

DRAFT

**CENTRAL PLATTE NRD**  
Board Meeting Minutes  
March 29, 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	Jay Richeson
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		

Excused absences: Jim Bendfeldt and Bob Schanou

Staff present: Lyndon Vogt – General Manager, Jesse Mintken – Assistant Manager, 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, Angie Warner – GIS Programs Coordinator, Tricia Dudley – Resources Conservationist.

Others present: Joe Krolikowski – NRCS Liaison District Conservationist, Grand Island, Duane Woodward – Doniphan, John Strauss – Lexington, Lori Potter – Kearney Hub

**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 February board meeting minutes. Deborah VanMatre seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. 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. John Strauss of Lexington requested time to address the board.

Mr. Strauss discussed the changes he had made in changing from gravity irrigation to center pivot and also discussed the Cease and Desist Order he had received for irrigating corners on a pivot that had not been certified and said he did not agree with the order.

Vice-chairman Reynolds said that Mr. Strauss should present his information to the Variance/Appeals Subcommittee and explained the procedure for appearing before them which could be done the day of the April board meeting.

**USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE REPORT:** Joe Krolikowski, NRCS Liaison District Conservationist, reported on the Local Work Group meeting and also reported that their Grand Island office had recently moved to 703 South Webb Road, Suite C. (See enclosed report).

**EXCUSED ABSENCES:** Vice-chairman Reynolds reported that Jim Bendfeldt and Bob Schanou 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.

**EASTERN PROJECTS – REPORT & RECOMMENDATIONS:** Committee chairman Jerry Wiese reported on their meeting earlier that day.

**Urban Conservation Application-Sterling Park** – Jerry said we have received a request from the City of Grand Island for funds from the District's Urban Conservation cost share program to be used for Sterling Park, which is to be located west of the north Walmart. The application meets all of the criteria for the cost share program.

The City of Grand Island has requested \$30,000.00 to help build the park. The Eastern Projects Committee is recommending the application be approved. Jerry said the City must use the \$30,000.00 within a three-year period and the City will also not be able to request additional funds from the Urban Conservation cost share program for three years.

Jerry Wiese made the motion to approve the City of Grand Island's request for \$30,000.00 from the Urban Conservation cost share program to help build the Sterling Park. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

**2018/2019 Fiscal Year Budget** – Jerry said they began work on their recommendations and will finalize them next month before forwarding them to the Budget Committee.

He said they also reviewed the bids for the tractor and discussed adding four parking bays to the south garage, both of which are in this year's budget. Those items will be acted on later in the meeting.

**PROGRAMS COMMITTEE – REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS:** Keith Ostermeier, committee chairman, reported on their meeting held earlier that day.

**Outdoor Classroom - Monarch Butterfly Habitats** – Keith said they heard a presentation from two students from Youth Leadership Tomorrow who presented an application on behalf of the Success Academy to establish monarch butterfly habitats at Westridge and Knickrehm Schools and Stuhr Museum in Grand Island. The request was in the amount of \$2,359.50.

Keith Ostermeier made the motion to approve the Programs Committee's recommendation to approve the Outdoor Classroom application from the Success Academy in the amount of \$2,359.50 to establish monarch butterfly habitats at Westridge and Knickrehm Schools and Stuhr Museum in Grand Island. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

**Outdoor Classroom – Roots & Shoots Outdoor Classroom & Garden** – Keith reported they had reviewed a second application in the amount of \$1,000.00 for an outdoor classroom and garden at Barr Middle School in Grand Island.

Keith Ostermeier made the motion to approve the application in the amount of \$1,000.00 for the Roots and Shoots Outdoor Classroom and Garden at Barr Middle School in Grand Island. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

**Cost Share Programs** – Keith said the committee also reviewed some of the cost share programs. Staff was requested to gather additional information which the committee will review next month.

**2018/2019 Fiscal Year Budget for Cost Share Programs and Information & Education Programs** – Keith said the committee will continue their review at their meeting next month.

**WESTERN PROJECTS COMMITTEE – REPORT & RECOMMENDATIONS:** Committee chairman Marvion Reichert reported on their meeting held earlier that day.

**Urban Conservation Application for Whitewater Park** – Marvion said the committee reviewed an Urban Conservation application in the amount of \$17,965.00 submitted by City of Kearney for the Whitewater Recreation Park in Kearney. Their application was for preliminary design for take-out and loading ramps on the canal.

Marvion said the canal area designated as the Whitewater Recreation area has had between 20,000 to 30,000 uses since it has been in existence.

Marvion Reichert made the motion to approve the Urban Conservation application in the amount of \$17,965.00 submitted by the City of Kearney to be used for the Whitewater Recreation Park plan. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

**2018/2019 Fiscal Budget** – Marvion said the committee also worked on their budget recommendations and forwarded it to the Budget Committee. They also discussed purchasing a new tractor and purchasing a loader with the tractor rather than waiting until next fiscal year if it would save the District money. The committee also discussed the addition of four bays to the south garage.

**Cozad Ditch Irrigation Canal Manager** – Marvion said Mike Schmeeckle was hired as the Cozad Ditch canal manager to replace the former manager who terminated to take a new job. Mike will begin his employment on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE – REPORT & RECOMMENDATION:** Jay Richeson, committee chairman, reported on their meeting held earlier that day.

**Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) Survey Results** – He said Jim Cannia, with Aqua Geo Frameworks, reported on the study results that provides the NRD with improved water table and geological data. This study area included Central Platte NRD and an area in the Twin Platte NRD. The study was partially funded by a grant from the NE Environmental Trust and Twin Platte NRD also paid a portion of the study.

**Second Increment Integrated Management Plan** – Jay said that General Manager Lyndon Vogt had reported that the first 10-year increment ends in July 2019 and the second 10 year increment for the Integrated Management Plan will begin then.

**Platte River Recovery Implementation Program – First Increment Extension** – Jay said that General Manager Vogt reviewed a letter of support to be sent to the NE Department of Natural Resources for an extension of the first increment of the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program.

Jay Richeson made the motion to approve the Water Resources Committee's recommendation to send a letter of support for a request for an extension of the first increment of the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

**COOPERATIVE HYDROLOGY STUDY REPORT (COHYST):** District Hydrologist, Brandi Flyr, reported that COHYST is nearing one phase of completion.

She said they have a fully integrated model complete and they have been working on the documentation of the data support for that and by the next COHYST meeting they hope to have a completed set of documentation. She said they are now working on a work plan that will outline some specifics about how the model will be used and what type of scenarios they want to keep running with it. She said another major component they need to work on is data archiving and organization so they can easily access it. Brandi said the State has a lot of security concerns and said everything with COHYST that is with the Department of Natural Resources is being migrated to a different agency within the State so they can beef up security. Once that migration has taken place then people can access different documents regarding the model and different data sets.

**PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM REPORT:** Mark Czaplewski, District Biologist, reported that the Governance Committee (GC) met in Kearney on March 13 and 14. He said Program Executive Director Dr. Jerry Kenny had passed away unexpectedly on January 19 and said the Governance Committee had approved a plan designating Jason Farnsworth as Program Executive Director, Chad Smith as Deputy Director and approved a plan for the hiring of a Director of Water Resources. The Program signatories all noted their appreciation for Jerry's service to the Program and expressed their gratitude for the smooth and effective transition.

Headwaters staff updated the GC on Water Action Plan projects including the Cottonwood Ranch Broadscale Recharge Project, particularly on costs, schedule and water supply options. They also provided a briefing on the Slurry Wall Pit pilot project planned just east of the Cottonwood Ranch project, and the possibility of a Pathfinder Reservoir re-operation project on the North Platte River in Wyoming.

The GC discussed details of the planned Program First Increment Extension. A Draft Environmental Assessment is published and under review in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Endangered Species Act. Formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service began on March 7 and should be wrapped up by this September. The Service is working on drafting a Biological Opinion on the extension. Mark said the signatories are hoping for GC members help in encouraging our Congressional delegations to support the necessary federal action for the extension and also said Governor Ricketts is a supporter of the extension.

**NE ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICTS (NARD) REPORT:** General Manager Vogt reported that at the last NARD board meeting the election of officers was held. He reported that Larry Reynolds from the Tri-Basin NRD is the new NARD board president.

**NE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION REPORT:** Mick Reynolds said he did not have anything new to report.

**NOTE:** Barry Obermiller had to leave the meeting due to another commitment.

**PICKUP BIDS:** Assistant Manager Jesse Mintken reported that requests for bids were sent to eight dealerships in the District requesting bids for a 2018 half ton full size crew cab pickup. Five bids were received with the low bid of \$30,449.00 being submitted by Platte Valley Auto Mart Inc. of Lexington for a Dodge pickup. Jesse said it is staff's recommendation to accept the low bid from Platte Valley Auto Mart Inc. of Lexington.

Alicia Haussler made the motion to accept the low bid for a 2018 Dodge pickup in the amount of \$30,449.00 from Platte Valley Auto Mart Inc. of Lexington. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

In answer to a question from Marvion Reichert on how much had been budgeted for the pickup Jesse said \$40,000.00 was in this year's budget.

**TRACTOR BIDS – ACTION REQUIRED:** Assistant Manager Jesse Mintken said we requested quotes from two dealerships in our District for a tractor. Both dealerships came back with very comparable quotes. He said staff is recommending that we go with the quote from Titan Machinery of Grand Island for a Case IH 120A tractor in the amount of \$62,819.52.

Alicia Haussler made the motion to approve the purchase of the Case IH 120A tractor from Titan Machinery of Grand Island in the amount of \$62,819.52. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion.

Marvion Reichert said several of the Western Projects committee members thought it might be more beneficial to purchase the tractor and loader at one time. General Manager Vogt said the board could approve the purchase of the tractor with the caveat that we look into adding a loader to it as long as we stay within our total capital outlay budget for equipment.

The motion was then voted on. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

**COST SHARE PROGRAMS: Request for Transfer of Funds – Programs**

Coordinator Kelly Cole said we have received more applications than funds are available in the Streambank Stabilization and Tree Planting cost share programs. She requested a transfer of \$3,000.00 from the Ultra Sonic Flow Meter program with \$1,500.00 going to the Streambank Stabilization Program and \$1,500.00 going to the Tree Planting Program.

Alicia Haussler made the motion to approve the transfer of cost share funds as requested. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

**Applications** – Kelly reported that we have received applications for cost share from the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program, Center Pivot Incentive, Streambank

Stabilization, Grazing Deferment, Flow Meter, Tree Planting, Soil Moisture Sensors and Well Decommissioning 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. Keith Ostermeier seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor, except Brian Keiser who abstained. Motion carried.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Vice-chairman Reynolds said he would entertain a motion for the board to go into executive session to discuss land rights negotiations and legal actions and to have Lyndon (Vogt), Jesse (Mintken), Mark (Czaplewski) and Kelly (Cole) in attendance.

Ed Kyes made the motion that the board go into executive session at 2:47 p.m. for the purpose of discussing land rights negotiations and legal actions. Keith Ostermeier seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Marvion Reichert made the motion that the board come out of executive session at 3:27 p.m. Steve Sheen seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

**ACTION AS A RESULT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION: Purchase of Farm Ground in Dawson County --** Jay Richeson made the motion to purchase 157.4 acres, the legal description as follows: The Southwest Quarter of Section 28, Township 10 North, Range 23 West of the 6<sup>th</sup> P.M. Dawson County, Nebraska for the purchase price of \$915,000.00. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Ed Kyes made the motion to approve the March financial report as presented. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING:** Scheduled for Thursday, April 26 at 2:00 p.m. Details to follow.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:** Upcoming events were briefly reviewed.

**ADJOURN:** Vice chairman Reynolds adjourned the board meeting at 3:32 p.m.

March 28, 2018

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

March Report to CPNRD

NRCS recently held their FY2019 Local Work 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. This recommendation 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. I have listed below a couple 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.
- Demand for financial assistance has remained very 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.
- It was suggested that it may be time to also look at how available funds are being allocated between funding pools to insure a good balance exists to address current resource concerns.

Respectfully Submitted,

*/s/ Joe Krolikowski*

Joe Krolikowski  
District Conservationist





TRANSFER: \$3,000 from Ultra Sonic Flow to \$1,500 Streambank Stabilization Cost Share Program  
\$1,500 Tree Cost Share

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD  
Cost Share  
March 29, 2018

NEBRASKA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$	10,000.00
Leo Mettenbrink – Hall – Pipeline to Center Pivot	\$	5,000.00	
Jason Luebbe – Hall – Pipeline to Center		5,000.00	
CENTER PIVOT INCENTIVE COST SHARE PROGRAM .....		\$	11,539.00
Jason Luebbe – Hall	\$	4,039.00	
Shawn M Hastings – Hall		7,500.00	
STREAMBANK STABILIZATION COST SHARE PROGRAM .....		\$	2,500.00
William Thompson – Dawson – Buffalo Creek	\$	2,500.00	
GRAZING DEFERMENT COST SHARE PROGRAM .....		\$	11,964.00
Raymond W Rieker – Dawson	\$	11,964.00	
FLOW METER COST SHARE PROGRAM .....		\$	1,600.00
Harry Preisendorf – Hall	\$	800.00	
Donald C Miller – Merrick		800.00	
TREE PLANTING COST SHARE PROGRAM .....		\$	10,711.55
Ziamba Family Farm LLC – Nance	\$	1,974.50	
Keith Nuttelman – Buffalo		1,058.10	
Prairie Meadows Inc – Frontier		1,457.00	
PR Partnership – Custer		1,300.70	
Blaine Biehl – Dawson		770.50	
Sid Jaeger – Dawson		1,015.55	
Greg Senkbile – Hall		1,135.25	
Dan Saathoff – Buffalo		130.00	
Mike Sughroue – Buffalo		1,571.95	
Betty Rennau – Buffalo		298.00	
SOIL MOISTURE SENSOR COST SHARE PROGRAM .....		\$	2,000.00
Joe Janky – Merrick	\$	2,000.00	
WELL DECOMMISSIONING COST SHARE PROGRAM .....		\$	4,250.00
Robert Allan – Hall	\$	750.00	
K Farms Ltd. – Dawson		500.00	
Hinkson Brothers – Hall – 2 wells		1,000.00	
Carol Wegner – Merrick		750.00	
Violette Solt Pleasant – Merrick		750.00	
Tim Maline – Dawson		500.00	
Total .....		\$	54,564.55