

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD

Board Meeting Minutes

May 28, 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:

Lon Bohn	Dwayne Margritz	John Stoltenberg
Tom Downey	Jerry Milner	Deb VanMatre
Ryan Kegley	Barry Obermiller	Kevin Werner
Brian Keiser	Mick Reynolds	Mike Wilkens
Amy Kyes	Jay Richeson	

Excused Absences: Todd Arends, Charles Maser, Keith Ostermeier, Doug Reeves and Marvion Reichert

Unexcused Absences: Luke Ourada and Ed Stoltenberg

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, Dean Krull – UNL/CPNRD Demo Project Coordinator, Jesse Mintken – Assistant Manager, Angie Warner – GIS Programs Coordinator and Chase Heck – Prescribed Fire Planning Specialist.

Others present: Joe Krolikowski – District Conservationist

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: Mick Reynolds made a motion to approve the April board meeting minutes. Kevin Werner seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Tom Downey, Barry Obermiller and Mike Wilkens 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 Todd Arends, Charles Maser, Keith Ostermeier, Doug Reeves and Marvion Reichert requested to be excused from the board meeting.

Kevin Werner made the motion to approve the absences as requested. Ryan Kegley seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

NRCS REPORTS: Joe Krolikowski, District Conservationist, reported on the upcoming local working groups (see attached).

BUILDING COMMITTEE: Mick Reynolds, chairman, reported that the committee met earlier today. Talked about the progress and will meet at the building next month for the committee meeting.

VARIANCE APPEALS COMMITTEE: Barry Obermiller, chairman, reported that the committee met earlier today for two variance requests.

Obermiller reported that the first variance request was from Country Partners Cooperative from Odessa, NE. The request was to allow for the approval of a new commercial/industrial water well permit to provide water for a new fertilizer operation. The landowner has secured the appropriate offsets to support the new use. The committee makes the recommendation to approve the request with the following conditions: the landowner will install a district approved meter and provide an annual report of water pumped to the district.

Barry Obermiller made a motion to approve the variance request for Country Partners Cooperative from Odessa, NE. The request will allow for the approval of a new commercial/industrial water well permit to provide water for a new fertilizer operation. The landowner has secured the appropriate offsets to support the new use and will follow these conditions from the district: install a district approved meter and provide an annual report of water pumped to the district. Mick Reynolds seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Obermiller reported that the second request was from Gary Jones of Ravenna, NE. The request was to allow the transfer of certified irrigated acres from the Platte Basin of Influence to the Loup Basin of Influence within the CPNRD. The committee is recommending that the request be denied because CPNRD rules prohibit transfers between Basins of Influence.

Barry Obermiller made a motion to deny the variance request from Gary Jones of Ravenna, NE. The request was to allow the transfer of certified irrigated acres from the Platte Basin of Influence to the Loup Basin of Influence within the CPNRD. CPNRD

rules prohibit transfers between Basins of Influence. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

EASTERN PROJECTS COMMITTEE: Amy Kyes, chairman, reported that the Eastern Projects 2026/2027 budget was reviewed and moved to the Budget Committee.

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

Werner reported on a new Chemigation Incentive Cost Share Program that will cost share on 2 fields max that currently is not set up for chemigation. Eligible items include chemical injection pump, interlock, injection valve, mainline check valve, low pressure drains and discharge hose. The landowner must also be signed up for the Sensor Based Nutrient Management Cost Share Program to be eligible. Cost share is 50% of the actual cost up to \$3,500 per location (field). Not to exceed \$7,000 max.

Kevin Werner made a motion to approve the Chemigation Incentive Cost Share Program that will pay producers 50% of the actual cost up to the \$3,500 for a new chemigation system, with a lifetime max of 2 fields or \$7,000 with an effective date of July 1, 2026. Mick Reynolds seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Werner reported on a new Reverse Osmosis Incentive Cost Share Program that will pay private home well owners 50% of the actual cost of a Reverse Osmosis System up to \$750 per home. A nitrate test must be performed before landowner is eligible.

Kevin Werner made a motion to approve the Reverse Osmosis Incentive Cost Share Program that will pay private home well owners 50% up to \$750 per home with an effective date of July 1, 2026. Ryan Kegley seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Werner reported that the committee is recommending the following changes to existing cost share programs: remove Phragmites Control and Soil Moisture Sensor Cost Share Programs due to low participation and increase the Tree Cost Share from 50% up to \$3,000 to 75% up to \$5,000. Changes would go into effect July 1, 2026.

Kevin Werner made a motion to make the following changes to existing cost share programs with an effective date of July 1, 2026: remove Phragmites Control and Soil Moisture Sensor Cost Share Programs due to low participation and increase the Tree Cost Share from 50% up to \$3,000 to 75% up to \$5,000. Barry Obermiller seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Kevin Werner reported that the Cost Share 2026/2027 Budget was reviewed and moved to the Budget Committee.

WESTERN PROJECTS COMMITTEE: Lon Bohn, chairman, reported that the Western Projects 2026/2027 budget was reviewed and moved to the Budget Committee.

BUDGET COMMITTEE: Deb VanMatre reported that the committee met and started reviewing the 2026/2027 budget. The committee will meet again next month.

NITROGEN MANAGEMENT VIOLATION REPORT: Tricia Dudley, Water Quality Specialist, reported as of today, she has 37 producers out of compliance with the Nitrogen Management Program. Dudley is requesting approval to send out cease-and-desist orders to those 37 landowners.

Mick Reynolds made a motion to send out cease-and-desist orders to the following landowners that are out of compliance with the Nitrogen Management Program: Ryan Anderson, Andrew Blessin, Ritch Blythe, Frank Dush, Brad Earnest, Jeff Earnest, Doug Engel, Taylor Engel, John Franke, Chad Glause, Ray Hebda Jr, Grand Hebda, Gene Hoffman, Allan Jareske, Kristen Klein, Kurt Kuhn, Brian Laub, Dan Leisinger, Phil Mader, Fred Maloley, Skyler Mamot, Joel Mettenbrink, Dave Mickelson, Morgan Miller, Cody Morris, Matt Neujahr, Kevin Onken, Jeff Perry, Steve Peters, Clint Ratkovec, Russ Rice, Lucas Rivera, Tyson Schimmer, Carol Schroer, Richard Urban, Kenneth Vettel, Trent Wagner, Logan Williams and James Winchester. Ryan Kegley seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

TREE AND WEED BARRIER REPORT: Kelly Cole, Administrative Assistant, reported that tree and weed barrier sales were down this year (see attached).

STATIC GROUNDWATER LEVELS REPORT: Luke Zakrzewski, GIS Image Analyst, reported from 1982 to 2026 CPNRD has an accumulated loss of -1.22 (ft). No Groundwater Management Area's will open. No Groundwater Management Area's came above 25% decline.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Lyndon Vogt, General Manager, introduced our newest employee, Chase Heck, who will be taking over the Prescribed Fire Planning Specialist.

Vogt reported that Courtney Olson has taken another position and we are currently interviewing to replace her.

Vogt reported that none of our directors that were up for re-election were opposed and will all move to the general election.

Vogt reported that the 2025 Water, Climate, Health Program Annual Report is on drop box for everyone to see.

Vogt reported that Drainage District #4 letter to all board members is on drop box.

Vogt reported that the federal government's lead attorney recently recommended that the court consider Nebraska's case against Colorado regarding irrigation water deliveries.

Vogt reported that the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program continues to make progress towards its flow targets.

COST SHARE PROGRAMS: Applications & Transfer - Kelly Cole, Administrative Assistant, requested a transfer of \$1,000 from Phragmites Control to increase Well Decommissioning by \$1,000, and reported that we have received cost share applications for the following programs: Sensor Based Nutrient Management, Streambank Stabilization, 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.

Mick Reynolds made a motion to approve the cost share applications and transfer as reported. Mike Wilkens 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 May financial report.

Mick Reynolds made a motion to approve the May financial report as presented. Ryan Kegley 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 their next meeting will be June 8-9, 2026, in conjunction with the Basin Tour.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION: Doug Reeves, Middle Platte Basin Representative, reported that the NRCS held its quarterly meeting on April 29th in Kearney. They received 5 small applications totaling \$877,018 and 6 large applications totaling \$4,878,948 for the Water Sustainability Funds. Because the WSF is being funded from the NET there are restrictions that will eliminate some projects, mainly the ongoing Omaha sewer control project. At the time of the meeting, they had a total of \$5,273,000 dollars to fund these projects.

Soil & Water Conservation Program Fund is currently unfunded, but they are exploring the possibility of using NET to fund those projects.

The Executive Committee met and is putting priority on closing out several projects that could return unused funds to the WSF so that they could be used for new projects.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Chairman VanMatre reviewed the upcoming events.

CPNRD Meeting Minutes

May 28, 2026

Page 6

NEXT BOARD MEETING – Scheduled for the afternoon of Thursday, June 25. Details to follow.

OTHER BUSINESS: There was none.

ADJOURN: Chairman VanMatre adjourned the board meeting at 3:02 p.m.

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>

May 26, 2026

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

May Report to CPNRD

I would like to take this time to update the Central Platte NRD Board, NRD staff, and public about the upcoming Local Working Group Meeting. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Central Platte NRD now have their FY 2027 meeting planned. The meeting will be held June 24, 2026, at 9:30am – 12:00pm at the Central Platte NRD Board Room at 215 Kaufman Ave, Grand Island, NE 68803.

These Local Working Groups help provide advice on the priorities for many United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) conservation programs.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Joe Krolikowski

Joe Krolikowski
District Conservationist

Attachments: Attachment A News Release



News Release

USDA/NRCS
703 S Webb Rd., Suite B
Grand Island, NE 68803

Contract:
Joe Krolikowski
308-395-8586 Ext. 3
Joe.Krolikowski@usda.gov

Local Working Group Meetings Planned

Local meetings are open to individuals interested in setting natural resources goals for Nebraska.

Grand Island, NE, May 2026 - A Local Working Group that provides advice on the priorities for many U.S. Department of Agriculture conservation programs will meet June 24, 2026 at 9:30am - 12:00pm at the Central Platte NRD Board Room at 215 Kaufman Ave, Grand Island, NE 68803.

The public is encouraged to attend and express their natural resource concerns. Ideas generated from the public will help the U.S. Department of Agriculture tailor their natural resource programs to meet the needs identified locally.

There is a Local Working Group in each Natural Resources District (NRD). Membership on the Local Working Group includes Federal, State, county, Tribal or local government representatives according to Krolikowski, district conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) whose agency guides the Local Working Group.

“The Local Working Group recommends to the NRCS State Conservationist how conservation programs like the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), or Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) would be used most effectively in their area. This recommendation can include special target areas, cost share rates on conservation programs, which conservation practices should have cost assistance, or how many dollars could be needed,” said Krolikowski. This work group allows local input into how Federal dollars are spent, he said.

Typically, Nebraska NRCS obligates anywhere between \$45 million to over \$75 million dollars to farmers and ranchers statewide through NRCS conservation programs. These programs helped landowners and operators make natural resource improvements to their land, water, or wildlife. This funding was allocated according to the priorities set by the Local Working Group.

For more information about the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the programs and services they provide, contact your local USDA Service Center or www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov.

#

Transfer \$1,000 from Phragmites Control to Well Decommissioning

**CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Cost Share
Thursday, May 28, 2026**

SENSOR BASED NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT COST SHARE	\$	3,720.60
Westering Farms LLC – Hall (2 Fields)	\$	3,720.60
STREAMBANK STABILIZATION COST SHARE PROGRAM	\$	3,000.00
William Thompson – Buffalo Creek – Dawson	\$	3,000.00
COVER CROP COST SHARE PROGRAM	\$	2,000.00
Kelcee Green – Dawson	\$	2,000.00
WELL DECOMMISSIONING COST SHARE PROGRAM	\$	3,000.00
Leslie McHargue – Merrick	\$	750.00
McHargue Co – Merrick (2 wells)		1,500.00
Lance Hermansen – Merrick		750.00
TOTAL	\$	11,720.60

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
2020	20,475	2.03
2021	30,825	6.46
2022	40,866	13.14
2023	32,203	9.93
2024	37,900	6.26
2025	28,350	4.78

2026	24,225	2.66
-------------	---------------	-------------

TOTAL	3,974,837	636.63
--------------	------------------	---------------

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
2020	10,722	2.03	9,048	1,674
2021	34,113	6.46	25,213	8,900
2022	69,369	13.14	67,495	1,874
2023	52,429	9.93	49,514	2,915
2024	33,043	6.26	17,820	15,223
2025	25,240	4.78	18,850	6,390
2026	14,050	2.66	10,850	3,200
TOTALS	3,361,485	636.65	2,774,906	590,232

10,850 FT Installed at 6 sites

Central Platte NRD Tree Program

Handplant

21,942

Dawson: 3,090 Hall: 9,850
 Buffalo: 6,939 Merrick: 1,500
 Frontier: 28 Nance: 35
 Polk: 500

District Plant (13 planting jobs)

2,283

Buffalo: 661 Hall: 250
 Dawson: 635 Nance: 565
 Frontier: 172