

## CENTRAL PLATTE NRD

### Board Meeting Minutes

February 25, 2021

**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. The board room will be available for public participation in the meeting. Social distancing guidelines will be followed.

On November 25, 2020, Governor Ricketts issued Executive Order No. 21-02, "Corona Virus — Public Meetings Requirement Limited Waiver" The Order permits public bodies in the state to meet by videoconferencing, telephone conference call, or other electronic means so long as members of the public and the media are provided access to the meetings. The Order applies to all public meetings. Executive Order No. 20-36, which is currently scheduled to end on January 31, 2021, shall remain in effect through April 30, 2021. The identical statutory waivers and conditions contained within Executive Order No. 20-36 shall continue through April 30, 2021.

**ATTENDANCE:** Board members present were:

Lon Bohn	Dwayne Margritz	Mick Reynolds
Tom Downey	Charles Maser	Jay Richeson
Alicia Haussler	Barry Obermiller	Ed Stoltenberg
Ryan Kegley	Keith Ostermeier	Deb VanMatre
Ed Kyes	Doug Reeves	

Board Members present via ZOOM:

Leroy Arends	Jerry Milner	Steve Sheen
Jim Bendfeldt	Marvion Reichert	Jerry Wiese
Brian Keiser		

Staff present: Lyndon Vogt – General Manager, Jesse Mintken – Assistant Manager, Kelly Cole – Administrative Assistant, Marcia Lee – Information/Education Specialist, Courtney Widup – Water Resources Technician, Dan Clement – Water Resources Specialist, Luke Zakrzewski – GIS Image Analyst, Angie Warner – GIS Programs Coordinator

Staff present via ZOOM: Deb Jarzynka – Secretary, Tricia Dudley – Water Quality Programs Assistant

Others present: Andy Bishop – RWBJV Coordinator

Others present via ZOOM: Joe Krolikowski – NRCS District Conservationist, Janelle Taubenheim, NRCS Resources Conservationist

**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 January board meeting minutes. Dwayne Margritz seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. 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. There were none.

**EXCUSED ABSENCES:** There were none.

**RAINWATER BASIN JOINT VENTURE:** Andy Bishop, RWBJV Coordinator, gave an update on the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture's programs and shared capacity with Central Platte NRD.

**NRCS REPORT:** Janelle Taubenheim, NRCS Resources Conservationist, gave an update on programs Dawson County NRCS are currently working on (see enclosed). Joe Krolkowski, NRCS District Conservationist, reviewed and gave updates on the EQIP, CStP, CRP and the National Food Security Act programs (see enclosed).

**EASTERN PROJECTS COMMITTEE:** Chairman Ed Stoltenberg reviewed the Platte Valley Industrial Park Drainage Ditch Project, south of Grand Island with partners of Hall County, City of Grand Island and the Grand Island Area Economic Development Corporation (GIAEDC). Olsson Inc. presented a Scope of Work Contract for the Platte Valley Industrial Park Drainage Ditch Project in the amount of \$87,500 for design, easement acquisition, and to obtain the permits. The contract cost would be split between partners of the project, with Central Platte NRD's cost being about 1/3.

Ed Stoltenberg made a motion to accept the Scope of Work contract for the Platte Valley Industrial Park Drainage Ditch Project with Olsson Inc., not to exceed \$87,500. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

**POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT:** General Manager, Lyndon Vogt, reported that the Policy Committee met earlier today and reviewed Central Platte NRD's bylaws and policies. The updated bylaws and policies, due to statute changes, will be presented at the March board meeting for approval. Updates will be on drop box for board members to review prior to the March board meeting.

**PROGRAMS COMMITTEE:** Chairman Doug Reeves reported on their meeting held earlier that day.

The committee reviewed an outdoor classroom application for M.E.S Clover Academy in the amount of \$475.00. The application is for a home school, with the project being located on private property.

Doug Reeves made a motion to deny the request for \$475 for M.E.S Clover Academy outdoor classroom application. Deb VanMatre seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

**MONITORING WELL BIDS:** Dan Clement, Water Resources Specialist, reported that bid proposals were sent out to drill 12 monitoring wells located in Buffalo and Hall counties. Three bids were received with the lowest bid coming from Downey Drilling in the amount of \$27,546.42, with this being staff's recommendation.

Jay Richeson made a motion to accept the bid from Downey Drilling in the amount of \$27,546.42 to drill 12 monitoring wells in Buffalo and Hall counties. Doug Reeves seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor, except Thomas Downey who abstained. Motion carried.

**COST SHARE PROGRAMS: Transfer & Applications** – Kelly Cole, Administrative Assistant, requested a transfer of \$7,750 from Grazing Deferment to Well Decommissioning and reported that we have received cost share applications for the following programs: Center Pivot, Flow Meter, Tree Planting 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.

Alicia Haussler 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:** General Manager Vogt briefly reviewed the February financial reports.

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

**MANAGERS REPORT:** Lyndon Vogt, General Manager, reported that on March 18, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. Don Blankenau will do a presentation on NRD responsibilities and NRD Director Responsibilities at the Central Platte NRD Office, Zoom will not be available.

**NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICT:** Jim Bendfeldt reported that the legislative bills that NARD are watching have been put on drop box. Please review the bills and if anyone has any comments to please let him know.

**NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION:** Mick Reynolds, Middle Platte Basin Representative reported that all applications for the Water Sustainability Fund need to be submitted by July 31, 2021.

**UPCOMING EVENTS: Next Board Meeting** – Scheduled for the afternoon of Thursday, March 25. Details to follow.

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

**OTHER BUSINESS:** There was none.

**ADJOURN:** Chairman Reynolds adjourned the board meeting 3:00 p.m.



# **CPNRD Board Meeting**

# **Lexington Service Center Update**

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February 2021

# Program Update

- CSP & EQIP Program sign up cut off date was 11/20/2020
- Currently Assessing and Ranking EQIP & CSP Applications
  - Lexington FO Applications
    - EQIP – 38 Total Applications for 2021 Signup 1
      - 8 Grazing Improvement Applications
      - 3 Cover Crop or Soils Erosion Applications
      - 3 Written Burn Plan Applications
      - 6 Dryland Applications
      - 1 SDI Application
      - 17 Pivot Applications
    - CSP Classic – 29 Total Applications
      - 8 High Priority, 1 Medium Priority Off of Prioritization Worksheet and Thresholds
    - CSP Renewals – 9 Total Applications
      - 4 Pre-approved





## **Project In Review**

- Dawson County Producer Project through EQIP
- Before : After Site Preparation : After Prescribed Burn
- Producer also installed solar well, pipeline, tanks, and cross fence

# Central Platte Rangeland Alliance Updated Burn Guidelines (Due to high demand of burns)

- 1. Water tanks will be filled and in place in accordance with the burn plan
- 2. All gates will be opened to allow access for vehicles
- 3. Permits will be obtained
- 4. Brush management will be maintained in accordance with the burn plan
- 5. Food, drinking water, energy snacks, etc. will be provided to the volunteers
- 6. CPRA is not a "fire for hire" group. We work together. So, if you need 20 volunteers to do your burn, you will be expected to help on 20 burns in the future. If you cannot be at a burn it is acceptable to send a person or persons in your place
- 7. Beginning in 2021 if you want to burn the following year you or your representative must attend 50% of the burns in order for yours to get burned the following year. If you attend and we feel we have an abundance of help, you may be dismissed, and you will be recorded as attending
- 8. We are very fortunate to have a lot of equipment at our disposal. This equipment needs to be maintained. Again, we depend on volunteers to do that
- 9. We have a suggested donation based on a per acre basis that is needed for maintenance of equipment. That donation is due prior to the burn
- 10. Drip torch fuel will be provided and charged to the landowner based on gallons used
- 11. Landowner is responsible for patrolling after the burn.



# Events 2021

- Range Judging – Was cancelled in 2020 will be held in Dawson County in 2021
  - Set Up day September 14<sup>th</sup> – Contest Day September 15<sup>th</sup>
  - Registration and Scoring at Dawson County Extension Office
  - Site is South West of Lexington
- Potential Prescribed Burn Training for Growing Season Burns
  - Looking at location site in Sumner NE
  - Last years training was light on numbers, but growing season burn was practiced by the Central Platte Rangeland Alliance and Very Successful
    - Allows opportunity to open larger window for burning rangeland and cedar trees.

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February 22, 2021

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 2021 Fiscal Year.

- FY 2021 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) status, NRCS staff are working through the assessing and ranking process for all the FY21 applications on file. The application deadline was last November 20, 2020 to be considered for FY21 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 2021 Conservation Stewardship Program (CStP) status, NRCS staff are working on preparing the 2021 CSP contract renewals and we are getting close to the obligation deadline of February 26<sup>th</sup> for those contracts. Also, at this time we are working on the 2021 CSP Classic applications, the cutoff was November 20, 2020 also to be considered for this fund pool in FY21. The established ranking deadline for those CSP Classic applications is March 12<sup>th</sup>. 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 planned for mid-July.
- FY 2021 Conservation Reserve Programs (CRP) which is administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA), has held a general signup which was scheduled from January 4<sup>th</sup> to February 12<sup>th</sup>. Contracts expiring in September will also be given a chance to reenroll. We were informed on February 5<sup>th</sup> a news release was issued that the signup has been extended, with no new deadline date announced. NRCS is responsible for conducting all field visits and then producing all the conservation planning and contracting documents for their program.

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- FY 2021 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 Krolikowski*

Joe Krolikowski  
District Conservationist

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Transfer \$7,750 from Grazing Deferment to Well Decommissioning

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD  
Cost Share  
Thursday, February 25, 2021

CENTER PIVOT INCENTIVE COST SHARE PROGRAM.....		\$	<b>7,500.00</b>
Greving Farms Inc. – Merrick	\$	7,500.00	
FLOW METER COST SHARE PROGRAM .....		\$	<b>800.00</b>
Ray Hebda Sr. – Merrick	\$	800.00	
TREE PLANTING COST SHARE PROGRAM .....		\$	<b>4,107.50</b>
Ann Verzani – Dawson	\$	826.00	
Scott Fitzke – Buffalo		2,386.20	
96 Ranches Inc. – Dawson		895.30	
WELL DECOMMISSIONING COST SHARE PROGRAM.....		\$	<b>7,750.00</b>
Matt Luther – Dawson – 2 wells	\$	1,500.00	
Richard Fredricks – Hall		750.00	
Albin Ziembra – Nance – 2 wells		1,500.00	
Ronald Bentley – Dawson – 2 wells		1,000.00	
Doug Luther – Dawson – 2 wells		1,500.00	
Jim Riley – Hall		750.00	
Preston Meier – Dawson		750.00	
Total .....		\$	<b>20,157.50</b>