

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD

Board Meeting Minutes

May 25, 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	Dwayne Margritz	Mick Reynolds
Tom Downey	Charles Maser	Jay Richeson
Alicia Haussler	Jerry Milner	Steve Sheen
Ryan Kegley	Barry Obermiller	Ed Stoltenberg
Brian Keiser	Keith Ostermeier	Deb VanMatre
Ed Kyes	Doug Reeves	Mike Wilkens

Excused Absences: Marvion Reichert and Jerry Wiese

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, Dan Clement – Water Resources Specialist, Brandi Flyr – Hydrologist, Jesse Mintken – Assistant Manager, Nelson Winkel – Prescribed Fire Planning Specialist, Bill Hiatt – Resources Conservationist and Tricia Dudley – Water Quality Specialist.

Others present: Joe Krolikowski – NRCS District Conservationist, Lalit Jha – JEO Consulting Group Vice-President and John Petersen – JEO Consulting Group Project Manager

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: Dwayne Margritz made the motion to approve the April board meeting minutes. Keith Ostermeier seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Tom Downey, Brian Keiser, Barry Obermiller, Doug Reeves, Steve Sheen 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: Chairman Reynolds reported that Marvion Reichert and Jerry Wiese requested to be excused from the board meeting.

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

SEARCH COMMITTEE: Keith Ostermeier, chairman, reported that the committee interviewed Todd Arends earlier that day to fill the vacancy in Sub-District 8.

Keith Ostermeier made a motion to appoint Todd Arends to Sub-District 8, with his term ending December 2024. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Todd Arends completed his Oath of Office.

LOWER WOOD RIVER WATERSHED: John Petersen, JEO Consulting Group Project Manager, reviewed potential alternatives with the Board including performing field work including wetland delineations, geotechnical investigations, and archaeological surveys to further analyze potential alternatives and locations. A draft plan should be completed by September 2023 and will be brought to the Board for review.

NRCS REPORT: Joe Krolikowski, NRCS District Conservationist, gave updates on EQIP, CStP and the Pathways Internship Program for the NRCS offices in Central Platte NRD (see enclosed).

VARIANCE/APPEALS COMMITTEE: Lon Bohn, chairman, reported that the committee met earlier that day.

The request was from the Chad Robison Living Trust to irrigate 7e land above the exemptible amount of his project. Central Platte NRD rules & regulations define the criteria necessary to irrigate these lands through an approved transfer. In this case the proper approval procedures were not followed.

Lon Bohn made a motion to deny the variance request from the Chad Robison Living Trust to irrigate 7e land above the exemptible amount of his project, as proper approval procedures were not followed. Barry Obermiller seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

BUDGET COMMITTEE: Mick Reynolds, chairman, reported that the budget committee met earlier today and reviewed the proposed 2023-2024 budget. An updated budget will be put on Drop Box for the board. The board will review and approve the budget in June for the budget hearing in July.

2023 GROUNDWATER LEVEL REPORT: Luke Zakrzewski, GIS Image Analyst, reported that 410 wells were read this spring. From 1982 to 2023 Central Platte NRD has an accumulated loss of -1.30ft. GWMA's that are declining will not allow transfer into them or supplemental wells (areas 9, 16 and 20).

IRRIGATION VIOLATION UPDATE: Luke Zakrzewski, GIS Image Analyst, reported that of the 56 letters sent out in February, 45 have been completed, 7 we are waiting for the paperwork and 4 are almost completed.

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN: Chairman Reynolds reported on the public hearing that was held prior to the board meeting.

Alicia Haussler made a motion to approve Central Platte NRD's Proposed Groundwater Management Plan. Deb VanMatre 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 of the 53 letters of intent to file cease and desist orders, all but 19 are now in compliance with the CPNRD Nitrogen Management Program.

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. A draft statement of work, provided by the USDA, that will provide 50% cost share for 3 years has been received. Advertising for this position should begin in the next couple of weeks.

Vogt reported that CPNRD applied for a grant through the Nebraska Well Drillers Association and was selected for a free monitoring well in a public location. This well will be located at the Outdoor Learning Area located on the Nebraska State Fairgrounds. The well will be drilled on October 3, 2023. CPNRD plans to install telemetry on the monitoring well to show real-time static water level data.

COST SHARE PROGRAMS: Transfer & Applications - Kelly Cole, Administrative Assistant, requested a transfer of \$12,150 from Grazing Deferment and increasing Center Pivots by \$1,500 and Burn Preparation by \$10,650 and reported that we have received cost share applications for the following programs: Burn Preparation, Center Pivot, 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.

Tom Downey made the motion to approve the cost share transfer and 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 May financial report.

Alicia Haussler made a motion to approve the May 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: No Report

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION: No Report

UPCOMING EVENTS: Chairman Reynolds reviewed the upcoming events.
Next Board Meeting – Scheduled for the afternoon of Thursday, June 29. Details to follow.

OTHER BUSINESS: There was none.

ADJOURN: Chairman Reynolds adjourned the board meeting at 3:05 p.m.

United States Department Of Agriculture



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

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

May 23, 2023

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

May Report to CPNRD

Summary of activities and or current happenings at the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

- The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) staff in the Central Platte NRD (CPNRD) are nearing completion of the contract development and obligation process for the FY 2023 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funds. In our local EQIP CPNRD fund pools approximately 110 applications were received by the November 18, 2022, deadline and met eligibility criteria for ranking. The NRCS has extended contract offers in accordance with available program funding and associated application ranking scores until all the funds are allocated. We have made a request for additional second round EQIP funds, but we did not receive any additional funds this year for our local ranking pools. If by chance some additional funds become available will begin contacting applicants to extend contract offers and then develop those contracts as well.
- Conservation Stewardship Program, (CStP), FY2023 classic applications received by the November 18, 2022, cutoff, have been through the ranking process. The applications that have been preapproved for funding, will be field verified by NRCS staff and we will be working with the producers to gather any additional information needed. Once this review process is complete, the contracts will be developed. The obligation deadline for all FY2023 CStP classic applications is July 14, 2023. The competition for these funds continues to be extremely high. We had approximately 681 applications across the state, we were only able to preapprove approximately 125 of those applications, total dollars obligated for those 125 contracts will be around \$12,000,000.
- Pathways Internship Program update, for the summer of 2023 we are planning for approximately 14 interns across the State. Two or three of those interns will be placed in the Central Area. There will not be any students in our 4 offices this summer.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Joe Krolkowski

Joe Krolkowski
District Conservationist

Helping People Help the Land

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer



Requesting Transfer of Funds:

\$12,150 from Grazing Deferment and putting \$10,650 into Burn Preparation and \$1,500 into Center Pivots.

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD

Cost Share

Thursday, May 25, 2023

BURN PREPARATION COST SHARE PROGRAM	\$	10,675.00
Ray Hebda Sr. – Merrick	\$	675.00
Plum Creek Pork – Custer		10,000.00
CENTER PIVOT INCENTIVE COST SHARE PROGRAM	\$	6,952.85
Kevin Hoagland – Merrick	\$	6,952.85
FLOW METER COST SHARE PROGRAM	\$	800.00
Andrew Bergman - Buffalo	\$	800.00
WELL DECOMMISSIONING COST SHARE PROGRAM	\$	750.00
Big Red Farms, Inc. - Merrick	\$	750.00
Total	\$	19,177.85