

**CENTRAL PLATTE NRD**  
Board Meeting Minutes  
March 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:

Alicia Haussler	Barry Obermiller	Jay Richeson
Ryan Kegley	Doug Reeves	Steve Sheen
Ed Kyes	Marvion Reichert	Ed Stoltenberg
Dwayne Margritz	Mick Reynolds	Jerry Wiese
Charles Maser		

Board Members present via ZOOM:

Leroy Arends	Tom Downey	Deb VanMatre
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Excused Absences: Jim Bendfeldt, Lon Bohn, Brian Keiser, Jerry Milner, Keith Ostermeier

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, Bill Hiatt – Resources Conservationist, Tom Backer – Projects Assistant, Brandi Flyr – Hydrologist, Dean Krull – UNL/CPNRD Demo Project Coordinator

Others present: Jim Ford – Ford Farms, Cairo NE, Scott Sorensen – Hall County Commissioner

Others present via ZOOM: Joe Krolkowski – NRCS District 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 February board meeting minutes. Marvion Reichert 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.

Jim Ford, Ford Farms from Cairo, NE asked about the access of dirt from the Prairie/Silver/Moores Flood Control Project for landowners. The chairman referred the request to the Eastern Projects Committee for further discussion.

**EXCUSED ABSENCES:** Chairman Reynolds reported that Jim Bendfeldt, Lon Bohn, Brian Keiser, Jerry Milner and Keith Ostermeier 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.

**STAFF PRESENTATIONS:** Tom Backer, Projects Assistant and Bill Hiatt, Resources Conservationist presented to the board on their job duties at the Central Platte NRD.

**NRCS REPORT:** Joe Krolikowski, NRCS District Conservationist, reported on the FY2022 local working group that was recently held (see enclosed).

**EASTERN PROJECTS COMMITTEE:** Chairman Ed Stoltenberg reviewed Amendment #10 for the Upper Prairie/Silver/Moores Flood Risk Reduction Project with JEO. Amendment #10 included project management and coordination, additional products and services, flood alert implementation and LOMR with a total cost of \$70,186.50.

Ed Stoltenberg made a motion to approve Amendment #10 for the Upper Prairie/Silver/Moores Flood Risk Reduction Project with JEO in the amount of \$70,186.50. Jerry Wiese seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Chairman Ed Stoltenberg reviewed Amendment #1 for the NRCS EWP Drop Structure Project with JEO. Amendment #1 includes the additional costs of permitting with a total cost of \$12,000.00.

Ed Stoltenberg made a motion to approve Amendment #1 for the NRCS EWP Drop Structure Project with JEO in the amount of \$12,000.00. Doug Reeves seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Chairman Ed Stoltenberg reviewed Amendment #1 for the Dam Rehabilitations Project with JEO. Amendment #1 included additional design work and permitting with a total cost of \$13,600.00.

Ed Stoltenberg made a motion to approve Amendment #1 for the Dam Rehabilitations Project with JEO in the amount of \$13,600.00. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Chairman Ed Stoltenberg also reported that the committee started working on the FY2022 Budget.

**WESTERN PROJECTS COMMITTEE:** Chairman Marvion Reichert reported that the committee started working on the FY2022 budget.

**VARIANCE/APPEALS COMMITTEE:** Chairman Ed Kyes reported that the committee met today before lunch for a variance request.

The request was from Steve Stumpff representing MJS Farms Inc. to certify approximately four acres of land as irrigated in the SW1/4 of Section 33-11N-11W in Hall County. Given that the CPNRD stopped certifying irrigated acres in 2014, the subcommittee is recommending that the request be denied.

Ed Kyes made the motion to deny the variance request from Steve Stumpff representing MJS Farms Inc. to certify approximately four acres of land as irrigated in the SW ¼ of Section 33-11N-11W in Hall County given that the CPNRD stopped certifying irrigated acres in 2014. Marvion Reichert 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 reviewed Central Platte NRD's bylaws and policies last month. The updated bylaws and policies, due to statute changes, were put on drop box for board members to review prior to the March board meeting. Vogt reported that the bylaws were just reorganized with the addition of Robert's Rule of Order for meetings and the policies were not changed, just cleaned up to read easier.

Jay Richeson made the motion to approve the updated bylaws and policies for Central Platte NRD as presented. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

General Manager, Lyndon Vogt, reported that under the old policy it stated the directors

would sign the appropriate form annually if you did not want to take your per diem. With the new policy in place, directors will only need to sign a form once, unless you wish to change. Kelly Cole, Administrative Assistant, passed around the forms for directors to complete.

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

The committee reviewed the Cost Share and Information/Education FY2022 budgets and sent those onto the budget committee.

The committee reviewed the grant application for an Outdoor Classroom. The committee recommended that we add the wording, "Site must be on Public Property".

Doug Reeves made a motion to add the wording, "Site must be on Public Property" to the Outdoor Classroom grant application. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Doug Reeves reported that Surge Values have been funded through the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Fund (NSWCP). With little use it was recommended that we discontinue cost sharing on Surge Valves through the NSWCP program.

Doug Reeves made the motion to discontinue offering cost share on Surge Valves through the NSWCP program. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

**2020 VIOLATION UPDATE:** Luke Zakrzewski, GIS Image Analyst, reported that for the 2020 irrigation season we had a total of 47 violations. Of those violations, 39 are resolved or nearly resolved and 8 will receive additional paperwork. There were no repeat offenders.

**COST SHARE PROGRAMS: Transfer & Applications** – Kelly Cole, Administrative Assistant, requested a transfer of \$24,500 from Burn Preparation to Tree Planting (\$3,500), Center Pivots (\$19,700) and Well Decommissioning (\$1,300) 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.

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.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** General Manager Vogt briefly reviewed the March financial reports.

Marvion Reichert made a motion to approve the March financial report as presented. Alicia Haussler 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 a projects update is attached to the Managers report as well as some pictures of the Thirty Mile Irrigation District/Central Platte NRD building. Shane Max, Resources Conservationist, will move into the new office by April 1, 2021.

**NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICT:** No report.

**NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION:** No report

**UPCOMING EVENTS: Next Board Meeting** – Scheduled for the afternoon of Thursday, April 22. Details to follow.

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

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Doug Reeves mention that the new CPNRD website is up and running and encouraged everyone to go take a look.

Chairman Reynolds ask for interested directors that would like to tour Prairie/Silver/Moores. These tours will be offered after the April and May board meetings as well.

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



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Grand Island Field Office  
703 South Webb Road, Suite C  
Grand Island, NE 68803  
Phone (308) 395-8586 (Ext. 3)

<http://www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov>

March 22, 2021

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

### March Report to CPNRD

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) recently held their FY2022 Local Working Group (LWG) meeting. The Local Working Group recommends to the NRCS State Conservationist how conservation programs like the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) would be used most effectively in their area. The local work group does this by evaluating and prioritizing the resource concerns through their Natural Recourse District. These recommendations can include special target areas, cost share rates, which conservation practices should have cost assistance, or how many dollars could be needed. This work group allows local input into how Federal dollars are spent in their area and across the state. I have listed below some of the LWG recommendations from this year's meeting.

- After reviewing our current cost share programs available to producers in the Central Platte, the recommendation was to continue with all the current programs available. It was agreed to combine the 2 different grazing fund pools into 1 for FY2022.
- Demand for financial assistance has remained high relative to available funds, so the recommendation was to review the bills we collected and submit adjustments to the cost share rates on commonly used practices. The intent of these gradual adjustment in some payment rates will help to provide more access to the available funds.
- We also reviewed how available funds are being allocated between the different funding pools both State and local, to ensure a good balance exists to address the current resource concerns. This was done much like I do at the September Board meeting with all of you, when we review contracts, practices, and the acres treated across the Central Platte NRD boundary.

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In conclusion, the Local Work Group has reviewed and discussed the local priorities within our Natural Resources Districts, and agree we are still doing a good job of addressing the priority resource concerns with the tools in place. It was also discussed that as NRCS staff we are still working through changes and/or new programs that have come with the 2018 farm bill. We are also still working through the uncertainties and issues as they come up with the new ranking tool that was released in 2020. This new tool is called the Conservation Assessment & Ranking Tool (CART).

Respectfully Submitted,

*/s/ Joe Krolikowski*

Joe Krolikowski  
District Conservationist

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD  
Cost Share  
Thursday, March 25, 2021

CENTER PIVOT INCENTIVE COST SHARE PROGRAM.....		\$ 22,500.00
Charley Mac Inc. – Hall	\$ 7,500.00	
Nathan Hartmann – Hall	7,500.00	
Mike Lilienthal – Hall	7,500.00	
FLOW METER COST SHARE PROGRAM .....		\$ 800.00
Mike Lilienthal – Hall	\$ 800.00	
TREE PLANTING COST SHARE PROGRAM .....		\$ 4,859.76
Paul Hazard – Buffalo	\$ 1,061.97	
Grady Jones – Buffalo	867.42	
Elliot Grosshans – Merrick	339.30	
Brett Douglas – Buffalo	2,386.32	
Chad Gideon – Hall	204.75	
WELL DECOMMISSIONING COST SHARE PROGRAM.....		\$ 3,750.00
Nielsen & Winqvist – Dawson	\$ 750.00	
City of Cozad – Dawson	750.00	
Robert Clark – Merrick	750.00	
MTBAR LLC – Dawson	750.00	
Gale Luther – Dawson	750.00	
Total .....		\$ 31,909.76