

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD

Board Meeting Minutes

September 27, 2018

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	Barry Obermiller	Keith Stafford
Alicia Haussler	Marvion Reichert	Ed Stoltenberg
Ed Kyes	Mick Reynolds	Deborah VanMatre

Excused absences: Chris Henry, Brian Keiser, Dwayne Margritz, Jerry Milner, Keith Ostermeier, Doug Reeves, Steve Sheen and Jerry Weise. Absent – Bob Schanou

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

Others present – Joe Krolilowski – NRCS Liaison District Conservationist, Jim Stulken – Doniphan, Lori Potter – Kearney Hub.

MEETING NOTICES: Chairman 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: Charles Maser made the motion to approve the August board meeting minutes. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Charles Maser and Keith Stafford 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.

USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE REPORT: Joe Krolkowski, NRCS Liaison District Conservationist, reported on the Fiscal Year 2018 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) in the Central Platte NRD (see enclosed report).

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Chairman Bendfeldt reported that Chris Henry, Brian Keiser, Dwayne Margritz, Jerry Milner, Keith Ostermeier, Doug Reeves, Steve Sheen and Jerry Weise had requested to be excused from the board meeting.

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

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN RULES & REGULATIONS

PROPOSED CHANGES: Chairman Bendfeldt said the public hearing on the proposed changes to the Groundwater Management Plan rules and regulations had been held at 1:00 p.m. and said it would be appropriate for the board to take action.

Marvion Reichert made the motion to approve the changes to the Groundwater Management Plan rules and regulations. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

General Manager Lyndon Vogt said after approval of the changes it is required that we publish an Order in the newspapers. The changes will become effective 30 days from the date the Order is published. He said the effective date will be November 1st.

SCHEDULE HEARING TO LIFT MORATORIUM: General Manager Vogt said it is also necessary that we hold a public hearing to lift the District's current moratorium. It was suggested the public hearing be held at the October board meeting.

Alicia Haussler made the motion that the public hearing to lift the current moratorium be held October 25th at 1:50 p.m. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

TREE PROGRAM AGREEMENT WITH USDA FOREST SERVICE: General Manager Vogt said the agreement with the U.S.D.A. Forest Service to purchase trees from Halsey for our tree planting program had been put on drop box prior to the board meeting. The three-year agreement is the same arrangement we have had in the past with the Forest Service and requires approval from the board.

Marvion Reichert made the motion to approve the three-year agreement with the U.S.D.A. Forest Service to purchase trees from Halsey for our tree planting program. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM: Mark Czaplewski, District Biologist, reported the Program's Governance Committee met on September 11 and 12 in Kearney. He said highlights from the meeting included an update of the process to extend the Program's First Increment. The Bureau of Reclamation is taking the lead in working through the federal NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) process. Formal consultation under the Endangered Species Act is complete and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has completed the final Biological Opinion. Mark said the Bureau should have the entire process wrapped up soon and the documents will be available on line. He said that with all the basin states on board, the next steps are to shepherd the proposed extension through the federal budget process and get the federal authorizations needed. The hope was to get those votes yet this year, but they will more than likely come early next year.

Mark also reported that Central Platte NRD's pilot surface water exchange agreement with Central NE Public Power & Irrigation District for 2018 was discussed. There was considerable support for such an approach to get real and controllable water available for Program use.

Mark said there is starting to be a significant "changing of the guard" on the Governance Committee. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's lead is planning to retire in December, there is a likely retirement of the State of Wyoming's lead, as well as the recent retirement of Brian Barels with NE Public Power District and the January planned retirement of Don Kraus with Central NE Public Power and Irrigation District. At the Platte River Basin meeting during the NARD fall conference Mark Czaplewski was re-elected to serve a three-year appointment on the Governance Committee.

Mark also reported it was time to appoint the Central Platte NRD representative and alternate to the Program's Land Advisory Committee.

Jay Richeson made the motion that Mark Czaplewski be appointed as Central Platte NRD's representative to the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program's Land Advisory Committee. Mick Reynolds seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Barry Obermiller made the motion that Marvion Reichert be appointed to serve as the alternate Central Platte NRD representative on the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program's Land Advisory Committee. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Marvion Reichert who abstained. Motion carried.

CONJUNCTIVE MANAGEMENT REPORT: Spring Recharge from Dawson County Canals – Brandi Flyr, District Hydrologist, reported on the excess flows' benefits and recharge from the Cozad Canal, Orchard/Alfalfa Canal and Thirty Mile Irrigation Canal. She said this spring had few opportunities for excess flow recharge but this fall has been much better for excess flows and in fact they are still ongoing. Once excess flow diversions finish for this year we will be able to report on this year's excess flow recharge numbers.

Conjunctive Management Pilot Program – Brandi also reported on this year's pilot program with Central NE Public Power & Irrigation District. She said the canals are not diverting as much surface water as they previously were and we are not using as much storage water and natural flow. Brandi said we have been in discussions with CNPP&ID and NPPD regarding the canals. We have been able to negotiate with CNPP&ID to transfer over a large portion of the undiverted water into the environmental accounts.

Brandi also reported that we have just received word from the NE Department of Natural Resources that the Department will approve our formal request for the full amount of 14,251 acre feet between the three canals to transfer to the environmental account. She said this is a pretty significant step in providing what is controllable water that can be used for sale to the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program, as we are doing this year, or hopefully through further negotiations use it to meet our integrated management goals.

UPPER PRAIRIE/SILVER/MOORES CREEK FLOOD RISK REDUCTION PROJECT: Assistant Manager Jesse Mintken explained that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has changed their terminology for this type of project and requires they now be referred to as "flood risk reduction" projects instead of "flood control" projects. Jesse said construction on the levee started the first week of September. All easements are in place and there are no major issues at this time. The contractor has indicated they should have the majority of the dirt moved in three weeks and, barring major rain, the project should be done on schedule. After the levee is completed construction on the project will be done. The letter of map revision (LOMAR) will need to be completed and then it will be in the hands of FEMA for flood plain map revision, which should be in 2019.

NARD ANNUAL CONFERENCE: Chairman Jim Bendfeldt, Central Platte NRD's NARD board representative, briefly reported on the conference and conservation award winners, including three individuals inducted into the Hall of Fame. They were: Hall of Fame NRD Board Member - Keith Rexroth of Sidney, Hall of Fame NRD Employee – Former Manager of the Upper Republican NRD Ron Milner (awarded posthumously), and Hall of Fame NRD Supporter – Don McCabe who was nominated by Central Platte NRD.

NE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION REPORT: Mick Reynolds, Middle Platte Basin Commission member, said he did not have anything new to report.

COST SHARE PROGRAMS: Applications – Programs Coordinator Kelly Cole reported that we have received applications for the following cost share programs: Center Pivot Incentive, Cover Crop, Burn Preparation, 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. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Alicia Haussler made the motion to approve the September 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, September 27th at 2:00 p.m. Details to follow.

Change Meeting Dates – Chairman Bendfeldt said that because of a conflict with the holidays it has been suggested that the dates for the November and December board meetings be changed.

Marvion Reichert made the motion that the November board meeting be held on the 15th and that the December meeting be held on the 20th. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Board Retreat – General Manager Vogt said a number of directors have asked about doing another board retreat. Following a brief discussion the date of December 13th was selected.

NRCS & Rainwater Basin Joint Venture Staff Arrangement -- General Manager Vogt said he wanted to give the directors a heads up that an ad will be coming out in the paper in the next few weeks concerning two job openings showing Central Platte NRD as the employer. He said Andy Bishop, with the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture, was successful in getting a three-year federal grant to hire two individuals to assist the NRCS with the administrative and inspection work on federal easements. Employees funded by the grant cannot be federal employees. Both positions are for three years. Central Platte NRD will be reimbursed quarterly for the total costs for salary and benefits. The individuals will be housed at the Grand Island NRCS office.

ADJOURN: Chairman Bendfeldt adjourned the board meeting at 2:43 p.m.

United States Department Of Agriculture



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>

September 27, 2018

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

September Report to CPNRD

Attached is a summary of FY 2018 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) activity in the Central Platte NRD (CPNRD), timelines for FY 2019, and a copy of the application to be complete before November 16th deadline. We have completed outreach efforts to promote the Environmental Quality Incentive Program and to help emphasize the benefits to conservation after implementation of these practices across the Central Platte.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Joe Krolikowski

Joe Krolikowski
District Conservationist

Attachment: CPNRD FY 2018 EQIP Summary and FY 2019 Application Process

Helping People Help the Land

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer



FY 2018 EQIP Contract Summary-CPNRD

Water Conservation: \$1,240,052.03 (39 contracts/3520.2 acres)

- 12 Pipeline/Pivot/Pumping Plant/Dryland/FM/IWM
- 7 SDI/Pumping Plant/Dryland/FM/IWM
- 10 Dryland Only
- 10 IWM/FM

Grazing Lands: \$395,016.52 (13 contracts/5348.1 acres)

- Brush Mgt/Prescribed Burn/Water Supply/X-Fence/PGS

Soil Health: \$111,510 (4 contracts/1324.5 acres)

- Cover Crop (Ephemeral Gully Initiative)/No-Till

Forestry: \$24,429 (1 contracts/50.2 acres)

- Windbreak establishment/Windbreak Renovation

CPNRD Board Meeting Report

9/27/2018

FY 2018 EQIP Contract Summary Totals - CPNRD

Field Office Summary

Central City – 13 contracts - \$435,461.07 – 1,067.1 acres

Grand Island – 16 contracts - \$375,408.92 – 3,652.7 acres

Kearney – 11 contracts - \$296,432.49 – 3,531.7 acres

Lexington – 21 contracts - \$787,505.07 – 4,117.8 acres

Totals – 61 contracts - \$1,894,807.55 – 12,369.3 acres

FY 2019 EQIP Timeline

Continuous Signup with Ranking Cutoff Dates

First Ranking Cutoff Date: November 16, 2018

Second Ranking Cutoff Date: To Be Determined

Application Ranking Deadline: February 1, 2018

New Farm Bill???

Carryover CPNRD EQIP Applications:

Water Conservation: 48 - \$2.7 million

Grazing Lands: 7 - \$60,473

Soil Health: 15 - \$246,342

Total Applications: 70 - \$3 million

CONSERVATION PROGRAM APPLICATION

Name:	Application Number:
Address:	Application Date:
Email:	County and State:
Telephone:	Watershed:
	Subaccount:
Location (Legal Description or Farm and Tract Number):	

1. ☐ Yes ☐ No Do you have farm records established with the appropriate USDA Service Center Agency?

If no, you must establish them with the appropriate USDA Service Center Agency prior to submitting this application.

2. This is an application to participate in the:

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) <input type="checkbox"/> CSP Renewal	Agriculture Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) - Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE)
<input type="checkbox"/> Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) <input type="checkbox"/> EQIP <input type="checkbox"/> CSP	<input type="checkbox"/> Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) <input type="checkbox"/> ACEP- (WRE) <input type="checkbox"/> Healthy Forest Reserve Program (HFRP)

3. Are you applying to participate in a conservation program as an (check one of the following):

☐ Individual

a) Please enter your legal name and tax identification number:

Name:

Tax Number:

☐ Entity (Corporation, Limited Partnership, Trust, Estate, etc.)

a) Please enter entity legal name and tax identification number:

Name:

Tax Number:

b) ☐ Yes ☐ No Do you have appropriate documents including proof to sign for the entity?

☐ Joint Operation (General Partnership, Joint Venture)

a) Please enter joint operation legal name and tax identification number:

Name:

Tax Number:

b) ☐ Yes ☐ No Do you have appropriate documents including proof to sign for the joint operation?

4. Is the land being offered for enrollment used for crop (including forest-related) or livestock production?

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crop Production | Crop Type: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Livestock Production | Livestock Type: |

5. The land offered under this application is (check all that apply):

- ☐ Private Land
☐ Public Land (Federal, State, or Local Government)
☐ Tribal, Allotted, Ceded or Indian Land

6. You certify that Certification of control of the land offered under the application is evidenced by:

- ☐ Deed or other evidence of land ownership (required for all ACEP-WRE applications)
☐ Written lease agreement
Years of control are through
☐ Other agreement or legal conveyance (describe):
Years of control are through

7. ☐ Yes ☐ No Is the land offered under this application enrolled in any other conservation program?

8. Do you meet the criteria for any of the following categories? (mark all that apply)

- ☐ Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher
☐ Beginning Farmer or Rancher
☐ Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher
☐ Veteran Farmer or Rancher
☐ Not Applicable

If you wish to apply in any of these categories, you must meet the self certification requirements. Definitions are provided below. For more information please go to this website:

<https://lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/>

Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher – The term “Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher” means a participant:

- With direct or indirect gross farm sales not more than the current indexed value in each of the previous two years, and
- Who has a total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of four, or less than 50 percent of county median household income in each of the previous two years.

A legal entity or joint operation can be a Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher only if all individual members independently qualify. A Self-Determination Tool is available to the public and may be completed on-line or printed and completed hardcopy at: <https://lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/>

Beginning Farmer or Rancher– The term “Beginning Farmer or Rancher” means a participant who:

- Has not operated a farm or ranch, or who has operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 consecutive years. This requirement applies to all members of a legal entity, and who
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm or ranch.

In the case of a contract with an individual, individually or with the immediate family, material and substantial participation requires that the individual provide substantial day-to-day labor and management of the farm or ranch, consistent with the practices in the county or State where the farm is located.

In the case of a contract made with a legal entity, all members must materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm or ranch. Material and substantial participation requires that the members provide some amount of the management, or labor and management necessary for day-to-day activities, such that if the members did not provide these inputs, operation of the farm or ranch would be seriously impaired.

Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher- The term "Socially Disadvantaged" means an individual or entity who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group. For an entity, at least 50 percent ownership in the farm business must be held by socially disadvantaged individuals. A socially disadvantaged group is a group whose members have been subject to racial or ethnic prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities.

These groups consist of the following:

- American Indians or Alaskan Natives
- Asians
- Blacks or African Americans
- Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders
- Hispanics.

Note: Gender alone is not a covered group for the purposes of NRCS conservation programs. The term entities reflect a broad interpretation to include partnerships, couples, legal entities, etc.

Veteran Farmer or Rancher- The term "Veteran Farmer or Rancher" means a farmer or rancher who:

- Served in the active military, naval, or air service, and
- Who was discharged or released from the service under conditions other than dishonorable, and
- Who has not operated a farm or ranch; or has operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 consecutive years.

A legal entity or joint operation can be a Veteran Farmer or Rancher only if all individual members independently qualify.

9. Is any of the land offered for enrollment under this application:

- ☐ **Certified Organic by the National Organic Program (NOP)**
- ☐ **Transitioning to become Certified Organic by the NOP**
- ☐ **Exempt from Organic Certification as defined by the NOP**
- ☐ **Not Applicable**

Certification in any of these categories is to assist with planning and will not automatically result in the application being considered in any initiatives made available for organic-related production. Applicants must specifically request to participate in an organic initiative. Note that the EQIP Organic Initiative has a lower payment limitation (\$20,000/year and \$80,000 over any 6-year period per person or legal entity) than payments made to a person or legal entity under General EQIP.

On the farm(s) identified above, the Applicant agrees to participate in the identified program if the offer is accepted by the NRCS. The undersigned shall hereafter be referred to as the "Participant." The participant understands that starting a practice prior to contract approval causes the practice to be ineligible for program financial assistance. The participant will obtain the landowner's signature on the contract or provide written authorization to install structural or vegetative practices. The Participant agrees not to start any financially assisted practice or activity or engage the reimbursable services of a certified Technical Service Provider before a Contract is executed by CCC. The Participant may request, in writing, a waiver of this requirement for financially assisted practices by the NRCS State Conservationist.

All participants that certify land control or certify eligibility as Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher, Beginning Farmer or Rancher, or Veteran Farmer or Rancher will provide all records necessary to justify their claim as requested by a NRCS representative. It is the responsibility of the Participant to provide accurate information to support all items addressed in this application at the request of NRCS. False certifications are subject to criminal and civil fraud statutes.

The Participant acknowledges that highly erodible land conservation/wetland conservation, adjusted gross income certifications, and member information for entities and joint operations are on file with the FSA.

10. ☐ Yes ☐ No I have received a copy of the applicable conservation program contract appendix.

Applicant Signature	Date

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

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CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Cost Share
September 27, 2018

CENTER PIVOT INCENTIVE COST SHARE PROGRAM.....		\$	15,000.00
Country Greenery Inc. – Hall	\$	7,500.00	
Ken Woitaszewski – Hall		7,500.00	
COVER CROP COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$	500.00
Steve Weides – Dawson	\$	500.00	
BURN PREPARATION COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$	8,100.00
Alan A Hueftle – Dawson	\$	8,100.00	
WELL DECOMMISSIONING COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$	1,500.00
Roger Hohlen – Hall	\$	750.00	
PVHOA LLC – Dawson		750.00	
Total		\$	25,100.00