

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Board Meeting Minutes
April 22, 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:

Tom Downey	Jerry Milner	Jay Richeson
Alicia Haussler	Barry Obermiller	Steve Sheen
Ryan Kegley	Keith Ostermeier	Ed Stoltenberg
Ed Kyes	Doug Reeves	Deb VanMatre
Dwayne Margritz	Mick Reynolds	Jerry Wiese
Charles Maser		

Board Members present via ZOOM:

Leroy Arends	Jim Bendfeldt	Brian Keiser
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Excused Absences: Lon Bohn, Marvion Reichert

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, Brandi Flyr – Hydrologist, Dean Krull – UNL/CPNRD Demo Project Coordinator, Tricia Dudley – Water Quality Programs Assistant, David Carr – Range Management Specialist

Others present: 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 March board meeting minutes. Dwayne Margritz seconded the motion. All board members present,

voting by roll call vote, were in favor, except Jerry Milner who abstained. 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: Chairman Reynolds reported that Lon Bohn and Marvion Reichert requested to be excused from the board meeting.

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

NRCS REPORT: Joe Krolikowski, NRCS District Conservationist, reported that the Buffalo County NRCS office is currently working with CRP, CSP-GCI, EQIP, and ECP contracts (see enclosed). Joe also reported on the current staffing and available openings in the 4 NRCS field offices -Buffalo, Dawson, Hall and Merrick (see enclosed).

STAFF PRESENTATIONS: Dan Clement, Water Resources Specialist and David Carr, Range Management Specialist presented to the board on their job duties at the Central Platte NRD.

EASTERN PROJECTS COMMITTEE: Chairman Ed Stoltenberg reviewed the request to purchase dirt from our Prairie/Silver/Moores project. After discussion the committee recommended at this time not to sell or give away any of the dirt.

Ed Stoltenberg made a motion that at this time the Central Platte NRD is not interested in selling or giving away the dirt at the ordnance plant on the Prairie/Silver/Moores Project. Barry Obermiller seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Chairman Ed Stoltenberg reviewed the Flood Alert and Monitoring Project Agreement with JEO in the amount of \$55,000.00. This agreement would include the equipment, updates, and online viewer to use district wide for flood Control.

Ed Stoltenberg made a motion to approve the Flood Alert and Monitoring Project Agreement with JEO in the amount of \$55,000.00. 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 voted to move the FY2022 Budget to the Budget Committee, the overall budget is up \$238,000.00.

WESTERN PROJECTS COMMITTEE: Chairman Jay Richeson reported that the committee voted to move the FY2022 budget to the Budget Committee, the overall budget is down \$176,135.00.

Jay Richeson reported on the Interlocal Cooperative Agreement for Use of County Road Easement Between Central Platte NRD and Buffalo County, NE. The purpose is to allow the Central Platte NRD to occupy County road right of way for the Richard Plautz Crane Viewing Decks. We are constructing improvements comprised of public viewing walkways and a trail system, parts of which are in an existing Buffalo County Road right of way and this interlocal agreement says that both parties agree to hold each other harmless.

Jay Richeson made the motion to approve the Interlocal Cooperative Agreement for Use of County Road Easement Between Central Platte NRD and Buffalo County, NE. Keith Ostermeier seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

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

The committee reviewed the CPNRD-Ron Bishop Memorial Scholarship Applications received. The committee choose to approve 4 scholarship applications for \$1,000 each.

Doug Reeves made a motion to approve 4 scholarship applications in the amount of \$1,000.00 each for the CPNRD-Ron Bishop Memorial Scholarship. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor, expect Doug Reeves, who abstained. Motion carried.

Names of the 4 Scholarship Applications approved were: Joshua Wiese, Sydnie Reeves, Kelton Baxter and Kendrick Baxter.

Doug Reeves reported that the Grazing Deferment cost share currently has very little interest. The committee reviewed the current payment per acre of \$15. This is less than 50% of the UNL average. After some discussion, the committee recommended changing it to \$30/acre effective July 1, 2021.

Doug Reeves made the motion to change the Grazing Deferment cost share to \$30/acre effective July 1, 2021. Keith Ostermeier seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

REQUEST TO ISSUE CEASE & DESIST ORDERS TO PRODUCERS OUT OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE NITROGEN MANAGEMENT PROGRAM: Tricia Dudley, Water Quality Programs Assistant, reported that we currently have 53 producers who are out of compliance with the NRD's Nitrogen Management Program. Richard

Urban is a repeat offender and was contacted by the NRD's legal counsel.

Doug Reeves made the motion to issue cease-and-desist orders to the following producers who are out of compliance with the NRD's Nitrogen Management Program: Osantowski Brothers, Kyle Berck, Heath Bish, Ritch Blythe, Rick Collins, Doug Engel, John Fritz, William P Ground Jr., Gene Hoffman, Roger Hohlen, David Kearney, Michael Kelliher, Kristen Klein, Greg Kobza, Anthony Kreikemeier, Gary Kreikemeier, Kurt Kuhn, Steve Kula, Mark Lesiak, Tim & Tom Lesiak, Loren Lindgreen, Kirt Lukasiewicz, Dennis Martensen, Ed McNeff, Jessie & Duane Merkl, Gary Mettenbrink, Albert W Moeller, Mike Munsterman, Tom Nelson, Randy Neujahr, Chris Nicolas, Tim Peterson, Ty Peterson, Merle & Barb Riege, Alan Rieker, Barton Robinson, Gavin & Grant Robinson, Doug Russell Jr., Rob Samuelson, Duane Skrdlant, William Soll, David Stade, William & Arlo Stevens, Mike Stoppkotte, Kirk Summers, Dean Thede, Scott Theisenvitz, Chad Trausch, Richard Urban, Todd VanHousen, Wyatt Westberg, Adam Woitaszeski, Dyrek Zoucha. Jay Richeson 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 \$12,000 from Grazing Deferment to Tree Planting (\$2,300), Center Pivots (\$7,500) and Well Decommissioning (\$2,200) 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. Barry Obermiller 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 April financial reports.

Alicia Haussler made a motion to approve the April financial report as presented. Deb VanMatre 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 the NRD's have been removed from LB408. LB83e is currently on the Governor's desk to sign. This bill will allow the Central Platte NRD to hold up to 50% of our board meetings virtually per year.

Vogt reported that a draft budget has been put on drop box for everyone to view. The Budget Committee will meet in May to discuss.

The Interbasin Transfer Briefing Hearing and Motion to Dismiss was posted on drop box.

The Central Platte NRD has until May 3rd to reply to the motion to dismiss. A hearing will be held July 19 in Lincoln for the Platte Republican Diversion (PRD). Vogt reported that the Illinois Corn Board approached the NRD regarding a Precision Conservation Management Partnership (PCM). The PCM program serves farmers by providing economic analysis of on-farm conservation practices. The program aims to help farmers understand the economic values of adopting practices such as cover crops, nutrient timing, and tillage practices. PCM is looking to expand their reach into Nebraska with Frito Lay (PepsiCo) growers in the western area of the District. As a regional partner, the Central Platte NRD would help staff a conservation specialist dedicated to technical assistance, data collection, and environmental evaluation. PCM would reimburse the Central Platte NRD 100% for staffing costs, office space, etc. Contract would be for 5 years. More detailed information will be brought to the board in May.

NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICT: No report

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION: Mick Reynolds reported that they recently met, and it appears like the Unicameral will appropriate \$11 million to the commission.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Next Board Meeting – Scheduled for the afternoon of Thursday, May 27. Details to follow.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Chairman Reynolds reviewed the upcoming events.

OTHER BUSINESS: There was none.

ADJOURN: Chairman Reynolds adjourned the board meeting 3:19 p.m.



Natural Resources Conservation Service
Kearney Field Office
4009 6th Ave., Suite 4
Kearney, NE 68845
308-237-3118 Ext. 3

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

April 19, 2021

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

April Report to CPNRD

To the Central Platte NRD board, please accept this report from the Kearney Field Office for the April Board meeting.

Programs—

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)-

-Current sign up numbers in Buffalo County seem to be down, there has not been very many people in contact with the FSA program technician.

-This summer the Kearney Field Office will be conducting reviews for contracts expiring in September 2021 and 2022 to evaluate grass stands, and if needed, recommend actions to bring stands back into compliance with seeding practice.

-This summer the Kearney Field Office will be conducting status reviews for contracts in their first 3 years when the grass stands are not considered established to provide recommendation if needed. We have 7 newly developed contracts from last fall.

Conservation Stewardship Program-Grassland Conservation Initiative (CSP-GCI)-

-11 active contracts that will require a field verification that they are still in grass and then can be paid on this fall.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)-

-33 applications were ranked for Fiscal Year 2021. We are just getting into the preapproval selections of those applications that will be offered a contract.

-Following up on existing contracts to determine where they stand with implementation of practices in their contracts. Job sheet being developed and sent to those planning to install practices this fall.

-41 active EQIP contracts currently.

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)-

-Getting completed, but slowly. Not too many field checks left to finish this workload up.



Office/Staffing/Etc.-

-Intern Jaden Russell stationed in the Kearney Field Office will complete the last of his hours and additional training. He will graduate in early May, the plan after that if all requirements are met, is he will be converted to a full-time position in Nebraska.

-A Thank You. Despite Covid restrictions and because this was outdoors, a training was held for new NRCS employees this past winter. B & B Partners was kind enough to allow NRCS to use their land to train these employees on planning and treating Highly Erodible Land (HEL).

-Myself, I will be moving forward with my life. I will be taking a lateral move within NRCS to Clay Center, Kansas. My start date there will be April 25th. I have been here since 2003. The biggest change I have seen is in the adoption of No Till. When I came here there was very little No till being used in Buffalo County. We are also starting to see an increase in the number of cover crops being planted, so maybe this practice will take off like the No Till has.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Mike Pavel

Mike Pavel
Resource Conservationist
Kearney Field Office
April 22, 2021



April 19, 2021

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

April Report to CPNRD

I would like to take this time to update you all again on where things stand as of today in our 4 Natural Resources Conservation Service Field Offices regarding staffing. It was approximately 6 months ago when I provided my last update on this topic, but in that time, we have had more changes. Staffing continues to fluctuate in our local NRCS offices, and across the NRCS offices in Nebraska, and I feel it is important as partners for the NRD Board and Staff to stay updated with these changes.

This way as a NRD Board member if you are asked questions while back in your home counties about this topic, you are up to date and can discuss it with your constituents. I feel this is important for Lyndon and the NRD staff also, again as partners who communicate regularly and work on projects jointly, staying current with the staffing changes is essential to provide good service to each other and our customers.

Current staffing in our 4 NRCS offices located across the Central Platte NRD.

Grand Island Field Office

- **Joe Krolkowski** – District Conservationist,
- **Vacant** – Resource Conservationist,
- **Jacoba Nowak** – Soil Conservationist,
- **Jackie Luebbe** – District Secretary,
- **Angie Lau** – Program Assistant for our 4 offices and Central Area,
- **Marcy Johnson** – Data Entry All Solutions Employee,

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Central City Field Office

- **Jacob Kendrick** – Resource Conservationist,
- **Vacant** – Soil Conservationist,
- **Sara Umstead** – District Secretary,

Kearney Field Office

- **Vacant** – Resource Conservationist,
- **Jason Scholz** – Soil Conservationist,
- **Dalton Bender** – Soil Conservation Technician,
- **Shelly Lippincott** – District Secretary,

Lexington Field Office

- **Janelle Taubenheim** – Resource Conservationist,
- **Carrie Feusner**– Soil Conservationist,
- **Kevin Gill** – Soil Conservation Technician,
- **Samantha Keith** – District Secretary,

Thanks again for your continued support to our partnership, and we look forward to maintaining this relationship into the future.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Joe Krolikowski

Joe Krolikowski
District Conservationist

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Cost Share
Thursday, April 22, 2021

CENTER PIVOT INCENTIVE COST SHARE PROGRAM.....		\$	7,500.00
Bradley Jones – Hall	\$	7,500.00	
FLOW METER COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$	800.00
Bradley Jones – Hall	\$	800.00	
TREE PLANTING COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$	2,336.60
CNH Industrial – Hall	\$	2,336.60	
WELL DECOMMISSIONING COST SHARE PROGRAM.....		\$	2,250.00
Greg Senkbile Family Farms LLC – Merrick	\$	750.00	
Hillside Farms – Dawson – 2 wells		1,500.00	
Total		\$	12,886.60