

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Board Meeting Minutes
April 25, 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	Dwayne Margritz	Jay Richeson
Lon Bohn	Charles Maser	Ed Stoltenberg
Ryan Kegley	Jerry Milner	Deb VanMatre
Ed Kyes	Mick Reynolds	Kevin Werner

Excused Absences: Tom Downey, Brian Keiser, Barry Obermiller, Keith Ostermeier, Doug Reeves, Marvion Reichert, Steve Sheen, Jerry Wiese and Mike Wilkens.

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, Courtney Widup – Water Resources Technician, Brandi Flyr – Hydrologist, Nelson Winkel – Prescribed Fire Planning Specialist, Dean Krull – UNL/CPNRD Demo Project Coordinator, Jesse Mintken – Assistant Manger and Angie Warner – GIS Programs Coordinator.

Others present: Joe Krolikowski – NRCS District Conservationist, Janelle Taubenheim – Buffalo County NRCS Resources Conservationist, Shelly Gillan – Central City High School Biology Teacher, and Paul Johnson and Dakota Sage – Central City High School Students.

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: Deb VanMatre made the motion to approve the March board meeting minutes. Ryan Kegley 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 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 Tom Downey, Brian Keiser, Barry Obermiller, Keith Ostermeier, Doug Reeves, Marvion Reichert, Steve Sheen, Jerry Wiese and Mike Wilkens requested to be excused from the board meeting.

Charles Maser made the motion to approve the absences as requested. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

STUDENT RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS: Paul Johnson, Central City High School student, gave a presentation on his research to Determine the Correlation between Nitrates & Uranium in Central Nebraska Rural Wells.

Dakota Sage, Central City High School student, gave a presentation on her research of the Effects of Clothianidin on the Immobility and Mortality of Daphnia Magna.

NRCS REPORT: Janelle Taubenheim, Buffalo County NRCS Resources Conservationist, reviewed what contracts the Buffalo County office is currently working on (see attached).

Joe Krolkowski, NRCS District Conservationist, reviewed conservation compliance and the NRCS conservation practices available for control of ephemeral gully erosion (see attached).

VARIANCE/APPEALS COMMITTEE: Jay Richeson, chairman, reported that the committee met earlier today for a variance request from Ron Bauer of Amherst, NE. The request was to allow the approval of a transfer of certified irrigated acres from CPNRD to LLNRD. The property in question is located in Groundwater Management Area #9 and in the Loup influence area of CPNRD.

Jay Richeson made a motion to approve the variance request for Ron Bauer of Amherst, NE to allow a transfer of certified irrigated acres from CPNRD to LLNRD located in GWMGT Area #9. Ryan Kegley seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

EASTERN PROJECTS COMMITTEE: Jerry Milner, chairman, reported that the committee met earlier today and reviewed the FY 2024-2025 budget. The committee recommends moving the budget to the budget committee.

WESTERN PROJECTS COMMITTEE: Lon Bohn, chairman, reported that the committee met earlier today and reviewed the FY 2024-2025 budget. The committee recommends moving the budget to the budget committee.

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

Kegley reported that Visit Kearney is requesting funding through the Urban Conservation Assistance Cost Share Program in the amount of \$25,000 that will support the creation of a Wildlife Exhibit in the new Kearney Welcome Center. This exhibit is aimed at educating visitors about Central Nebraska and Kearney's natural environment and wildlife. The exhibit structure will mirror a Rowe Sanctuary crane viewing blind and focus on various aspects of wildlife.

Ryan Kegley made a motion to approve the Urban Conservation Assistance Cost Share application for Visit Kearney in the amount of \$25,000 for a Wildlife Exhibit at the new Kearney Welcome Center. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Kegley reported that the committee discussed increasing the Cover Crop Cost Share Program. The program currently pays 50% up to \$500 for seed. The committee is proposing to change the Cover Crop cost share to 50% up to \$2,000 for seed.

Ryan Kegley made a motion to change the Cover Crop Cost Share program from 50% up to \$500 to 50% up to \$2,000 for seed with an effective date of July 1, 2024. Deb VanMatre seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Kegley reported that we only received one application for our CPNRD - Ron Bishop Memorial Scholarship. The committee recommended funding the application for \$1,000. The student receiving the scholarship is Madelyn Graham from Grand Island. She is a returning applicant.

Ryan Kegley made a motion to approve the \$1,000 CPNRD - Ron Bishop Memorial Scholarship to Madelyn Graham of Grant Island. Lon Bohn seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Kegley reported that since only receiving one scholarship application, the committee discussed making a few changes to the scholarship. Currently the scholarship is only available to a college Junior and above and the deadline to turn in the application is April 15th. The committee decided to allow college Sophomores and above and to extend the application deadline to June 15th.

Ryan Kegley made a motion to change the CPNRD - Ron Bishop Memorial Scholarship to allow college Sophomores and above to apply and change the application deadline from April 15th to June 15th. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

VIOLATION REPORT: Luke Zakrzewski, GIS Image Analyst, reported that on February 5, 2024, he mailed out 50 violations letters. All 50 have been in contact, 39 are completely resolved and 11 are currently working to resolve. 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 that on Dropbox is some information from our Attorney, Don Blankenau, concerning a recent conflict of interest violation and fine.

Several Status have been passed that will affect CPNRD. NARD is working with Don Blankenau to put together the information.

Vogt reported that the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources will be holding a public hearing on the Platte Republican Diversion May 23, 2024. CPNRD will work with our legal counsel on appropriate testimony. The hearing notice with all the details is on Dropbox.

Vogt reported that as a result of the 2023 Robust review indicating that the CPNRD has offset our post 1997 depletions in the over appropriated area, we will be providing a letter to DNR indicating the joint determination that updates to the second increment IMP are necessary. A draft letter is on Dropbox.

COST SHARE PROGRAMS: Transfer & Applications - Kelly Cole, Administrative Assistant, requested a transfer of \$2,000 from Phragmites Control and increasing Well Decommissioning by \$400 and Flow Meter by \$1,600 and reported that we have received cost share applications for the following programs: Grazing Deferment, Sensor Based Mgmt. of Fertigation, 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.

Jay Richeson made the motion to approve the cost share transfer and applications as reported. Deb VanMatre seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

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

Charles Maser made a motion to approve the April financial report as presented. Ryan Kegley seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICT: Deb VanMatre, NARD Board Member, reported that their next meeting is June 10th. VanMatre also reminded the board that the Republican River Basin Tour is June 10-11. See Kelly if you're interested in attending.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION: Mick Reynolds, Middle Platte Basin Representative, reported that the governor has appointed the following individuals to the Commission: Larry Mohrman for Groundwater Irrigators and John Shadle for Public

Power. Tom Knutson representing Surface Water Irrigators has resigned.

Reynolds reported that 12 applications were received for review. Four large projects totaling \$12 million and seven small projects totaling \$816,000. One application was submitted for a combined sewer overflow separation project. One project that was approved and partially funded last year with an unobligated balance of just over \$1 million will be funded prior to funding any new projects this year.

Their next meeting will be August 14, 2024.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Chairman Reynolds reviewed the upcoming events.

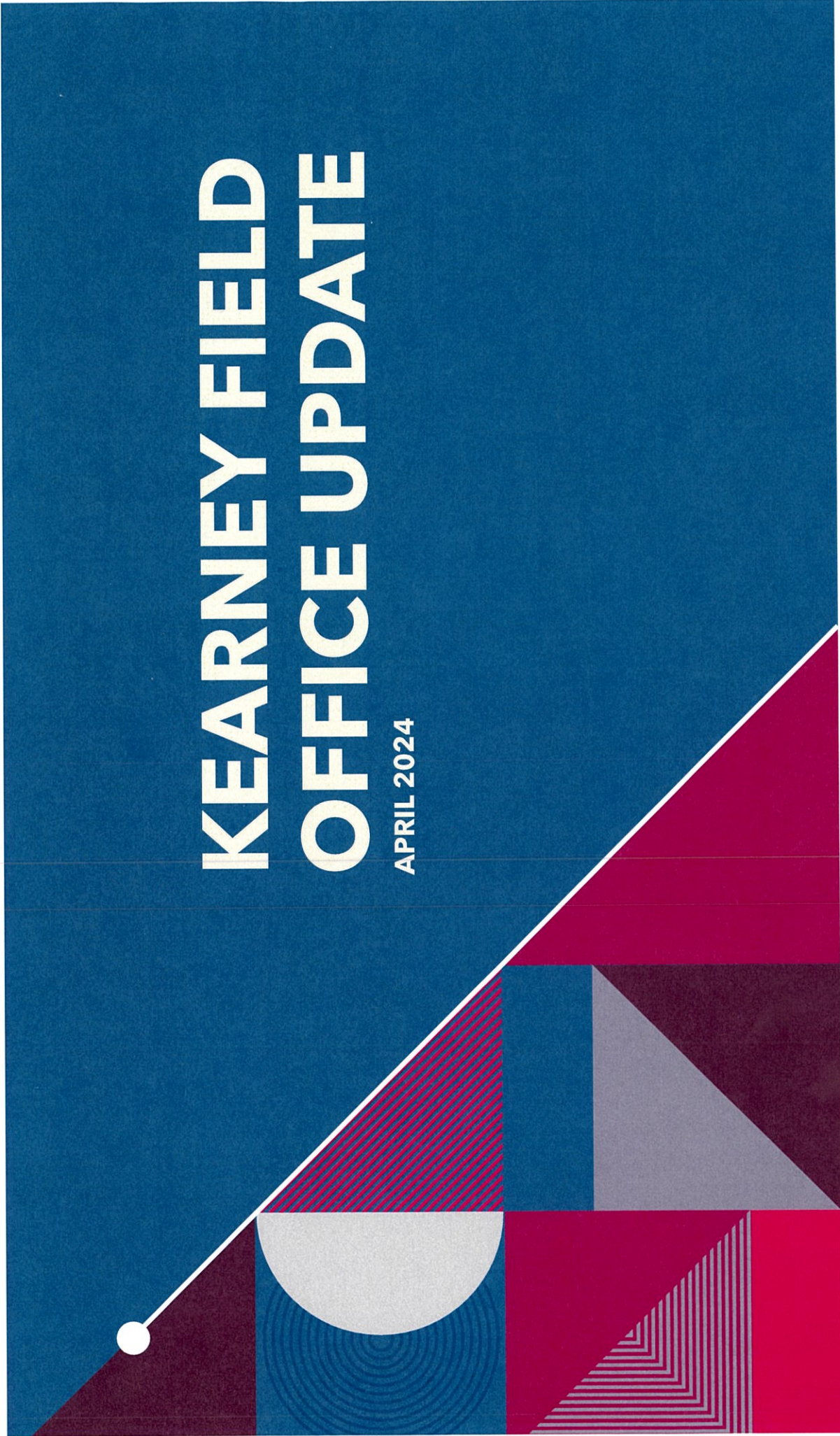
Next Board Meeting – Scheduled for the afternoon of Thursday, May 23. Details to follow.

OTHER BUSINESS: There was none.

ADJOURN: Chairman Reynolds adjourned the board meeting at 3:03 p.m.

KEARNEY FIELD OFFICE UPDATE

APRIL 2024



EQIP UPDATE - KEARNEY

Newly Obligated through IRA Act Now

- 1 - Cover Crop (Sherman Co)
- 3 - SDI Systems (1 Dawson, 2 Buffalo Co)
- 2 - ERC Removal (Brush Mgt) (Custer Co, Sherman Co)
- 1 - Grazing System (Buffalo Co)

Assessed & Ranked - Awaiting Funding

- 9 - ERC Removal (Brush Mgt) (5 Buffalo Co, 4 Sherman Co)
- 13 - Cover Crop (12 Buffalo County - 1 Kearney Co)
- 2- Irrigated to Dryland (Buffalo County)
- 18 - Grazing (9 Buffalo Co, 8 Sherman Co, 1 Kearney Co)
- 1 - HEL Structures (Sherman Co)
- 12 - Pivot (9 Buffalo County, 3 Sherman County)
- 12 - SDI (Buffalo County)
- 1 - Urban Agriculture (Buffalo County)
- 5- IWM (1 Buffalo County, 4 Sherman)
- 1 - Nutrient Management (Buffalo County)

Active Contracts to Manage: 39 + 5 RCPP Active Contracts

CSP UPDATE - KEARNEY

Newly Obligated through IRA Act Now

1- Urban Ag CSP - Buffalo County

Assessed & to be Ranked by May 5th for potential funding

3- Sherman County

1- Buffalo County

Active Contracts to Manage: 6 + 4 CSP GCI

CRP UPDATE - KEARNEY

Continuous Sign Up - January 12 - July 31

Grassland Sign Up - April 29- May 24

CRP Status Reviews

Newly Established, MCM, and Prior to Expiration

Active Contracts to Manage: 50 Buffalo county 21 Sherman county

NSWCP/NRD PROGRAMS UPDATE - KEARNEY

CPNRD

- 8 Windbreaks (Already have 5 new tree plans for next year to meet with them this summer to complete a tree plan.)
- 5 ERC Removal (1 Recently Complete)
- 1 Grazing System
- 1 Pivot
- 1 Windbreak Renovation

LLNRD

- 1 Windbreak
- 1 Flow Meter
- 1 Grazing System
- 1 Underground Pipeline to Center Pivot
- 1 Range Planting
- 1 Windbreak Renovation

FSA COMPLIANCE REVIEWS 2024

Kearney FO Workload

Sherman County - 5 Reviews

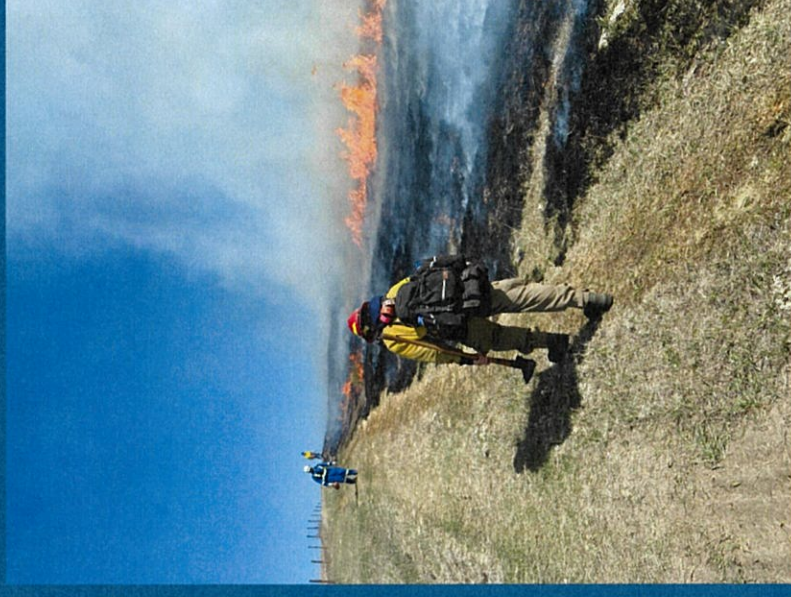
Buffalo County - 18 Reviews

No Change in Policy this Year. Will review residue, wetlands,
and ephemerals for Farm Program Eligibility.

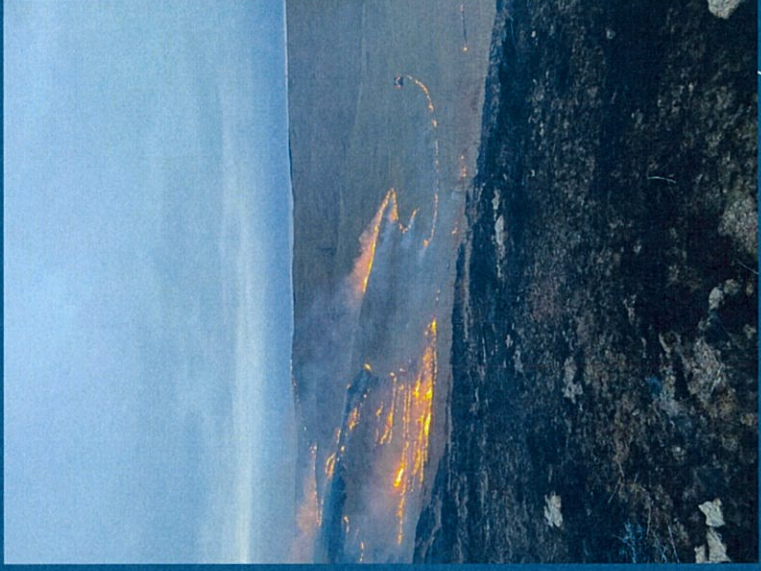
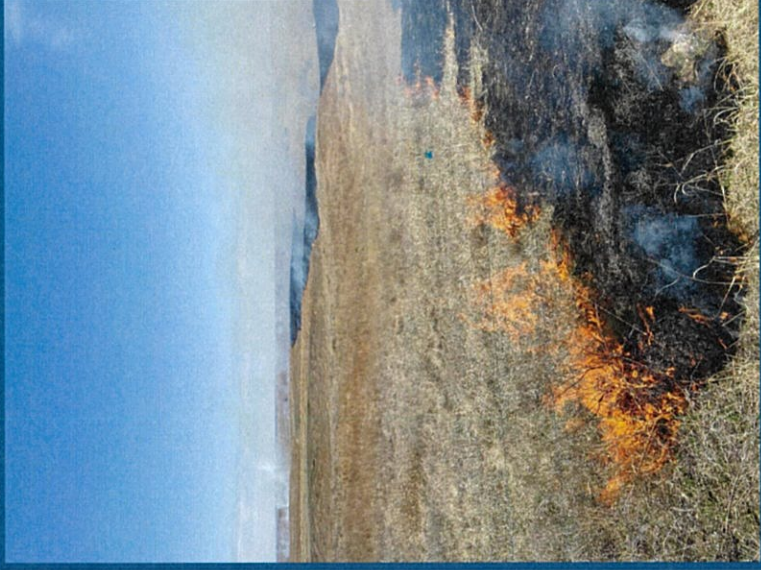
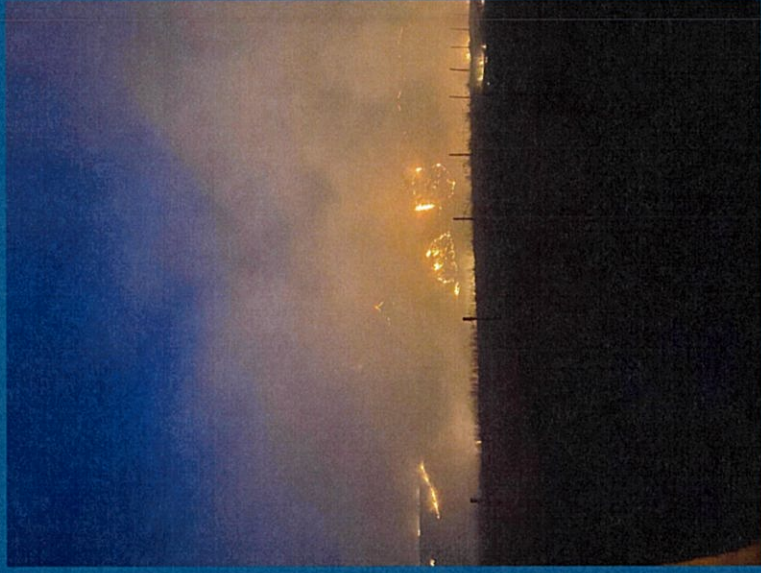
PRESCRIBED FIRE TRAINING EXCHANGE - TREX

Ethan Gibben's - Soil Conservationist attended a weeklong
Training Experience.

Courses & Pack Test Prior to Attending
Hands on Fire Experience



PRESCRIBED FIRE TRAINING EXCHANGE - TREX

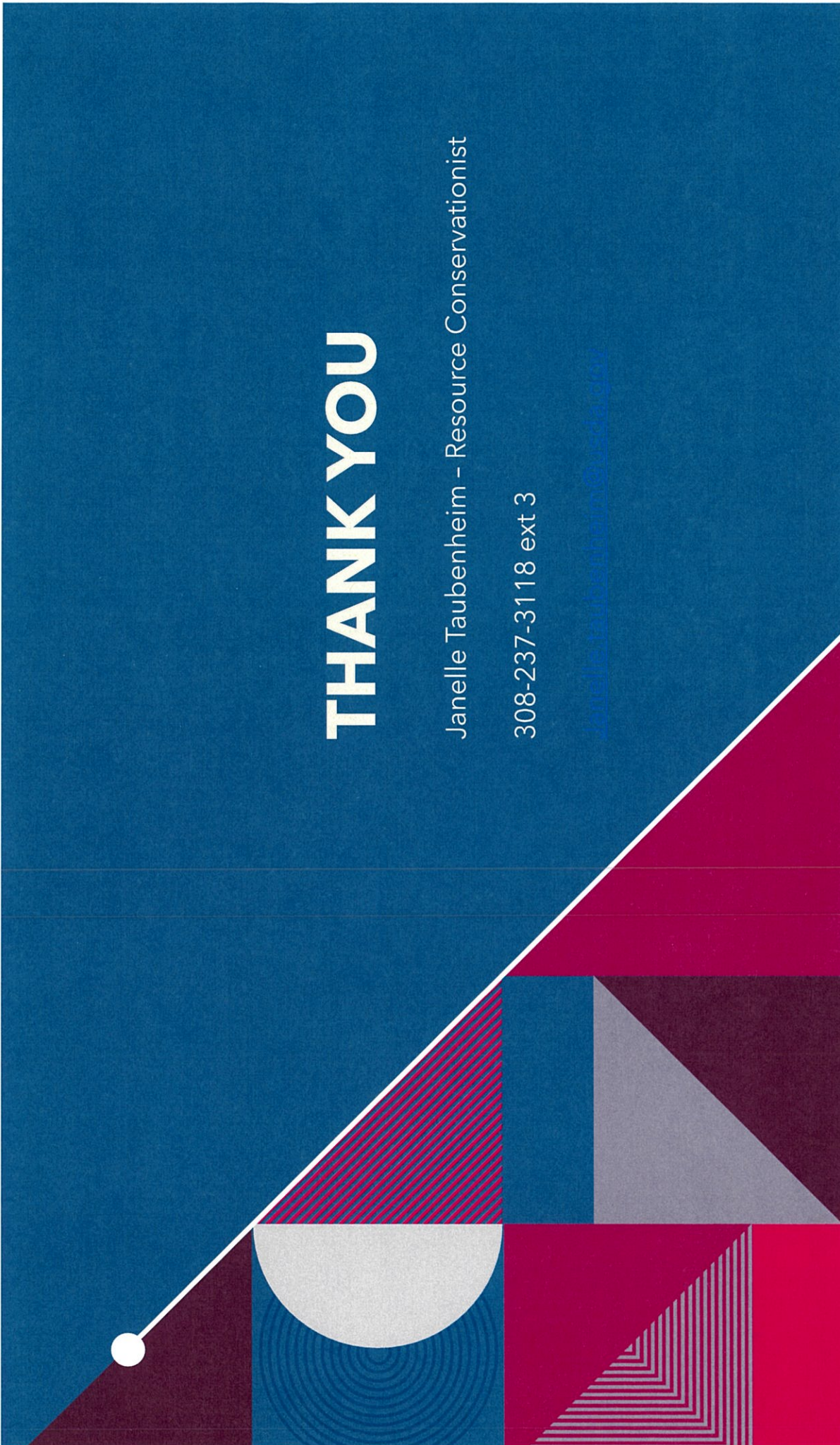


THANK YOU

Janelle Taubenheim - Resource Conservationist

308-237-3118 ext 3

Janelle.Taubenheim@usda.gov





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

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

April 23, 2024

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

April Report to CPNRD

Please find attached a factsheet on Conservation Compliance and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conservation practices available for control of ephemeral gully (concentrated flow) erosion. These conservation practices are used in the planning process, and the application of the producer's conservation plan on highly erodible land (HEL). These practices will be used to help treat this type of erosion, when required for conservation compliance and to remain eligible for USDA program benefits.

The conservation practices are based upon the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide and the appropriate practice standard. They are selected with various cropping systems and crop residue management methods that are common to the areas in the CPNRD that are most susceptible to sheet and rill and ephemeral gully erosion.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Joe Krolikowski

Joe Krolikowski
District Conservationist

Attachments: Fix it Don't Disc it Factsheet



Fix it, Don't Disc it

Stop Ephemeral Gully Erosion with Conservation Systems



Got a Gully?

Runoff water flowing from uneven landscapes tends to concentrate in natural, depressional channels. These channels, called ephemeral gullies, can be reshaped and farmed across, but continued, concentrated flow takes away the soil. Ephemeral gullies sometimes are described as silent erosion because they can be easily smoothed over, hidden and planted to crops. Discing an ephemeral gully leaves nutrient-rich topsoil vulnerable to erosion. Fixing ephemeral gullies through conservation practices protects productivity and water quality and allows farmers with highly erodible land to continue receiving USDA farm program benefits.



Ephemeral Gully

Fix it, Don't Disc It.

Below are examples of just a few of the natural resources conservation practices and management options available to help farmers voluntarily fix ephemeral gullies in their fields. Additional practices to consider include: conservation crop rotation, contour buffer strips, contour farming, stripcropping, critical area planting, and water and sediment control basin. Contact your local NRCS office for help deciding which options are best for you and your farm, and to learn about financial assistance options.



No Till



Cover Crops



Grassed Waterway



Terraces

Conservation Compliance

The 1985 Farm Bill required Conservation Compliance for all USDA program participants if they farm highly erodible land (HEL). **ANY** tillage not accounted for in your conservation plan may put you out of compliance.

Should you be concerned?

If you have highly erodible land, and you have small gullies forming in your fields you should check with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Discing or smoothing the gullies will not fix the problem. And you risk losing your USDA farm program benefits.

When in doubt, visit your local NRCS office before performing any tillage that is not part of your conservation plan on HEL land.



More Information

For more information visit your local USDA Service Center or the NRCS Nebraska website at: www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov.

Find your local NRCS office

<http://offices.usda.gov>

Helping People Help the Land

Transfer \$2,000 from Phragmites Control and put \$400 to Well Decommissioning & \$1,600 to Flow Meter

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Cost Share
Thursday, April 25, 2024

GRAZING DEFERMENT COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$	9,276.00
Clويد Smith – Dawson	\$	9,276.00	
SENSOR BASED MGMT OF FERTIGATION COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$	2,310.00
King Family Farms Inc. – Merrick	\$	2,310.00	
FLOW METER COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$	1,600.00
TB & R Investments LLC – Dawson	\$	800.00	
Kenneth Boryca – Nance		800.00	
WELL DECOMMISSIONING COST SHARE PROGRAM.....		\$	2,250.00
Dean Farms LLC – Buffalo	\$	750.00	
Thomas Philbrook Farms LLC – Merrick – 2 wells	\$	1,500.00	
TOTAL		\$	15,436.00