

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD

Board Meeting Minutes

June 27, 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:

Lon Bohn	Barry Obermiller	Ed Stoltenberg
Tom Downey	Keith Ostermeier	Deb VanMatre
Ryan Kegley	Doug Reeves	Kevin Werner
Ed Kyes	Marvion Reichert	Jerry Wiese
Dwayne Margritz	Mick Reynolds	Mike Wilkens
Jerry Milner	Jay Richeson	

Excused Absences: Todd Arends, Brian Keiser, Charles Maser, and Steve Sheen

Staff present: Lyndon Vogt – General Manager, Kelly Cole – Administrative Assistant, Marcia Lee – Information/Education Specialist, Luke Zakrzewski – GIS Image Analyst, Courtney Widup – Water Resources Technician, Dean Krull – UNL/CPNRD Demo Project Coordinator, Jesse Mintken – Assistant Manager, Tricia Dudley – Water Quality Specialist, Brody Vorderstrasse – Communications Assistant and Angie Warner – GIS Programs Coordinator.

Others present: Joe Krolkowski – NRCS District Conservationist, Steve White – NTV News, Matt McGuire – Landowner and Randy Rogge – Rogge General Contractor Inc.

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: Marvion Reichert 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 Marvion Reichert 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.

Matt McGuire PO Box 143 Kenesaw NE 68956. Matt commented that he was against building a new office when taxes are as high as they are.

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Chairman Reynolds reported that Todd Arends, Brian Keiser, Charles Maser and Steve Sheen requested to be excused from the board meeting.

Marvion Reichert made the motion to approve the absences as requested. Doug Reeves 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 on the National Food Security Act (see attached).

VARIANCE COMMITTEE: Barry Obermiller, chairman, reported that they met earlier today and reviewed a transfer request from Merrick County.

Obermiller reported on a transfer request from Tyler Dishman, located in the N ½ S ½ NE 10-13N-6W, Merrick County. The property is on the edge of Central City. The request was to allow an acre for acre transfer of certified irrigated acres to begin outside of the CPNRD September 1st to March 1st application period, prior to the land being final platted. The subcommittee is recommending that the request be approved, with the condition that the transfer request be finalized after September 1st.

Jay Richeson made the motion to approve a transfer request from Tyler Dishman, located in the N ½ S ½ NE 10-13N-6W, Merrick County, which was to allow an acre for acre transfer of certified irrigated acres, with the condition that the transfer request be finalized after September 1st. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

GROUNDWATER LEVELS REPORT: Luke Zakrzewski, GIS Image Analyst, reported that from 1982 to 2024 the CPNRD has an accumulated loss of -1.26 ft (-0.97 last year), that no Groundwater Management Areas (GWMA) will open and GWMA 12 & 24 have reached the 25% decline.

Zakrzewski also reported on the Groundwater Monitoring Network. The CPNRD staff currently reads 386 irrigation wells, including 65 monitoring wells, each spring and fall for the Groundwater Management Program. The 2024 focus will be on adding monitoring wells in GWMA's 9a and 10.

Tom Downey made a motion to accept the Groundwater Levels Report as presented by Luke Zakrzewski. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

BUILDING COMMITTEE: Mick Reynolds, chairman, reported that the building committee met earlier today. The committee is recommending the bid from Rogge

General Contractors, Inc. and adding Alternative 1, 5A and 5B, and removing Alternative 4, making the final cost \$13,473,000.00.

Keith Ostermeier made a motion to approve the bid from Rogge General Contractors, Inc. and adding alternative 1, 5A and 5B and removing alternative 4, making the final cost \$13,473,000.00. Barry Obermiller seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Marvion Reichert, Jay Richeson, Jerry Wiese and Mike Wilkens who voted No. Motion carried with vote of 13-4.

Mick Reynolds reported that we received an Electrical Service Agreement from Southern Public Power for the new office building at the cost of \$166,670.68.

Barry Obermiller made a motion to approve the Southern Public Power Electrical Service Agreement in the amount of \$166,670.68. Marvion Reichert 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 that day to continue their review of the recommended expenditures for Fiscal Year 2024/2025.

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 – Deb VanMatre made the motion to set the Public Budget Hearing at 1:45 pm on July 25th. Tom Downey seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

EASTERN PROJECTS COMMITTEE: Jerry Milner, chairman, reported the committee met earlier today and discussed the Wood River Flood Control Project Levy. A more detailed report will be given next month.

AGREEMENTS: Lyndon Vogt, General Manager, reported that the Cohyst model has transitioned into Modflow6. The Cohyst Modflow 6 Project would allow the Engineering Firm of Black & Veatch to work with Brandi Flyr, Hydrologist, on the new program.

Tom Downey made the motion to approve the Cohyst Modflow 6 Project Agreement with Black & Veatch in the amount of \$34,917.00. Doug Reeves seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Vogt reported that Water Strategies, Federal Government Representation, is increasing their monthly fee from \$1,000 to \$1,500 effective July 1, 2024.

Marvion Reichert made the motion to approve the rate increase for Water Strategies to \$1,500 monthly, effective July 1, 2024. Deb VanMatre seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

CEASE & DESIST ORDERS: Tricia Dudley, Water Quality Specialist, reported that 56 producers are still out of compliance with the Nitrogen Groundwater Management Program. Dudley is requesting we issue Cease & Desist orders to those 56 producers.

Marvion Reichert made a motion to issue Cease & Desist orders to the following 56 producers that are out of compliance with the Nitrogen Groundwater Management Program: Kent Adelson, Larry Bankson, Greg Baxter, Kyle Berck, Andrew Blessin, Rodney Bruntz, Kevin Byerly, Jesse Carman, Barney Danklesen, Jacob Dexter, Jarad Drinnin, Josh Fousek, Ben Friedrichsen, Rick Glinsmann, Roger Hohlen, Mark Hollister, Aaron Huston, Brad Jepsen, Russ Johnson, Greg Keller, Aaron Kimle, Greg Kobza, Alvin Kowaski III, Marc Kroll, Brian Laub, Richard & Dan Leisinger, Ronald Lewis, Phil Mader, James Maloney, Dan Martensen, Morgan Miller, Cody Morris, Dale Morris, Mike Munsterman, Chris Nicolas, Jeff Perry, Schuyler Racek, Lucas Rivera, Heath Schake, Nate Schanou, Travis Schultz, Duane Skrdland, Matt Snoberger, David Spiehs, Gale Stevens, William & Arlo Stevens, Mike Stoppotte, John Thorp, Joe Turek, Richard Urban, Quincy Week, Wyatt Westberg, Dana Zentner, Scott Zersen, Adam Ziemba and Dyrek Zoucha. Ryan Kegley seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Lyndon Vogt reported that the Governor has sent an invite to a meeting with the NRD managers the NARD representative from each district for July 30 at the NARD office.

Vogt reported that CPNRD's lobbying fees and membership dues paid last fiscal year are now on the CPNRD's website.

Any director that would potentially have a conflict of interest with an agenda item needs to complete a form that the CPNRD will keep on file.

Vogt reported that CPNRD has received a WaterSmart grant for Thirty Mile Irrigation District canal through the Bureau of Reclamation. The additional WaterSmart grant for Southside Irrigation District and Cozad Canal is still pending.

Vogt reported that next month the Water Quality and Water Utilization committees will meet to discuss changes to the Groundwater Management Rules and Regulations.

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 \$1,100 from Grazing Deferment and increasing Well Decommissioning and reported that we have received cost share applications for the following programs: Center Pivot, 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.

Marvion Reichert made the motion to approve the cost share transfer and applications as reported. Lon Bohn 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. Ryan Kegley seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Ed Kyes and Jay Richeson who abstained. Motion carried.

NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICT: Deb VanMatre, NARD Board Member, reported that the NRD Employee Benefits Committee voted unanimously to recommend the NRD Managers and NARD Board approve an increase on employee retirement contribution from 5.5% to 6.5% and the employer contribution from 6% to 7%, effective January 1, 2025.

Deb VanMatre made the motion to approve the NARD 414(h) Contribution Resolution that will increase the retirement contribution by the employee from 5.5% to 6.5% and the employer contribution from 6% to 7%, effective January 1, 2025. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION: Mick Reynolds, Middle Platte Basin Representative, reported that they have 7 small and 4 large projects and will meet on August 14th to review and vote on the projects.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Chairman Reynolds reviewed the upcoming events.

Next Board Meeting – Scheduled for the afternoon of Thursday, July 25. Details to follow.

OTHER BUSINESS: Mick Reynolds, chairman, requested the board go into executive session to discuss a personnel issue.

Marvion Reichert made the motion to go into executive session (3:16 pm) to discuss a personnel issue. Doug Reeves seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Marvion Reichert made a motion to come out of executive session (3:18 pm). Keith

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

ADJOURN: Chairman Reynolds adjourned the board meeting at 3:18 p.m.

United States Department Of Agriculture


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 25, 2024

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 2024 crop year. In total, staff in our 4 offices completed 56 status reviews this year, the review required the staff to evaluate each of those 56 tracts for potential wetland and/or highly erodible land issues, and in some cases, tracts contained both.

It has been 39 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 Krolikowski

Joe Krolikowski
District Conservationist

*Helping People Help the Land
USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.*

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

2024	37,900	6.26
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TOTAL	3,922,262	629.19
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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
2024	33,043	6.26	17,820	15,223
TOTALS	3,322,195	629.21	2,745,206	580,642

17,820 FT Installed at 7 sites

Central Platte NRD Tree Program

Handplant

30,441

Dawson: 3,938

Buffalo: 7,824

Polk: 300

Hall: 17,404

Merrick: 950

Custer: 25

District Plant (20 planting jobs)

7,459

Buffalo: 2,351

Dawson: 1,287

Merrick: 225

Hall: 3,046

Custer: 550

Sold 27 small acreage packages (5 species with 10 of each included in packages)

Transfer \$1,100 from Grazing Deferment to Well Decommissioning

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Cost Share
Thursday, June 27, 2024

CENTER PIVOT INCENTIVE COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$	7,500.00
Happold Farms Inc. – Hall	\$	7,500.00	
TREE PLANTING COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$	2,392.50
Joshua Jobman – Custer	\$	2,392.50	
WELL DECOMMISSIONING COST SHARE PROGRAM.....		\$	1,500.00
Grady Jones – Buffalo – hand dug well	\$	1,500.00	
TOTAL		\$	11,392.50