 139 - \$18.6 Million

FY2026 Contracts in All Programs Over the Central Platte NRD

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)
Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

1966 Nebraska Soil Carbon Project (RCPP)
2271 Ogallala Aquifer & Platte River Recovery (RCPP)

- Contracts: 107
- Obligations: \$11,148,410.76
- Treated Acres 71,273.0

QUESTIONS?

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider, Employer, and Lender

CONSERVATION PROGRAM APPLICATION

Applicant (Decision Maker):	Application Date:
Address:	Location where assistance is requested:
Email:	
Telephone:	Receive text messages (optional):
Assistance Requested:	

Click here for [instructions](#) to complete this form or contact the local office for assistance.

1. Do you have a customer record with the Farm Service Agency (FSA)?

☐ Yes ☐ No

2. Interested in participating in the following (select all that apply):

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Agricultural Conservation Easement Program-Wetland Reserve Easement (ACEP-WRE) | ☐ Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) |
| ☐ Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) | ☐ Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) |
| ☐ Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) | |

a) Program enrollment type, activity type, and/or project name, as applicable:

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3. Applicant Information:

Select the business structure and enter the legal name and tax identification number for all applicants who will be participants on the contract or agreement including the decision maker.

Business Structure (Mark with an X)		Applicant Legal Name	Tax Number (last four digits)
Individual	Entity		
☐	☐		
☐	☐		
☐	☐		
☐	☐		
☐	☐		
☐	☐		

To add more applicants, complete [CPA-1200 Continuation Page](#), Applicant Information and attach to this form.

a) If applicant is a legal entity or joint operation, do you have appropriate documents including proof to sign for the legal entity or joint operation?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

- b) Complete the table below for all applicants who meet the requirements for one or more of the historically underserved categories. If none, leave blank. (optional)

Applicant Legal Name	Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher	Beginning Farmer or Rancher	Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher	Veteran Farmer or Rancher	Veteran Discharge Date
	☐	☐	☐	☐	
	☐	☐	☐	☐	
	☐	☐	☐	☐	
	☐	☐	☐	☐	
	☐	☐	☐	☐	
	☐	☐	☐	☐	

Note: Advance payments are available for EQIP contracts with applicants that meet one or more of the historically underserved categories. Refer to the [instructions](#) to learn more about advance payments. If you qualify for advance payments, you will have the opportunity to request them after receiving a contract and prior to practice implementation.

4. **Land Information.** The following questions apply to the land being offered for enrollment through this application.

a) Land Type (check all that apply):

- ☐ Private Land
☐ Public Land: ☐ Federal Government ☐ State Government ☐ Local Government
☐ Indian Land: ☐ Allotted ☐ Tribal Trust Land ☐ Tribal Non-Trust Land ☐ Other

b) Control of Land Documentation (check all that apply):

- ☐ Deed or other evidence of land ownership
☐ Written lease agreement
☐ Other agreement or legal conveyance (describe):

c) Is the land currently enrolled in other USDA conservation program(s)?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Which program(s):

d) Organic Certification:

- ☐ Certified Organic by the National Organic Program (NOP)
☐ Transitioning to become Certified Organic by the NOP
☐ Exempt from Organic Certification as defined by the NOP
☐ Not Applicable

e) What is the primary crop type(s)?

f) What is the primary livestock type(s)?

- 5. Electronic Delivery.** Would you prefer to receive communications specific to your application or contract from NRCS electronically via email? While NRCS prioritizes electronic delivery, some documents may still be sent in hard copy.
- ☐ Yes ☐ No

The applicant agrees not to start any financially assisted conservation practice or activity or engage the reimbursable services of a certified technical service provider before the program contract is executed by NRCS. The applicant understands that if they start a conservation practice or activity prior to NRCS executing the program contract, the applicant will be ineligible to receive payment for the conservation practice or activity. The applicant may request a waiver to begin a conservation practice or activity early by submitting their written request to the applicable NRCS State Conservationist.

Applicants must provide NRCS with written authorization from the landowner to install structural or vegetative practices on leased land included in this application.

The applicant acknowledges that they have or will file all other required eligibility information including highly erodible land conservation/wetland conservation certifications, adjusted gross income certifications, and member information for legal entities and joint operations with the FSA, as applicable, prior to NRCS approving a program contract based on this application.

The applicant may obtain a copy of the applicable conservation program contract appendix, which defines the full terms and conditions of program participation at the local NRCS office.

- ☐ Check here if NRCS-CPA-1200 Continuation Page, Applicant Information is attached.

Applicant Signature	Date

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the State or local Agency that administers the program or contact USDA through the Telecommunications Relay Service at 711 (voice and TTY). Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at <https://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint> and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Mail Stop 9410, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Cost Share
Thursday, September 24, 2026

COVER CROP COST SHARE PROGRAM	\$	2,000.00
Krug Acres LLC – Merrick	\$	2,000.00
TOTAL	\$	2,000.00