

DRAFT

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Board Meeting Minutes
February 22, 2018

CALL TO ORDER: Vice-chairman Mick Reynolds 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	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
Charles Maser	Jay Richeson	

Excused absence: Jim Bendfeldt

Staff present: Lyndon Vogt – General Manager, Jesse Mintken – Assistant Manager, Dianne Miller - Administrative Director, Mark Czaplewski – District Biologist, Brandi Flyr – District Hydrologist, Dan Clement – Water Resources Specialist, Marcia Lee – Information Education Specialist, Kelly Cole – Programs Coordinator, Sandy Noecker – Data Compliance Officer, Luke Zakrzewski – GIS Image Analyst, David Carr – Range Management Specialist, Angie Warner – GIS Programs Coordinator, Tricia Dudley – Resources Conservationist, Courtney Widup – Water Resources Technician, Bill Hiatt – Temporary Field Crew.

Others present: Joe Krolikowski – NRCS Liaison District Conservationist, Grand Island, Dean Krull – UNL Extension, Grand Island, Phil Luebbert – JEO Consulting Group, Lincoln.

MEETING NOTICES: Vice-chairman Reynolds 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 January board meeting minutes. Keith Ostermeier seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Dwayne Margritz and Steve Sheen who abstained. Chris Henry and Marvion Reichert were absent for the motion. Motion carried.

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

PUBLIC FORUM: Vice-chairman Reynolds asked if anyone wanted to address the board on any item not included on the agenda. No one requested time to speak.

USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE REPORT: Joe Krolkowski, NRCS Liaison District Conservationist, gave an update on the work they are doing to rank the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) applications. (See enclosed report).

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Vice-chairman Reynolds reported that Jim Bendfeldt had requested to be excused from the board meeting.

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

CONSIDER A DROUGHT MITIGATION CONTRACT WITH JEO CONSULTING GROUP: Assistant Manager Jesse Mintken reported on the proposed contract with JEO Consulting Group to conduct the Drought Management Plan. Funds were included in this year's budget for the proposed \$100,000.00 study. Jesse handed out an overview of the study (see enclosed) and said the plan will be a very useful tool for our groundwater management planning.

Alicia Haussler made the motion to approve the contract with JEO Consulting Group for the Drought Management Plan study. Bob Schanou seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

2017 VIOLATION REPORT: Luke Zakrezewski, GIS Programs Analyst, reported on the violations of irrigation on non-certified acres that he had found after going through the aerial imagery for last year. He said he found 28 violations totaling 135 acres ranging from 10.53 acres down to 1.13 acres. Luke said this was the fewest number of violations he had found in the six years he has been checking compliance. Luke said the individuals should get the letters explaining their violation next week. In answer to a question Luke said the violations include areas all across the District. He also said one of the violations will be a second offense.

PRESCRIBED FIRE CONTRACTS: David Carr, Range Management Specialist, said this is the third year of the NE Environmental Trust grant for the rangeland conservation program and said part of the funds from the grant are spent to hire a burn contractor to help with the prescribed burns.

Requests for proposals were submitted to five prescribed fire contractors. Bids were received from two firms. Scholl Fire Services, Inc. from Washington submitted the low bid of \$68,696.00 and Chloeta Fire from Oklahoma submitted a bid of \$86,800.00. David said references were checked for Scholl Fire Services and all were good. He also reported they have worked in Nebraska before for the Headwaters Corporation. In answer to a question David said two of the five firms that were sent requests for proposals are from Nebraska, one from Seward and the other from Broken Bow, but both declined to submit bids. David said he is recommending the bid from Scholl Fire Services be approved and that we sign a contract with them.

Alicia Haussler made the motion to approve the low bid of \$68,696.00 from Scholl Fire Services and that a contract be signed with them. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

LEGISLATION BILLS UPDATE: Mark Czaplewski, District Biologist, reported on a few of the bills of interest to NRDs including LB 98, LB 758 and LB 808. He said the NARD Legislative Reports are forwarded to the directors as they become available.

PRIMARY ELECTION UPDATE: Dianne Miller, Administrative Director, reported that all incumbents had filed for re-election except in Subdistrict 4. Bob Schanou chose not to run for re-election. She said that non-incumbents have until March 1st to file.

NEBRASKA NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION REPORT: Mick Reynolds, Middle Platte Basin Commission member, said the Natural Resources Commission met the day before. He said they adopted rule changes that they have been working on. One change would allow an applicant to request “up to 60%” rather than setting the cost share rate at 60% which gives the Natural Resources Commission, as well as the applicant, more flexibility. He also said that they decided to leave the existing language as is so did not adopt the proposed change that would have required all permits be in place before a project application could be submitted.

COST SHARE PROGRAM: Applications – Programs Coordinator Kelly Cole reported on the applications for cost share from the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program, Center Pivot Incentive, Streambank Stabilization, Soil Moisture Sensors, and Tree Planting 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. Bob Schanou seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Marvion Reichert made the motion to approve the February financial report as presented. Deborah VanMatre seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS: Next Board Meeting -- Scheduled for the afternoon of March 29th, one week later than normal due to a conflict with the NARD Washington D.C. Conference. Details to follow.

Groundwater Quality Reports – Sandy Noecker, Data Compliance Officer, reported that this year many of the groundwater management forms will not be available before the March 31st deadline. She said the shallow soil samples are not a problem but there has been a problem with getting the deep soil samples because of the frozen soil conditions.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Upcoming events were briefly reviewed.

ADJOURN: Vice Chairman Reynolds adjourned the board meeting.

February 21, 2018

Central Platte NRD

 215 North Kaufman Avenue

 Grand Island, NE 68803

February Report to CPNRD

Summary of activities or current happenings at the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) staff in the Central Platte NRD (CPNRD) are currently working through the ranked FY 2018 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) applications that were received before November 17, 2017. The NRCS will begin extending contract offers in accordance with available program funding and associated application ranking scores until all fund are allocated. This process can sometimes extend into August or September depending on the funds available. Following is a summary of applications received, the requested fund total, and application treatment acres for each NRCS Field Office in the CPNRD. The current EQIP fund allocation for the local CPNRD fund codes is \$679,297.00, this does not include statewide fund codes.

Field Office	Number of Applications	Requested Funds	Application Acres
Central City	64	\$1,295,159.48	3,474.10
Grand Island	68	\$1,680,968.37	2,834.20
Kearney	36	\$1,161,380.01	10,338.40
Lexington	77	\$2,979,344.51	12,250.40
Totals	245	\$7,116,852.37	28,897.10



- Conservation Stewardship Program, (CStP), FY2018 applications that are received by the March 2, 2018 cutoff, will then begin the ranking process. NRCS staff will be working with the producers and gathering the information needed to complete that ranking. The projected ranking deadline for all FY2018 CStP applications is currently set for the end of April. At a recent programs meeting our CStP program manager stated that approximately 1 out of every 3 applications would be funded this year with the available money our state has received for this program.
- Conservation Reserve Programs, (CRP), FY2018 which is administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA), is currently producing their Mid Contract Management reports for NRCS to complete. This is important because the NRCS is responsible for conducting all field visits and then producing all conservation planning and contracting documents for FSAs CRP program. Every CRP contract has Mid Contract Management that must be completed to keep the contract in compliance. This is the responsibility of the producer, with technical support provided from NRCS.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Joe Krolkowski

Joe Krolkowski
District Conservationist

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CENTRAL PLATTE NRD DROUGHT MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Central Platte NRD is leading the planning effort to develop a proactive drought management plan and local drought monitor.

What will the plan accomplish?

- Identify district vulnerabilities
- Create method of monitoring drought conditions
- Identify and prioritize mitigation and response actions to reduce future drought impacts
- Become a tool to assist the NRD in water resources management
- Lead to a more sustainable and stable water supply for all users across the district.

Why is this important?

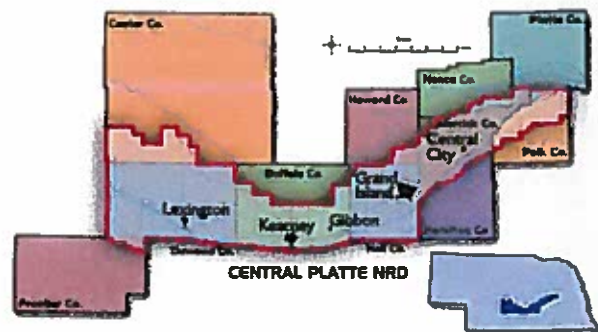
- Drought is one of the costliest hazards that occur in Nebraska. Drought has resulted in over \$72 million of losses within the Central Platte NRD since 2000 (Central Platte NRD Hazard Mitigation Plan 2017).
- Drought impacts large geographical areas that cross political boundaries.
- The onset and end of drought are often difficult to determine.

What is the local drought monitor?

- A tool based on local drought indicators that will allow the NRD and the public to better monitor drought. The indicators will be based on data collected during the planning process.

How is the project funded?

- Central Platte NRD was awarded a grant from the Water Sustainability Fund of the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission to assist in funding the project (60% grant/40% local match).



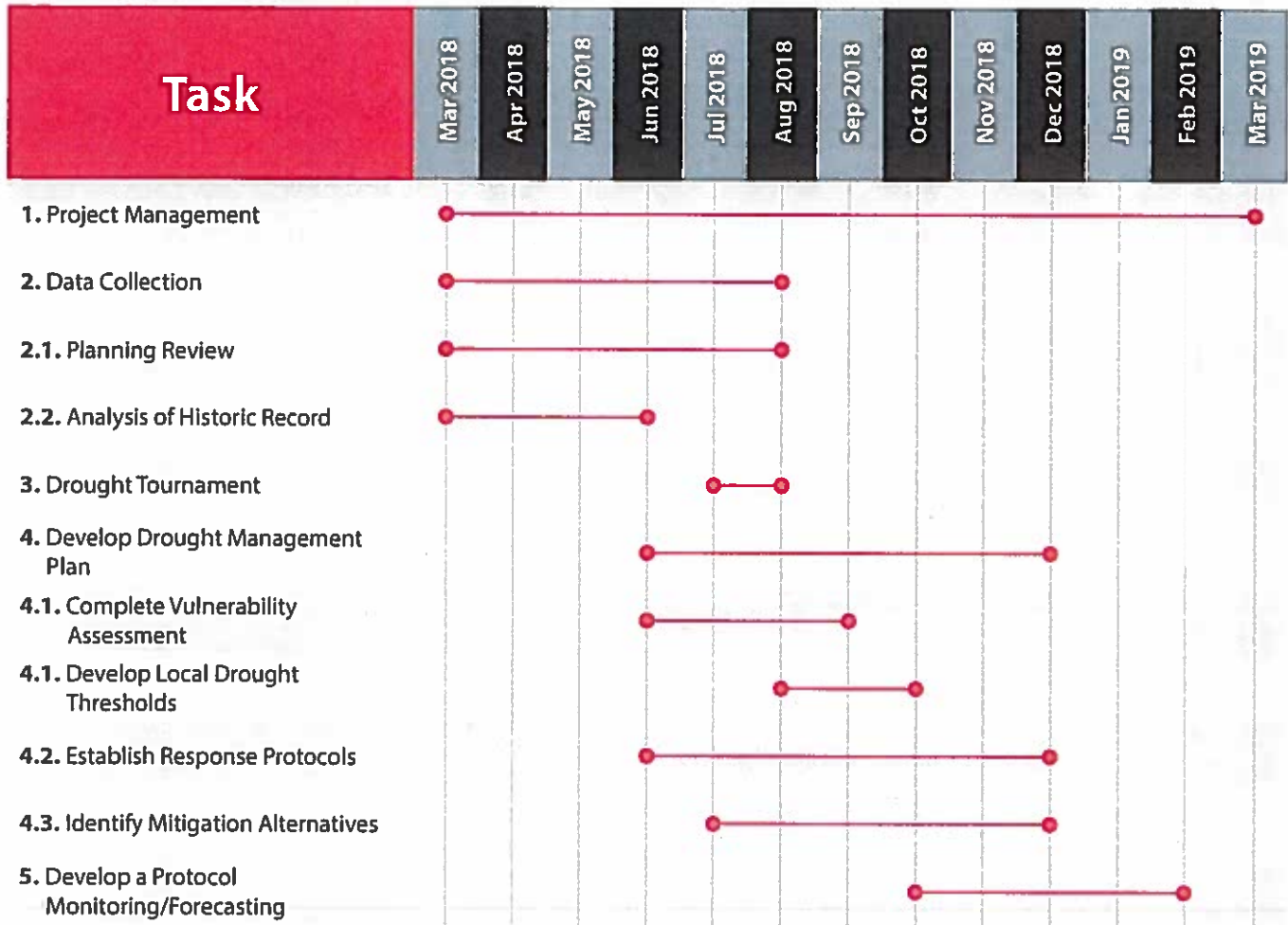
Project Contacts

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PROJECT TIMELINE



CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
 Cost Share
 February 22, 2018

NEBRASKA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$ 20,875.99
Clarence Bergt – Buffalo – Brush Management	\$ 6,928.90	
Keith Boyd Zeilinger Rev Living Trust – Polk – Pasture Seeding	806.49	
Wayne R Brockmeier – Dawson – Brush Management	1,279.95	
Paula Kohl – Merrick – Underground pipeline to a Center Pivot	3,073.12	
JCK Farms LLC – Buffalo – Underground Pipeline to a Center Pivot	5,000.00	
Kermit Bosshamer – Buffalo – Planned Grazing System	3,787.53	
CENTER PIVOT INCENTIVE COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$ 21,901.92
Thies Farms Central – Merrick	\$ 7,500.00	
Robert V Clark – Merrick	6,924.00	
Laub Farms Inc. – Hall	7,477.92	
STREAMBANK STABILIZATION COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$ 6,000.00
Kenneth Boryca – Nance – Prairie Creek	\$ 3,000.00	
Bart Woodward – Dawson – Buffalo Creek	3,000.00	
SOIL MOISTURE SENSOR COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$ 4,000.00
James D Riley – Hall	\$ 2,000.00	
James Dean Riley – Hall	2,000.00	
TREE PLANTING COST SHARE PROGRAM.....		\$ 1,225.55
Philip Kopf – Dawson	\$ 1,225.55	
Total		\$ 54,003.46