

**CENTRAL PLATTE NRD**  
Board Meeting Minutes  
December 21, 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:

Lon Bohn	Charles Maser	Jay Richeson
Tom Downey	Jerry Milner	Ed Stoltenberg
Alicia Haussler	Barry Obermiller	Deb VanMatre
Ryan Kegley	Keith Ostermeier	Jerry Wiese
Brian Keiser	Doug Reeves	Mike Wilkens
Ed Kyes	Marvion Reichert	
Dwayne Margritz	Mick Reynolds	

Excused Absences: Todd Arends and Steve Sheen

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, Tricia Dudley – Water Quality Specialist, Brandi Flyr – Hydrologist and Dean Krull – UNL/CPNRD Demo Project Coordinator

Others present: Joe Krolikowski – 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:** Alicia Haussler made the motion to approve the November board meeting minutes. Keith Ostermeier seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Charles Maser, Barry Obermiller and Deb VanMatre 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.

Roger & Sally Schuett requested a variance next month due to regulation changes as a result of groundwater declines in the area of the land they bought.

**EXCUSED ABSENCES:** Chairman Reynolds reported that Todd Arends and Steve Sheen requested to be excused from the board meeting.

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

**NRCS REPORT:** Joe Krolkowski, NRCS District Conservationist, reported on year-end projects and current staffing at the NRCS offices located within the Central Platte NRD.

**BOARD OFFICER NOMINATION:** Keith Ostermeier reported for the Board Nominating Committee. He said they are recommending Marvion Reichert for treasurer and Keith Ostermeier for secretary. It was stated that board officers are elected at the January board meeting.

**BUILDING COMMITTEE:** Mick Reynolds reported that the committee has delayed the bid letting for the new Education/Office Building.

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

Downey reported that the committee reviewed CPNRD's violation policy for Groundwater Use in Fully and Over Appropriated Areas. The policy reviews procedures for first, second and third offense violations, which would take effect July 1, 2024.

Tom Downey made a motion to approve the CPNRD Violation Policy for Groundwater Use in Fully and Over Appropriated Areas, with an effective date of July 1, 2024. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Downey reported that CPNRD is currently working on 4 Federal WaterSmart Grants with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. The grants will address irrigation efficiency on the three canals (Thirty Mile Irrigation District, Cozad Ditch and Southside Irrigation) and meter approximately 100 wells to support COHYST data. The only cost to CPNRD will be the assistance in writing the grants and administration of the grants. Four resolutions are needed in order submit a grant with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

Tom Downey made a motion to approve Resolution 23-001, 23-002, 23-003 and 23-004 to submit WaterSmart grants with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Deb VanMatre

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

**INSTREAM FLOW RIGHTS:** Brandi Flyr, Hydrologist, reported that CPNRD's instream flow rights are up for renewal, which is done every 15 years. Flyr gave a short presentation on the process to renew the instream flow rights.

**FALL GROUNDWATER LEVELS:** Luke Zakrzewski, GIS Image Analyst, reported on the groundwater levels that were measured this fall. From spring 2023 to fall 2023, 386 wells were read. Of those, 331 declined an average of 2.80 feet, which was expected. The precipitation in the western part of the district aided in increases in 55 wells at an average of 3.44 feet. Fall readings are not used in groundwater management decisions.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:** Lyndon Vogt, General Manager, reported that the NRCS has approached several NRDs about a shared position to focus on promoting conservation practices within wellhead protection areas. We plan to partner with the local NRCS office to make sure we are contacting the individuals who have crop ground in these areas to make them aware of the program opportunities.

**ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT:** Jesse Mintken, Assistant Manager, gave an update on projects we are currently working on.

**COST SHARE PROGRAMS: Transfer & Applications -** Kelly Cole, Administrative Assistant, requested a transfer of \$5,700 from Flow Meter and increasing Center Pivot by \$1,700 and Burn Preparation by \$4,000 and reported that we have received cost share applications for the following programs: Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation, Center Pivot, Tree Planting, Burn Preparation, Urban Forestry 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. Tom Downey seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

**VOTING DELEGATES:** Brian Keiser made a motion to elect Deb VanMatre as voting delegate and Jay Richeson as alternate for the NARD Legislative Conference. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Jay Richeson and Deb VanMatre who abstained. Motion carried.

**GENERAL ELECTION:** Kelly Cole, Administrative Assistant, reported that those up for re-election should have received a packet of information. Incumbents' deadline to file is February 15, 2024, and Non-Incumbents deadline to file is March 1, 2024.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** The November 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 November financial reports.

Alicia Haussler made a motion to approve the November financial report as presented. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

It was stated that the December financial report will be acted on at the January board meeting.

**NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICT:** Deb VanMatre, NARD Board Member, reported that they met on November 6<sup>th</sup>. The committee discussed raising the contributions for the retirement program by 1% for the employee and 1% for the employer. For this to be approved, all 23 districts must approve.

VanMatre reminded the board of the upcoming NARD Legislative Conference, which will be held January 23-24 at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln.

**NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION:** Mick Reynolds, Middle Platte Basin Representative, reported that the NRC approved CPNRD to proceed with disposal of surplus fill material from the Prairie Silver Moores Flood Reduction project with 52.5% of the sale proceeds being returned to the Resources Development Fund. The fill material is available for public projects.

Reynolds also reported that two appointments are open to serve on the NRC including Groundwater Irrigators and Public Power representatives.

The NRC authorized staff to proceed with the formal rules change process recommended by the Comprehensive Rules Committee. The NRC's next meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2024.

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

**Next Board Meeting** – Scheduled for the afternoon of Thursday, January 25. Details to follow.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Chairman Reynolds reported that Alicia Haussler has provided the CPNRD Board her resignation from the Board due to moving out of her district.

Marvion Reichert made a motion to accept Alicia Haussler's resignation. Tom Downey seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Jerry Milner who abstained. Motion carried.

**ADJOURN:** Chairman Reynolds adjourned the board meeting at 3:10 p.m.

Transfer \$5,700 from Flow Meter and put \$1,700 to Center Pivots & \$4,000 to Burn Preparation

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD  
Cost Share  
Thursday, December 21, 2023

NEBRASKA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COST SHARE PROGRAM.....	\$	<b>5,342.04</b>
Leon Vogel – Custer – Range Seeding	\$	5,342.04
CENTER PIVOT INCENTIVE COST SHARE PROGRAM .....	\$	<b>11,499.61</b>
Kraig Charoon – Merrick	\$	7,460.61
Three Kings LLC – Merrick		4,039.00
BURN PREPARATION COST SHARE PROGRAM .....	\$	<b>20,000.00</b>
Marcus White – Custer	\$	10,000.00
Eagle Hills Ranch – Dawson		10,000.00
URBAN FORESTRY COST SHARE PROGRAM .....	\$	<b>5,000.00</b>
City of Lexington – Dawson – Kirkpatrick Memorial Park	\$	5,000.00
TREE PLANTING COST SHARE PROGRAM .....	\$	<b>1,375.00</b>
Patrick Martin – Dawson	\$	1,375.00
WELL DECOMMISSIONING COST SHARE PROGRAM.....	\$	<b>2,750.00</b>
Bonsack Land Co LLC – Hall – 2 wells	\$	1,500.00
Judson R Bonsack – Hall		750.00
Biehl Cattle Co – Dawson		500.00
TOTAL .....	\$	<b>45,966.65</b>