CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Board Meeting Minutes
July 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:

Todd Arends	Jerry Milner	Jay Richeson
Lon Bohn	Barry Obermiller	Ed Stoltenberg
Tom Downey	Keith Ostermeier	John Stoltenberg
Brian Keiser	Luke Ourada	Deb VanMatre
Amy Kyes	Doug Reeves	Kevin Werner
Charles Maser	Mick Reynolds	Mike Wilkens

Excused Absences: Ryan Kegley, Dwayne Margritz and Marvion Reichert

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 Brandi Flyr – Hydrologist

Others present: Joe Krolikowski – District Conservationist and Kaura Reimers – Eagle Scout, Doniphan.

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: Kevin Werner made a motion to approve the June board meeting minutes. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Amy Kyes and Jerry Milner 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 Ryan Kegley, Dwayne Margrtiz and Marvion Reichert requested to be excused from the board meeting.

Mick Reynolds 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.

NRCS REPORTS: Joe Krolikowski, District Conservationist, reported on the 1996 Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) (see attached).

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT REQUEST: Kaura Reimers, Eagle Scout, requested funding in the amount of $425.70 to replace 3-4 Colorado Blue Spruce Trees at the Doniphan United Methodist Church as part of her Eagle Scout program.

Mick Reynolds made a motion to approve Kaura Reimers Eagle Scout project in the amount of $425.70 to replace 3-4 Colorado Blue Spruce Trees at the Doniphan United Methodist Church. Todd Arends seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

BUDGET COMMITTEE: Deb VanMatre reported that the committee met earlier today.

VanMatre reported that the advertised budget proposed the property tax request of $5,347,828.91 which is a decrease of $5.40 from last year. No changes were made to the budget as advertised.

Action on Budget of Expenditures for Budget Hearing & Set Public Hearing – Tom Downey made a motion to approve the budget as advertised, with a property tax request of $5,347,828.91, which is a decrease of $5.40 from last year. Keith Ostermeier seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Set Public Levy Hearing – Tom Downey made a motion to schedule the public hearing to set the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 levy on September 3, 2026 at 1:45 pm with the board meeting scheduled that day at 2:00 or immediately following the public hearing. Keith Ostermeier seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

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

Reynolds reported that there were two items on the agenda: Change Order #3 for the Maintenance Building, and a Commercial Listing Agreement with Berkshire Hathaway.

Reynolds reported that Change Order #3 for the Maintenance Building in the amount of

$3,842.00 is needed due to the slow percolation rate of the existing soils at the site.

Mick Reynolds made a motion to approve Change Order #3 for the Maintenance Building with Rogge General Contractors to extend the septic drain field 15 feet in the amount of $3,842.00. Brian Keiser seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Reynolds reported that a contract with Jimmy Reed of Berkshire Hathaway was received to list the current office complex at the amount of $1,900,000.00.

Mick Reynolds made a motion to approve the proposal from Berkshire Hathaway to list our current office complex for $1,900,000.00 for a six-month term with a 5% commission. Brian Keiser seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

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

Obermiller reported that the first was from Construction Water Solutions of Holdrege, NE. The request was to allow for the approval of a new commercial/industrial water well permit to facilitate construction of the JWC Fertilizer Plant in Gothenburg. This well would only be used for pre-watering soil for an 18-month timeline. The committee makes the recommendation to approve the request with the following permit conditions: Install a district approved meter, provide monthly reports of water pumped to the district, that the amount pumped does not exceed 25 million gallons annually, that any amount over will be subject to offsets and that the well be decommissioned by the end of calendar year 2027.

Barry Obermiller made a motion to approve the variance request from Construction Water Solutions of Holdrege, NE to allow for a new commercial/industrial water well permit to facilitate construction of the JWC Fertilizer Plant in Gothenburg with the following conditions: Install a district approved meter, provide monthly reports of water pumped to the district, that the amount pumped does not exceed 25 million gallons annually, that any amount over will be subject to offsets and that the well be decommissioned by the end of calendar year 2027. Doug Reeves 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 JWC of Omaha, NE. The request was to allow for the use of property, under a conservation easement, to be constructed as part of the Meadowlark Fertilizer Plant east of Gothenburg, NE. An additional rail line and part of the building footprint will be on the easement land. Seeing that this use of the land will not add any consumptive use to the property, the committee makes the recommendation to approve the request.

Barry Obermiller made a motion to approve the variance request from JWC of Omaha, NE. The request was to allow for the use of property, under a conservation easement, to be constructed as part of the Meadowlark Fertilizer Plant east of Gothenburg, NE. Doug Reeves seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Jay Richeson who abstained. Motion carried.

PROGRAMS COMMITTEE: Kevin Werner reported that the committee met earlier today to review scholarship applications for the CPNRD-Ron Bishop Memorial College Scholarship.

Kevin Werner made a motion to approve $1,000 for each scholarship application winner. The recipients of the CPNRD-Ron Bishop Memorial College Scholarship were as follows: Madelyn Graham of Grand Island, Tucker Thomas of Kearney and Parker Walahoski of Overton.

WATER UTILIZATION COMMITTEE: Brian Keiser reported that the committee met earlier today and discussed GW Management areas with continued groundwater decline. No action was taken.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Lyndon Vogt, General Manager, reported that the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear Nebraska's lawsuit with Colorado regarding the Perkins County Canal.

Vogt reported that a lawsuit was filed challenging the Legislature's transfer of Nebraska Environmental Trust funds outside the Trust's grant process. Because of the lawsuit a temporary injunction preventing money from being transferred or spent while the case proceeds was issued. The NSWCP cost share program, and the Water Sustainability Fund are the programs currently being affected for the Central Platte NRD.

Vogt reported that ONE RED funding will be available to assist producers with Sustainable Ag. Specific program details are being developed and will be announced at Husker Harvest Days.

Vogt reported that 10 producers who received cease-and-desist orders still remain out of compliance. These cases will be turned over to our legal counsel if the producers are caught violating their cease-and-desist order.

COST SHARE PROGRAMS: Applications & Transfer - Kelly Cole, Administrative Assistant, reported that we have received cost share applications for the following programs: Burn Preparation (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.

Doug Reeves made a motion to approve the cost share applications as reported. Keith Ostermeier 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 July financial report.

Chuck Maser made a motion to approve the July financial report as presented. Lon Bohn 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 is in conjunction with the NARD Annual Conference, September 27-29. If interested in attending the conference, please let Kelly Cole know.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION: No Report

UPCOMING EVENTS: Chairman VanMatre reviewed the upcoming events.

NEXT BOARD MEETING – Scheduled for the afternoon of Thursday, September 3. Details to follow.

OTHER BUSINESS: There was none.

ADJOURN: Chairman VanMatre adjourned the board meeting at 2:40 p.m.

United States Department Of Agriculture

USDA NRCS

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

July 17, 2026

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

July Report to CPNRD

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has finished obligating all the funds tied to the 1966 Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) agreement. That was completed in 2025, as a reminder, that agreement was with The Nature Conservancy, they are known as the "Lead Partner" in this project. Their Nebraska Soil Carbon Project is a collaboration with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Central Platte NRD, Upper Big Blue NRD, The Nature Conservancy, Ecosystem Services Market Consortium (ESMC), Cargill, Target, and McDonald's.

The project goal was to team up with producers to install soil health practices on central Nebraska cropland fields over the 5-year agreement life. Farmers that chose to enroll in the program received cost share for adopting practices such as cover crops, no till, and/or diversified crop rotations.

Recently NRCS finished processing applications for another RCPP agreement as well, it is the renewed 2271 Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) agreement. This agreement like in the past is with The Central Platte NRD, they are known as the "Lead Partner" in this project. This Ogallala Aquifer and Platte River Recovery Project was a collaboration with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Central Platte NRD, and Twin Platte NRD.

The objective of this agreement was to reduce water consumption by converting irrigated land to non-irrigated on a permanent or temporary basis with a focus in the over-appropriated area of the District from Gothenburg to Elm Creek and Groundwater Management Areas that are in declining status. Surface and groundwater quality and quantity concerns will also be addressed with the implementation of improved irrigation systems and management technologies to increase irrigation efficiencies, reducing impacts on the Platte River and the local groundwater supply. Phases II/III areas of the CPNRD's Groundwater Quality Management Program will also be targeted since nitrate levels in these areas are above the recommended 10 ppm drinking water standard.

The application process included completion of applicant and land eligibility determinations, conservation planning with the applicant, cost estimates, application assessments, and then ranking. All the applications that we received on or before the signup deadline, have been considered for fund allocation. Contract obligation is complete, or on track to be completed shortly for the highest ranked applications preapproved for funding. The National Team continues their process of developing the Conservation Desktop contracting software. So, over the last 6 years and going forward each RCPP18 contract must be manually constructed, and then manually managed, for the entire life of that contract.

For FY 2026, below is the preapproved application summary for each RCPP Agreement:

RCPP 1966 Agreement
None approved, all funding obligated by FY2025.

RCPP 2271 Agreement

Field Office	Preapproved Applications	$ Requested
Kearney	0	$0.00
Lexington	2	$73,541.00
Central City	5	$678,546.69
Grand Island	1	$4,368.00
Central Platte NRD Apps	8	$756,455.69
Ogallala	0	$0.00
North Platte	0	$0.00
Twin Platte NRD Apps	0	$0.00
Totals	8	$756,455.69

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Joe Krolikowski

Joe Krolikowski
District Conservationist

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Cost Share
Thursday, July 23, 2026

BURN PREPARATION COST SHARE PROGRAM		$ **10,000.00**
Regina Howard – Dawson	$ 10,000.00	
TOTAL		$ **10,000.00**