

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD

Board Meeting Minutes

March 30, 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 were:

Lon Bohn	Charles Maser	Mick Reynolds
Tom Downey	Jerry Milner	Jay Richeson
Alicia Haussler	Barry Obermiller	Steve Sheen
Brian Keiser	Keith Ostermeier	Ed Stoltenberg
Ed Kyes	Doug Reeves	Jerry Wiese
Dwayne Margritz	Marvion Reichert	

Excused Absences: LeRoy Arends, Ryan Kegley and Deb VanMatre

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

Others present: Joe Krolikowski – NRCS District Conservationist, Jason Scholz – NRCS Resources Conservationist Hall County, Bren Vaughan – Central City High School Student, Shelly Gillan – Central City High School Science Teacher and Mike Wilkens – Landowner

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. Keith Ostermeier seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor, except Tom Downey and Dwayne Margritz 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 LeRoy Arends, Ryan Kegley and Deb VanMatre requested to be excused from the board meeting.

Alicia Haussler made the motion to approve the absence as requested. Lon Bohn seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

SEARCH COMMITTEE: Lon Bohn, chairman, reported that the search committee interviewed two candidates to fill the open seat in sub-district 5.

Lon Bohn made a motion to appoint Mike Wilkens to the open sub-district 5 seat. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Mike Wilkens completed his Oath of Office.

PRESENTATION ON NATIVE/NON-NATIVE GRASSES: Bren Vaughan, Central City High School student gave a presentation on her research on the Effect of Stratification Temperature on Germination of Native and Non-Native grasses.

CPNRD 10-YEAR METER PROGRAM: Brandi Flyr, Hydrologist, reported on the results of CPNRD's 10-Year groundwater pumping study, which included 78 sites, district wide. The goal of the program was to collect real pumping data and allow producers to review their own pumping data and adjust as needed. The results showed that producers were pumping less water than estimated. CPNRD is applying for additional funds to continue the project.

NRCS REPORT: Jason Scholz, NRCS Hall County Resource Conservationist reported on the programs Hall County is currently working on (see enclosed).

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

EASTERN PROJECTS COMMITTEE: Ed Stoltenberg, chairman, reported that the Eastern Projects Committee met earlier that day.

Stoltenberg reported that the committee reviewed the proposed Fiscal 2024 budget. No action was taken.

Stoltenberg reported that the committee was presented with Amendment #1 for the Platte Valley Industrial Park with Olsson's. This amendment is for engineering services to complete seepage analysis and archeological surveys near the Wood River Levee as warranted by the US Army Corp of Engineers with an additional cost of \$14,200.

Ed Stoltenberg made a motion to approve Amendment #1 in the amount of \$14,200 with Olsson's for the Platte Valley Industrial Park for engineering services to complete seepage analysis and archeological surveys near the Wood River Levee as warranted by the US Army Corp of Engineers. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Stoltenberg reported on Amendment #2 with JEO Consulting regarding Dam Rehabilitation. The amendment adds an additional \$14,000 to the contract due to having a second bidding and construction phase as no bids were received the first time for Jones Creek and Clear Creek projects.

Ed Stoltenberg made a motion to approve Amendment #2 in the amount of \$14,000 with JEO Consulting for Dam Rehabilitation due to having a second bidding and construction phase. Doug Reeves seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

WESTERN PROJECTS COMMITTEE: Brian Keiser, chairman, reported that the committee met earlier today.

Keiser reported that the committee reviewed the proposed fiscal 2024 budget. No action was taken.

Keiser reported that the committee reviewed Amendment #1 for the Elm/Turkey Creek WFPO. The amendment is for \$78,030 in additional project management, coordinator and public involvement due to a one-year extension and additional environmental science work needed to meet NRCS requirements. The funds are available through the original \$742,500 WFPO grant, which were allocated for administration costs.

Brian Keiser made a motion to approve the Elm/Turkey Creek WFPO Amendment #1 in the amount of \$78,030 for additional project management, coordinator and public involvement due to a one-year extension and additional environmental science work needed to meet NRCS requirements. Tom Downey seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE: Lon Bohn, chairman, reported that the committee met earlier today.

Bohn reported that CPNRD's web-based Nitrogen Management and Transfer programs will no longer be supported after July 1, 2023, as gWorks is not renewing our contract. Staff has reached out to Longitude 103 from Colorado to help in building a new software platform. Longitude 103 will charge CPNRD a \$19,000 annual service fee and a one-time migration fee of \$19,000. They anticipate a year to have the new platform up and functional. CPNRD staff will continue to work with Longitude 103 to help support our current web-based program to keep everything working until we transition over to the

new software. Additional costs will be incurred as we move forward with the new software.

Lon Bohn made a motion to approve a contract with Longitude 103 in the amount of \$38,000. \$19,000 upfront annual service fee and a one-time \$19,000 migration fee. Jay Richeson 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 two bids were received for drilling 13 monitoring wells in Merrick County. The low bid came in at \$53,322.85 from Downey Drilling with all the required specifications.

Jay Richeson made a motion to accept the bid from Downey Drilling in the amount of \$53,322.85 to drill 13 monitoring wells in Merrick County. Brian Keiser seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Tom Downey who abstained. Motion carried.

IRRIGATION VIOLATION REPORT: Luke Zakrzewski, GIS Image Analyst, reported that contact has been made with all 56 violators via letters that were mailed out last month. Eleven of them are complete, 14 we are waiting on paperwork back and 25 we have paperwork to get out to them.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Lyndon Vogt, General Manager, said a public hearing will be held prior to the May 25th board meeting to consider the updates to the Groundwater Management Plan. One change that was just discussed and will be updated is the trigger for Phase 3, changing from 15 ppm to 10 ppm. After the GWMP is approved, the NRD will update the Rules and Regulations for the Plan.

Vogt reported that CPNRD is currently working with UNL on a grant to share the cost of an agronomist to work with Dean Krull, UNL/CPNRD Demonstration Project Coordinator. The NRD is also working with the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture and Tri-Basin NRD on a grant to share an additional agronomist position. Both grants would be 3 years in length.

PLATTE RIVER RESILIENCE: Lyndon Vogt, General Manger, reported that currently Deb VanMatre sits on this committee as CPNRD's representative. This committee's main objective is to raise money for phragmites along the river. Vogt has recommended we replace Deb VanMatre with David Carr, Range Management Specialist.

Alicia Haussler made a motion to replace Deb VanMatre with David Carr on the Platte River Resilience Committee. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM: Lyndon Vogt,

General Manager, reported that he currently sits on the Land Advisory Committee. David Carr, Range Management Specialist, has shown interest in sitting on this committee. Vogt is recommending we replace him with David Carr on the Land Advisory Committee.

Marvion Reichert made a motion to replace Lyndon Vogt with David Carr on the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program Land Advisory Committee. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

COST SHARE PROGRAMS: Transfer & Applications - Kelly Cole, Administrative Assistant, requested a transfer of \$11,900 from Phragmites Control and \$10,400 from Soil Moisture Sensor and increasing Center Pivots by \$2,000 and Burn Preparation by \$20,300 and reported that we have received cost share applications for the following programs: Center Pivot, Burn Preparation, Streambank Stabilization, Sensor Based Management of Fertilization, 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 Lon Bohn 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. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICT: Lyndon Vogt, General Manager, reported that NARD met on March 6, 2023. This was Deb VanMatre's first meeting and has been assigned to the Programs Committee. Reminder that award nomination deadlines are May 1 and that the NARD Basin Tour will be June 12-13, with CPNRD hosting.

NARD had a presentation from Longitude 103 software company out of Colorado.

NARD election of officers are as follows: Orvil Gigstad - President, Martin Graf – Vice-President and Ryan Reuter – Secretary/Treasurer.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION: No report.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Chairman Reynolds reviewed the upcoming events.
Next Board Meeting – Scheduled for the afternoon of Thursday, April 27. Details to

CPNRD Meeting Minutes

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follow.

OTHER BUSINESS: There was none.

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



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

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

March 28, 2023

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

- Working through ranking scores for additional preapprovals.
- Possibility will receive additional funds to get through more applications.

CSP

- Working through submitted applications ranking deadline is April 21st.
- Deadline to apply for CSP renewals is April 28th.

CRP

- Deadline to submit a general signup offer is April 7th.
- Offers will be ranked and approved by ranking score.

Upcoming

- Annual NFSAM status reviews for HEL/Wetlands.
- Contracting for EQIP and CSP programs.
- Cutoff to apply for EQIP and CSP is usually in the fall but take applications year-round.
- IRA CSP/EQIP application deadline March 31st.
- Wrap up irrigation designs and checkouts for NRD and EQIP cost shared irrigation systems to be used this year.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Jason Scholz

Jason Scholz
Resource Conservationist
Grand Island Field Office





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 28, 2023

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

March Report to CPNRD

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) recently held their FY2023 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. 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

Requesting Transfer of Funds:

**\$11,900 from Phragmites Control and \$10,400 from Soil Moisture Sensor
to \$2,000 Center Pivot and \$20,300 Burn Preparation**

**CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Cost Share
Thursday, March 30, 2023**

CENTER PIVOT INCENTIVE COST SHARE PROGRAM.....	\$	7,500.00
Clint Hostler – Hall	\$	7,500.00
BURN PREPARATION COST SHARE PROGRAM	\$	20,325.00
Bernard Katzberg - Hall	\$	4,500.00
Greg Johnson – Dawson		6,000.00
Jerome Katzberg - Hall		4,500.00
Virginia Blaschke – Buffalo		3,750.00
Kermit Smith – Dawson		1,575.00
STREAMBANK STABILIZATION COST SHARE PROGRAM.....	\$	2,250.00
Rudy Glur – Platte	\$	2,250.00
SENSOR BASED MANAGEMENT OF FERTIGATION COST SHARE.....	\$	12,463.00
Gregg Kresha – Polk	\$	1,595.00
Batie Cattle Co – Dawson		1,364.00
Marvion Reichert – Buffalo		3,080.00
Rohrich Farms Inc. – Hall		3,091.00
Diamond J Farms Inc. – Hall		3,333.00
WELL DECOMMISSIONING COST SHARE PROGRAM	\$	2,750.00
Dale Gronewold – Dawson	\$	750.00
Schmitz Farms Inc. – Buffalo		500.00
Mark Schott – Polk		750.00
Douglas Luther – Dawson		750.00
Total	\$	45,288.00