

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD

Board Meeting Minutes

April 25, 2019

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	Steve Sheen
Alicia Haussler	Barry Obermiller	Ed Stoltenberg
Ed Kyes	Doug Reeves	Deborah VanMatre
Dwayne Margritz	Marvion Reichert	

Excused absences – Lon Bohn, Chris Henry, Brian Keiser, Keith Ostermeier, Mick Reynolds, Keith Stafford, and Jerry Wiese.

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, Courtney Widup – Water Resources Technician.

Others present – Joe Krolikowski – NRCS Liaison District Conservationist, Grand Island, Dean Krull - UNL Extension, Chuck Burr – UNL, Lori Potter – Kearney Hub.

MEETING NOTICES: Chairman Jim 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: Marvion Reichert made the motion to approve the March board meeting minutes. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor, except Jim Bendfeldt and Barry Obermiller who abstained. 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.

TAPS PROGRAM UPDATE: Chuck Burr, UNL Extension Educator located in the West/Central Research and Extension Center in North Platte presented information on the TAPS program (Testing Agriculture Performance Solutions), that is now in its third year. He thanked the board for their support of the program. Its purpose is to facilitate farm management and education through real life farm management competitions and explained how the competition is conducted. The program is supported by the University of Nebraska Extension, natural resources districts, non-profit organizations, industry leaders and financial institutions. Chuck said more information is available on the web site TAPS.unl.edu.

NRCS REPORT: Joe Krolikowski, NRCS Liaison District Conservationist, reported on events and activities of the NRCS field offices in Central Platte NRD and the State. (See enclosed report).

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Chairman Jim Bendfeldt reported that Lon Bohn, Chris Henry, Brian Keiser, Keith Ostermeier, Mick Reynolds, Keith Stafford, and Jerry Wiese 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.

VARIANCE/APPEALS: Chairman Bendfeldt reported that the Variance/Appeals Subcommittee met earlier that day and reviewed a variance request from Ken and Adam Claussen to certify as irrigated acres a 2.86 acre tract in Hall County just south of Grand Island owned by Clarence and Martha Reif. The tract was a tree line that had been removed in, or prior to, 2004. The subcommittee reviewed the request and are recommending the request be denied because there are no FSA records to show irrigated history.

Jim Bendfeldt then made the motion to deny the variance request from Ken and Adam Claussen to certify as irrigated acres a 2.86 acre tract south of Grand Island in Hall County as reported. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

EASTERN PROJECTS COMMITTEE REPORT: Committee chairman Ed Stoltenberg reported on their meeting held earlier that day and continued their work on next fiscal year's budget recommendations. The committee is recommending that two new items be added for repair of over 40 existing dams. \$55,000.00 would be added under Professional Services and \$200,000.00 would be added under Project Operations and Maintenance. The overall increase from last year's recommendations would be approximately \$128,707.00. Ed said their recommendations will be forwarded to the Budget Committee.

WESTERN PROJECTS COMMITTEE: Committee chairman Marvion Reichert reported on their committee meeting held earlier that day. He said the budget numbers are down slightly from last year and would be forwarded to the Budget Committee.

PROGRAMS COMMITTEE – RON BISHOP CPNRD COLLEGE

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS – REPORT & ACTION: Deborah VanMatre reported on the committee's meeting and said they reviewed the applications for the Ron Bishop CPNRD College Scholarships. The committee is recommending the following five individuals to receive the \$1,000.00 scholarships: Klint Gill from Cozad, McKinley Harm from Gothenburg, Sage Williams from Eddyville, Juan Arellanes Gallorzo from Grand Island and Jason Line from Miller.

Deborah VanMatre then made the motion to approve the five applicants for the Ron Bishop CPNRD college scholarships for the 2019/2020 academic year. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE – REPORT & ACTION: Committee chairman Jerry Milner reported on the committee's meeting held earlier that day.

Compliance Cease & Desist Option – Jerry said they heard a report concerning the non-compliance of the nitrogen management forms and testing. There are six individuals in violation for the 2018 growing season and all were issued cease and desist orders. Management has been instructed to contact our legal council to have a certified letter sent to those six informing them that if they irrigate this growing season they will be in violation of the cease and desist order.

Jerry said the committee discussed the 2019 growing season noncompliance and difficulties caused by the recent flooding in parts of the district. He said a recommendation for noncompliance will be presented at a later date.

Budget Fiscal Year 2019/2020 -- Jerry said the committee also reviewed their fiscal year 2019/2020 budget recommendations and said those would be forwarded to the Budget Committee.

WATER QUANTITY COMMITTEE – REPORT & ACTION: Jay Richeson, committee chairman, reported on their meeting.

Wetland Easement – Jay said the committee discussed holding a conservation easement on a tract of farm land in Hall County to assist with the landowner's management plan in conjunction with the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture, which is a part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Central Platte NRD would be reimbursed the cost of the conservation easement.

Jay Richeson made the motion to approve the recommendation from the Water Quantity Committee that Central Platte NRD move ahead in holding the wetland conservation easement on a piece of farm ground to assist with the landowner's management plan in conjunction with the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Preliminary Fiscal Year 2019/2020 Budget Report – Jay said the Water Quantity Committee will also forward their recommendations to the Budget Committee.

VEHICLES' BIDS – REPORT & ACTION: General Manager Lyndon Vogt reported that invitations to bid for two 2019 pickups were sent to all of the new vehicle dealerships in the District. Only Platte Valley Auto of Lexington responded. The bid was for \$41,853.00 for a 2019 Dodge 4-wheel drive ¾ Ton crew cab pickup minus the trade-in of the District's 2014 Chevy 4-wheel drive, ¾ Ton pickup for \$20,600.00 for a net difference of \$21,253.00. Thirty Mile Irrigation District, which Central Platte NRD owns 50% of, will buy the 2014. The second bid was for a Dodge Ram 3500 4-wheel drive, regular cab, non-dully for \$37,581.00 with no trade-in. He said we have a 2004 Ford F350 fire truck that we plan to sell in the next couple of months. There has been some interest in the 2004 from some of the crews that David Carr helps with some of their prescribed burns. The truck is set up with a fire rig, and a pump and tank in it. He said Dave has already set up a pump to go into the new 1-ton. It is staff's opinion that we can get more out of the 2004 by selling it as a fire truck than we could get as a trade-in. In answer to a question General Manager Vogt said the specs would have fit either Ford, Chevy or Dodge and said staff feels the bid was fair and would have been competitive based on research. He said Platte Valley Auto has actually been the low bidder for the last few vehicles we have purchased. Also in answer to a question concerning whether we would be buying half of the ¾ ton pickup back General Manager Vogt said that was correct. Central Platte NRD owns 50 percent of Thirty Mile Irrigation District, and our agreement is to pay for 50 percent of their operating costs and equipment purchases.

Marvion Reichert made the motion to approve the bids from Platte Valley Auto for the 2019 ¾ Ton Dodge and the 2019 1-ton Dodge as reported. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

General Manager Vogt also reported that next month we will probably let bids for a vehicle to replace the Chevy Malibu that was totaled in an accident and said we will probably be looking at a mid-size SUV.

MANAGER'S REPORT: General Manager Vogt reported that the Healthy Soils Task Force was approved by the Legislature this year and said the Governor will appoint two of the members. He said applications are available online if anyone is interested in serving on the task force.

General Manager Vogt also handed out information on the program "Time on the River" that is part of the time lapse program on the Platte and said the program is also available on-line.

General Manager Vogt also said we had a court date with Kelly Smith on April 24th. Before they went into the court room he and attorney Cathy Allen and Kelly Smith visited and it appears we have reached some common ground. The court date was postponed until the end of May. Kelly Smith has an appointment to come into the office next week to work with Luke Zakrzewski.

NEBRASKA HABITAT CONSERVATION COALITION (NHCC) – REQUEST CHANGE OF REPRESENTATION: Mark Czaplewski, District Biologist, said Central Platte NRD is a member of the NHCC that was formed under an interlocal cooperative agreement to deal with endangered species issues and said he was appointed by Central Platte NRD to serve as the District's representative. Mark said it is his plan to retire before the group's next annual meeting in April 2020. He asked that General Manager Vogt be named as his replacement.

Alicia Haussler made the motion that General Manager Lyndon Vogt be named as Central Platte NRD's representative to replace Mark Czaplewski on the Nebraska Habitat Conservation Coalition. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICTS REPORT: Jim Bendfeldt said he did not have anything to report.

COST SHARE PROGRAM APPLICATIONS: Request to Transfer Funds -- Programs Coordinator Kelly Cole reported that we have received more applications for the Tree Planting cost share than there are funds available. She requested that \$1,500.00 be transferred from the Soil Moisture Sensor program to the Tree Planting program.

Alicia Haussler made the motion to transfer \$1,500.00 from the Soil Moisture Sensor cost share program to the Tree Planting cost share program. Barry Obermiller 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 the following cost share programs: Center Pivot Incentive, Tree Planting, Capacitance Probes 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.

Marvion Reichert made the motion to approve the cost share applications as reported. Jay Richeson 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 April financial report as presented. Marvion Reichert 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, May 23rd. Details to follow.

Upcoming Events – May 6 Set up for Nebraska Children’s Groundwater Festival, May 7 Nebraska Children’s Groundwater Festival, June 5 – 7 GMDA Summer Conference, June 10 – 11 NRD Basin Tour, June 21 CPNRD Flood Control Stroll Downtown Grand Island.

ADJOURN: Chairman Bendfeldt adjourned the board meeting at 3:06 p.m.

April 23, 2019

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

April Report to CPNRD

This is a summary of events and activities currently happening at the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Field Offices throughout the Central Platte and the State. The recent weather events have brought a lot of damage and destruction to the State of Nebraska in the last month. In the Central Platte, for the most part, we have fared better than other places across our State. All this damage, and then the challenges that follow to repair can be hard to overcome, but the great people of this State are pulling together to help each other out. We can all use help at one time or another and listed below are some programs I would like to make you aware of that can provide some help for repairs.

- The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) administers the Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP). The program was authorized by Congress to respond to emergencies created by natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes, tornadoes and wildfires. NRCS and EWP can provide technical and financial assistance to eligible projects to preserve life and property threatened by excessive erosion and flooding. Each EWP project requires a local sponsor to apply for assistance, examples would be legal subdivisions of State or local government, including local officials of city and county, Natural Resource Districts (NRD's) of State government. Sponsors are needed to provide legal authority to do repair work, obtain necessary permits, contribute funds or in-kind services, and maintain the completed emergency measures.
- The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) also administers the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). This program and funds are available to plant severe weather damaged acres to cover crops this year if time does not allow for repairs and the planting of this year's cash crop. They also work extremely well to help stabilize newly repaired areas in cropland. The cover crops will help address many different resource concerns in the area and across Nebraska. This cover crop funding is available statewide to assist producer in their recovery from the March weather events. If applicable, producers can apply for funding by May 17, 2019 for the first cutoff date, or by June 21, 2019 for the second cutoff date at their local NRCS Field Offices.

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- The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) can also aid through another special initiative. This program is called the Livestock Mortality Program, for producers who have suffered livestock losses due to the extreme weather events this spring. This program is intended to help farmers and ranchers to properly dispose of their dead livestock carcasses in a safe manner. Proper disposal will help prevent impacts to water quality and other natural resources. This program has been in place for a while now, the first cutoff date was April 5, 2019 and the second cutoff will be May 1, 2019. More cutoff dates may be announced if the demand remains high and funding is available. Producers who have not already disposed of their deceased livestock can apply at their local NRCS Field Office. They will also want to complete a waiver request to start the work before the contract is approved because this work is time sensitive.
- The Farm Service Agency (FSA) administers the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP). The ECP program is intended to provide emergency funding and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers to repair damaged farmland and ranchland by natural disasters. Emergency conservation practices available are debris removal, grading, shaping, or leveling land, restoring fences, and restoring conservation structures. Producer who are interested should call or stop by their local FSA county office to check on eligibility and the enrollment periods. ECP is not offered in every county in Nebraska. Conservation problems existing before the applicable disaster event are not eligible for ECP assistance.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Joe Krolikowski

Joe Krolikowski
District Conservationist

Attachments: EWP fact sheet 2019, Cover Crops for Disaster Assistance Initiative 2019, Livestock Mortality 2019, ECP fact sheet

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NATURAL DISASTER RECOVERY ASSISTANCE THROUGH EWP

When natural disasters strike, the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program offers vital recovery options for local communities. Administered by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, the program is designed to help people reduce hazards to life and property caused by floodwaters, droughts, wildfires, earthquakes, windstorms, and other natural disasters.

Project funds address erosion related watershed impairments by supporting activities such as removing debris from stream channels, road culverts, and bridges; reshaping and protecting eroded banks; correcting damaged drainage facilities; repairing levees and structures; and reseeding damaged areas.

Eligibility

Public and private landowners are eligible for assistance, but all projects must be sponsored by a legal subdivision of the State. This includes any city, county, general improvement district, conservation district, or Native American tribe or tribal organization. Sponsors are responsible for:

- Providing land rights to do repair work,
- Securing all necessary permits,
- Furnishing the local cost share,
- Implementation of work, and
- Operation and maintenance of the completed project.

Generally, NRCS will pay up to 75 percent of the restoration costs, and the sponsor is responsible for the remaining balance of funding needs, which can include in-kind support. Sponsors have 60 days from the disaster occurrence to request Federal assistance.

More Information

To learn more about EWP and additional disaster recovery assistance available visit your local USDA Service Center or the Nebraska NRCS website www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov. Visit www.farmers.gov/service-locator to find your local USDA Service Center.



Quickly address serious and long-lasting damages to infrastructure with EWP funding.

**Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service**



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

100 Centennial Mall North
Federal Building, Rm. 152
Lincoln, NE 68508-3866

www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov

@NebraskaNRCS

News Release

Contact:

Joanna Pope, NRCS Public Affairs Officer
(402) 437-4123

joanna.pope@ne.usda.gov

Aaron Hird, NRCS Soil Health Specialist
(402) 437-4053

aaron.hird@ne.usda.gov

Funds Available to Plant Severe Weather Damaged Acres to Cover Crops

LINCOLN, NE, April 17, 2019 – To help manage cropland damaged by Nebraska's severe spring weather, the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is providing funds to plant cover crops on cropland acres. Producers are encouraged to apply by May 17, 2019, or June 21, 2019 at their local USDA Service Center.

Nebraska NRCS State Conservationist Craig Derickson said, "This funding will address resource concerns like erosion and water quality, resulting directly from the March 2019 severe weather damage on cropland acres. Cover crops are an excellent way to provide protection to cropland after conservation work has been completed. Cover crops can stabilize the soil and improve soil health."

This funding is available statewide in order to assist the widespread recovery work on cropland acres directly impacted by the severe weather in March. The highest priority cropland includes land which is unable to be planted with a cash crop and/or harvested in 2019.

Cover crops prevent erosion, improve soil's physical and biological properties, supply nutrients, suppress weeds, improve the availability of soil water, and break pest cycles along with various other benefits. Cover crops can also potentially be grazed.

Work currently being done to maintain conservation structures as well as sediment removal, debris removal or grading and reshaping can be stabilized and protected from further erosion and damage by planting a cover crop.

Derickson said, "For Nebraska's cropland that suffered significant damage, planting a cover crop can be a great way to help protect fields and help restore productivity."

For more information, visit NRCS at a USDA Service Center, or visit www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov

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United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

100 Centennial Mall North
Federal Building, Rm. 152
Lincoln, NE 68508-3866
www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov

News Release

Contact:

Brad Soncksen, ASCT-Programs
(402) 437-4111

Brad.soncksen@ne.usda.gov

Joanna Pope, NRCS Public Affairs Officer
(402) 437-4123

joanna.pope@ne.usda.gov

Funds from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Help with Livestock Mortality

LINCOLN, NE March 21, 2019 – As the flood water recedes and snow melts, farmers and ranchers are getting a better look at the amount of damage their operations have suffered from last week's extreme weather events.

One of the more significant losses experienced by landowners has been livestock death. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has assistance available to help landowners cope with the aftermath of livestock death.

Through NRCS' Environmental Quality Incentives Program, commonly referred to as EQIP, farmers and ranchers can apply for assistance to properly dispose of dead livestock. Applications are being accepted now through April 5. The second cut-off date is May 1. Additional application cutoff dates may be announced if there is demand and available funding.

NRCS State Conservationist Craig Derickson said, "This was an unprecedented and devastating event for Nebraska. Some ranchers are dealing with hundreds of dead animals. This is not only damaging to their bottom-line, but if these animals are not disposed of properly, there could be negative impacts to water quality and other natural resources. NRCS conservationists are available to provide technical and financial assistance to help producers dispose of livestock carcasses in a safe manner."

Producers who have not already disposed of livestock can apply for EQIP now. Producers can then get a waiver to allow them to begin working to dispose of deceased livestock before having an approved EQIP contract.

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been approved. But since this situation is so time-critical, NRCS is encouraging producers to sign up for EQIP first, then submit a waiver to go ahead and begin animal disposal prior to having their EQIP contract approved,” Derickson said.

Producers in the area who suffered other damages due to the blizzard and flooding – such as damaged fencing, water sources, or windbreaks – may also seek assistance from NRCS through general EQIP funding. The sign-up period for general EQIP is continuous and has no cut off application date.

Derickson said, “NRCS is committed to helping producers get back on their feet after these extreme weather events while also ensuring Nebraska’s natural environment remains healthy and productive.”

For more information about the programs and assistance available from NRCS, visit your local USDA Service Center or www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov.

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Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)

OVERVIEW

The Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA), provides emergency funding and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters and to implement emergency water conservation measures in periods of severe drought.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

ECP is administered by FSA state and county committees and county offices. Producers should inquire with their local FSA county office regarding ECP enrollment periods and eligibility.

LAND ELIGIBILITY

FSA county committees determine land eligibility based on on-site inspections of damaged land and the type and extent of damage. Eligible land includes land used for:

- Commercial farming, ranching and orchard operations;
- Growing nursery stock and Christmas tree plantations;
- Grazing for commercial livestock production; and
- Conservation structures; such as, waterways, terraces, diversions and windbreaks.

Conservation problems existing before the applicable disaster event are ineligible for ECP assistance.

COST-SHARE PAYMENTS

Cost-share payments are:

- Up to 75 percent of the cost to implement approved restoration practices;
- Up to 90 percent if limited resource producers; and
- Limited to \$200,000 per person or legal entity per disaster.

ELIGIBLE FARMLAND RESTORATION PRACTICES

To rehabilitate farmland, ECP participants may implement emergency conservation practices, such as:

- Debris removal from farmland (cleanup of woody material, sand, rock and trash on cropland or pastureland);
- Grading, shaping or leveling land (filling gullies, releveling irrigated farmland and incorporating sand and silt);
- Restoring fences (livestock cross fences, boundary fences, cattle gates or wildlife exclusion fence from agricultural land);
- Restoring conservation structures (waterways, diversion ditches, buried irrigation mainlines and permanently installed ditching system); and
- Providing emergency water during periods of severe drought (grazing and confined livestock and existing irrigation systems for orchards and vineyards).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

This fact sheet is for informational purposes only; other eligibility requirements may apply. More information on ECP is available at FSA offices, local USDA service centers and on FSA's website at <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>. To find your local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

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- 1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- 2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- 3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Cost Share
April 25, 2019

CENTER PIVOT INCENTIVE COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$ 7,500.00
Ryan Hanousek – Hall	\$	7,500.00
TREE PLANTING COST SHARE PROGRAM.....		\$ 2,168.40
Adam Grabenstein – Dawson	\$	958.95
Wyatt Olson – Buffalo		900.70
Jered Jones – Hall		308.75
CAPACITANCE PROBE COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$ 2,500.00
DJ Wrage Farms Inc - Buffalo	\$	2,500.00
WELL DECOMMISSIONING COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$ 2,250.00
City of Kearney – Buffalo	\$	750.00
Andrew & April Brabec – Hall		750.00
Marian Hubbard Living Trust – Buffalo		750.00
Total		\$ 14,418.40