

## **CENTRAL PLATTE NRD**

### **Board Meeting Minutes**

November 21, 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. 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:

Lon Bohn	Jerry Milner	Steve Sheen
Tom Downey	Barry Obermiller	Ed Stoltenberg
Ryan Kegley	Keith Ostermier	Deb VanMatre
Brian Keiser	Marvion Reichert	Kevin Werner
Ed Kyes	Mick Reynolds	Jerry Wiese
Charles Maser	Jay Richeson	Mike Wilkens

Excused Absences: Todd Arends, Dwayne Margritz and Doug Reeves

Staff present: Lyndon Vogt – General Manager, Kelly Cole – Administrative Assistant, Marcia Lee – Information/Education Specialist, Jesse Mintken – Assistant Manager, Brandi Flyr – Hydrologist, Brody Vorderstrasse – Communications Assistant, Nelson Winkel – Prescribed Fire Planning Specialist, Collin Quandt – Agronomist, Luke Zakrzewski – GIS Image Analyst, Dean Krull – UNL/CPNRD Demo Project Coordinator and Tricia Dudley – Water Quality Specialist.

Others present: Joe Krolikowski – NRCS District Conservationist and Talon Mues – WICS Extension Instructor – Dawson, Buffalo and Hall Extension Educator.

**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:** Deb VanMatre 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 Lon Bohn 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 any item not included on the agenda.

Talon Mues, WICS Extension Instructor – Dawson, Buffalo and Hall Extension Educator introduced himself.

**EXCUSED ABSENCES:** Chairman Reynolds reported that Todd Arends, Dwayne Margritz and Doug Reeves requested to be excused from the board meeting.

Marvion Reichert made the motion to approve the absences as requested. Lon Bohn 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 RCPP agreements in the Central Platte NRD (see attached).

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

Milner reported that the committee reviewed alternative routes for the Platte Valley Industrial Park project as asked last month. Those additional routes are just not feasible. The committee will continue moving forward with Route #1 as voted on last month.

Milner reported that the committee reviewed the Wood River WFPO plan. After some discussion the committee determined that the best option would be to terminate the Wood River WFPO due to the cost-benefit analysis, which showed that the level of flood risk reduction was not justified by the cost to address a 25-year flooding event and there are no additional funds available with the Natural Resources Conservation Services.

Milner made a motion to terminate the Wood River WFPO plan due to the cost-benefit analysis, which showed that the level of flood risk reduction was not justified by the cost to address a 25-year flooding event and there are no additional funds available with the Natural Resources Conservation Services. Barry Obermiller seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Steve Sheen who voted no. Motion carried.

**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.

The committee reviewed Change Order #002 for the new office and education center. The change order in the amount of \$186,150 was due to the increase cost of glass, the addition of four steel beams and the addition of 60 feet of concrete to Schauppsville Road.

Marvion Reichert made a motion to approve Change Order #002 for the new office and education center which included the increase cost of glass, the addition of four steel beams and the addition of 60 feet of concrete to Schauppsville Road. Keith Ostermeier

seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

The committee reviewed initial estimates to pave the remainder of 13<sup>th</sup> street to the building. The committee will review and consider action at the December meeting.

**BOARD OFFICER NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR CHAIRMAN AND VICE-**

**CHAIRMAN:** Keith Ostermeier made a motion to nominate Mick Reynolds, Jerry Wiese and Keith Ostermeier to sit on the nominating committee for chairman and vice-chairman. Barry Obermiller 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 that the CPNRD will receive \$76,491.79 to distribute to qualified participants in the NiRIA. The final guidance document and application are on Dropbox. We have received a few applications already.

Governor Pillen addressed the NRD Managers and visited about merging DNR and NDEE, establishing a water quality task force to address nitrates in our water, and metering all high-capacity wells with real-time telemetry. A news article with his comments is included on Dropbox.

UNL is coming out with a new Neb Guide on nitrogen management and crop production this winter. We will have Richard Ferguson attend one of our board meetings in the next few months to review the new recommendations.

Mick Reynolds is the current representative for the Middle Platte River Basin. Mick has decided not to refile for the position. Tom Downey and Doug Reeves have both shown interest in serving in this position. Twin Platte NRD has agreed to support a CPNRD board member for the position. There will be a caucus held at CPNRD January 13, at 11:00 a.m. to fill this position. We will need several directors present to nominate candidates and vote in the caucus.

NDEE is offering a 60% cost share up to \$23,000 to replace one diesel irrigation engine with an electric motor. A flyer with the details of this program is on Dropbox for this month's board meeting.

**GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS:** Lyndon Vogt, General Manager, reviewed CPNRD results. The results are posted on Dropbox.

Vogt also reviewed the State Senators Election results, which can also be found on Dropbox.

**COST SHARE PROGRAMS: Transfer & Applications -** Kelly Cole, Administrative Assistant, requested a transfer of \$600 from Flow Meter and increasing Cover Crop and

reported that we have received cost share applications for the following programs: Burn Preparation, 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 transfer and applications as reported. Jay Richeson 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:** Deb VanMatre, NARD Board Member, reported that the NARD Board will include a few new directors, as some of their directors did not refile. VanMatre also announced that the 2025 Basin Tour will be held in the Middle Niobrara NRD.

**NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION:** Mick Reynolds, Middle Platte Basin Representative, reported that the Commission will hold a caucus on January 13, 2025 at 11:00 at the CPNRD office to fill the Middle Platte Basin Representative seat, Reynolds did not refile for the seat.

**FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING:** Deb VanMatre made a motion to move the February 2025 board meeting up a week to February 20, 2025. Tom Downey seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

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

**Next Board Meeting** – Scheduled for the afternoon of Thursday, December 19. Details to follow.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Chairman Reynolds asked directors if they were interested in a Board Retreat. After some discussion, the board decided to skip it for a year.

**ADJOURN:** Chairman Reynolds adjourned the board meeting at 2:39 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 20, 2024

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

November Report to CPNRD

Please find attached News Releases by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service for 2 of the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) agreements in the Central Platte. One agreement is called the Ogallala Aquifer and Platte River Recovery Project and the other is the Nebraska Soil Carbon Project. The signup for these 2 programs is ongoing, but applicants who wish to be considered for FY25 funds had until November 15, 2024, to complete an application. These are competitive programs, so applications will be funded by using a ranking system.

These projects provide financial incentives to producers who utilize key conservation practices in the Central Platte, Twin Platte, and Upper Big Blue NRD boundaries. Farmers can adopt practices that help reduce water consumption and improve soil health, by converting irrigated land to non-irrigated land. 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, or by including cover crops, no-till, and diversifying their crop rotations.

After reading these News Releases, 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 these programs in more detail, and possibly complete and application.

Respectfully Submitted,

*/s/ Joe Krolikowski*

Joe Krolikowski  
District Conservationist

Attachments: Ogallala Aquifer and Platte River Recovery Project Signup 2024 News Release  
Nebraska Soil Carbon Project Signup 2024 News Release

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NEWS

# Funds Available to Help Producers Add Soil Carbon Conservation Practices

**PUBLISH DATE:** October 07, 2024



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This project provides financial incentives to producers who utilize key conservation practices in central Nebraska.

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Producers in the Central Platte and Upper Big Blue Natural Resources Districts (NRDs) have until **November 15, 2024**, to apply for the current round of funding through the Nebraska Soil Carbon Project.

This project provides financial incentives to producers who utilize key conservation practices in central Nebraska. Farmers can adopt soil health practices--including cover crops, no-till, and diverse crop

rotations--that store carbon in the soil. Private companies hope to utilize the stored carbon and water quality benefits to help reach their goals around sustainability.

The goal is to have about 100 producers installing these soil health practices on 100,000 acres over the duration of the five-year project. With three enrollment periods completed, 59 farmers have committed over 70,325 treated acres to implement conservation practices between 2021 and 2028.

Applications must be submitted by Friday, Nov. 15, 2024, to be evaluated for the next round of funding. The Nebraska Soil Carbon Project is a collaboration between the two NRDs, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), The Nature Conservancy, Ecosystem Services Market Consortium, Cargill, Target, and McDonald's. The Nature Conservancy manages this program that is investing \$8 million for farmers to implement these practices over the next few years.

Increasing cropland soil carbon has multiple benefits for the producer and the environment, including more stable yields, improved nutrient availability and water holding capacity, and climate stabilization. Private companies are looking for ways to decrease their carbon footprint partnering with Nebraska's growers can provide these benefits by improving farming operations and implementing soil health practices. Markets linking these soil carbon buyers and suppliers allow companies to meet part of their greenhouse gas reduction goals while supporting farmers in implementing new conservation practices.

The payments producers receive through this soil carbon pilot project are tied to the practices implemented on the acres, not the carbon outcomes, to reduce producers' risk. The goal of this pilot project is to provide participating farmers with the opportunity to evaluate the potential to leverage these programs on their operation.

Beyond the financial incentives and soil health benefits, participating producers will have the opportunity to:

- Share conservation stories with a larger audience via field days, media spots, and short videos relating to the project.
- Attend training events with local and national leaders in soil health, agronomy, and related topics.
- Receive a report on the new practice's soil carbon and water quality outcomes. Those interested in going deeper may also opt-in for a detailed report on the practice's financial return on investment.

Producers receive year-round assistance from the NRDs, NRCS, and The Nature Conservancy staff, who provide support for paperwork/application processes and soil health practice management.

There is no gross income or acre enrollment cap for NRCS payments. Still, producers are encouraged to enroll a reasonable number of acres given their operation size and soil health experience. More acres can be submitted for enrollment in subsequent years of the program.

Payments are for new soil health acres only. However, a measurable improvement of an existing practice could count such as moving from strip-till to no-till or switching from a single species cover crop to multi-species if it aligns with the NRCS's standards.

For more information about the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the programs and services it provides, visit your local USDA Service Center or

[www.nrcs.usda.gov/ne](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/ne) (<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-by-state/nebraska>).

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## Contact

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## Find Your Local Service Center

USDA Service Centers are locations where you can connect with Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, or Rural Development employees for your business needs. Enter your state and county below to find your local service center and agency offices. If this locator does not work in your browser, please visit

[offices.usda.gov](https://offices.usda.gov) (<https://offices.usda.gov>).

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NEWS

# Producers Encouraged to Apply for Irrigation Cost Share by November 15th

**PUBLISH DATE:** October 07, 2024



[Home](#)   [News](#) (/news)   Producers Encouraged to Apply for Irrigation Cost Share by November 15th

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

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Producers interested in improving water quality and quantity in their farming operations may apply for irrigation management funding now through November 15, 2024, 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.

"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," said Lyndon Vogt, Central Platte NRD General Manager.

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.

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Transfer \$600 from Flow Meter to Cover Crop

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD  
Cost Share  
Thursday, November 21, 2024

BURN PREPARATION COST SHARE PROGRAM .....		\$	10,000.00
Carolyn Retzlaff – Merrick	\$	10,000.00	
COVER CROP COST SHARE PROGRAM .....		\$	4,000.00
Dale Morris – Merrick	\$	2,000.00	
King Family Farms LLC – Merrick		2,000.00	
WELL DECOMMISSIONING COST SHARE PROGRAM.....		\$	4,500.00
Eric Dake – Polk – 2 wells	\$	1,500.00	
Wildwood Business Park, LLC – Hall		750.00	
Mark Pfeiffer – Hall		750.00	
John Willoughby & Willoughby 3 LLC – Hall		750.00	
Shelley R Mallory – Hall		750.00	
TOTAL .....		\$	18,500.00