

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD

Board Meeting Minutes

September 26, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Mick Reynolds 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 by roll call were:

Todd Arends	Charles Maser	Jay Richeson
Lon Bohn	Jerry Milner	Ed Stoltenberg
Tom Downey	Keith Ostermeier	Deb VanMatre
Ryan Kegley	Marvion Reichert	Kevin Werner
Ed Kyes	Mick Reynolds	

Excused Absences: Brian Keiser, Dwayne Margritz, Barry Obermiller, Doug Reeves, Steve Sheen, Jerry Wiese and Mike Wilkens

Staff present: Lyndon Vogt – General Manager, Kelly Cole – Administrative Assistant, Marcia Lee – Information/Education Specialist, Courtney Widup – Water Resources Technician, Jesse Mintken – Assistant Manager, Brandi Flyr – Hydrologist, Luke Zakrzewski – GIS Image Analyst, Collin Quandt – Agronomist, Brody Vorderstrasse – Communications Assistant, Nelson Winkel – Prescribed Fire Planning Specialist and Angie Warner – GIS Programs Coordinator.

Others present: Joe Krolikowski – NRCS District Conservationist and Jason Scholz – Hall Co NRCS Resource Conservationist.

MEETING NOTICES: Chairman Reynolds 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: Marvion Reichert made the motion to approve the August board meeting minutes. Keith Ostermeier seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER BUSINESS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS:

Chairman Reynolds asked if there were any announcements or suggestions for future meetings. There was none.

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

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Chairman Reynolds reported that Brian Keiser, Dwayne

Margritz, Barry Obermiller, Doug Reeves, Steve Sheen, Jerry Wiese and Mike Wilkens requested to be excused from the board meeting.

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

NRCS REPORT: Jason Scholz, Hall County NRCS Resources Conservationist, reported on the funding for Hall County for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (see attached).

Joe Krolikowski, NRCS District Conservationist, gave a summary of EQIP and RCPP programs throughout the CPNRD for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (see attached).

EASTERN PROJECTS: Jerry Milner, chairman, reported that the committee met earlier today.

Milner reported that the committee reviewed a final change order for the Alda Crane Viewing Site Trail Improvements with Diamond Engineering. This change order is a reduction of \$17,493.86.

Jerry Milner made a motion to approve the Final Change Order for the Alda Crane Viewing Site Trail Improvements with Diamond Engineering, which is a reduction of \$17,493.86. Deb VanMatre seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Milner reported on a new contract with JEO Consulting Group for the Design and Construction oversight on Clear Creek #36 Dam in Polk County. The contract total would not exceed \$12,000.00.

Jerry Milner made a motion to approve the contract with JEO Consulting Group for the Design and Construction oversight on Clear Creek #36 Dam in Polk County, not to exceed \$12,000.00. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Milner reported that the committee reviewed two alternative routes for the Platte Valley Industrial Park Drainage project. The committee will meet again in October to decide on which route to move forward with. The routes and costs will be put on Dropbox for the board to review.

BUILDING COMMITTEE: Mick Reynolds, chairman, reported that the committee met earlier today and was given an update on the progress. A video on the progress was shown to the board.

PROGRAMS COMMITTEE: Ryan Kegley, chairman, reported that the committee met earlier today.

Kegley reported that currently only a few NSWCP Cost Share Programs have a maximum that we'll pay out. It was recommended to put a maximum of \$10,000 on all NSWCP programs, unless otherwise noted.

Ryan Kegley made the motion to put a maximum of \$10,000 on all NSWCP programs, unless otherwise noted. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Kegley reported that the committee reviewed a new cost share program, Nitrogen Reduction Incentive, which will begin next month. This is a one-year statewide program with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources. As staff gets more information, they will provide that to the board.

WESTERN PROJECTS COMMITTEE: Lon Bohn, chairman, reported that the committee met earlier today.

Bohn reported that the committee met to discuss a change regarding the Spring and Buffalo Creek WFPO. After some discussion the committee recommended moving forward with only the Spring Creek WFPO.

Lon Bohn made a motion to move forward with only Spring Creek WFPO. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

PROPOSED GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN RULES &

REGULATIONS: Lyndon Vogt reported that a hearing was held prior to the board of directors meeting today. The board will need to take action on the changes. If approved, the CPNRD must advertise for 30 days before they become effective. The effective date of the rules and regulations proposed changes will be November 1, 2024.

Tom Downey made a motion to approve the Groundwater Management Plan Rules and Regulation changes as advertised, which will go into effect November 1, 2024. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

MANAGER'S REPORT: New staff introduced themselves to the board: Collin Quandt – Agronomist.

ANNUAL WATER USE REPORT: Jesse Mintken, Assistant Manager, presented the 2023 Annual Report of the Water Use Activities in the CPNRD. Mintken reported that at the end of 2023, CPNRD had a total of 1,018,290 irrigated acres of which 936,264 acres are groundwater only; 5,238 acres are surface water only and 76,788 acres are co-mingled use. CPNRD approved 107 water transfers, which included 792 new irrigated acres and 686 retired groundwater acres.

LONG RANGE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN: Ryan Kegley reported that the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources contacted the CPNRD this week and notified us that a 5-year budget needed to be included in the Long-Range Implementation Plan. CPNRD staff will work on adding that information and will bring back to the board of directors for approval in October.

COST SHARE PROGRAMS: Applications - Kelly Cole, Administrative Assistant, reported that we have received cost share applications for the following programs: 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 applications as reported. Keith Ostermeier seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Ed Stoltenberg who abstained. Motion carried.

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

Marvion Reichert made a motion to approve the September Financial report as presented. Deb VanMatre 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 on the Annual Conference that was held in Kearney, NE on September 23-24, 2024. She encouraged everyone to attend these meetings as they are very informative.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION: Mick Reynolds, Middle Platte Basin Representative, reported that the Commission will meet on October 2, 2024.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Chairman Reynolds reviewed the upcoming events.

Next Board Meeting – Scheduled for the afternoon of Thursday, October 24. Details to follow.

OTHER BUSINESS: Lyndon Vogt said that Jim Harris, Thirty Mile Irrigation District Manager, said if any of our directors would be interested in a tour of the Thirty Mile Irrigation Canal to let him know.

ADJOURN: Chairman Reynolds adjourned the board meeting at 2:42 p.m.

September 20, 2024

Central Platte NRD
215 N. Kaufman Ave.
Grand Island, NE 68803

September Report to CPNRD

To the Central Platte NRD board and staff, please accept this report from the Grand Island Field Office for the September board meeting.

Federally funded programs/practice types

- Irrigation conversions/dryland 388.1 ac converted to pivot/SDI from gravity 27.6 ac enrolled as temporary dryland.
- Irrigation water management only on 1,160.7 ac.
- 23 total contracts with a cost share amount of EQIP 21 contracts \$643,353 RCPP 2 contracts \$20,898 Total \$664,251.

NRD funded programs/practice types

- Windbreak plantings, 7 for cost share tree plantings for \$7,011.90 with 3,400 trees/shrubs planned for the designs
- Irrigation conversion total 125.5 ac treated for \$33,581.08

Combined funding and total acres

- Irrigation related projects 1,774.3Ac treated total cost of \$621,043.08
- 1,774.3 Ac water conservation if it saves 1 inch of application per year this results to just under 150 Ac.-Ft of water savings.
- Windbreak Plantings 7 tree planting plans, usually around .5 ac. per planting
- Over 3,900 acres total enrolled into conservation programs for various conservation activities.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Jason Scholz

Jason Scholz
Resource Conservationist
Grand Island Field Office



United States Department Of Agriculture


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 22, 2024

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

September Report to CPNRD

Attached is a summary of FY2024 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) and their activity in the Central Platte NRD (CPNRD). Also included are the timelines for FY 2025, and a copy of the application to be completed by an applicant before the application deadline. The FY2025 application deadline is Mid November 2024. We have already completed an outreach effort to promote the Environmental Quality Incentive Program and the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, as well as all the programs. Its our hope this will also help emphasize the benefits to conservation after implementation of these conservation practices across the Central Platte.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Joe Krolikowski

Joe Krolikowski
District Conservationist

Attachment: CPNRD FY 2024 EQIP Contract Summary
FY2025 Blank EQIP Application

FY 2024 EQIP/RCPP Contract Summary-CPNRD

Water Conservation: \$2,872,928 (49 contracts/4,403.5 acres)

- 16 Pipeline/Pivot/Pumping Plant/Dryland/FM/IWM
- 10 SDI/Pumping Plant/Dryland/FM/IWM
- 9 Dryland Only Contracts
- 12 IWM/FM
- 2 Combustion System Improvement

Grazing Lands: \$658,315.96 (28 contracts/8,290.8 acres)

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

Soil Health: \$1,058,641.00 (20 contracts/8,336.6 acres)

- Cover Crop/Terrace/Grassed Waterway/No-Till/Nutrient Mgmt

Conservation Activity Plans & Burn: \$38,389.00 (1 contracts/636.2 acres)

- Prescribed Burn Management Plans & Burn

Forestry/Wetland/Wildlife Improvement: \$4,702.00 (1 contracts/13.4 acres)

- Windbreak establishment/WB Renovation/Forrest Stnd Imprvmt

High Tunnels & SSUA Projects: \$98,723.00 (4 contracts/3.7 acres)

- High Tunnels/Irrigation & Nutrient Mgmt/Cover Crops

FY 2024 EQIP/RCPP Contract Summary Totals - CPNRD

Field Office Summary

Central City – 12 contracts - \$612,035 – 1,216.9 acres

Grand Island – 23 contracts - \$664,652 – 2,274.1 acres

Kearney – 32 contracts - \$1,495,848 – 6,387.8 acres

Lexington – 32 contracts - \$1,783,802 – 9,416.2 acres

Polk – 4 contracts - \$175,363 – 2,389.2 acres

Totals – 103 contracts - \$4,731,700 – 21,684.2 acres

What comes next?

FY 2025 EQIP Timeline

Continuous Signup with Application Cutoff Dates

First Application Cutoff Date: November 2024 TBD

Second Application Cutoff Date: To Be Determined

Application Ranking Deadline: February 2025 TBD

Carryover CPNRD EQIP Applications:

Water Conservation: 51 - \$5.4 million

Grazing Lands: 12 - \$257,698

Soil Health: 10 - \$458,945

Total Applications: 73 - \$6.2 Million

FY2024 Contracts in All Programs Over the Central Platte NRD

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)
Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
1966 Nebraska Soil Carbon Project (RCPP)
2271 Ogallala Aquifer & Platte River Recovery (RCPP)

- Contracts: 123
- Obligations: \$6,525,455
- Acres 44,954.3

QUESTIONS?

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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?
- ☐ Crop Production Crop Type:
☐ 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 or,
Evidence of historical control of land since: _____
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 producer who served in the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard, including the reserve component thereof; was released from service under conditions other than dishonorable; and:

- has not operated a farm or ranch, or has operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 years; or
- who first obtained status as a veteran during the most recent 10-year period.

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 (\$140,000 over the period of fiscal years 2019-2023 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 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
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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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To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov

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CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Cost Share
Thursday, September 26, 2024

COVER CROP COST SHARE PROGRAM	\$	8,000.00
Carlon, LLC – Buffalo	\$	2,000.00
RGang, LLC – Buffalo		2,000.00
Gangwish Family Farms – Buffalo		2,000.00
Joe Widdowson – Buffalo		2,000.00
WELL DECOMMISSIONING COST SHARE PROGRAM.....	\$	750.00
John Stoltenberg – Hall	\$	750.00
TOTAL	\$	8,750.00