

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Board Meeting Minutes
February 22, 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	Charles Maser	Jay Richeson
Lon Bohn	Keith Ostermeier	Steve Sheen
Ryan Kegley	Doug Reeves	Ed Stoltenberg
Brian Keiser	Marvion Reichert	Deb VanMatre
Ed Kyes	Mick Reynolds	Jerry Wiese
Dwayne Margritz		

Excused Absences: Tom Downey, Jerry Milner, Barry Obermiller and Mike Wilkens

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, Luke Zakrzewski – GIS Image Analyst, Brody Vorderstrasse – Communications Assistant, Courtney Widup – Water Resources Technician, Bill Hiatt – Resources Conservationist and Darren Cudaback – Precision Conservation Specialist.

Others present: Joe Krolikowski – NRCS District Conservationist, Gordon and Grant Schroll – Landowners, Steve White – NTV News, Lalit Jha – Vice-President JEO Consulting Group, John Petersen -Project Manager JEO Consulting Group, and Clay Bess – Precision Conservation Management.

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 January board meeting minutes. Deb VanMatre seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Brian Keiser, Charles Maser and Doug Reeves 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. There was none.

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Chairman Reynolds reported that Tom Downey, Jerry Milner, Barry Obermiller and Mike Wilkens requested to be excused from the board meeting.

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

EASTERN PROJECTS COMMITTEE: Ed Stoltenberg, chairman, reported the committee met earlier today.

John Petersen, Project Manager JEO Consulting Group, gave an update on the Wood River WFPO. The current project plan would be aimed at a 25-year storm event, which involves constructing a 150-foot-wide bottom diversion channel near Gibbon. The project is still in the planning stages. The next step will be Clean Water Act review to determine environmental findings and then to the State/Federal NRCS offices for review. Following all the reviews, the CPNRD board can decide to move forward with the next phase of the project.

Petersen also reviewed the Elm/Turkey Creek WFPO. The draft plan was submitted to the State NRCS in November. Expecting remaining comments any day. Next step would be to submit to the National Watershed Management Center and aim for final approval late summer, early fall.

NRCS REPORT: Joe Krolikowski, NRCS District Conservationist, gave an update for the Lexington field office on new staffing and current workload and updates on programs throughout Central Platte NRD (see attached).

BOARD NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Ed Stoltenberg, chairman, said the committee, which included: Chuck Maser, Doug Reeves and Jerry Milner, interviewed a potential candidate for sub-district #8, Kevin Werner. After some discussion the committee is recommending Mr. Werner to fill the sub-district #8 seat on the board. His term will expire in December 2024.

Ed Stoltenberg made a motion to appoint Kevin Werner of Grand Island to sub-district #8 seat on the Central Platte NRD board of directors. Mick Reynolds seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

VARIANCE/APPEALS COMMITTEE: Marvion Reichert, chairman, reported that the committee met earlier today for three variance requests.

The first request was from Kurt & Sandy Hall in Polk County to allow the approval of a supplemental well permit for this property which is located in a Groundwater Management area that's in the 25% decline.

Marvion Reichert made a motion to deny the variance request for Kurt & Sandy Hall of Polk County, which was to allow the approval of a supplemental well permit in a GWMGT area that's in the 25% decline. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

The second request was from Richard Ristine of Cozad, NE. His request was to allow the groundwater well on his property to be considered Supplemental to Surface Water when Surface Water is not available. This property is supplied with Surface Water by NPPD.

Marvion Reichert made a motion to deny the variance request for Richard Ristine of Cozad, NE, which was to allow the groundwater well on his property to be considered Supplemental to Surface Water when surface water is not available. Lon Bohn seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Jay Richeson who voted No. Motion carried.

The third request was from Gordon & Glenda Schroll of Riverdale, NE. Their request was for compromise on a violation penalty for cover type on soil & slope restrictions.

Marvion Reichert made a motion to deny the variance request from Gordon & Glenda Schroll of Riverdale, NE, which was to compromise on a violation penalty for cover type on soil & slope restrictions. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

VIOLATION REPORT: Luke Zakrzewski, GIS Image Analyst, reported that on February 5, 2024, he mailed out 50 violations letters. Of those: 39 have been in contact with him, 10 are completely resolved, 29 are currently working to resolve, 2 came back as undeliverable (Luke will call them) and 1 refused the certified letter – so violation letter was sent regular mail to them. The deadline to contact Luke regarding the letter is March 6, 2024.

PROGRAMS COMMITTEE: Ryan Kegley, chairman, reported that the committee met earlier today.

Central Platte NRD received 7 Prescribed Fire Contractor bids for the upcoming burning season. The bids ranged from \$8,800 - \$3,100 per day. The contract would consist of 8 weeks, 40 hours per week. The Central Platte NRD staff indicated that the low bid from Prescription Pyro LLC, fits all the criteria.

Ryan Kegley made a motion to accept the Prescribed Fire bid of \$3,100/day from Prescription Pyro LLC for a duration of 8 weeks, 40 hours per week. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Kegley said the committee reviewed the lease agreement on the Schroeder property with

Tyler Kugler, located in the SW 28-10N-23W in Dawson County. The lease agreement will remain the same as last year.

Ryan Kegley made a motion to approve the lease agreement with Tyler Kugler on the Schroeder Property, located in the SW 28-10N-23W in Dawson County for the same amount as last year. Keith Ostermeier seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

PRECISION CONSERVATION ANNUAL REPORT: Darren Cudaback, Precision Conservation Specialist provided an update on the cooperators enrolled in the Precision Conservation Management programs. Cudaback has a total of 81 customers signed up, which consists of 128,000 acres enrolled in the programs.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Lyndon Vogt, General Manager, reported that rehabilitation of the Alda Crane Desk and walking path started Monday. We know this is bad timing with migration season upon us, but the NET grant expires June 30, 2024. Permitting of the project, which is out of our hands took over a year.

COST SHARE PROGRAMS: Transfer & Applications - Kelly Cole, Administrative Assistant, requested a transfer of \$25,000 from Soil Moisture Sensor and \$2,500 from Flow Meter and increasing Center Pivot by \$3,900, Burn Preparation by \$13,000 and Trees by \$10,600 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. Doug Reeves 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 a list of those that have filed or re-filed for the board are listed on Dropbox. Non-incumbents have until March 1, 2024, to file.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Lyndon Vogt, General Manager, reviewed the February financial report.

Marvion Reichert made a motion to approve the February financial report 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: No Report

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION: Mick Reynolds, Middle Platte Basin

Representative reported they met Wednesday, February 21, 2024. Vacancies exist for positions on the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission. Those interested in being considered for an appointment by the Governor to represent public power districts, groundwater irrigator and unofficially surface water irrigator interests, should visit the Governor's website.

Since 2015 the Water Sustainability Fund has completed 45 projects totaling \$27,076,911.74 and presently there are 58 active projects totaling \$81,309,338.30. Applications for projects may be submitted from March 16th to March 31st each year.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Chairman Reynolds reviewed the upcoming events.

Next Board Meeting – Scheduled for the afternoon of Thursday, March 28. Details to follow.

OTHER BUSINESS: There was none.

ADJOURN: Chairman Reynolds adjourned the board meeting at 2:55 p.m.

Transfer \$25,000 from Soil Moisture Sensor and \$2,500 from Flow Meter and put \$10,600 to Trees, \$13,000 to Burn Preparation & \$3,900 to Center Pivot

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Cost Share
Thursday, February 22, 2024

NEBRASKA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COST SHARE PROGRAM.....	\$	5,000.00
Three Kings LLC – Merrick – Pipeline to Pivot	\$	5,000.00
CENTER PIVOT INCENTIVE COST SHARE PROGRAM	\$	3,848.59
Carolyn K Wilkens Rev Trust – Buffalo	\$	3,848.59
BURN PREPARATION COST SHARE PROGRAM	\$	12,625.00
Heath Johnson – Dawson	\$	2,625.00
Carmody Farms LLC – Buffalo		10,000.00
TREE PLANTING COST SHARE PROGRAM	\$	15,301.15
Olga Segura – Hall	\$	384.56
Alex Lindenstein – Buffalo		2,147.75
Cody Alexander – Buffalo		220.00
Shane Terrell – Dawson		2,138.09
Jack O'Connor – Buffalo		198.00
McKenzie Hendricks – Custer		1,016.00
Blane Kowinski – Nance		1,863.00
William Shotkoski – Dawson		2,608.95
William Rosenau – Dawson		3,000.00
JLE Farms LLC – Merrick		863.28
Phillip Beckett II – Hall		274.56
Sydney Armstrong – Hall		586.96
WELL DECOMMISSIONING COST SHARE PROGRAM.....	\$	1,250.00
John Stoltenberg – Hall	\$	750.00
Mathhew Dalrymple – Dawson		500.00
TOTAL	\$	38,024.74



Dawson County NRCS
February 2024

CARRIE THOMPSON

Staffing

- We welcomed a new field office secretary Feb 5th - Lisa Kennicutt
 - Lisa grew up in Lincoln NE
 - Attended NCTA at Curtis for Veterinary Technician
 - Has resided near Overton since graduating from Curtis
 - Has 3 boys- Wyatt, Austin and Ty
- She is a great addition to our Lexington FO team!

Current Workload

- 20 active CSP contracts
- 1 active CSP GCI contract
- 37 active EQIP contracts
- 51 EQIP applications for 2024
- 13 CSP applications for 2024

New Contracts for 2024

- EQIP IRA-
 - We have 5 pre approved applications- Pivots, livestock pipelines and tanks, Prescribed burning and burn prep
- CSP IRA-
 - 4 pre approved applications- roughly 7,500 acres
 - Practices include- cover crops, nutrient management, tree/shrub plantings, pollinator plantings

Looking ahead

EQIP General contracting

CSP Classic contracting

Spring producer meetings for active CSP contracts

Compliance checks/Status reviews

CRP contracting

Cover crop checkouts

Structural practice checkouts

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>

February 20, 2024

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

February Report to CPNRD

Attached is a summary of activities or current happenings at the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) field offices throughout the Central Platte and the state. We are now only a month away from the halfway point in the Federal Governments 2024 Fiscal Year.

- FY 2024 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) status, NRCS staff are working through the assessing and ranking process for all the FY24 applications on file. The application deadline was last November 17, 2023 to be considered for FY24 funding. Once ranking is completed, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will begin extending contract offers to the highest ranked applications until all funds are allocated. This process can sometimes extend into August or September.
- FY 2024 Conservation Stewardship Program (CStP) status, NRCS staff are working on preparing the 2024 CSP contract renewals, processing CSP IRA applications. Also, at this time we are working on the 2024 CSP Classic applications, the cutoff was November 17, 2023 also to be considered for this fund pool in FY24. Staff will continue to work with our producers and gathering the information needed to work through the process. The obligation deadline for these new CStP Classic contracts is not set currently.
- FY 2024 Conservation Reserve Programs (CRP) which is administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA), is holding a general signup which started January 12th and will end July 31, 2024. Contracts expiring in September will also be given a chance to reenroll. NRCS is responsible for conducting all field visits and then producing all the conservation planning and contracting documents for their program.

Helping People Help the Land
USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



- FY 2024 National Food Security Act Compliance Review preparation is also close to getting started across the State. Anyone who owns land and receives United State Department Agriculture (USDA) benefits is subject to the compliance spot checks. These tract numbers are randomly selected each year out of the database in Kansas City. If a tract of land in the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) database is carried as Highly Erodible Land or has Wetlands identified on it, the tract is subject to a random compliance spot check. Tracts reported to a USDA Service Center by a Whistleblower, if valid, are also subject to the compliance spot checks.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Joe Krolkowski

Joe Krolkowski
District Conservationist

