

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Board Meeting Minutes
March 28, 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	Jerry Milner	Steve Sheen
Tom Downey	Barry Obermiller	Ed Stoltenberg
Ryan Kegley	Keith Ostermeier	Deb VanMatre
Brian Keiser	Doug Reeves	Kevin Werner
Ed Kyes	Marvion Reichert	Jerry Wiese
Dwayne Margritz	Mick Reynolds	Mike Wilkens

Excused Absences: None

Staff present: Lyndon Vogt – General Manager, Kelly Cole – Administrative Assistant, Marcia Lee – Information/Education Specialist, Dan Clement – Water Resources Specialist, Luke Zakrzewski – GIS Image Analyst, Brody Vorderstrasse – Communications Assistant, Courtney Widup – Water Resources Technician, Brandi Flyr – Hydrologist and Nelson Winkel – Prescribed Fire Planning Specialist.

Others present: Joe Krolikowski – NRCS District Conservationist, Jason Scholz – Hall County NRCS Resources Conservationist, Jennifer Shellpeper – DNR Water Planning Division Manager, and DNR Employees – Ryan Kelly, Caitlin Kingsley, Avery Dresser, Jack Mensinger and Brooke Mott.

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 February board meeting minutes. Deb VanMatre seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Tom Downey, Jerry Milner, Barry Obermiller and Mike Wilkens 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: None

NEBASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES: Jennife Shellpeper, DNR Water Planning Division Manager, gave a update on Nebraska's Upper Platte Basin Robust Review. Shellpeper reported that CPNRD's management practices have been effective and exceeded the established targets with no additional management needed, at this time.

NRCS REPORT: Jason Scholz, Hall County NRCS Resources Conservationist, reported on the workflow for the Hall County field office (see attached). Joe Krolkowski, NRCS District Conservationist, reported on the FY2025 local work group meeting (see attached).

VARIANCE/APPEALS COMMITTEE: Barry Obermiller, chairman, reported that the committee met earlier today to review a request from Tom Janky of Chapman, NE. The request was to allow the approval of a supplemental well permit on his property. The property in question is located in Groundwater Management Area #18. This Management Area is in a Phase Two decline status. Groundwater Management Areas in Phase Two decline status have limitations on transfers of irrigated acres and well development. Specially, not allowing supplemental wells.

Marvion Reichert made a motion to deny the variance request from Tom Janky of Chapman, NE because of this declining status to Groundwater Management Area #18. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

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

Kegley reported that Visit Kearney has requested a financial contribution for a new visitor center that is currently under construction. The committee will review and bring a recommendation to the board in April.

Kegley also reported that we reviewed the FY 2025 Cost Share and Information/Education Budgets. This will again be discussed at the April board meeting for final approval by the committee.

EASTERN PROJECTS COMMITTEE: Jerry Milner, chairman, reported that the committee met earlier today and reviewed the FY2025 Eastern Projects Budget and will meet again in April to continue to discuss the budget.

WESTERN PROJECTS COMMITTEE: Lon Bohn, chairman, reported that the committee met earlier today and reviewed the FY2025 Western Projects Budget and will

meet again in April to continue to discuss the budget.

VIOLATION REPORT: Luke Zakrzewski, GIS Image Analyst, reported that on February 5, 2024, he mailed out 50 violations letters. Of those: 48 have been in contact with him, 20 are completely resolved, 28 are currently working to resolve, 2 he will call. If necessary, he will bring it back next month to begin the process of cease and desist.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Lyndon Vogt, General Manager, reported on LB388 – Property Tax Reform Bill. Vogt indicated that the bill has been put on Dropbox for you to review.

Vogt reported that the annual Nitrogen Management crop report deadline has been extended to April 30th due to the reporting format. Landowners/Tenants overloaded our system causing the system to be down for a while.

Vogt also reported that an EPIC Tax Study from NARD has been placed on Dropbox for you to review.

COST SHARE PROGRAMS: Transfer & Applications - Kelly Cole, Administrative Assistant, requested a transfer of \$9,400 from Flow Meter and \$4,300 from Phragmites Control and increasing Center Pivot by \$300, Burn Preparation by \$7,000, Trees by \$4,400 and Soil Moisture Sensor by \$2,000 and reported that we have received cost share applications for the following programs: Grazing Deferment, Tree Planting, Burn Preparation, Soil Moisture Sensor, Flow Meter 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 except Brian Keiser who abstained. Motion carried.

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

Marvion Reichert made a motion to approve the March 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: Mick Reynolds reported, as he attended the last NARD board meeting in Deb VanMatre's absence, that NARD Officer Elections took place.

Deb VanMatre reported on the Washington DC conference that she attended along with the following staff: Jesse Mintken, Kelly Cole and Angela Warner.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION: No Report

UPCOMING EVENTS: Chairman Reynolds reviewed the upcoming events.

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

OTHER BUSINESS: There was none.

ADJOURN: Chairman Reynolds adjourned the board meeting at 3:30 p.m.



Natural Resources Conservation Service
Grand Island Field Office
703 S. Webb Rd., Suite B
Grand Island, NE 68803
308-395-8586 Ext. 3

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

March 25, 2024

Central Platte NRD
215 N. Kaufman Ave.
Grand Island, NE 68803

March Report to CPNRD

To the Central Platte NRD board and staff, please accept this report from the Grand Island Field Office for the March board meeting.

EQIP

- Ranking deadline coming up April 5th.

CSP

- Working through submitted applications to get ready to rank.
- Deadline to apply for CSP renewals is May 3rd.

IRA

- Contracting wrapping up for IRA EQIP and CSP.
- Limited chances for slippage
- Application deadline March 31st.
- Practices deemed to be climate smart or supporting climate smart practices.

CRP

- General Signup deadline March 29th
- Grassland CRP signup starts April 29th goes to May 24th.
- Offers ranked and approved by ranking score threshold.

RCPP

- Ranking deadline April 5th
- Projects for cover crops, irrigation system conversions and forestry practices.

Upcoming

- Annual NFSAM status reviews for HEL/Wetland compliance
- EQIP/RCPP/CSP contracting.
- Application cutoff time periods are typically in the fall, applications taken year-round.
- Irrigation design reviews and checkouts for cost shared irrigation systems.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Jason Scholz

Jason Scholz
Resource Conservationist
Grand Island Field Office



United States Department Of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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March 25, 2024

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

March Report to CPNRD

- The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Central Platte NRD recently held their FY2025 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 share 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. We all feel the existing ranking pools are meeting the priority resource concerns of our NRD.
- 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 farm bill, RCPP, or with the IRA program. 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



Transfer \$9,400 from Flow Meter and \$4,300 from Phragmites Control and put \$4,400 to Trees, \$7,000 to Burn Preparation, \$300 to Center Pivot & \$2,000 to Soil Moisture Sensor

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Cost Share
Thursday, March 28, 2024

BURN PREPARATION COST SHARE PROGRAM	\$	9,750.00
Double R Bar Ranch Inc. – Custer	\$	9,750.00
TREE PLANTING COST SHARE PROGRAM	\$	4,416.35
Erin Kuck – Buffalo	\$	2,414.75
Marcy Thompson – Hall		293.04
Jane McDonald – Hall		1,708.56
GRAZING DEFERMENT COST SHARE PROGRAM	\$	18,840.00
Timothy Dean – Dawson	\$	18,840.00
SOIL MOISTURE SENSOR COST SHARE PROGRAM	\$	2,000.00
Bryce Consbruck – Hall	\$	2,000.00
FLOW METER COST SHARE PROGRAM	\$	800.00
Thomas Longly – Dawson	\$	800.00
WELL DECOMMISSIONING COST SHARE PROGRAM.....	\$	3,750.00
K Farms Ltd – Dawson	\$	750.00
Carolee Matousek Estate – Merrick – 2 wells		1,500.00
Mark Pfeiffer – Hall		750.00
Ross Spradlin – Dawson		750.00
TOTAL	\$	39,556.35