

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD

Board Meeting Minutes

April 28, 2022

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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ATTENDANCE: Board members present were:

LeRoy Arends	Ed Kyes	Mick Reynolds
Jim Bendfeldt	Dwayne Margritz	Jay Richeson
Tom Downey	Charles Maser	Steve Sheen
Alicia Haussler	Jerry Milner	Deb VanMatre
Ryan Kegley	Barry Obermiller	Jerry Wiese

Excused Absences: Lon Bohn, Brian Keiser, Keith Ostermeier, Doug Reeves, Marvion Reichert and Ed Stoltenberg

Staff present: Lyndon Vogt – General Manager, Kelly Cole – Administrative Assistant, Marcia Lee – Information/Education Specialist, Dean Krull – UNL/CPNRD Demo Project Coordinator, Darren Cudaback – Precision Conservation Specialist, Brandi Flyr – Hydrologist, Luke Zakrzewski – GIS Image Analyst and Tricia Dudley – Water Quality Programs Specialist

Others present: Janelle Taubenheim – Kearney NRCS Resources Conservationist, Robert Pore – Grand Island Independent, and Lalit Jha and John Petersen – JEO Consulting Group.

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. Tom Downey seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor, except Jim Bendfeldt 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, Brian Keiser, Keith Ostermeier, Doug Reeves, Marvion Reichert and Ed Stoltenberg requested to be excused from the board meeting.

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

JEO CONSULTING GROUP UPDATES – LOWER WOOD RIVER & ELM/TURKEY CREEK WATERSHED DESIGN PLANS: John Peterson, JEO Project Manager, reported to the board that the Elm/Turkey Creek WFPO and Lower Wood River WFPO are 60% completed with the studies. They reviewed possible solutions to reduce flood risks for each project.

The Lower Wood River WFPO potential projects are all over \$25 million, which exceeds the limit for the WFPO and would require congressional approval. An NRCS letter to request additional funds and time to transition the Lower Wood River WFPO from an Environmental Assessment (EA) to an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was recommended. With this change, the EIS would look at the Upper Wood River Watershed as well, doubling the size of the study area.

Jim Bendfeldt made a motion to request additional funds and time from NRCS to transition the Lower Wood River WFPO from an Environmental Assessment (EA) to an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Tom Downey seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

NRCS REPORT: Janelle Taubenheim, Kearney NRCS Resources Conservationist, reported on new staff in the Kearney office and the Forest Stand Improvement Projects in Buffalo County (see attached).

EASTERN PROJECTS: LeRoy Arends, acting chairman, reported that the Eastern Projects Committee met earlier today.

Arends reported that we received a request from Summit Carbon Solutions on acquiring an easement on a piece of property we own in Merrick County to install a carbon dioxide pipeline. They are requesting 2.625 acres located in Section 15-13N-06W, which is currently a Wetland. The easement will be 50ft, 25feet in each direction from the center line. A payment of \$17,277.00 will be made to the Central Platte NRD for the easement.

LeRoy Arends made a motion to approve an easement of 2.625 acres located in Section 15-13N-06W to Summit Carbon Solutions to install a carbon dioxide pipeline. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Arends reported that Hall County has requested a change to the Platte Valley Industrial Park Drainage Agreement. Amendment #1 will allow Hall County to replace their in-kind services with funds from the American Recovery Plan Act (ARP) and all easement negotiations will go through the Central Platte NRD.

LeRoy Arends made a motion to approve Amendment #1 for the Platte Valley Industrial Park Drainage Agreement, which will allow Hall County to replace their in-kind services with funds from the American Recovery Plan Act (ARP) and all easement negotiations will go through the Central Platte NRD. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Arends reported that the Eastern Projects Committee reviewed the proposed 2023 Fiscal Budget and recommended we move it onto the Budget Committee.

PROGRAMS COMMITTEE: Deb VanMatre, chairman, reported that the Programs Committee met earlier today.

VanMatre reported that we received an Urban Conservation Application from the Lexington Patriot Park and Pond in the amount of \$40,000.00. This application was to construct a 1.4-acre groundwater fed pond with a municipal park.

Deb VanMatre made a motion to approve the Urban Conservation application for the Lexington Patriot Park and Pond in the amount of \$40,000.00. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

VanMatre indicated that the committee will review our current Urban Conservation Assistance Program and its priorities and may bring changes to the board to approve.

VanMatre reported that we received 3 scholarship applications for the Ron Bishop Memorial Scholarship. The applicants meet all the requirements.

Deb VanMatre made a motion to approve 3 Ron Bishop Memorial Scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each to Michael Steele of Ravenna, Ty Swanson of Wood River and Mitchell Miller of Kearney. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

VanMatre also reported that the committee reviewed the 2023 Cost Share Budget and the 2023 Information/Education Budget and recommended we move it to the Budget Committee.

WESTERN PROJECTS: Ryan Kegley, chairman, reported that the committee reviewed the 2023 Western Projects Budget and recommended we move it to the Budget Committee.

WATER QUALITY & WATER UTILIZATION COMMITTEES: Mick Reynolds, chairman, reported that the committee reviewed the 2023 Water Budget and recommended we move it to the Budget Committee.

SUBDISTRICT COMMITTEE REPORT: No Report.

VIOLATIONS REPORT: Luke Zakrzewski, GIS Image Analyst, reported that of the 50 violation letters that were sent out February 18, 2022, 29 have been resolved. The remaining 21 have all been in contact and have up until May 13th to get in required paperwork. Landowners Richard Urban of Polk County and Chad Robinson of Dawson County that were issued Cease & Desist orders have both been in contact and are working to resolve violation.

Tricia Dudley, Water Quality Programs Specialist, reported that of the 162 letters that were sent out last month to producers that were out of compliance with the Nitrogen Groundwater Management Plan, 53 still have not come into compliance. Dudley is requesting that we issue Cease & Desist orders to those 53 producers.

Alicia Haussler made a motion to issue Cease & Desist orders to the following 53 individuals that are out of the compliance with the Nitrogen Groundwater Management Plan: Mark Allan, Joel Anderson, David Beck, Andrew Blessin, Ritch Blythe, Brad Bockmann, Craig Bombeck, Adam Clausen, Rick Collins, Raymond Czuba, Barney Danklesen, Brad Earnest, Travis Fagan, Matt Gangwish, Randy Grossnicklaus, William P Ground Jr, Cody Harms, Wade Hartman, Brandon Hegge, David Hostler, Zach Husmann, Matthew Jones, Greg Keller, Michael Kelliher, Aaron Kimle, Greg Kobza, Alvin Kowalski, Steve Kula, Rick Lammers, Mark Lesiak, Shawn Merryman, Bill Micek, Jeremy Miller, Morgan Miller, Matt Neujahr, Jeff Perry, Schuyler Racek, Travis Rainforth, Heath Reimers, Merle & Barb Riege, Doug Russell Jr., William Soll, David Stade, Rick Stelk, Mike Stoppkotte, Jerron Suck, Kirk Summers, Jonathan Swertzic, Trace Tool, Chad Trausch, Richard Urban, Mike Wilkens, and Dyrek Zoucha. Jim Bendfeldt seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Lyndon Vogt, General Manager, reported that we've hired Nelson Winkel for the Prescribed Fire Planning Specialist. He will begin employment with Central Platte NRD on July 1, 2022.

Vogt also reported that we have an intern this summer, Ty Swanson, that is helping with field work and will return to college this fall to continue his degree in Agriculture.

COST SHARE PROGRAMS: Applications –Kelly Cole, Administrative Assistant, reported that we have received cost share applications for the following programs: Soil Moisture Sensor and Well Decommissioning (see attached). She said the applicants are in compliance with the district's rules and regulations, funds are available, and she

recommended they be approved.

Tom Downey made the motion to approve the cost share applications as reported. Jay Richeson 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.

Alicia Haussler made a motion to approve the April financial report as presented. Jim Bendfeldt seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICT: Jim Bendfeldt, NARD Board Member, reported that the Legislative Session has ended. There were 146 bills passed this session.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION: No report.

JUNE BOARD MEETING: Lyndon Vogt, General Manager, requested that the June board meeting that is scheduled for June 23rd be moved to June 30th due to the GMDA conference.

Jim Bendfeldt made the motion to move the June board meeting from June 23, 2022, to June 30, 2022. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Chairman Reynolds reviewed the upcoming events.
Next Board Meeting – Scheduled for the afternoon of Thursday, May 23. Details to follow.

OTHER BUSINESS: None

ADJOURN: Chairman Reynolds adjourned the board meeting at 2:52 p.m.

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Cost Share
Thursday, April 28, 2022

SOIL MOISTURE SENSOR COST SHARE PROGRAM	\$	2,000.00
Seth Houdersheldt – Polk	\$	2,000.00
WELL DECOMMISSIONING COST SHARE PROGRAM	\$	750.00
Donald Miller – Merrick	\$	750.00
Total	\$	2,750.00



Kearney Field Office Update

Janelle Taubenheim

New Employee's



Ethan Gibbens

Soil Conservationist

Started September 27th

Grew up in Rural Sargent NE

Graduated: UNL 2018 - Agribusiness with
a Minor in Agronomy

Enjoys gardening, being with family, and
cooking



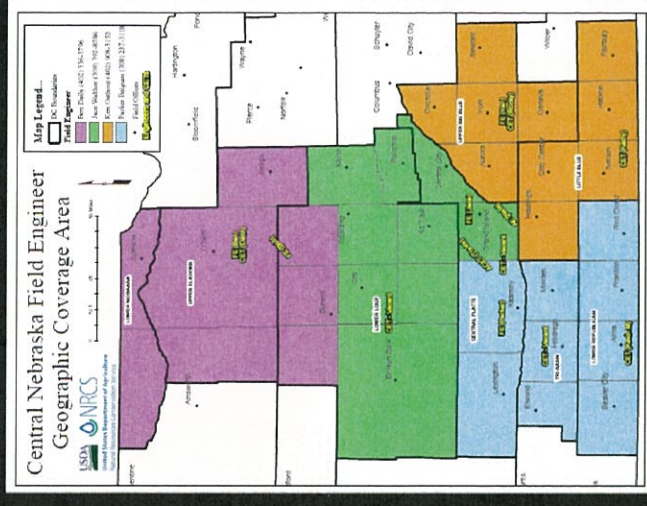
Parker Belgium

Field Engineer

Graduated from UNL 2021 - Agricultural
Engineering

Intern with NRCS since 2019 - Full time
after graduation in December.

From O'Neill NE



Michaela Buchli

New Student Intern - Starting May 23rd

UNK Student

1st Year in Pathways Program

Forest Stand Improvement Projects

- ◆ Buckthorn
 - ◆ Common buckthorn is found in oak forests, savannas, prairies and riparian woods
 - ◆ It completely eliminates plant diversity in the understory over time.
 - ◆ Common buckthorn has a broad environmental tolerance. It leaf's out very early and retains its leaves late into the growing season, giving them a longer growing season than native plants.
 - ◆ The dense shade, eliminates regeneration of tree seedlings and understory species.
 - ◆ Allelopathic; produces chemical compounds that inhibit the growth of other vegetation.
 - ◆ It thrives on well-drained soils.
 - ◆ Seeds have a laxative effect on birds, aiding in seed dispersal.
 - ◆ Common buckthorn is the overwinter host for the soybean aphid
 - ◆ In some states it is on the restricted noxious weed list

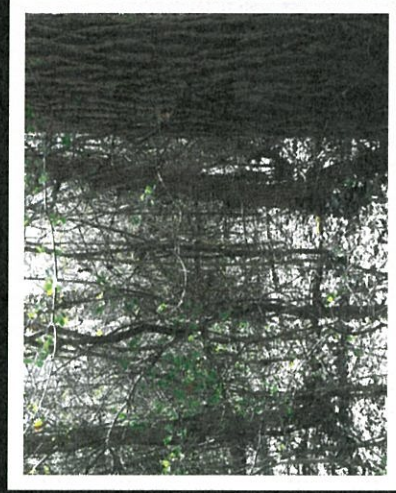


Common Names

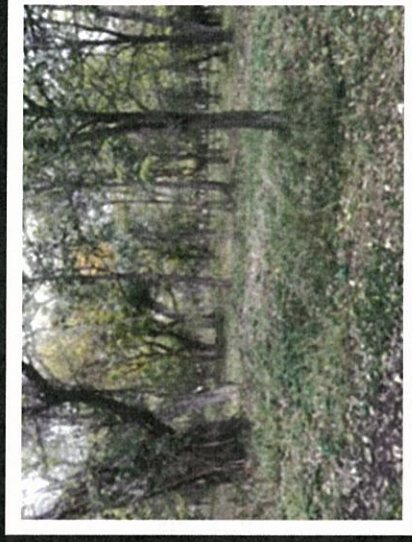
Common buckthorn, European buckthorn, Hart's thorn, European waythorn

Photo credit: ISU Extension and Outreach
[Buckthorn Invasive Species Profile](#) | [Natural Resource Stewardship \(iastate.edu\)](#)

Buffalo County Projects



Before Treatment



After Treatment





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>

April 25, 2022

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

April 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 Resource 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 ranking pools available to producers in the Central Platte, the recommendation was to continue with all the current pools we have available.
- Demand for financial assistance has remained high relative to availability of funds, so the recommendation was to review payment rates, 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.

In conclusion, the Local Work Group has reviewed and discussed the local priorities within our Natural Resources District, 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. Examples would be the changes to the RCPP agreements, software issues we are still dealing with regarding the new planning and ranking tool that was released in 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Joe Krolikowski

Joe Krolikowski
District Conservationist

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