

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Board Meeting Minutes
June 27, 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	Steve Sheen
Jim Bendfeldt	Barry Obermiller	Keith Stafford
Lon Bohn	Keith Ostermeier	Ed Stoltenberg
Alicia Haussler	Doug Reeves	Deborah VanMatre
Ed Kyes	Mick Reynolds	Jerry Wiese
Dwayne Margritz	Jay Richeson	

Excused absences – Chris Henry, Brian Keiser, Jerry Milner and Marvion Reichert.

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, Sandy Noecker – Data & Compliance Officer, Luke Zakrzewski – GIS Image Analyst.

Others present – Joe Krolikowski – NRCS Liaison District Conservationist, Grand Island, Tom Hansen – Grand Island.

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: Alicia Haussler made the motion to approve the May board meeting minutes. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor, except Jim Bendfeldt and Charles Maser 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.

NRCS REPORT: Joe Krolikowski, NRCS Liaison District Conservationist, reported on NRCS events and activities and provided information on the NRCS guidelines for the National Food Security Act Compliance Reviews for crop year 2019 (see enclosed report).

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Chairman Jim Bendfeldt reported that Chris Henry, Brian Keiser, Jerry Milner and Marvion Reichert had requested to be excused from the board meeting.

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

EASTERN PROJECTS COMMITTEE: Committee chairman Ed Stoltenberg reported on their meeting held earlier that day.

Contract with JEO Consulting Group to Rehabilitate Several NRD Dams – Ed said the committee continued their discussion on the fact that Central Platte NRD has 40 dams that are in some need of repair. He said they specifically discussed three structures that are approaching 40 years old, two in Polk County and one in Buffalo County. He said JEO Consulting Group has submitted a bid, not to exceed \$47,150.00 to design and oversee construction to repair and/or remove the three dams.

Ed Stoltenberg made the motion to approve the Eastern Projects recommendation to enter into a contract with JEO Consulting Group for engineering design and oversight of the repair of the three dams (Box Elder, Clear Creek #5 and Jones Creek 1-1) as reported. Mick Reynolds seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT: Chairman Bendfeldt said the Budget Committee met earlier that day to continue their review of the recommended expenditures for Fiscal Year 2019/2020. He said they are recommending a couple of changes from what had been put on drop box for the board's review prior to the board meeting. A copy of the updated work sheet, which included the recommended expenditure changes and updated liabilities, was handed out.

Action on Budget of Expenditures for Budget Hearing & Set Public Hearing – Jay Richeson made the motion to approve the proposed budget of expenditures for the purpose of holding the public budget hearing on July 25th at 1:45 p.m. Deborah VanMatre seconded the motion.

Prior to voting on the motion General Manager Vogt said the estimated property tax request will be approximately \$4.2 million which is down a little over \$306,000.00 from last year. He said the District's property tax request has decreased almost \$2 million over the past four years. This is because we have finished up a couple of large projects

and also we have been successful in securing outside sources of funds such as from State and Federal programs.

In answer to a question General Manager Vogt said the major change recommended by the Budget Committee was to add funds to future IMP offsets. He said we know going into the future that we are going to have to offset additional water to the Platte River and that we will have an expense for that instead of receiving funds from the Platte River Recovery and Implementation Program as we do now. He said the Budget Committee believes it is important that we start planning for that now.

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

SPRING WATER LEVELS REPORT: GIS Image Analyst Luke Zakrzewski reported on the Spring 2019 groundwater levels compared to 1982 as well as 2018. He handed out information on the comparisons (see enclosed) taken from the reading of approximately 437 wells across the district. Luke said all 24 GWMA's (groundwater management areas) saw increases because of timely rains during the 2018 irrigation season that continued throughout the fall, and above normal precipitation this spring. Maps include the 1982 – 2019 Accumulated Change in Groundwater Levels by GWMA and a comparison of spring 2018 to spring 2019.

Luke explained that four of the 24 GWMA's are currently in the 25 percent decline suspension that does not allow transfers of irrigated acres into the areas or supplemental wells. The NRD's rules and regulations require the areas to stay in suspension for five years. Two of the four areas are above the 25 percent decline for the second consecutive year, while the remaining two areas are showing an increase for their first year.

CEASE & DESIST ORDER FOR A LANDOWNER IN HALL COUNTY: GIS Image Analyst Luke Zakrzewski requested approval to issue a cease and desist order against Harriet Driscoll, for the irrigation of non-certified acres on a tract in Dawson County. He said she was on the list of landowners who received letters in January concerning violations for last year. Luke said he had multiple contacts with the tenant up until May concerning this violation. The tenant called him earlier this week and the compliance requirement has been worked out but the required transfer of acres is not done. That is necessary in order for the pivot to continue irrigating.

Luke said he would request the board approve issuing a cease and desist order so that it is in place in case the landowner does not get the transfer done within the next week.

Alicia Haussler made the motion that the board approve filing the cease and desist order against Harriet Driscoll on the tract of land in Dawson County as reported. Barry Obermiller seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM UPDATE: Mark Czaplewski, District Biologist, reported that the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program's Governance Committee met on June 11th in Cheyenne. He said they were briefed on Congressional work to extend the Program's First Increment to 2032. Senate bill 990 and House bill 3237 have been introduced and a hearing was held June 26th on the Senate bill. He said there is broad regional support for the bills including co-sponsorship of the Senate bill by Nebraska Sen. Deb Fischer. All three Nebraska Representatives have signed on as co-sponsors. On June 6th, the Governors of the three Platte Basin states sent a joint letter to the chairs and ranking members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the House Committee on Natural Resources. They described the Program as "a marquee example of a proactive, collaborative approach to providing benefits for endangered species and their habitats while allowing for the beneficial use of our states' waters." Central Platte NRD submitted a letter of support for the extension. The language in Central Platte's letter of support for the extension tracks with formal action taken by the Board in March of 2018. Mark said another item of interest was the approval of a NE Public Power District surface water exchange agreement patterned after the agreement Central Platte NRD worked out with Central NE Public Power & Irrigation District.

TREE & WEED BARRIER REPORT: Programs Coordinator Kelly Cole reported there were 23,224 trees sold to be planted by landowners and 6,551 sold to be planted by the district. She also said 41,407 feet of weed barrier was sold, either to be laid by the district hired contractor or by the landowners themselves. (See enclosed cumulative report).

MANAGER'S REPORT: General Manager Lyndon Vogt reported on a few items including the schedule for the July 15th information meetings and public hearings for the CPNRD/NeDNR Integrated Management Plan and the Upper Platte River Basin-Wide Integrated Management Plan. He reported on a tour hosted by the NE Association of Resources District's for the National Association of Conservation Districts. He stated that proposals for the Groundwater Management Plan update would be reviewed at the July board meeting. A brief report was given on the successful Central Platte NRD's Flood Control Stroll in Grand Island. General Manager Vogt also said there would be a hearing on the proposed Platte/Republican diversion on June 28 in Lincoln.

NE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION REPORT: Mick Reynolds, Middle Platte Basin Commission member, said he did not have a report that month.

NE ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICTS REPORT: Jim Bendfeldt, Central Platte's NARD board member, said he did not have a report for June.

COST SHARE PROGRAM: Request for Fund Transfer – Programs Coordinator Kelly Cole said we have received more requests for the Well Decommissioning cost share program than funds are available. She requested that \$1,000.00 be transferred from the Soil Moisture Sensor program to the Well Decommissioning program.

Alicia Haussler made the motion to transfer \$1,000.00 from the Soil Moisture Sensor program to the Well Decommissioning program. Mick Reynolds 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: Grassland Conservation, Grazing Deferment, 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. Barry Obermiller seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor, except Jim Bendfeldt who abstained. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Alicia Haussler made the motion to accept the June financial report as presented. Charles Maser seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS: Next Meeting – Scheduled for July 25th at 2:00 p.m. Details to follow.

Questionnaire – Chairman Bendfeldt said the Executive Committee is requesting the directors complete a brief questionnaire that was handed out and asked that they be returned to the office before the July board meeting.

Upcoming Events – Reminder of the public information meetings on July 15th at the Central Platte NRD office for the Basin-wide and the Central Platte NRD Integrated Management Plans beginning at 2:30 p.m. and the public hearings on the plans at 3:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

ADJOURN: Chairman Bendfeldt adjourned the board meeting.



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>

June 26, 2019

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

June Report to CPNRD

Please find attached a summary of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) guidelines for the National Food Security Act Compliance Reviews for crop year 2019. As a reminder, the National Food Security Act was passed into law in 1985. The purpose of this Act is intended to discourage the conversion of wetlands and to reduce soil erosion on Highly Erodible Land (HEL). This was done by linking the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) benefits to conservation compliance, meaning if a producer was deemed out of compliance, they would not be eligible to receive any USDA benefits on any fields.

Examples of the USDA benefits producers could receive, or lose, are the direct payments made by the Farm Service Agency (FSA), Farm Bill conservation program participation and possible payments for conservation practices through NRCS, and Federal Crop Insurance subsidies through the Risk Management Agency (RMA). So, every spring out of the data base in Kansas City random names and tracts are drawn which contain highly erodible land and or wetlands that are to be reviewed for conservation compliance. The NRCS staff across the United States are tasked with completing these field reviews each year, and then work with producers to update their conservation plans if it's needed.

This year due to the March 2019 storms and severe flooding events, Nebraska NRCS requested a national waiver on completing compliance reviews in disaster affected counties. That request was granted on April 10, 2019 for all counties within the FEMA Disaster Declaration areas designated on the attached map. Waivers for the disaster-affected counties will allow USDA participants the time needed to recover from the impact of the unusual weather events and allow field office staff more time to assist them.

Helping People Help the Land

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

For tracts in the counties that received a variance in 2018, NRCS did not conduct a follow-up review in 2019. We entered the same variance code for the tract in the database for 2019 and notified the producers that the tract would be reviewed in 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Joe Krolikowski

Joe Krolikowski
District Conservationist

Attachments: FEMA Nebraska Disaster Declaration Map 3-2019
FEMA Nebraska Disaster Declaration Map 6-2019



FEMA



FEMA-4420-DR, Nebraska Disaster Declaration as of 06/04/2019



FEMA



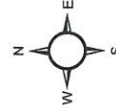
Data Layer/Map Description:

The types of assistance that have been designated for selected areas in the State of Nebraska.

All designated areas in the State of Nebraska are eligible to apply for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

Designated Counties

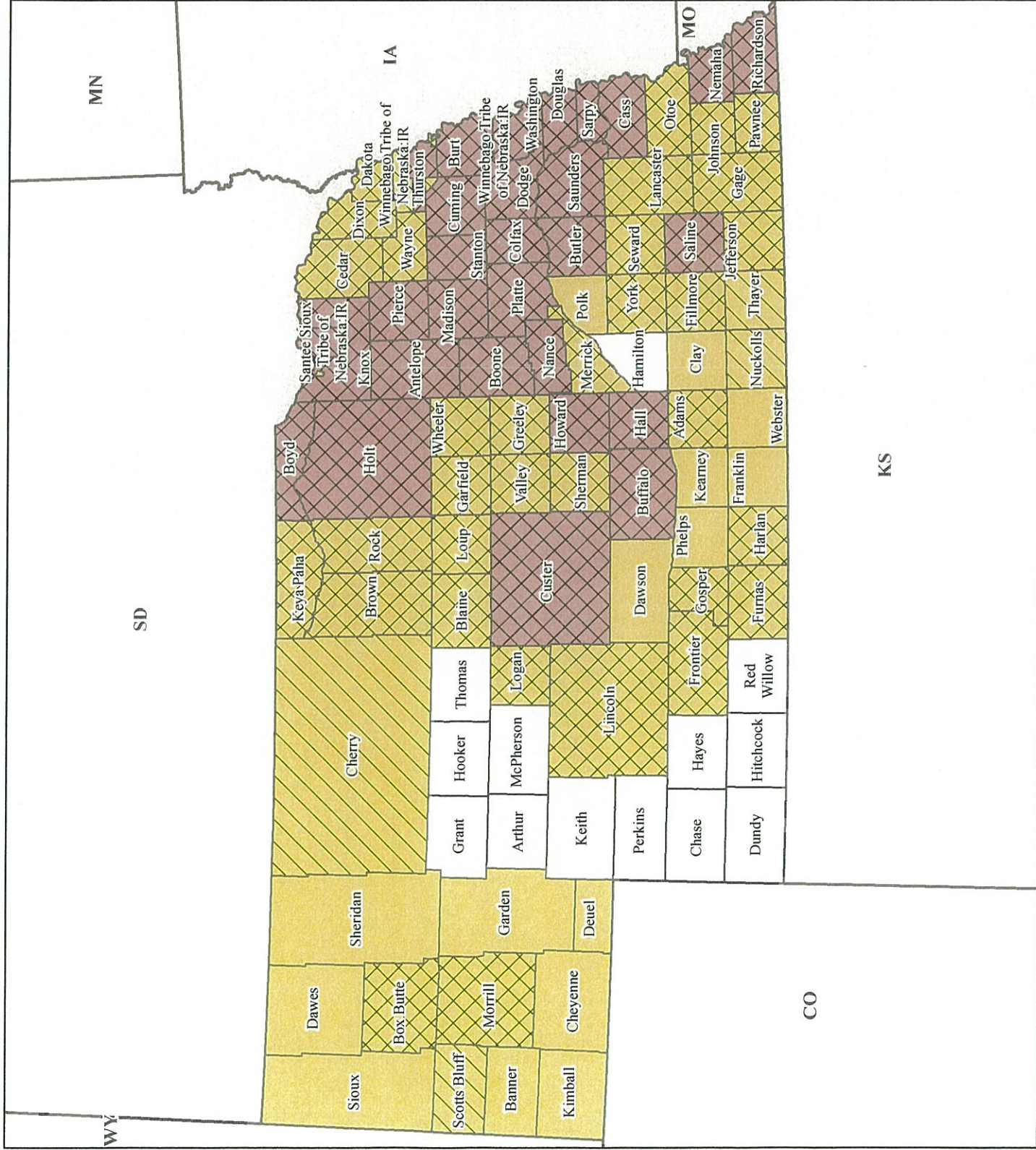
- No Designation
- Public Assistance
- Public Assistance (Categories A and B)
- Individual Assistance and Public Assistance (Categories A and B)
- Individual Assistance and Public Assistance (Categories A - G)
- Public Assistance (Categories A - G)



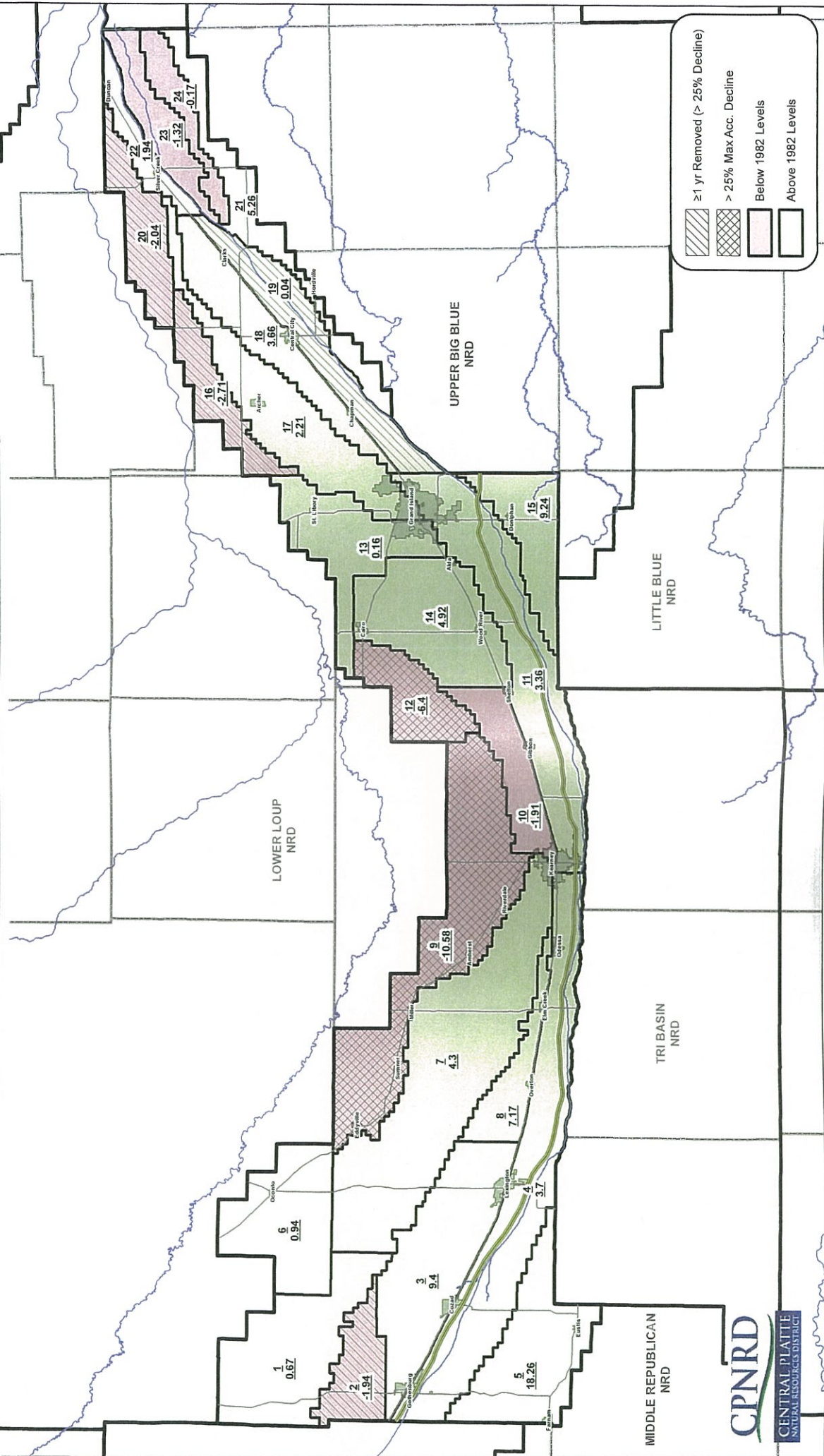
Data Sources:

FEMA, ESRI;
Initial Declaration: 03/21/2019
Disaster Federal Registry Notice: 06/04/2019

Datum: North American 1983
Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic

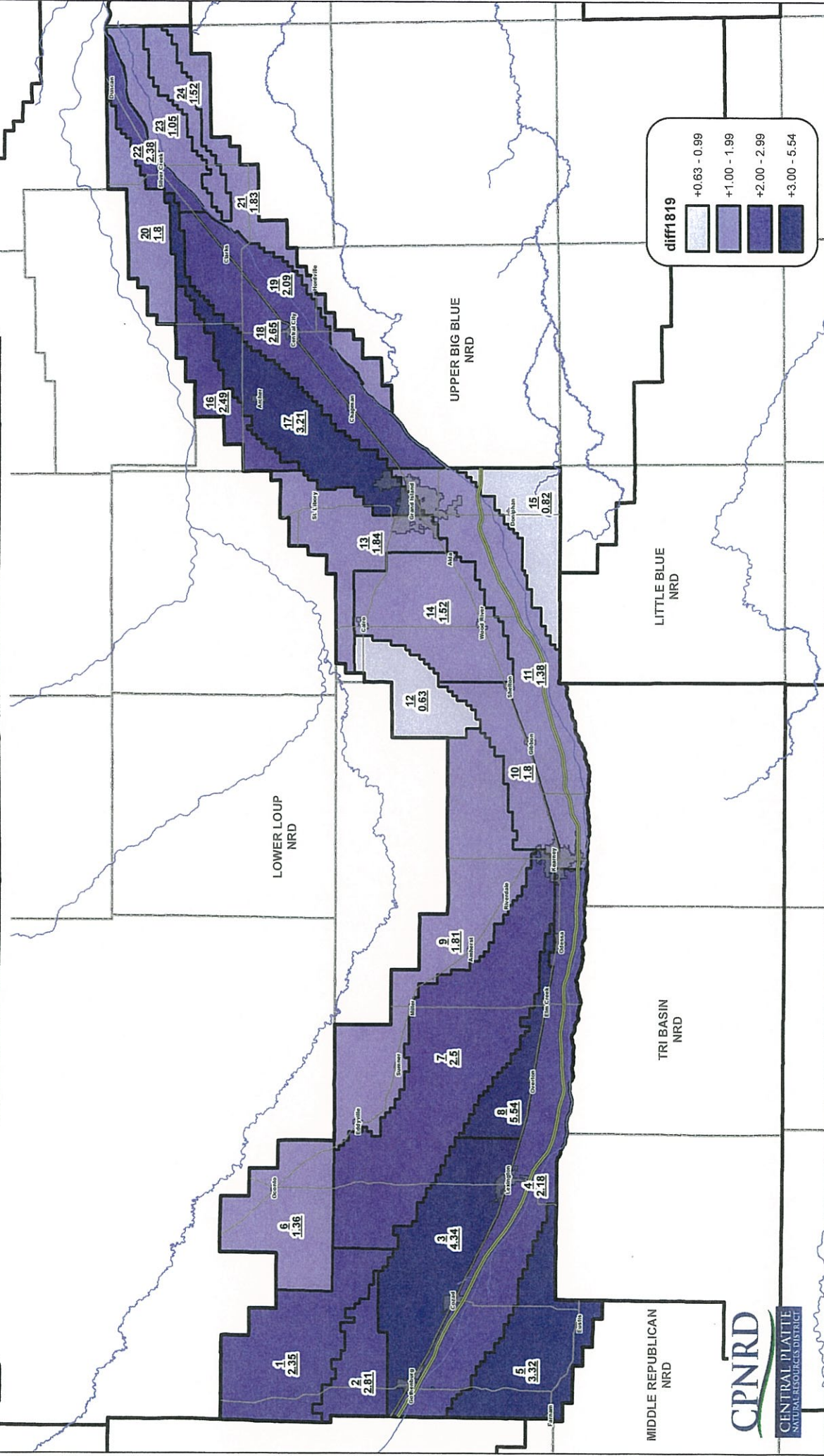


Central Platte NRD **1982 - 2019 Accumulated Change in Groundwater Levels by GWMA**



Central Platte NRD

Spring 2018 to Spring 2019 Change in Groundwater Levels by GWMA





CENTRAL PLATTE NRD WEED BARRIER PROGRAM

Year	Total by Feet	Total in miles	By District	By Landowner
1991	105,000	19.89	77,158	27,842
1992	130,200	24.66	99,600	30,600
1993	133,875	25.36	125,400	8,475
1994	124,300	23.54	90,740	33,560
1995	108,950	20.63	92,477	16,473
1996	47,366	8.97	42,527	4,839
1997	77,321	14.64	70,310	7,011
1998	89,681	16.99	83,254	6,427
1999	91,321	17.30	84,076	7,245
2000	124,227	23.53	100,010	24,217
2001	98,755	18.70	85,520	13,235
2002	195,598	37.05	175,923	19,675
2003	194,300	36.80	178,455	15,845
2004	163,542	30.97	143,692	19,850
2005	200,463	37.97	188,577	11,886
2006	143,790	27.23	104,950	38,840
2007	70,484	13.35	58,928	11,556
2008	138,560	26.24	111,500	27,060
2009	104,050	19.71	97,585	6,465
2010	86,660	16.41	75,251	11,409
2011	149,141	28.25	106,254	42,887
2012	78,718	14.91	63,170	15,548
2013	99,590	18.86	40,690	58,900
2014	91,781	17.38	80,937	10,844
2015	74,297	14.07	53,832	24,118
2016	62,164	11.77	42,541	19,623
2017	52,497	9.94	26,624	25,873
2018	44,481	8.42	38,143	6,338
2019	41,407	7.84	37,992	3,415

TOTALS 3,122,519 591.39 2,576,116 550,056

37,992 FT Installed at 19 sites

Central Platte NRD Tree Program

Handplant

23,224

Dawson: 4,697

Buffalo: 6,127

Polk: 200

Hall: 11,200

Merrick: 975

Howard: 25

District Plant

6,551

Dawson : 2,603

Buffalo: 3,223

Hall: 475

Howard: 250

Sold 35 small acreage packages (5 species with 10 of each included in packages)

TREES**MILES OF WEED BARRIER**

1973	106,355	
1974	93,660	
1975	79,690	
1976	66,250	
1977	86,548	
1978	104,675	
1979	122,925	
1980	148,700	
1981	170,075	
1982	135,150	
1983	111,050	
1984	85,200	
1985	89,300	
1986	65,850	
1987	73,150	
1988	91,550	
1989	83,700	
1990	125,000	
1991	104,900	19.89
1992	117,100	24.66
1993	94,250	25.36
1994	101,100	23.54
1995	78,300	20.63
1996	102,000	8.97
1997	72,450	14.64
1998	75,300	16.98
1999	58,825	17.30
2000	60,050	23.53
2001	58,600	18.70
2002	86,675	37.05
2003	77,975	36.80
2004	70,775	30.97
2005	80,775	37.97
2006	61,125	27.23
2007	44,950	13.35
2008	57,225	26.24
2009	68,703	19.71
2010	57,175	16.41
2011	54,275	28.25
2012	48,025	14.91
2013	37,716	18.86
2014	54,175	17.38
2015	46,575	14.07
2016	45,796	11.77
2017	35,350	9.94
2018	41,225	8.42

2019 29,775**7.84****TOTAL 3,759,993****591.37**

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Cost Share
June 27, 2019

GRASSLAND CONSERVATION COST SHARE PROGRAM.....	\$	5,046.61
Neomi D Hascall – Buffalo	\$	5,046.61
GRAZING DEFERMENT COST SHARE PROGRAM.....	\$	5,562.00
Rick Jones – Polk	\$	453.00
Garwood Family Limited Partnership – Dawson		5,109.00
WELL DECOMMISSIONING COST SHARE PROGRAM	\$	2,250.00
Mark Gloe – Hall	\$	750.00
Bendfeldt Land Co. – Buffalo		750.00
Frances G Greene Trust – Dawson		750.00
Total	\$	12,858.61