

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Board Meeting Minutes
April 23, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Deb VanMatre called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. She 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. 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 by roll call were:

Tod Arends	Charles Maser	Jay Richeson
Lon Bohn	Jerry Milner	Ed Stoltenberg
Brian Keiser	Luke Ourada	John Stoltenberg
Amy Kyes	Doug Reeves	Deb VanMatre
Dwayne Margritz	Mick Reynolds	Kevin Werner

Excused Absences: Tom Downey, Ryan Kegley, Barry Obermiller, Keith Ostermeier, Marvion Reichert and Mike Wilkens

Staff present: Lyndon Vogt – General Manager, Kelly Cole – Administrative Assistant, Marcia Lee – Information/Education Specialist, Luke Zakrzewski – GIS Image Analyst, Tricia Dudley – Water Quality Specialist, Courtney Widup – Water Resources Technician, Collin Quandt – Agronomist, Brody Vorderstrasse – Communications Assistant, Bill Hiatt – Resources Conservationist and Dean Krull – UNL/CPNRD Demo Project Coordinator.

Others present: Joe Krolkowski – District Conservationist, Janelle Taubenheim – Resources Conservationist Kearney Office, Ron Hargens – Landowner and Nolan Litte – Tri Basin NRD Assistant Manager.

MEETING NOTICES: Chairman VanMatre 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: Doug Reeves made a motion to approve the March board meeting minutes. Kevin Werner seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Todd Arends and Luke Ourada who abstained. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER BUSINESS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS: Chairman VanMatre asked if there were any announcements or suggestions for future meetings. There was none.

PUBLIC FORUM: Chairman VanMatre asked if anyone wanted to address the board on any item not included on the agenda. There was none.

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Chairman VanMatre reported that Tom Downey, Ryan Kegley, Barry Obermiller, Keith Ostermeier, Marvion Reichert and Mike Wilkens requested to be excused from the board meeting.

Mick Reynolds made the motion to approve the absences as requested. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

NRCS REPORTS: Janelle Taubenheim, Resource Conservationist, gave an update on the programs in the Kearney field office (see attached).

Joe Krolkowski, District Conservationist, reported on the emergency assistance for NE producers affected by wildfires (see attached).

BUILDING COMMITTEE: Mick Reynolds, chairman, reported that the committee met earlier today.

Brody Vorderstrasse, Communications Assistant, presented a video to the board on the progress of the building.

Reynolds reported that the committee discussed the different options to list and sell our current office/shop. The committee decided that the best option would be to accept sealed bids until June 18, 2026. At that time all bids would be opened and reviewed, however, CPNRD has the right to reject any and all bids.

Mick Reynolds made a motion to accept sealed bids for the sale of the Kaufman Property (current office/shop) until June 18, 2026. At that time all bids will be opened and reviewed, however, CPNRD has the right to reject any and all bids. Brian Keiser seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Reynolds reported that the basement change order is still in progress.

VARIANCE APPEALS COMMITTEE: Doug Reeves, chairman, reported that the committee met earlier today for a variance request from Ron Hargens of Cairo, NE. The request was to allow for the approval of a supplemental well to be drilled in Groundwater Management Area 13 to irrigate existing certified acres in Groundwater Management Area 12. The Committee is recommending that the request be approved, with the condition that the well only irrigates the adjacent property in section 15, and so long as both properties are under the same ownership.

Doug Reeves made a motion to approve the variance request from Ron Hargens of Cairo, NE to allow for the approval of a supplemental well to be drilled in GW Management Area 13 to irrigate existing certified acres in GW Management Area 12. The well can

only irrigate the adjacent property in section 15, and so long as both properties are under the same ownership. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Mick Reynolds who voted no and Ed Stoltenberg who abstained. Motion carried.

EASTERN PROJECTS COMMITTEE: Charles Maser, chairman, reported that the committee met earlier today and began reviewing the 2026/2027 Eastern Projects Budget.

WESTERN PROJECTS COMMITTEE: Lon Bohn, chairman, reported that the committee met earlier today and began reviewing the 2026/2027 Western Projects Budget.

PROGRAMS COMMITTEE: Kevin Werner, chairman, reported that the committee met earlier today.

Werner reported that an Outdoor Classroom Grant from GISH Success Academy was reviewed. The grant would fund the building of Bluebird Nesting Boxes. The requested amount was \$2,360.

Kevin Werner made a motion to approve the Outdoor Classroom Grant in the amount of \$2,360 for the GISH Success Academy to build Bluebird Nesting Boxes. Jerry Milner seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Werner reported that Autonomous Pivot has requested Central Platte NRD's support in writing a Google grant.

Werner reported that the Information/Education 2026/2027 budget was reviewed and moved to the Budget Committee.

Werner reported that the committee began reviewing the Cost Share 2026/2027 budget.

MANGER'S REPORT: Lyndon Vogt, Manager, reported that a map was displayed on the wall in the boardroom showing all the acres that were burned recently by wildfires. Just in CPNRD there was 22,950 acres effected.

Vogt reported that the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program is currently working to develop a long-term water agreement through 2032 regarding the Dawson County canals.

Vogt reported that Meadowlark and the City of Gothenburg are working on an agreement to integrate new wells into the city's system to increase overall water capacity. Offsets are required and CPNRD will work with them. Until an agreement is finalized on the offsets, no permits for the wells will be issued.

Vogt reported that effective July 1, 2026 Darren Cudaback, who is 100% funded through the Illinois Corn Growers Association, will officially be their employee. Cudaback provides producers with economic analysis to evaluate the value of adopting conservation practices such as cover crops, nutrient timing and reduced tillage.

Vogt reported that a violation report from Tricia Dudley has been added to Dropbox. Dudley sent out 137 letters to producers who are not in compliance with CPNRD's Nitrogen Management Program.

COST SHARE PROGRAMS: Applications - Kelly Cole, Administrative Assistant, reported that we have received cost share applications for the following programs: Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation, Burn Preparation, Sensor Based Nutrient Management, Flow Meter 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 a motion to approve the cost share applications as reported. Doug Reeves seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Lyndon Vogt, General Manager, reviewed the April financial report.

Mick Reynolds made a motion to approve the April financial report as presented. Charles Maser seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICT: Deb VanMatre, NARD Board Member, reported that approximately 50 individuals attended the Washington D.C. conference.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION: No Report

UPCOMING EVENTS: Chairman VanMatre reviewed the upcoming events.

NEXT BOARD MEETING – Scheduled for the afternoon of Thursday, May 28. Details to follow.

OTHER BUSINESS: There was none.

ADJOURN: Chairman VanMatre adjourned the board meeting at 2:49 p.m.

Kearney field office update

April 2026



EQIP Update

- Newly Obligated through EQIP-RPP
 - 5 New contracts with CEMA 216 (Approximately 1.4M)
- Assessed & Ranked (Approximately 7.6M)
 - 1 Animal Feeding Operation
 - 16 Brush Management
 - 11 Cover Crop
 - 8 Irrigated to Dryland
 - 18 Rotational Grazing Systems
 - 1 IWM & Nutrient Mgt
 - 3 Nutrient Mgt
 - 11 Gravity to Pivot Conversion
 - 2 Range Planting
 - 11 Gravity to SDI Conversion
 - 5 Small Scale Urban Ag (High Tunnels & Supporting Practices)
 - 2 IWM & Cover Crops
- Active Contracts
 - 50 Active EQIP Contracts to Manage

CSP Update

- 7 New Applications – Ranking deadline TBD
- 13 Active Contracts

CRP Update

- Sign Ups started or complete for FY2026
- Continuous CRP – February 12th – First batching period March 20th
 - Will have additional Batching if funds available
- General CRP – March 9th through April 17th

NRD Update

- Current Cultural Resource protocol adjusted how we proceed with NRD applications.
- Currently have 3 Tree applications with CPNRD. May roll some unfunded EQIP apps through NRD cost share if not funded in EQIP.

Migratory Birds, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act

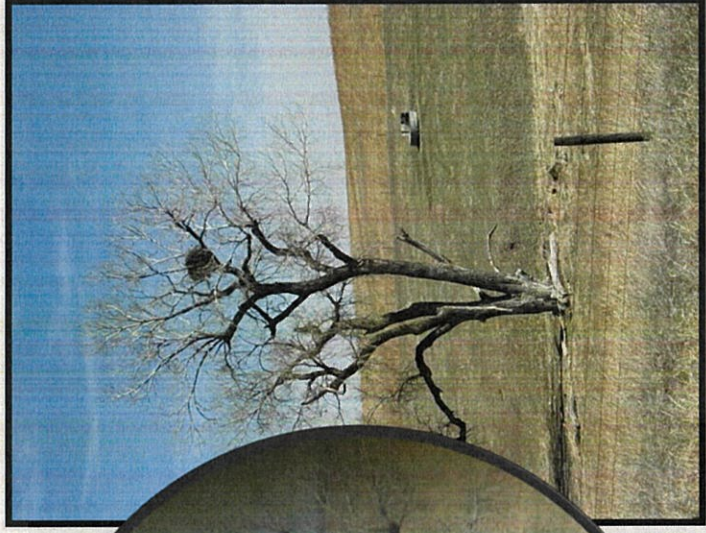
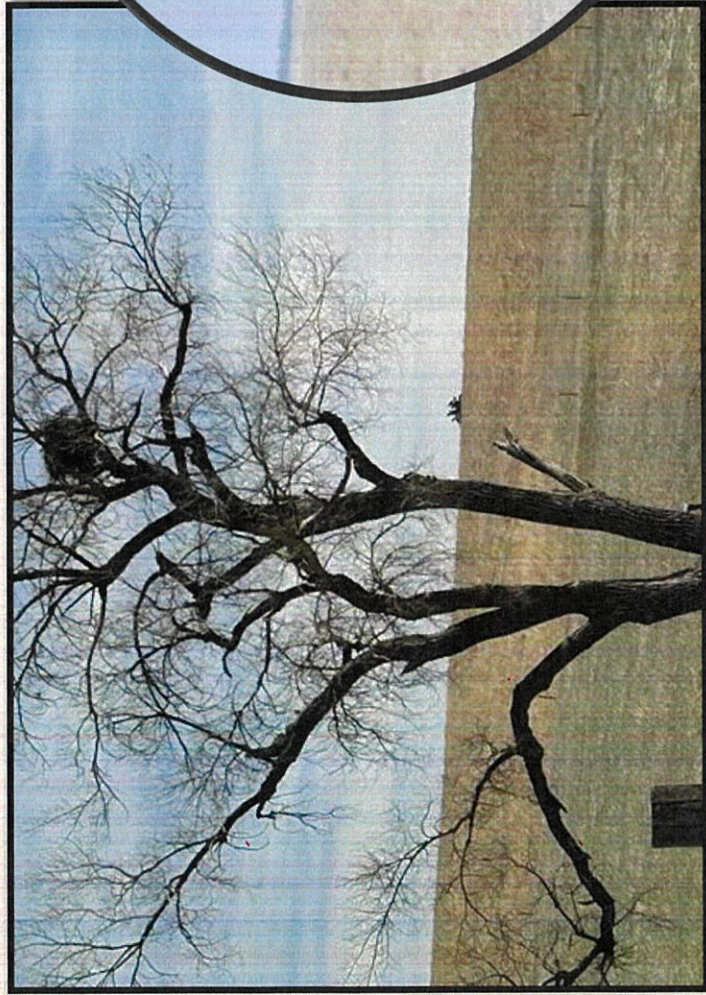
Description: The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) is the domestic law that affirms, or implements, the United States commitment to four international conventions (with Canada, Japan, Mexico, and Russia) for the protection of a shared migratory bird resource. Executive Order 13186, Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds, requires NRCS to consider the impacts of planned actions on migratory bird populations and habitats for all planning activities. Migratory birds are essentially all wild birds found in the United States, except the house sparrow, starling, feral pigeon, and resident game birds, such as pheasant, grouse, quail, and wild turkeys. A list of migratory birds is found in 50 CFR Part 10. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protect Act (BGEPA) also prohibits the take of bald and golden eagles and their nests. BGEPA provides protection to all Bald and Golden Eagles by prohibiting all commercial activities and some noncommercial activities involving bald or golden eagles, including their feathers or parts. Refer to NRCS H-190, Part 610 for additional guidance.

<https://www.fws.gov/law/migratory-bird-treaty-act-1918>

Restrictions due to MBTA

- Wetlands & Forest/Woodland Habitat is prohibited to destroy perennial vegetation
 - Between May 1 – July 15
- Any practice that destroys perennial vegetation is prohibited
 - Between April 1 – July 15
- ALLOWED
 - Flexibility of implementation of brush management and prescribed burning during the primary nesting period. Only with the purpose is **Restoring and maintaining grassland and prairie habitats.**

Unique Bald Eagle Nesting





The horizontal axis (header row) represents the degree to which similar activities are ongoing in the vicinity of the nest.

If the activity will be visible from the nest	If there is no similar activity within 1 mile of the nest	If there is similar activity within 1 mile of the nest
If the activity will not be visible from the nest	660 feet. Landscape buffers are recommended.	660 feet, or as close as existing tolerated activity of similar scope. Landscape buffers are recommended.
	330 feet. Clearing, external construction, and landscaping between 330 feet and 660 feet should be done outside breeding season.	330 feet, or as close as existing tolerated activity of similar scope. Clearing, external construction and landscaping within 660 feet should be done outside breeding season.

The vertical axis shows the degree of visibility of the activity from the nest.

5. Typical Reproductive Timeline for Bald Eagles in Nebraska

(Standard Protocol prepared by NE Game and Parks Commission)

	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Bald Eagle Activity	Nest Building		Winter activities/ Communal roosting		Egg laying and incubation		Hatching & rearing young		Fledging young		Winter Activities		Nest Building
	C) Daily surveys for winter roosts		A) Survey 2 weeks prior		B) One survey completed in March or before project begins		C) Daily surveys for winter roosts						

Timeline for Required Surveys:

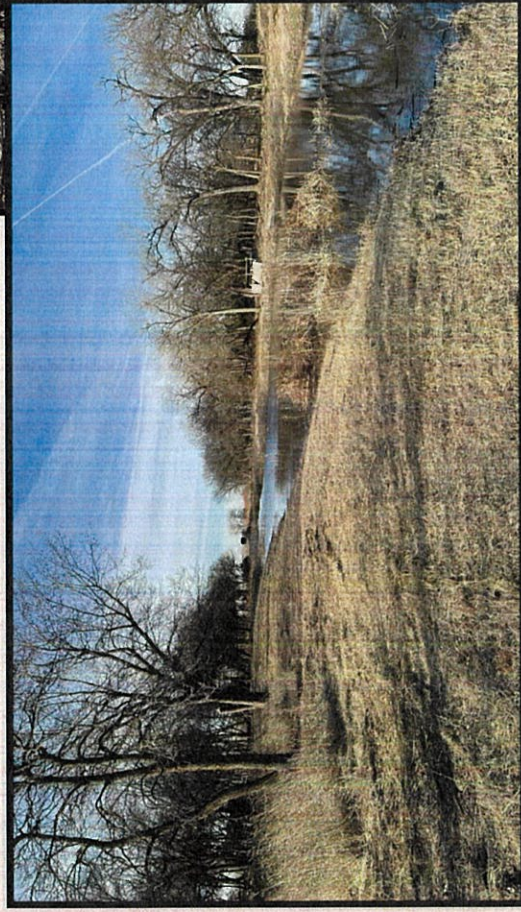
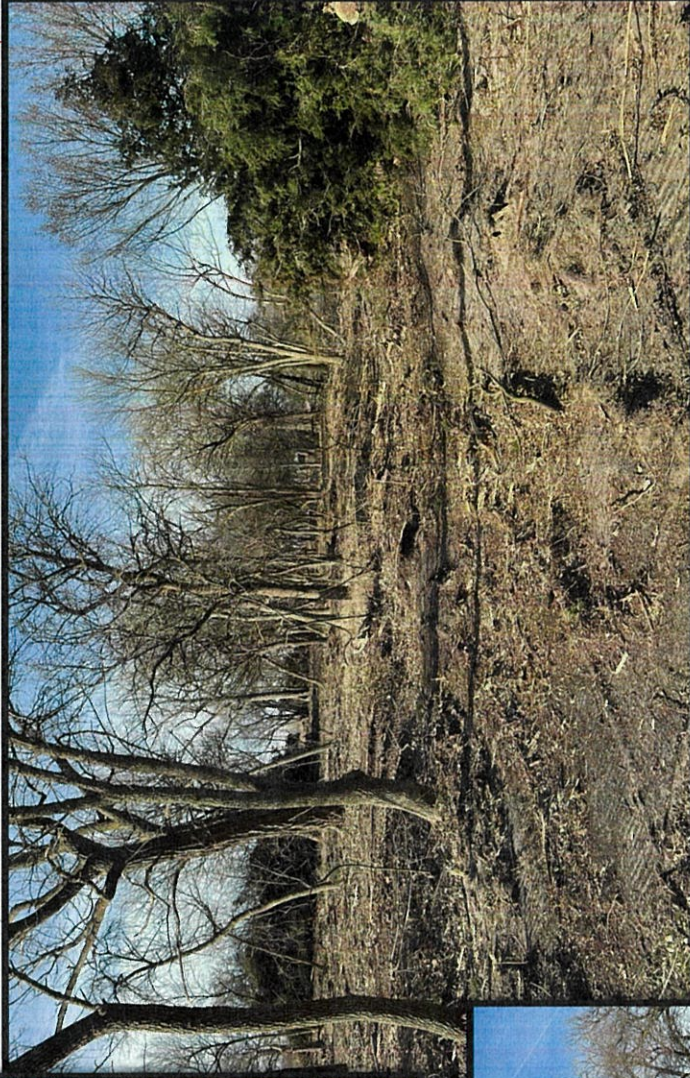
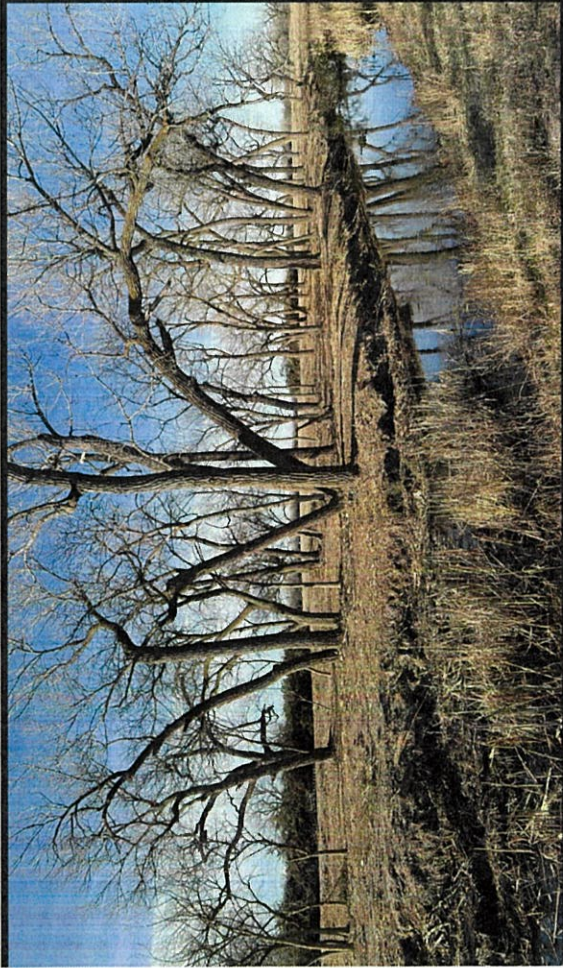
- A. Projects starting between February 1 to April 15 must have a nest survey completed 1-14 days prior to the start of construction.
- B. Projects starting between April 15 to October 1 need a nest survey completed as early as March, or before project begins.
- C. Projects starting between October 1 and December need daily winter roost surveys completed.

NOTE: Surveys are only necessary in areas where the disturbance is near suitable eagle habitat (i.e., near open water with large trees present or areas that are farther from water sources such as farmland and urban and suburban habitat). If initial implementation of planned practice/disturbance will occur within 0.5 miles of areas of suitable habitat for bald eagles, nest and/or winter roost surveys are needed prior to implementing NRCS practices.

Wildlife Habitat Restoration Project – EQIP WIN



- Before Photos



- After the brush management and Forrest stand improvement was completed.

Thank
you

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United States Department Of Agriculture



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

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

April 17, 2026

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

April Report to CPNRD

Please find attached the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) second News Release for Emergency EQIP Assistance Available for Nebraska Producers Affected by Wildfires. As you know many agricultural operations in Nebraska have been significantly impacted by the recent wildfires.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has technical and financial assistance available to help farmers and livestock producers recover from these adverse natural disaster events. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) can provide financial assistance to help producers implement conservation practices on land impacted by natural disasters. A special emergency sign-up was opened March 25, 2026, and will run through May 31, 2026, through EQIP for those impacted by the wildfires across the state of Nebraska.

Impacted producers are encouraged to contact their local USDA Service Center for program information, practice requirements, and assistance with applications.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Joe Krolkowski

Joe Krolkowski
District Conservationist

Attachments: Emergency EQIP Assistance Available for Nebraska Producers Affected by Wildfires News Release

Helping People Help the Land
USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.





News Release

Nebraska State Office
1121 Lincoln, NE 68508

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Emergency EQIP Assistance Available for Nebraska Producers Affected by Wildfires

LINCOLN, Neb. – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is offering critical assistance to Nebraska farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners affected by recent wildfires. A special emergency sign-up for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is open and applications are being accepted from producers impacted across the state.

NRCS is actively providing both technical and financial assistance to help landowners recover from wildfire damage and restore the health and productivity of their working lands. Through this emergency EQIP opportunity, eligible producers may receive support for a variety of conservation practices, including:

- Repairing or replacing damaged livestock grazing system infrastructure,
- Restoring and or replacing valuable forage resources essential for livestock needs.

Producers affected by the wildfires need to contact their [local USDA Service Center](#) as soon as possible to complete an application and early start waiver if necessary. NRCS staff are available to assess damage, develop conservation plans, and help determine which practices best support recovery efforts.

For more information about EQIP or to locate your nearest USDA Service Center, select this active link [Nebraska NRCS EQIP](#), or the QR code below.



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CENTRAL PLATTE NRD

Cost Share

Thursday, April 23, 2026

NEBRASKA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COST SHARE PROGRAM.....	\$	5,000.00
Quarter Circle S Ranch – Dawson – Underground Pipe to Pivot	\$	5,000.00
BURN PREPARATION COST SHARE PROGRAM	\$	8,223.75
Boston Land & Cattle Inc. – Buffalo	\$	8,223.75
SENSOR BASED NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT COST SHARE	\$	1,068.93
Bill Buettner – Hall	\$	1,068.93
FLOW METER COST SHARE PROGRAM	\$	800.00
Quarter Circle S Ranch – Dawson	\$	800.00
WELL DECOMMISSIONING COST SHARE PROGRAM	\$	2,250.00
Gary Widholm – Custer	\$	750.00
Todd Paczosa – Platte		750.00
O&O Farm Inc. – Buffalo		750.00
TOTAL	\$	17,342.68