

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD

Board Meeting Minutes

March 28, 2019

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	Charles Maser	Jay Richeson
Lon Bohn	Jerry Milner	Steve Sheen
Alicia Haussler	Keith Ostermeier	Keith Stafford
Brian Keiser	Doug Reeves	Ed Stoltenberg
Ed Kyes	Marvion Reichert	Deborah VanMatre
Dwayne Margritz	Mick Reynolds	Jerry Wiese

Excused absences – Jim Bendfeldt, Chris Henry and Barry Obermiller

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

Others present – Joe Krolikowski – NRCS Liaison District Conservationist, Grand Island, Dean Krull - UNL Extension, Dale Whitefoot – Shelton, Robert Pore – Grand Island Independent.

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: Marvion Reichert made the motion to approve the February board meeting minutes. Keith Ostermeier seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor, except Alicia Haussler, Jerry Milner and Keith Stafford who abstained. Steve Sheen was 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.

NRCS REPORT: Joe Krolikowski, NRCS Liaison District Conservationist, reported on the NRCS Fiscal Year 2020 Local Working Group meeting (See enclosed report).

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Vice-Chairman Reynolds reported that Jim Bendfeldt, Chris Henry and Barry Obermiller had requested to be excused from the board meeting.

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

FLOOD RISK REDUCTION UPDATE ON CPNRD'S PROJECTS: Assistant Manager Jesse Mintken showed a video and explained how the Prairie/Silver/Moores Creek project performed. Videos included the levee, detention cells, and the PCUL4 dam. He also showed pictures of the Wood River Flood Control Project. The videos and pictures were taken over a span of a few days during the recent storm event. Jesse said both projects performed as they were designed and also said there will be an analysis to evaluate the estimated savings to property, as well as how much water came through the project systems. Jesse said we can usually handle four inches of rain with no problems but this was a very unique event because between two and one half to four inches of rain fell between Gibbon and Grand Island, on top of the fact that there were 25 inches of frost in the ground, so there was no way for the water to soak in.

Jesse also showed several aerial views of some of the Custer and Dawson County flood control structures. The pilot was board member Dwayne Margritz and staff member Shane Max took the pictures. He said there are several dams in Dawson County that are doing a great job of retiming the water. In Dawson County CPNRD owns nine structures with B-1 being one of them.

Jesse said we will begin evaluating projects' maintenance needs as soon as conditions allow.

WESTERN PROJECTS COMMITTEE: Committee chairman Marvion Reichert reported on their committee meeting held earlier that day.

Preliminary 2019/2020 Fiscal Budget Report – Marvion said the 2019/2020 proposed budget for Western Projects should be about the same as 2018/2019 minus \$10,000.00 that was eliminated for some legal fees. He said the committee will meet again next month to continue their review.

Urban Conservation Cost Share Application – Marvion said the committee also discussed a \$40,000.00 Urban Conservation cost share program request from the City of

Gothenburg to assist with bank stabilization at Lake Helen. He said previously Central Platte NRD had contributed \$75,000.00 for the Lake Helen rehab project.

The Western Projects Committee discussed the request and were of the opinion that the work involves maintenance rather than actually building a project and are recommending that Central Platte NRD approve \$10,000.00.

Marvion Reichert then made the motion to approve the Western Projects Committee's recommendation to approve \$10,000.00 for the Urban Conservation Program application from the City of Gothenburg for Lake Helen bank stabilization. Brian Keiser seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor, except Jay Richeson who abstained. Motion carried.

WATER QUANTITY COMMITTEE: Committee chairman Jay Richeson reported on their meeting held earlier that day.

UNL TAPS Farm Management Competition Funding Request – Jay said the committee discussed a \$1,000.00 funding request from Chuck Burr with the University of NE/Lincoln for the TAPS program (Testing Ag Performance Solutions) for the 2019 growing season. TAPS hosts farm management competitions for local producers to make best management decisions.

Jay Richeson then made the motion to approve the Water Quantity Committee's recommendation to contribute \$1,000.00 to the UNL TAPS Farm Management Competition program. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

General Manager Vogt said he would invite Chuck Burr to report to the board on the TAPS program.

Groundwater Quantity Management Program – Jay said the committee discussed updating the Groundwater Quantity Management Program plan and are recommending that requests for proposals be sent to engineering firms.

Jay then made the motion to approve the Water Quantity Committee's recommendation to send out requests for proposals to engineering firms to update the Groundwater Quantity Management Program plan. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

PROGRAMS COMMITTEE REPORT: Committee chairman Keith Ostermeier, reported on their meeting held earlier that day and said they had worked on budget recommendations for Fiscal Year 2019/2020. Their proposed recommendations would reduce the cost share items by \$11,000.00 and would increase the Information/Education budget by \$300.00. The recommendations will be forwarded to the Budget Committee.

MANAGER'S REPORT: General Manager Vogt reported that a preliminary disaster request has been submitted to FEMA for NRD facilities damaged by the flood event. He also reported that the District's 2009 Chevy Malibu had been totaled in an accident. There were no injuries. The costs will be covered by the at-fault party's insurance. He reported that farmers who were affected by flooding and were not able to take soil samples for the Groundwater Quality Management Program will not be required to submit samples this year. He also said the first of the required public hearings on the basin wide and the individual Integrated Management Plans would be held in June and said the draft plans will be forwarded to the directors in the near future.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Mark Czaplewski, District Biologist, reported on three bills that have been passed: LB 48 changes the provisions relating to sufficient cause for nonuse of a water appropriation, LB 243 creates a Healthy Soils Task Force, and LB 302e merges the State Energy Office with the Department of Environmental Quality.

NE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION REPORT: Mick Reynolds, Middle Platte Basin Commission member, reported that at the March 6th Commission meeting new officers were elected. They are Chairman Scott Smathers and Vice-chairman Jeff Steffen. He said Emily Rose has been named as the new legal counsel and will replace retiring LeRoy Sievers. He also reported the budget for new applications will include \$11 million (not yet approved) plus \$5.3 million in carryover funds.

COST SHARE PROGRAM APPLICATIONS: Programs Coordinator Kelly Cole reported that we have received applications for the following cost share programs: Tree Planting, Capacitance Probes, Flow Meters, and Well Decommissioning (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.

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

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Alicia Haussler made the motion to accept the March 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 Thursday afternoon, April 25th. Details to follow.

Upcoming Events -- March 30-April 3 - NARD Washington D.C. Legislative Conference, May 7 - NE Children's Groundwater Festival and June 10 & 11 - NRD Basin Tour.

ADJOURN: Vice-chairman Reynolds adjourned the board meeting.

March 27, 2019

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

March Report to CPNRD

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) recently held their FY2020 Local Working Group (LWG) meeting. The Local Working Group recommends to the NRCS State Conservationist how conservation programs like the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) would be used most effectively in their area. The local work group does this by evaluating and prioritizing the resource concerns through their Natural Recourse District. These recommendations can include special target areas, cost share rates, which conservation practices should have cost assistance, or how many dollars could be needed. This work group allows local input into how Federal dollars are spent in their area and across the state. I have listed below some of the LWG recommendations from this year's meeting.

- After reviewing our current cost share programs available to producers in the Central Platte, the recommendation was to continue with all the current programs available. In addition, we also recommended the separation of dryland only applications from the fund code that also funds the irrigation system conversions. The intent is to better align these applications with the Central Platte Natural Resources Districts timelines for updating irrigated acres.
- Demand for financial assistance has remained high relative to available funds, so the recommendation was a gradual reduction in some payment rates to provide more broad access to the available funds. This will become even more important moving forward if some of the funds available to us are decreased or eliminated.
- It was suggested that looking at how available funds are being allocated between the different funding pools to insure a good balance exists to address the current resource concerns identified across the district and the state.

In conclusion, the signing of a new Farm Bill at the end of 2018 can also impact how Farm Bill programs like EQIP will be administered in future years. Currently there remains much uncertainty in how the new ranking tool named Conservation Application Ranking Tool (CART) will function, and if it will be implemented in FY2020. It is also unknown if each NRD will be able to continue to have their own fund pools as they have in the past or if this concept will change. These uncertainties did not stop the Local Work Groups from discussing local priorities within their respective Natural Resources Districts. We were simply honest with the LWG about the potential major changes from the current ranking tool Application Evaluation Ranking Tool (AERT) and to the funding pools currently available.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Joe Krolikowski

Joe Krolikowski
District Conservationist

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD

Cost Share

March 28, 2019

TREE PLANTING COST SHARE PROGRAM.....		\$	949.00
Jeff Granger – Buffalo	\$	156.00	
Dale Stengel – Buffalo		793.00	
CAPACITANCE PROBE COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$	2,500.00
Kurt Koepp – Sherman	\$	2,500.00	
FLOW METER COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$	800.00
Bergman Land LLC – Dawson	\$	800.00	
WELL DECOMMISSIONING COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$	750.00
Gary Mike Hubbard – Buffalo	\$	750.00	
Total		\$	4,999.00