

**CENTRAL PLATTE NRD**  
Board Meeting Minutes  
January 25, 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	Jerry Milner	Steve Sheen
Lon Bohn	Barry Obermiller	Ed Stoltenberg
Tom Downey	Keith Ostermeier	Deb VanMatre
Ryan Kegley	Marvion Reichert	Jerry Wiese
Ed Kyes	Mick Reynolds	Mike Wilkens
Dwayne Margritz	Jay Richeson	

Excused Absences: Brian Keiser, Charles Maser and Doug Reeves

Staff present: Lyndon Vogt – General Manager, Kelly Cole – Administrative Assistant, Jesse Mintken – Assistant Manager, Marcia Lee – Information/Education Specialist, Dan Clement – Water Resources Specialist, Angela Warner – GIS Programs Coordinator, Nelson Winkel – Prescribed Fire Planning Specialist, Luke Zakrzewski – GIS Image Analyst, Brody Vorderstrasse – Communications Assistant and Courtney Widup – Water Resources Technician

Others present: Joe Krolkowski – NRCS District Conservationist and Roger & Sally Schuett – Landowners

**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 December board meeting minutes. Deb VanMatre 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, Charles

Maser and Doug Reeves 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:** Joe Krolikowski, NRCS District Conservationist, reported on the FY 2024 EQIP money allocations to each Natural Resources District (see attached).

**BOARD OFFICER NOMINATION:** Reynolds reviewed the subcommittee's recommendation that was reported at last month's board meeting to elect Marvion Reichert as Treasurer and Keith Ostermeier as Secretary. Both would be eligible to serve a second two-year term.

Chairman Reynolds asked whether there were any nominations from the floor. There were none.

Tom Downey made a motion that nominations close and to elect Marvion Reichert as Treasurer and Keith Ostermeier as Secretary. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Keith Ostermeier and Marvion Reichert who abstained. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE SIGNUPS:** Chairman Reynolds said a signup sheet is going around for committee signups. After the board meeting, a chairman for each committee will be selected.

**VARIANCE/APPEALS COMMITTEE:** Ed Kyes, chairman, reported that the committee met earlier today for two variance requests.

The first request from Platte River Industrial Park in Hall County was to allow for the approval of a water well permit for a new manufacturing facility. The amount of groundwater consumed by this new facility can be offset with certified irrigated acres on the same property, through an approved transfer.

Ed Kyes made a motion to approve the variance request from Platte River Industrial Park in Hall County with the following conditions: must complete an approved transfer of irrigated acres to offset the new use, install a district approved meter and provide an annual report of water pumped to the district. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

The second request was from Roger & Sally Schuett of Chapman, NE. Their request was to allow the transfer of certified irrigated acres into a declining Groundwater Management Area, because the property was purchased within 90 days of the March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline for applications.

Ed Kyes made a motion to approve the variance request from Roger & Sally Schuett of Chapman, NE because it was purchased within 90 days of the March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. Provided they submit a completed application to transfer certified irrigated acres to the district within the next 30 days. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Dwayne Margritz and Marvion Reichert who voted no, and Ed Stoltenburg who abstained. Motion carried.

**BUILDING COMMITTEE:** Mick Reynolds reported that staff will move forward with the bidding process.

**VIOLATION REPORT:** Luke Zakrzewski, GIS Image Analyst, reported that he has found 53 violations totaling 218.3 acres across the district. The largest violation was 24.4 acres located in Buffalo County and the smallest was 1.12 acres located in Hall County. Letters will go out to landowners next week. The landowners will have 30 days to respond.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:** Lyndon Vogt, General Manager, reported that the NRD Legislative Bill Summary has been put on Dropbox.

CPNRD has submitted a small scale WaterSmart grant to the Bureau of Reclamation for the Thirty Mile Irrigation District to automate their gates. CPNRD is currently working on a large scale WaterSmart grant for Southside Irrigation District and Cozad Ditch combined to automate their gates. CPNRD is also working on a grant to install 100 meters across the district. We had this program going for approximately 10 years, we used this information for our Cohyst modeling for water pumped.

CPNRD is still searching for an Agronomist. We will re-advertise again starting in the next couple of weeks. This is a shared 3-year grant with UNL.

Interviews for the Integrated Water Programs Specialist will take place next Friday. This position will help support cost share programs with federal dollars and to make sure individuals are aware of available conservation programs. This is a shared position with NRCS and RWBJV.

**COST SHARE PROGRAMS: Transfer & Applications** - Kelly Cole, Administrative Assistant, requested a transfer of \$17,500 from Phragmites Control and increasing Center Pivot by \$7,500 and Burn Preparation by \$10,000 and reported that we have received cost share applications for the following programs: Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation, Center Pivot, Tree Planting, Burn Preparation 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. Keith Ostermeier seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

**GENERAL ELECTION:** Kelly Cole, Administrative Assistant, reported that Incumbents' deadline to file is February 15, 2024, and Non-Incumbents deadline to file is March 1, 2024. As of January 19, 2024, the State Election office has the following board members as refiling: Todd Arends, Ryan Kegley and Doug Reeves.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** The December financial report was not available at last month's board meeting because the meeting was held a week early. Lyndon Vogt, General Manager, reviewed the December and January financial reports.

Marvion Reichert made a motion to approve the December and January financial reports as presented. Jay Richeson 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 the NARD Legislative Conference had approximately 350 registered. The summary of the Legislative Bills is on Dropbox. The CPNRD/LLNRD hosted a dinner with senators. Senators Lippincott, Lowe and Ibach attended along with some agency directors.

The possible retirement increase that has been proposed will be voted on at the NARD June meeting. It was originally stated that all 23 NRD's had to agree, however, it just needs to be the majority. If approved, to stay in the retirement program each NRD must follow the new increases.

There have been 460,000 trees ordered to date for the Conservation Tree Program across the state.

The NARD Board approved participating in an EPIC Tax study.

The NARD Board supports a table at the Lead Graduation Banquet, which is March 15. They have 8 tickets available if anyone is interested in attending.

The Washington DC Legislative Conference is March 18-20, 2024.

**NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION:** No Report

**UPCOMING EVENTS:** Chairman Reynolds reviewed the upcoming events.

**Next Board Meeting** – Scheduled for the afternoon of Thursday, February 22. Details to follow.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Chairman Reynolds asked the board if they were interested in having a Board Retreat this year. After some discussion, it was decided to have a retreat on Thursday, February 29. Staff will set up the meeting, the board is encouraged to give suggestions on topics to discuss.

**ADJOURN:** Chairman Reynolds adjourned the board meeting at 2:36 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>

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January 25, 2024

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

January Report to CPNRD

Attached is a summary of the FY 2024 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) initial allocations to each Natural Resources District in Nebraska. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has begun preparing the applications for assessment that were received by the November 17<sup>th</sup> application cutoff date. Following the ranking of these applications, contract offers will be extended immediately to the highest ranked applications so that fund obligation can be completed as early as possible in FY 2024. Like we have discussed in the past, the actual contracting period can extend until the end of the Governments Fiscal Year, which is September 30<sup>th</sup>. We always try to do our best to complete this work as early as possible each year, but this depends on funds availability.

Respectfully Submitted,

*/s/ Joe Krolkowski*

Joe Krolkowski  
District Conservationist

Attachments: Attachment A

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FY 2024 Environmental Quality Incentives Program NRD Allocations

1/25/2023

NRD	2023 Initial General FA	Estimated FY2024 Initial General FA	NWQI/Joint Chiefs/Water Smart FA	Manual Adjustment	Total Initial FA for FY2024 (Includes NWQI, Joint Chiefs, Water Smart & Manual Adjustment Funds)
CP	\$ 579,385	\$ 361,091			\$ 361,091
LB	\$ 482,517	\$ 300,719	\$ 503,467		\$ 804,186
LBB	\$ 235,502	\$ 146,772	\$ 352,427	\$ 53,228	\$ 552,427
LC	\$ 443,958	\$ 276,688	\$ 184,604		\$ 461,293
LE	\$ 659,458	\$ 410,994	\$ 184,604		\$ 595,599
LL	\$ 1,087,034	\$ 677,473			\$ 677,473
LN	\$ 200,000	\$ 50,698		\$ 149,302	\$ 200,000
LPN	\$ 656,620	\$ 409,225	\$ 268,516		\$ 677,741
LPS	\$ 200,000	\$ 112,284		\$ 87,716	\$ 200,000
LR	\$ 362,930	\$ 226,189			\$ 226,189
MN	\$ 330,478	\$ 205,964			\$ 205,964
MR	\$ 383,322	\$ 238,898			\$ 238,898
N	\$ 329,895	\$ 205,601			\$ 205,601
NP	\$ 526,971	\$ 328,424			\$ 328,424
PMR	\$ 277,526	\$ 172,963		\$ 27,037	\$ 200,000
SP	\$ 252,188	\$ 157,171		\$ 42,829	\$ 200,000
TB	\$ 268,331	\$ 167,232		\$ 32,768	\$ 200,000
TP	\$ 567,999	\$ 353,995			\$ 353,995
UBB	\$ 484,024	\$ 301,659			\$ 301,659
UE	\$ 635,306	\$ 395,942	\$ 184,604		\$ 580,546
UL	\$ 290,296	\$ 180,921		\$ 19,079	\$ 200,000
UNW	\$ 511,683	\$ 318,897			\$ 318,897
UR	\$ 367,065	\$ 228,766	\$ 219,771		\$ 448,537
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 10,132,488</b>	<b>\$ 6,228,566</b>	<b>\$ 1,897,993</b>	<b>\$ 411,959</b>	<b>\$ 8,538,518</b>

**Transfer \$17,500 from Phragmites Control and put \$7,500 to Center Pivots & \$10,000 to Burn Preparation**

**CENTRAL PLATTE NRD  
Cost Share  
Thursday, January 25, 2024**

<b>NEBRASKA SOIL &amp; WATER CONSERVATION COST SHARE PROGRAM.....</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5,000.00</b>
Clark Homestead Corporation – Merrick – Pipe to Pivot	\$	5,000.00
<b>CENTER PIVOT INCENTIVE COST SHARE PROGRAM .....</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>7,500.00</b>
Scott Oakley – Merrick	\$	7,500.00
<b>BURN PREPARATION COST SHARE PROGRAM .....</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>10,000.00</b>
AMI Acres Inc. - Buffalo	\$	10,000.00
<b>TREE PLANTING COST SHARE PROGRAM .....</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,100.00</b>
Austin Jacobs – Buffalo	\$	418.00
Kevin Petross – Buffalo		682.00
<b>WELL DECOMMISSIONING COST SHARE PROGRAM.....</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,250.00</b>
Jeffrey D Koch – Hall	\$	750.00
Dean Farms LLC – Buffalo – 2 Wells		1,500.00
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>25,850.00</b>