

## **CENTRAL PLATTE NRD**

### **Board Meeting Minutes**

November 17, 2022

**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 were:

|                 |                  |                |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| Tom Downey      | Charles Maser    | Mick Reynolds  |
| Alicia Haussler | Jerry Milner     | Jay Richeson   |
| Ryan Kegley     | Keith Ostermeier | Steve Sheen    |
| Brian Keiser    | Doug Reeves      | Ed Stoltenberg |
| Ed Kyes         | Marvion Reichert | Jerry Wiese    |
| Dwayne Margritz |                  |                |

Excused Absences: Leroy Arends, Jim Bendfeldt, Barry Obermiller and Deb VanMatre

Unexcused Absences: Lon Bohn

Staff present: Lyndon Vogt – General Manager, Jesse Mintken – Assistant Manager, Kelly Cole – Administrative Assistant, Marcia Lee – Information/Education Specialist, Courtney Widup – Water Resources Technician, Brandi Flyr - Hydrologist, Tricia Dudley – Water Quality Programs Specialist, Luke Zakrzewski – GIS Image Analyst, Dan Clement – Water Resources Specialist, Darren Cudaback – Precision Conservation Specialist and Dean Krull – UNL/CPNRD Demo Project Coordinator.

Others present: Joe Krolkowski – NRCS District Conservationist and Byron Ford - Landowner

**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 October board meeting minutes. Keith Ostermeier seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor, except Alicia Haussler, Dwayne Margritz, Doug Reeves 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 were none.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** Chairman Reynolds asked if anyone wanted to address the board on

any item not included on the agenda.

Byron Ford, 1405 W White Cloud Road, Cairo NE 68824. Byron made a request for the board to consider selling or giving away dirt from the Prairie/Silver/Moores Project. Chairman Reynolds reported that back in April 2021 the board of directors made a motion that Central Platte NRD is not interested in selling or giving away dirt at the ordnance plant on the Prairie/Silver/Moores Project.

**EXCUSED ABSENCES:** Chairman Reynolds reported that Leroy Arends, Jim Bendfeldt, Barry Obermiller and Deb VanMatre requested to be excused from the board meeting.

Alicia Haussler made the motion to approve the absences as requested. Marvion Reichert 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 Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) signups and news release (see enclosed).

**WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE REPORT:** Jerry Milner, chairman, reported that the committee met earlier today.

The committee discussed using the Infrared Photography (IR) to see changes in irrigation practices for the Groundwater Management Plan. IR Imagery is taken every August of the entire District and is used to determine if irrigation is present on acres that are not certified. IR imagery has been submitted as evidence to courts in the past to enforce irrigated acre compliance for the NRD's Groundwater Quantity Program. The Water Quality Committee would like to use the IR Imagery as evidence of the violations for the Groundwater Quality Program.

Jerry Milner made a motion to provide the IR Imagery as evidence of the violations for the Groundwater Quality Program. Doug Reeves seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

**BOARD OFFICER NOMINATING COMMITTEE TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BOARD CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN:**

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 board chairman and vice-chairman to be held in January. The Bylaws also state that board officers can only serve two consecutive, two-year terms in the same office. Mick Reynolds and Jerry Wiese would both be eligible to serve another two-year term.

Following a brief discussion Jay Richeson made the motion to elect Brian Keiser, Ed

Kyes and Marvion Reichert to serve as the Board Office Nominating Committee. Steve Sheen seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Ed Kyes and Marvion Reichert who abstained. Motion carried.

**MANAGERS REPORT:** Lyndon Vogt, General Manager, reported that the Board Retreat has been set for Thursday, February 9 at Stuhr Museum. More information will be available as we get closer.

Vogt reported that a water quality article, "Our Dirty Water" is on drop box for everyone to read. A second article should be out tomorrow or first part of next week.

An open house on the Elm/Turkey Creek WFPO is being held by JEO Consulting Group on Tuesday, December 6, 2022, at the Kearney Library from 5-7pm.

The Perkins County Canal Feasibility Study will be presented at the State Capital on Friday, December 2, 2022.

**GENERAL ELECTION REPORT:** Marcia Lee, Information/Education Specialist, reported to the board on the 2022 General Election results. A copy of the results is located on drop box for everyone to see.

**PRECISION CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT REPORT:** Darren Cudaback, Precision Conservation Specialist, reported on the Precision Conservation Program with Frito Lay growers in Dawson County. Cudaback has signed up 60 producers for improved farming practices. Cudaback said a new program for 2023 will provide financial assistance for producers to switch from diesel to electric powered equipment.

**COST SHARE PROGRAMS: Applications -** Kelly Cole, Administrative Assistant, reported that we have received cost share applications for the following programs: Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation, Center Pivot, and 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.

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:** Lyndon Vogt, General Manager, reported that the Nebraska Association of Resources District is requesting each NRD to ratify the changes that NARD had approved concerning NARD, NARD Foundation and NARD Risk Pool By-Laws.

Alicia Haussler made a motion to approve the changes that NARD had approved concerning NARD, NARD Foundation and NRD Risk Pool By-Laws. Tom Downey seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

**NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION:** No Report

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

**Next Board Meeting** – Scheduled for the afternoon of Thursday, December 15. Details to follow.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** There was none.

**ADJOURN:** Chairman Reynolds adjourned the board meeting at 2:36 p.m.



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 17, 2022

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 (RCP) called the Ogallala Aquifer and Platte River Recovery Project. The signup for this program is ongoing, applicants who wish to be considered for FY23 funds have until November 18, 2022, 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 Krolkowski*

Joe Krolkowski  
District Conservationist

Attachments: Ogallala Aquifer and Platte River Recovery Project Signup 2022 News Release

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FOR RELEASE: ON OR PRIOR TO OCTOBER 18, 2022

CONTACT: MARCIA LEE, INFORMATION/EDUCATION SPECIALIST OR LYNDON VOGT, LUKE ZAKRZEWSKI, GIS IMAGE ANALYST (308) 385-6282

## NEWS RELEASE

### **November 18<sup>th</sup> Deadline for Irrigation Management Cost Share Funds**

(GRAND ISLAND, NE)- Over \$2 million is available for landowners to apply more efficient irrigation techniques, install conservation practices, and assist farmers with converting irrigated acres to non-irrigated farmland.

Producers in the Central Platte and Twin Platte NRDs must apply by November 18<sup>th</sup> for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Ogallala Aquifer and Platte River Recovery Project. The RCPP funding will be combined with the local partners' financial contributions.

Lyndon Vogt, CPNRD general manager said, "We are fortunate to receive the renewal of this funding. The RCPP grant will provide funds to allow us to address conservation needs."

The CPNRD objectives are 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 system and management technologies to increase irrigation efficiencies, reducing 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 targeted 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 was initiated in 2015 and has been renewed for five additional years of RCPP funding through the 2018 Farm Bill.

Producers interested in improving water quality and quantity on their farming operations may apply for RCPP funding now through November 18, 2022, at their local NRCS office. For more information, visit [www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov).

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD  
Cost Share  
Thursday, November 17, 2022

|  |    |                  |
|--|----|------------------|
| NEBRASKA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COST SHARE PROGRAM..... | \$ | <b>5,250.90</b>  |
| Kurt Kuhn – Merrick  | \$ | 5,250.90         |
| CENTER PIVOT INCENTIVE COST SHARE PROGRAM.....             | \$ | <b>12,578.00</b> |
| Hiram Dexter – Merrick                                     | \$ | 5,078.00         |
| Jesse Sweet – Merrick                                      |    | 7,500.00         |
| BURN PREPARATION COST SHARE PROGRAM .....                  | \$ | <b>8,850.00</b>  |
| Neil Jorgenson – Custer                                    | \$ | 8,850.00         |
| Total .....  | \$ | <b>26,678.90</b> |