

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD

Board Meeting Minutes

December 20, 2018

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Jim Bendfeldt 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, that 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 were:

LeRoy Arends	Charles Maser	Jay Richeson
Jim Bendfeldt	Jerry Milner	Bob Schanou
Alicia Haussler	Barry Obermiller	Steve Sheen
Chris Henry	Keith Ostermeier	Keith Stafford
Brian Keiser	Doug Reeves	Ed Stoltenberg
Ed Kyes	Marvion Reichert	Deborah VanMatre
Dwayne Margritz	Mick Reynolds	Jerry Wiese

Staff present: Lyndon Vogt – General Manager, Jesse Mintken – Assistant Manager, Dianne Miller – Administrative Director, Mark Czaplewski – District Biologist, Kelly Cole – Programs Coordinator, Marcia Lee – Information/Education Specialist, Dan Clement – Water Resources Specialist, Sandy Noecker – Data Compliance Officer, Luke Zakrzewski – GIS Image Analyst, Angie Warner – GIS Programs Coordinator, Tricia Dudley – Resources Conservationist, Courtney Widup – Water Resources Technician.

Others present – Joe Krolkowski – NRCS Liaison District Conservationist, Grand Island, Allison Petr – Auditor, Lutz Company, Dean Krull – UNL Extension Service.

MEETING NOTICES: Chairman Bendfeldt 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: Alicia Haussler made the motion to approve the November board meeting minutes. Mick Reynolds seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Dwayne Margritz, Jerry Milner, Doug Reeves, Bob Schanou, Steve Sheen and Jerry Wiese who all abstained. Marvion Reichert and Keith Stafford were absent for the motion. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER BUSINESS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS:

Chairman Bendfeldt asked if there were any announcements or suggestions for future meetings. There were none.

PUBLIC FORUM: Chairman Bendfeldt asked if anyone wanted to address the board on

any item not included on the agenda. No one requested time to speak.

NRCS REPORT: Joe Krolkowski, NRCS Liaison District Conservationist, reported on the Fiscal Year 2019 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). See enclosed report.

AUDIT REPORT – FISCAL 2017/2018: Allison Petr, accountant with Lutz & Company P.C. reported on their audit for Fiscal Year 2017/2018. Copies were made available to the directors on drop box and hard copies were handed out at the meeting.

Alicia Haussler made the motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2017/2018 audit. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

EASTERN PROJECTS COMMITTEE – UPPER PRAIRIE/SILVER/MOORES CREEK RISK REDUCTION PROJECT: Eastern Projects Committee chairman Jerry Wiese reported on their meeting held earlier that day.

Change Order #1 – Additional Levee Excavation Required & Extend Completion Date – Jerry reported one of the reasons for the time extension is due to the delay in getting the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 404 permit that the county had to get in order to move a couple of acres of wetlands. Also, when the contractors were hauling in dirt on the levee they found some of the ground they were driving over was very spongy so it was not the right type of aggregate for a levee. Approximately 2,200 cubic yards of unstable material had to be removed and replaced. Also, six fence tensioning locations were added to the fence that was put around the levee area.

Jerry Wiese made the motion to approve Change Order #1 on the contract with Van Kirk Brothers Contracting for the Prairie/Silver/Moore's Creek levee construction to extend the completion date from December 31, 2018 to February 15, 2019 due to the delay of getting the approval of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 404 permit, and also increase the contract price by \$67,270.00 because of the removal and replacement of approximately 2,200 cubic yards of unsuitable material and adding six fence tensioning locations. Mick Reynolds seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

PROGRAMS COMMITTEE: Committee chairman Keith Ostermeier reported on their meeting held earlier that day.

Outdoor Office Sign – Keith said the committee discussed the two bids that were submitted.

Keith Ostermeier made the motion to approve the Programs Committee's recommendation to hire Mayhew Signs to construct the outdoor office sign at a cost of \$13,716.00. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by

roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Proposal to Add Maximum Amount Producers May Receive for NSWCP Brush Conservation Program – Keith said the committee discussed the NE Soil and Water Conservation Program (NSWCP) brush management item. Programs Coordinator Kelly Cole had reported to the committee and recommended a cost share maximum of 50% up to \$10,000.00 per landowner per year due to the fact that the cost for brush management can be quite expensive and there are limited NSWCP funds available.

Keith Ostermeier said the Programs Committee is recommending, and he made the motion, that effective July 1, 2019 the NE Soil and Water Conservation Fund cost share for brush management be set at a maximum of 50% up to \$10,000.00 per landowner per year. Deborah VanMatre seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Proposed CPNRD/The Nature Conservancy Soil Probe Cost Share Program – Keith said the committee discussed a proposed addition to the current agreement between Central Platte NRD and The Nature Conservancy involving telemetry on center pivots. The proposal would be the addition of soil moisture probes. Participation of the producers would be voluntary but if all participated the cost would be a maximum of \$62,500.00 for the three-year period. Keith said funds are available in this year's budget. He also reported that the cost to the producers over three years would be estimated at \$4,500.00 and it is proposed that there be a one-time payment per producer of \$2,500.00 to cover the cost of the soil moisture probe.

Keith Ostermeier made the motion to approve the addition of the soil moisture probe proposal to the current center pivot telemetry project agreement between Central Platte NRD and the Nature Conservancy at a maximum cost to Central Platte NRD of \$62,500.00 for the three-year period; this would involve a one-time cost share payment of \$2,500.00 for a soil moisture probe to the producers who choose to participate. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

BOARD OFFICER NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT: Deborah VanMatre reported for the Board Officer Nominating Subcommittee (Deborah, Alicia Haussler and Barry Obermiller). She said they are recommending that Jim Bendfeldt be nominated for chairman and that Mick Reynolds be nominated for vice-chairman. It was stated that the board officers are elected at the January board meeting.

NITROGEN MANAGEMENT PROGRAM – UPDATE ON CEASE & DESIST ORDERS ISSUED TO PRODUCERS: Sandy Noecker, Data Compliance Officer, handed out an updated list of the remaining 18 producers who have still not submitted the required nitrogen management program report forms and are not in compliance with the District's Groundwater Management Plan Rules and Regulations. Originally 88 Cease and Desist Orders were issued. A brief discussion followed on some of the penalties for

violation of the Cease and Desist Order including a possible fine of from \$1,000.00 to \$5,000.00 per violation which would be determined by a court hearing and a judge's ruling, ineligibility for NRD cost share and restrictions from transferring any irrigated acres and not being allowed to irrigate next summer.

PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM REPORT:

Mark Czaplewski, District Biologist, reported that the Program's Governance Committee met on December 10th in Denver. The Governance Committee approved the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget and Work Plan of \$27.9 million. The budget includes just over \$18 million for water plan implementation as major water projects are set to begin. The largest of them is the proposed Lakeside Slurry Wall Pit Project. Project costs for that have increased significantly to just under \$10 million. Given those costs and the improved prospects for other cheaper water options (including continuance of the CPNRD water exchange agreement with Central NPP&ID) there was considerable discussion regarding the possibility of setting the slurry wall pit pilot project on the shelf for now. A final decision on that possibility was tabled until more discussions with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources are held regarding project permitting and operation. There was considerable debate about the Program's continued funding of phragmites (and other noxious and invasive plant) control. Wyoming is particularly opposed to the \$300,000 annual funding and insistent the Program's proportionate share of addressing the matter be reduced to \$200,000 annually:

Mark reported that the faces around the Governance Committee table are changing as the December meeting was the last for Mike Thabault from the Denver office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Don Kraus with Central NE Public Power & Irrigation District (being replaced with Devin Brundage), and likely pending retirements by Don Ament from Colorado and Harry LaBonde from Wyoming. The Downstream Water Users appointed Mark as their representative on the Program's Finance Committee.

NE ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICTS: Chairman Bendfeldt, Central Platte NRD's NARD board representative, said he did not have a report that month.

NE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION REPORT: Mick Reynolds, Middle Platte Basin Commission member, asked Mark Czaplewski to report on the Commission meeting as he was unable to attend. Mark said that Central Platte NRD was awarded \$56,270.00 for the CPNRD Conceptual Multi-Use Dam Design project through the NE Water Sustainability Fund and the Lower Loup NRD was awarded \$250,000.00 for the LLNRD Cover Crop Water Use Study which Central Platte NRD cosponsored.

COST SHARE PROGRAM APPLICATIONS: Programs Coordinator Kelly Cole reported that we have received applications for the NE Soil & Water Conservation Program, Center Pivot Incentive, Tree Planting, and Well Decommissioning cost share programs (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 the motion to approve the cost share applications as reported. Mick Reynolds seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

ELECT VOTING DELEGATE & ALTERNATE FOR THE NARD

LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE: Chairman Bendfeldt said the board needed to select a voting delegate and alternate for the NARD Legislative Conference that will be held in Lincoln in January.

Jay Richeson made the motion that Deborah VanMatre be selected as the voting delegate and Doug Reeves be the alternate for the NARD Legislative Conference in January. Mick Reynolds seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Deborah VanMatre and Doug Reeves who abstained. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT: The November financial report was not available at last month's board meeting because the meeting had been held one week early. General Manager Vogt briefly reviewed the November report.

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

It was stated that the December financial report would be acted on at the January board meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS: Next Board Meeting -- Scheduled for the afternoon of Thursday, January 24th. Details to follow.

ADJOURN: Chairman Bendfeldt adjourned the board meeting at 2:48 p.m.



Natural Resources Conservation Service
Grand Island Field Office
2550 N. Diers Ave., Suite L
Grand Island, NE 68803
Phone (308) 395-8586 (Ext. 3)

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

December 19, 2018

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

December Report to CPNRD

This month I would like to update you on the FY 2019 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) as we are dealing with an expired Farm Bill. By this point we usually know what our initial allocation is, and the tentative amounts that will be delivered to each Natural Resources District in Nebraska. Currently we still do not know what those amounts will be for FY2019, but we are trying to move forward at this time with what we do know, and the funds we do have.

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has begun ranking some of the applications received prior to this year's application cutoff deadline of November 16, 2018. This year the guidance from our state office is that our applications will be divided up into 3 different ranking periods. The early obligation fund pools, state-wide fund pools, and local fund pools. The early obligation fund pools have a ranking deadline of December 14, 2018, which was last Friday. This is relevant to the Central Platte NRD because this would include the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) fund code. The state-wide fund pools have a ranking deadline of January 15, 2019, and our local fund pools have a ranking deadline of February 1, 2019.

So, with those ranking deadlines you can see the EQIP application ranking, contract development, and contract funding process will be spread-out this year. Following each ranking deadline, and as soon as funds are available, contract offers will be extended immediately to the highest ranked applications so that fund obligation can be completed as early as possible in 2019.

The curve ball or the big unknown right now is how the potential signing of a New Farm Bill could change these timelines going forward.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Joe Krolikowski

Joe Krolikowski
District Conservationist

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REPORTS NOT SUBMITTED - 12-19-2018

19 Producers not in Compliance Total of 914 Producers in Phase II/III

Name	Address	City	State	Zip
ALLEN, MARK	75994 ROAD 434	LEXINGTON	NE	68850
BROWN, KENT	42730 ROAD 759	COZAD	NE	69130
GANGWISH, MATT	53860 - 130TH RD	SHELTON	NE	68876
<i>in compliance</i> JOHNSON, JEFFREY	373 B ROAD	GRAND ISLAND	NE	68801
LESIAK, MARK	2737 - 20TH RD	CLARKS	NE	68628
MICEK, AARON	2191 ROAD 139	SHELBY	NE	68662
MICEK, LARRY	13914 U ROAD	SHELBY	NE	68662
MICKELSON, DAVE	8280 - 78TH RD	KEARNEY	NE	68847
ROBINSON, BARTON	13150 W REAY AVE	PROSSER	NE	68883
RUSSELL JR, DOUG	56343 N 200 AVE	FULLERTON	NE	68638
SCHMIDT, CRAIG	6758 COUNTRY CLUB DR	COLUMBUS	NE	68601
SOLL, WILLIAM	1513 ROAD 141	COLUMBUS	NE	68601
SUCK, JERRON	14570 W PLATTE RIVER RD	KENESAW	NE	68856
THEDE, MIKE	327 R ROAD	PALMER	NE	68864
URBAN, RANDY	13376 J ROAD	OSCEOLA	NE	68561
URBAN, RICHARD	1334 138TH RD	SILVER CREEK	NE	68663
WAGNER, SEAN	1802 - 10TH RD	ARCHER	NE	68816
WAGONER, SIMON	2797 BLUFF CENTER RD	SHELTON	NE	68876
ZIEMBA, RICHARD	1876 138TH RD	OSCEOLA	NE	68651

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Cost Share
December 20, 2018

NEBRASKA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COST SHARE PROGRAM		12,500.00
Diamond C Ranch Ltd. – Custer – Planned Grazing	\$ 7,500.00	
Orson LLC – Merrick – Underground pipeline to a pivot	5,000.00	
CENTER PIVOT INCENTIVE COST SHARE PROGRAM.....		7,500.00
Andrew McHargue – Merrick	\$ 7,500.00	
TREE PLANTING COST SHARE PROGRAM.....		2,555.55
Rod Reynolds – Dawson	\$ 2,555.55	
WELL DECOMMISSIONING COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$ 3,000.00
RT Rogers Farm Inc – Buffalo	\$ 750.00	
Crawford Cattle Co. – Dawson	750.00	
Platte River Whooping Crane Trust – Hall	750.00	
Fred Sukup – Dawson	750.00	
Total		\$ 25,555.55