

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD

Board Meeting Minutes

September 3, 2020

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. Hall County has moved to a Phase 3, so the board room will be available for public participation in the meeting. Social distancing guidelines will be followed.

ATTENDANCE: Board members present were:

LeRoy Arends	Dwayne Margritz	Mick Reynolds
Jim Bendfeldt	Charles Maser	Jay Richeson
Lon Bohn	Jerry Milner	Steve Sheen
Chris Henry	Barry Obermiller	Keith Stafford
Brian Keiser	Keith Ostermeier	Ed Stoltenberg
Ed Kyes	Doug Reeves	Deb VanMatre
	Marvion Reichert	Jerry Wiese

Excused Absences: Alicia Haussler

Staff present: Lyndon Vogt – General Manager, Jesse Mintken – Assistant Manager, Kelly Cole – Administrative Assistant, Marcia Lee – Information/Education Specialist, Luke Zakrzewski – GIS Image Analyst, Tricia Dudley – Water Quality Programs Assistant, Courtney Widup – Resources Conservationist, Dean Krull – UNL/CPNRD Demo Project Coordinator, Dan Clement – Water Resources Specialist, Angie Warner – GIS Programs Coordinator

Others present: Joe Krolkowski – NRCS Liaison District Conservationist

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: Barry Obermiller made the motion to approve the July board meeting minutes. Keith Ostermeier seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor, except Steve Sheen 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. There were none.

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Chairman Bendfeldt reported that Alicia Haussler had requested to be excused from the board meeting.

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

NRCS REPORT: Joe Krolikowski, NRCS Liaison District Conservationist, reviewed the COVID procedures for the NRCS offices and congratulated the board on being awarded the Elm and Turkey Creek Watershed Agreement through NRCS (see enclosed report).

CPNRD DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS: Dean Krull, UNL/CPNRD Demo Project Coordinator, gave a presentation on field demonstration projects located on producers' fields over the last 40 years for the NRD's water quality management program.

FISCAL YEAR 2020/2021 BUDGET: Chairman Bendfeldt reported on the special hearing to set the final tax request that was held prior to the board meeting and briefly reviewed the resolution. He said no testimony was presented at the hearing. The property tax request of \$4,057,019.34 would require a levy of 0.022982 based on the District's valuation of \$17,653,315,322.00.

Marvion Reichert made the motion to approve the "Resolution Setting the Property Tax Request – Fiscal Year 2020/2021" and to set the levy at 0.022982. Mick Reynolds seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

BUILDING COMMITTEE: Chairman Mick Reynolds reported on their meeting held earlier in the day.

The Central Platte NRD is looking at the possibility of a new building. The committee asked Lyndon Vogt, General Manger, to look into getting a bid for an appraisal on our current building. Due to all the home refinances, Lyndon was only able to attain one appraisal bid at this time, others would be available next year. The appraisal bid received was for the amount of \$2,950 from Barber Appraisals.

Mick Reynolds made the motion to move forward with an appraisal from Barber Appraisals in the amount of \$2,950. Keith Ostermeier seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Marvion Reichert, Jay Richson, and Jerry Wiese who abstained. Motion carried.

APPEAL ON LAND IN HALL COUNTY: The Variance and Appeals Sub-Committee met today before lunch. We had a transfer request from Dan & Cindy Finnigan who

were representing EICLT LLC to certify irrigated acres on land located in the SE ¼ of Section 13 Township 11N Range 25W in Dawson County. The request was to increase the total certified irrigated acres on the property from 21.90 acres to 107 acres. This land has been enrolled in CREP for the last 15 years and is due to renew in October. When the previous landowner certified the acres on the land back in 2006, they only certified 21.90 acres. Central Platte NRD stopped certifying irrigated acres in 2014.

Jay Richeson made the motion to deny the variance for Dan & Cindy Finnigan of EICLT LLC in the SE ¼ Section 13 Township 11N Range 25W, Dawson County. Barry Obermiller seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

PROGRAMS COMMITTEE: Chairman Ed Kyes reported on their meeting held earlier that day.

The Platte Valley Weed Management Area is trying to develop a permanent fund, an endowment, to cover costs for controlling phragmites on the Platte River. They are requesting \$500,000.00 from Central Platte NRD. We currently have \$250,000.00 budgeted for this fiscal year. The committee recommended that we budget a total of \$500,000.00 over the next three years for this request.

Ed Kyes made the motion to pay Platte Valley Weed Management Area \$500,000.00 over 3 years for an endowment to control phragmites on the Platte River. Keith Ostermeier seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

MANAGER'S REPORT: General Manager Vogt, reported that Central Platte NRD received the Elm and Turkey Creek WFPO Grant from NRCS. Consultant bids are currently out and a recommendation will be brought back to the board at the September board meeting.

Vogt reported that 5 Cease & Desists were filed. Three of those individuals have violated the cease & desist order: Bernard Katzberg, Richard Urban and Artie Moeller. The remaining two have not as far as we can tell: William Soll and Mike Munsterman. The three individuals that violated have been sent certified letters from our legal counsel. All three of them still need to come into compliance, they have 30 days from receiving their certified mail to do so. Artie Moeller has been in the office and is working to get into compliance. We should have more information for the board at the September meeting.

COST SHARE PROGRAMS: Transfer & Applications – Kelly Cole, Administrative Assistant, requested a transfer of \$2,000.00 from Grazing Deferral Cost Share to Cover Crop Cost Share and reported that we have received cost share applications for the following programs: Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation, Center Pivot, Cover Crop 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 transfer and applications as reported. Mick Reynolds seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICT: Chairman Bendfeldt reported that due to COVID Husker Harvest Days and the Annual Conference presentations and public participation were both cancelled this year. The NARD board will still meet during what would have been the Annual conference. The business session that is usually held at the Annual Conference will still take place. The NARD board recommended that we only send one individual.

For the business session, they only have one resolution to vote on: Lower Platte South NRD to develop an extreme weather action plan.

Bendfeldt reported that Tom Riley has been selected as the new DNR Director that will replace Jeff Fassett.

NARD ANNUAL CONFERENCE VOTING DELEGATE/ALTERNATE: Jay Richeson made a motion to elect Jim Bendfeldt as the voting delegate and himself as the alternate for the business session of the NARD Annual Conference. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor, except Jim Bendfeldt and Jay Richeson who abstained. Motion carried.

NEBRASKA NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION: Mick Reynolds reported that the Water Sustainability Fund applications were submitted to DNR for review. A total of 8 applications filed, 6 small and 2 large project requests with a total of \$5,946,983.00. DNR has completed the review process, the committee will meet later in September to score them.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Jay Richeson made a motion to approve the August financial report as presented. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Next Board Meeting – Scheduled for the afternoon of Thursday, September 24. Details to follow.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Chairman Bendfeldt reviewed the upcoming events.

OTHER BUSINESS: There was none.

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



Natural Resources Conservation Service
Grand Island Field Office
703 South Webb Rd., Suite B
Grand Island, NE 68803
Phone (308) 395-8586 (Ext. 3)

<http://www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov>

September 1, 2020

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

August Report to CPNRD

Central Platte NRD Board and Staff, The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) employees continue to do their very best to provide services to our customers and conduct business using a variety of options during the pandemic. Three of our four Service Centers are in Phase 2. This means we can work with our customer in those offices, but by appointment only. The Kearney Service Center is still in phase 1, which means no customers in that office currently. Following this protocol helps keep both external and internal customers safe during the pandemic, hopefully things will improve or continue to hold steady as we enter the fall.

This month another Congratulation is in order, I would like to Congratulate Lyndon and the Central Platte NRD, on yet another new fully executed Watershed & Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) Cooperative Agreements! Last month we were notified that the agreement between the Central Platte NRD, and NRCS, had been awarded and was signed by both agencies. This agreement is to create a New Watershed Work Plan-Environmental Assessment for the Elm and Turkey Creek Watershed in Buffalo and Dawson Counties. The other two agreements were for the Lower Wood River Watershed Improvement Project in Buffalo, Hall, and Merrick Counties, and for the Spring and Buffalo Creek Watershed Improvement Project in Dawson County. The last two agreements mentioned were approved for funding last spring.

This means NRCS will pay 100% of the cost of this new watershed plan as well, up to the approved funding amount. In this agreement the new watershed plan is approved for funding in the amount of \$742,500.00. The performance period of this agreements runs from 8/20/2020 to 9/30/2022, so for 2 years. In total, the funding available to the Central Platte NRD over the next 2 years for these 3 new watershed agreements is \$2,092,500. Richard Vaughn is our NRCS Watershed Coordinator in the State Office and will be the Government Representative for this project. This is very exciting news and should be a very big help in planning for the future and protecting our customers lives and property.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Joe Krolikowski

Joe Krolikowski
District Conservationist

Helping People Help the Land

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Transfer \$2,000 from Grazing Deferment to Cover Crop

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Cost Share
September 3, 2020

NEBRASKA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COST SHARE PROGRAM...		\$	11,396.27
Michael Haack – Polk – Brush Management	\$	1,396.27	
Windfield Farms LLC – Merrick – Pipeline to Pivot		5,000.00	
Leo Mettenbrink – Hall – Pipeline to Pivot		5,000.00	
CENTER PIVOT INCENTIVE COST SHARE PROGRAM.....		\$	6,924.00
Windfield Farms LLC – Merrick	\$	6,924.00	
COVER CROP COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$	2,000.00
Brett Jones - Merrick	\$	500.00	
Mark Creutzberg – Merrick		500.00	
Kenneth Boryca – Nance		500.00	
TSN Farms Inc. – Merrick		500.00	
WELL DECOMMISSIONING COST SHARE PROGRAM.....		\$	750.00
Matthew Luther – Dawson	\$	750.00	
Total		\$	21,070.27