

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Board Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2023

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
Tom Downey	Keith Ostermeier	Ed Stoltenberg
Alicia Haussler	Doug Reeves	Jerry Wiese
Ryan Kegley	Marvion Reichert	Mike Wilkens
Brian Keiser	Mick Reynolds	
Ed Kyes	Jay Richeson	
Dwayne Margritz		

Excused Absences: Lon Bohn, Charles Maser, Barry Obermiller and Deb VanMatre

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

Others present: Joe Krolikowski – NRCS District Conservationist and Jake Klabenes, Core CPA’s Audit Director

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: Alicia Haussler made the motion to approve the October board meeting minutes. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Tom Downey and Marvion Reichert who abstained. 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

for burning.

PROGRAMS COMMITTEE: Doug Reeves, chairman, reported that the committee met earlier today and was given the same presentation from Bill Hiatt on Prescribed Fire.

Doug Reeves made a motion to increase our rate for Prescribed Fire to a \$2,000 minimum plus each additional acre between 40 and 160 being billed at \$16 per acre, each additional acre between 160 and 320 billed at \$8 per acre and, acreages over 320 are on a case-by-case basis. We are also recommending that the current Prescribed Burn Cost Share eligibility be widened to include landowners that are not currently enrolled in another program or contract. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

RULES & REGULATIONS FOR ENFORCEMENT OF THE NE

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT & PROTECTION ACT: Lyndon Vogt, General Manager, reported that our hearing was advertised and held today, just prior to the board meeting. The board would need to approve the proposed and amended Rules and Regulations for the Enforcement of the Nebraska Groundwater Management and Protection Act.

Tom Downey made a motion to approve the proposed and amended Rules and Regulations for the Enforcement of the Nebraska Groundwater Management and Protection Act. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

WATER UTILIZATION COMMITTEE: Tom Downey, chairman, reported that the committee met earlier today.

The committee reviewed the proposed policies of the Rules and Regulations. The approved Rules and Regulations did not include the penalties for violations. The committee recommended approving the same penalties that were in the previous Rules and Regulations as a policy to allow staff to impose a penalty if the landowner prefers to waive their hearing before the Board of Directors. The Policy would be titled CPNRD Violation Policy for Groundwater Use in Fully and Over-Appropriated Areas.

Tom Downey made a motion to approve the same penalties that were in the previous Rules and Regulations as a policy to allow staff to impose a penalty if the landowner prefers to waive their hearing before the Board of Directors. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Lyndon Vogt, General Manager, reported on some recent awards received at Central Platte NRD:

Marcia Lee received the 2023 Project WET Educator of the Year Award this month.

Marcia was selected from nominations submitted nationwide as an outstanding community educator who uses the Project Wet curriculum to teach students the value of water. To be eligible for the award, educators must be trained in the curriculum, carry out the mission of Project WET, inspire and prepare the next generation of water stewards. Megan Grimes, NARD, submitted the nomination.

David Carr will receive the Lead Igniter Award on December 5th at the 2023 Nebraska Prescribed Fire Conference at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Kearney. This award is presented by the Nebraska Prescribed Fire Council to individuals who have made significant contributions to the use and knowledge of prescribed fire in Nebraska. Awards are presented during lunch on the day of the conference.

Duane Woodward was selected to receive the Maurice Kramer Groundwater Achievement Award. Duane will receive the award at the NWRA/NSIA annual conference luncheon November 20th in Kearney.

Vogt reported that we've received the agreement with UNL to hire a research agronomist and are currently advertising for this position.

Vogt reported that we will be looking at an additional agronomist position that will be shared with Rainwater Basin Joint Venture (RWBJV) and Tri-Basin, which will be 100% funded through a grant with RWBJV.

Vogt reported that Seim Ag Technology has offered to donate an Eco Log 1000 sensor for measuring water level, temperature, and conductivity. This equipment will be installed in the groundwater monitoring well at the Outdoor Learning area at the Nebraska State Fairgrounds. We're planning to install monitors in the Raising Nebraska Building and at our office to display real-time water level and temperature.

NPAIT: Lyndon Vogt, General Manager, reported that the Nebraska Public Agency Investment Trust (NPAIT), which we currently invest our funds in, has requested the CPNRD board of directors approve a new application for investment of funds. This will allow us to continue to keep our money there.

Alicia Haussler made a motion to approve the application for investment of funds with NPAIT. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

BOARD OFFICER NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Chairman Reynolds reported that the district's Bylaws require the election of a three-member Board Officer Nominating Committee at the November board meeting with a report to be made in December and the election of treasurer and secretary to be held in January. The Bylaws also state that board officers can only serve two consecutive, two-year terms in the same office. Keith Ostermeier has served two consecutive two-year terms as treasurer so would not be eligible to serve in that office, but Marvion Reichert would be eligible to

serve another two-year term as secretary.

Chairman Reynolds nominated Keith Ostermeier, Alicia Haussler and Marvion Reichert for the three-member Board Officer Nominating Committee.

Brian Keiser made a motion that nominations cease. Doug Reeves seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Alicia Haussler and Marvion Reichert who abstained. Motion carried.

Brian Keiser made a motion to elect Keith Ostermeier, Alicia Haussler and Marvion Reichert to serve as the Board Office Nominating Committee. Doug Reeves seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Alicia Haussler, Keith Ostermeier and Marvion Reichert who abstained. Motion carried.

COST SHARE PROGRAMS: Transfer & Applications - Kelly Cole, Administrative Assistant, requested a transfer of \$500 from Phragmites Control to Cover Crop and reported that we have received cost share applications for the following programs: Center Pivot, Tree Planting, Well Decommissioning and Cover Crop (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. Tom Downey seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Chairman Reynolds said that because the board meeting was a week early and payments would not be made until next week the November financial report would be acted on in December.

NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICT: No report

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION: Mick Reynolds, Middle Platte Basin Representative, said their next meeting will be held November 28, 2023, in Kearney at 8:00 a.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Chairman Reynolds reviewed the upcoming events.
Next Board Meeting – Scheduled for the afternoon of Thursday, December 21. Details to follow.

OTHER BUSINESS: Chairman Reynolds wanted to thank Ed Stoltenberg for the meal today.

ADJOURN: Chairman Reynolds adjourned the board meeting at 2:47 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>

November 14, 2023

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

November Report to CPNRD

Please find attached a News Release for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) called the Ogallala Aquifer and Platte River Recovery Project. The signup for this program is ongoing, applicants who wish to be considered for FY24 funds have until November 17, 2023, to complete an application. This is a competitive program, so applications will be funded by using a ranking system.

This project provides financial incentives to producers who utilize key conservation practices in the Central Platte and Twin Platte NRD boundaries. Farmers can adopt practices that help reduce water consumption by converting irrigated land to non-irrigated on a permanent or temporary basis. Surface and groundwater quality and quantity concerns will also be addressed with the implementation of improved irrigation system and management technologies to increase irrigation efficiencies, reducing impacts to the Platte River and the local groundwater supply.

After reading this News Release, if producers are interested and want to find out more about this program and how it could be applied to their operation. They should call their local NRCS office to discuss this program in more detail, and possibly complete and application before the cutoff.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Joe Krolikowski

Joe Krolikowski
District Conservationist

Attachments: Ogallala Aquifer and Platte River Recovery Project Signup 2023 News Release

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United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

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Federal Building, Rm. 152
Lincoln, NE 68508-3866
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News Release

Contact:

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Producers Encouraged to Apply for Irrigation Cost Share by November 17th

LINCOLN, October 13, 2023 – Producers interested in improving water quality and quantity in their farming operations may apply for irrigation management funding now through November 17, 2023, at their local USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service office.

Producers in the Central Platte and Twin Platte Natural Resource Districts (NRDs) are eligible to apply for the Ogallala Aquifer and Platte River Recovery Project funds through the NRCS's Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP).

Funding is available for more efficient irrigation techniques, installing conservation practices, and assisting farmers with converting irrigated acres to non-irrigated farmland.

Lyndon Vogt, Central Platte NRD General Manager, said, "Our Board recently approved dividing two of the District's Groundwater Management Areas. With this change, even more producers would benefit from the RCPP funding to address conservation needs."

The purpose of the grant is to reduce water consumption by converting irrigated land to non-irrigated on a permanent or temporary basis. The focus areas are the over-appropriated areas of the District from Gothenburg to Elm Creek and Groundwater Management Areas that are in declining status.

The practices to address surface and groundwater quality and quantity concerns are improved irrigation systems and technologies to increase irrigation efficiency to reduce impacts to the Platte River and the local groundwater supply. Phases II/III areas of the CPNRD's Groundwater Quality Management Program will also be a focus since nitrate levels in these areas are above the recommended 10 ppm drinking water standard.

Central Platte NRD is the primary sponsor. Other contributing partners include the Twin Platte NRD, Thirty Mile Irrigation District, Southside Canal Company, and the Cozad Ditch Company. The Ogallala Aquifer and Platte River Recovery Project began in 2015. Additional funding was approved in the 2018 Farm Bill and is in year 2 of 5 of RCPP funding.

Producers interested in signing up for funding may contact their local NRCS office: Central City (308) 946-2251; Grand Island (308) 395-8586; Kearney (308) 237-3118; Lexington (308) 324-6314; or visit www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov.

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Transfer \$500 from Phragmites Control to Cover Crop

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Cost Share
Thursday, November 16, 2023

CENTER PIVOT INCENTIVE COST SHARE PROGRAM	\$	7,500.00
Jeremiah Rieken – Merrick	\$	7,500.00
COVER CROP COST SHARE PROGRAM	\$	500.00
Dale Morris - Merrick	\$	500.00
TREE PLANTING COST SHARE PROGRAM	\$	3,296.94
Patricia Rayburn – Buffalo	\$	176.00
Todd Russell – Buffalo		220.00
Village of Cairo – Hall		2,900.94
WELL DECOMMISSIONING COST SHARE PROGRAM.....	\$	2,250.00
Rodney K Gangwish – Hall – 3 wells	\$	2,250.00
TOTAL	\$	13,546.94