

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD

Board Meeting Minutes

June 26, 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:

Todd Arends	Dwayne Margritz	Jay Richeson
Lon Bohn	Charles Maser	Steve Sheen
Tom Downey	Barry Obermiller	Ed Stoltenberg
Alicia Haussler	Keith Ostermeier	Deb VanMatre
Ryan Kegley	Doug Reeves	Jerry Wiese
Brian Keiser	Marvion Reichert	Mike Wilkens
Ed Kyes	Mick Reynolds	

Excused Absences: Jerry Milner

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, Brandi Flyr – Hydrologist, and Angie Warner – GIS Programs Coordinator

Others present: Joe Krolikowski – NRCS District Conservationist and Jacob Kendrick, NRCS Resources Conservationist – Central City

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 May board meeting minutes. Deb VanMatre seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Jerry Wiese 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 Jerry Milner requested to be

excused from the board meeting.

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

NRCS REPORT: Jacob Kendrick, NRCS Resources Conservationist – Central City reported on the EQIP projects in Merrick County and on the High Tunnel being funded in Merrick County (see enclosed).

Joe Krolikowski, NRCS District Conservationist, gave updates on the national Food Security Act (see enclosed).

BUDGET COMMITTEE: Chairman Reynolds said the Budget Committee met earlier that day to continue their review of the recommended expenditures for Fiscal Year 2023/2024.

Action on Budget of Expenditures for Budget Hearing & Set Public Hearing – Marvion Reichert made the motion to approve the proposed budget of expenditures for the purpose of holding the public budget hearing. Doug Reeves seconded the motion.

All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Set Public Budget Hearing – Marvion Reichert made the motion to set the Public Budget Hearing at 1:45 pm on July 27th. Deb VanMatre seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

WATER UTILIZATION COMMITTEE: Tom Downey, chairman, said the committee met earlier that day and discussed two projects that the Central Platte NRD could potentially develop agreements for.

A new fertilizer manufacturing plant will be built in Gothenburg, Nebraska that will use electricity and water to produce nitrogen fertilizer. CPNRD is negotiating with JWC Gburg LLC on selling up to 2,000 acre-feet of water that the plant will need for production.

Central Platte NRD is also in discussions with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources on developing a well field at B-1 to pump water back to the Platte River.

The committee will report back to the board when more information is available.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Lyndon Vogt, General Manager, reported of the 53 letters of intent to file cease and desist orders, all but 4 are now in compliance with the CPNRD Nitrogen Management Program.

Vogt reported the NARD Basin Tour that CPNRD hosted had 65 people attend, 5 of which were CPNRD board members. The tour went well.

Vogt reported that several articles have been circulated concerning the Supreme Court Decision on Wetlands. The new ruling says a surface water connection must be present to navigable water for a wetland to be regulated. For years the "Significant nexus" to navigable waters rule has been used.

TREE & WEED BARRIER REPORT: Kelly Cole, Administrative Assistant, reported on the recent sales of trees and weed barrier (see attached).

COST SHARE PROGRAMS: Transfer & Applications - Kelly Cole, Administrative Assistant, requested a transfer of \$3,500 from Grazing Deferment and increasing Center Pivots by \$2,000 and Burn Preparation by \$1,500 and reported that we have received cost share applications for the following programs: Burn Preparation 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. Motion carried.

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

Marvion Reichert made a motion to approve the June 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: Deb VanMatre, NARD Board Member, reported that they have approved the NARD 2023/2024 Budget and the Association's Risk Management Pool will remain at the same rate for employees this year.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION: Mick Reynolds, Middle Platte Basin Representative, reported that their next meeting will be July 19th in Kearney. At this meeting the commission will review the 14 small projects and 4 large projects for approval.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: A motion was made by Marvion Reichert to go into executive session to discuss personnel issues. Keith Ostermeier seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

The Board of Directors went into Executive Session at 2:35 p.m.

The Board of Directors came out of executive session at 2:45 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Chairman Reynolds reviewed the upcoming events.

Next Board Meeting – Scheduled for the afternoon of Thursday, July 27. Details to follow.

OTHER BUSINESS: There was none.

ADJOURN: Chairman Reynolds adjourned the board meeting at 2:55 p.m.



Natural Resources Conservation Service
Central City Field Office
1708 31st St Suite 2
Central City, NE 68826
308-946-3035 Ext. 3

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

June 20th, 2023

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

June Report to CPNRD

Central City Field Office Updates for 2023

EQIP Approved Applications

Merrick County has seen an increase in approved applications targeting Pivot Conversions, Cover Crops, Wildlife and Livestock development. With the increased workload we've had to reach out to the other offices in the CPNRD, the team were glad to help out and share the workload.

11 Center Pivot Conversions totaling \$744,270
7 Cover Crop applications totaling \$297,310
7 Wildlife Applications totaling \$282,385
3 Livestock System Developments totaling \$52,797

Other News

Our office has been working with Dean Krull to help develop a Cover Crop mix for a local producer who's growing heirloom corn in a high tunnel. Dean and I will try and work with Marcia to if it would be a good story for the newsletter.

SRM (Society for Range Management) Nebraska State Section Meeting

Oct 19th & 20th at the Merrick County 4-H Building, Central City, NE.
Official posting will be announced by the end of the month.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J-K', written over a light blue grid background.

Jacob Kendrick
Resource Conservationist
USDA-NRCS





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>

June 23, 2023

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

June Report to CPNRD

During the month of May, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), as part of its responsibility in carrying out the conservation provisions of the National Food Security Act of 1985, as amended, conducted the annual status reviews in the Central Platte NRD and across the state for the 2023 crop year. In total, staff in our 4 offices completed 53 status reviews this year, the review required the staff to evaluate each of those 53 tracts for potential wetland and/or highly erodible land issues, and in some cases, tracts contained both.

It has been 38 years now, that the National Food Security Act of 1985 was passed into law. As a reminder, the purpose of this Act is intended to discourage the conversion of wetlands and to reduce soil erosion on Highly Erodible Land (HEL). This was done by linking the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) benefits to conservation compliance. This means if an owner/producer were deemed out of compliance, they would not be eligible to receive any USDA benefits, on any fields they own or operate.

Examples of the USDA benefits producers could receive, or lose, are the direct payments made by the Farm Service Agency (FSA), Farm Bill conservation program participation and possible payments for conservation practices through NRCS, and nowadays probably the biggest benefit is Federal Crop Insurance subsidies through the Risk Management Agency (RMA). Every spring, random names and tracts are drawn out of the FSA database in Kansas City that contain highly erodible land and or wetlands, and those are to be reviewed for conservation compliance described above. The NRCS staff across the United States are tasked with completing these field reviews each year for the Farm Service Agency, and then if need, we work with producers to develop or update their conservation plans to maintain compliance and USDA benefits.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Joe Krolkowski

Joe Krolkowski
District Conservationist

Helping People Help the Land

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer



TREES**MILES OF WEED BARRIER**

1973	106,355	
1974	93,660	
1975	79,690	
1976	66,250	
1977	86,548	
1978	104,675	
1979	122,925	
1980	148,700	
1981	170,075	
1982	135,150	
1983	111,050	
1984	85,200	
1985	89,300	
1986	65,850	
1987	73,150	
1988	91,550	
1989	83,700	
1990	125,000	
1991	104,900	19.89
1992	117,100	24.66
1993	94,250	25.36
1994	101,100	23.54
1995	78,300	20.63
1996	102,000	8.97
1997	72,450	14.64
1998	75,300	16.98
1999	58,825	17.30
2000	60,050	23.53
2001	58,600	18.70
2002	86,675	37.05
2003	77,975	36.80
2004	70,775	30.97
2005	80,775	37.97
2006	61,125	27.23
2007	44,950	13.35
2008	57,225	26.24
2009	68,703	19.71
2010	57,175	16.41
2011	54,275	28.25
2012	48,025	14.91
2013	37,716	18.86
2014	54,175	17.38
2015	46,575	14.07
2016	45,796	11.77
2017	35,350	9.94
2018	41,225	8.42
2019	29,775	7.84
2020	20,475	2.03
2021	30,825	6.46
2022	40,866	13.14

2023 32,203**9.93****TOTAL 3,884,362****622.93**

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD WEED BARRIER PROGRAM

Year	Total by Feet	Total in miles	By District	By Landowner
1991	105,000	19.89	77,158	27,842
1992	130,200	24.66	99,600	30,600
1993	133,875	25.36	125,400	8,475
1994	124,300	23.54	90,740	33,560
1995	108,950	20.63	92,477	16,473
1996	47,366	8.97	42,527	4,839
1997	77,321	14.64	70,310	7,011
1998	89,681	16.99	83,254	6,427
1999	91,321	17.30	84,076	7,245
2000	124,227	23.53	100,010	24,217
2001	98,755	18.70	85,520	13,235
2002	195,598	37.05	175,923	19,675
2003	194,300	36.80	178,455	15,845
2004	163,542	30.97	143,692	19,850
2005	200,463	37.97	188,577	11,886
2006	143,790	27.23	104,950	38,840
2007	70,484	13.35	58,928	11,556
2008	138,560	26.24	111,500	27,060
2009	104,050	19.71	97,585	6,465
2010	86,660	16.41	75,251	11,409
2011	149,141	28.25	106,254	42,887
2012	78,718	14.91	63,170	15,548
2013	99,590	18.86	40,690	58,900
2014	91,781	17.38	80,937	10,844
2015	74,297	14.07	53,832	24,118
2016	62,164	11.77	42,541	19,623
2017	52,497	9.94	26,624	25,873
2018	44,481	8.42	38,143	6,338
2019	41,407	7.84	37,992	3,415
2020	10,722	2.03	9,048	1,674
2021	34,113	6.46	25,213	8,900
2022	69,369	13.14	67,495	1,874
2023	52,429	9.93	49,514	2,915
TOTALS	3,289,152	622.95	2,727,386	565,419

49,514 FT Installed at 13 sites

Central Platte NRD Tree Program

Handplant

25,286

Dawson: 4,114 Hall: 10,614
 Buffalo: 8,314 Merrick: 1,754
 Polk: 425 Howard: 65

District Plant (19 planting jobs)

6,917

Buffalo: 2,636 Hall: 1,364
 Dawson: 2,086 Howard: 160
 Merrick: 671

Sold 16 small acreage packages (5 species with 10 of each included in packages)

Requesting Transfer of Funds:

\$3500 from Grazing Deferment and putting \$1500 into Burn Preparation and \$2000 into Center Pivots.

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD

Cost Share

Thursday, May 25, 2023

BURN PREPARATION COST SHARE PROGRAM	\$	5,857.50
Louis Paczosa Revocable Trust – Merrick	\$	5,857.50
WELL DECOMMISSIONING COST SHARE PROGRAM	\$	1,000.00
Thomas Z Hodson – Dawson	\$	500.00
Alan P Schmeeckle – Dawson		500.00
Total	\$	6,857.50