

**CENTRAL PLATTE NRD**  
Board Meeting Minutes  
July 27, 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 by roll call were:

Todd Arends	Dwayne Margritz	Mick Reynolds
Lon Bohn	Charles Maser	Jay Richeson
Tom Downey	Jerry Milner	Deb VanMatre
Ryan Kegley	Barry Obermiller	Jerry Wiese
Brian Keiser	Keith Ostermeier	Mike Wilkens
Ed Kyes		

Excused Absences: Alicia Haussler, Doug Reeves, Marvion Reichert, Steve Sheen and Ed Stoltenberg

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, Brandi Flyr – Hydrologist, and Jesse Mintken – Assistant Manager

Others present: Joe Krolkowski – NRCS District Conservationist

**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:** Jay Richeson made the motion to approve the June board meeting minutes. Deb VanMatre 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 Alicia Haussler, Doug Reeves, Marvion Reichert, Steve Sheen and Ed Stoltenberg requested to be excused from

the board meeting.

Tom Downey 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.

**NRCS REPORT:** Joe Krolikowski, NRCS District Conservationist, reviewed Carrie Thompson's CRP Grassland report for Dawson County (see attached). Joe Krolikowski then gave a report on the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) (see attached).

**BUDGET COMMITTEE:** Chairman Reynolds said the Budget Committee met earlier that day to review the recommended expenditures for Fiscal Year 2023/2024. There were no recommendations for amendments or changes from the Budget Committee.

Lyndon Vogt, General Manager, briefly reviewed the proposed budget and said if it is adopted as proposed the property tax request would be \$4,826,226.75, which is an increase of \$430,764.62 from last year. He said the actual valuations from the 11 county assessors will not be available until August 20; however, we are estimating that the valuation increase will be approximately 5%. The levy estimate may be about 0.024511, compared to last year's levy of 0.023440.

**Action on Budget of Expenditures for Budget Hearing & Set Public Hearing –** Barry Obermiller made the motion to approve the budget as advertised. Lon Bohn seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

**Set Public Levy Hearing –** Barry Obermiller made a motion to schedule the public hearing to set the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 levy on August 31, 2023, at 1:45 pm with the board meeting scheduled that day at 2:00 or immediately following the public hearing. Tom Downey seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion Carried.

**EASTERN PROJECTS COMMITTEE:** Barry Obermiller, chairman, said the committee met earlier that day and discussed three project changes.

Clear Creek Reservoir and Jones Creek Reservoir Dam Rehabilitation with Kokes Construction reviewed Change Order #1 for additional riprap for the dam faces and a change in design on the principal spillway stop logs on Jones Creek. The change order would add an additional \$7,613.14, bringing the new contract total to \$230,176.45.

Barry Obermiller made a motion to approve Change Order #1 for Clear Creek & Jones Creek Reservoir Dam Rehabilitation with Kokes Construction for an additional amount of \$7,613.14. Deb VanMatre seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Obermiller said the committee reviewed Amendment #2 for the Platte Valley Industrial Park with Olsson Inc. for an additional \$10,000. The additional costs are due to Easement Acquisitions and Appraisal Services. The additional \$10,000 would bring the contract total to \$111,700.

Barry Obermiller made a motion to approval Amendment #2 for the Platte Valley Industrial Park with Olsson Inc. for an additional \$10,000. Ed Kyes seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Obermiller said the committee reviewed a new contract with JEO Consulting Group for the Lower Wood River WFPO. The current contract with JEO Consulting Group for the Lower Wood River WFPO was for an Environmental Assessment Study (EA). Due to the cost of the proposed projects the Lower Wood River WFPO must complete an Environmental Impact Statement Study (EIS). JEO Consulting Group is requesting a new contract for the EIS contract. The unused funds from the EA contract will be moved over to the new EIS contract, in the amount of \$162,471.42 and new funds in the amount of \$366,734.00 will be added, making the total contract \$529,205.42. 100% of the costs will be reimbursed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Barry Obermiller made a motion to approve a new contract for the Lower Wood River WFPO with JEO Consulting Group in the amount of \$529,205.42. Keith Ostermeier seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

**WATER UTILIZATION COMMITTEE:** Tom Downey, chairman reported that the committee met earlier that day and discussed solar development on two Conservation Easements south of Lexington.

The Conservation Easement reads that, "The property must remain in dryland agriculture production unless prior written approval is granted by the district to alter this requirement. Approval consideration will be based on consumptive use of the new land".

A presentation was given by Bryce Barton of 39 North, who represents the developer, Birch Creek. The development is called Canaday Solar which is located west of Canada Steam Plant. After some discussion with the committee, given the fact that there will be no consumption use or change of use of water, the committee is recommending that the board allow Lyndon to work with legal counsel to draft up the necessary documentation.

Tom Downey made a motion to allow Lyndon Vogt to work with legal counsel to draft the necessary documentation to allow for solar development on Lueking and Nitsch's Conservation Easements making the request. Brian Keiser seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:** Keith Ostermeier made a motion to give authority to the

Board Chairman to sign a new contract with the general manager. Tom Downey 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 3 are now in compliance with the CPNRD Nitrogen Management Program.

Vogt reported that funds for the Nebraska Research District Agronomist position have been transferred from USDA to UNL. We should have an agreement with UNL prior to the next board meeting and will start advertising this position.

Andy Bishop with Rainwater Basin Joint Venture was successful in writing a grant for a shared position between CPNRD and Tri-Basin to assist NRCS and the NRD's in promoting USDA conservation programs.

Vogt reported that excess flows in the Platte are quickly coming to an end. Thirty Mile and Cozad Ditch have both diverted excess flows down the laterals to redirect low flows to their head gates. Orchard Alfalfa replaced a smaller diversion just above their headgates.

The NARD Fall Conference will be held September 25-26 in Kearney. If interested in attending, please let Kelly Cole know.

**COST SHARE PROGRAMS: Applications** - Kelly Cole, Administrative Assistant, reported that we have received cost share applications for the following programs: Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation, Burn Preparation, Flow Meter and Center Pivots (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 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 July financial report.

Barry Obermiller made a motion to approve the July financial report as presented. Keith Ostermeier 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:** Mick Reynolds, Middle Platte Basin Representative, reported that the Commission met on July 19<sup>th</sup> and had \$13,935,049.07

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July 27, 2023

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available to obligate. The Commission approved 8 small projects and 2 large projects. The next meeting will be December 6, 2023.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:** Chairman Reynolds reviewed the upcoming events.

**Next Board Meeting** – Scheduled for the afternoon of Thursday, August 31. Details to follow.

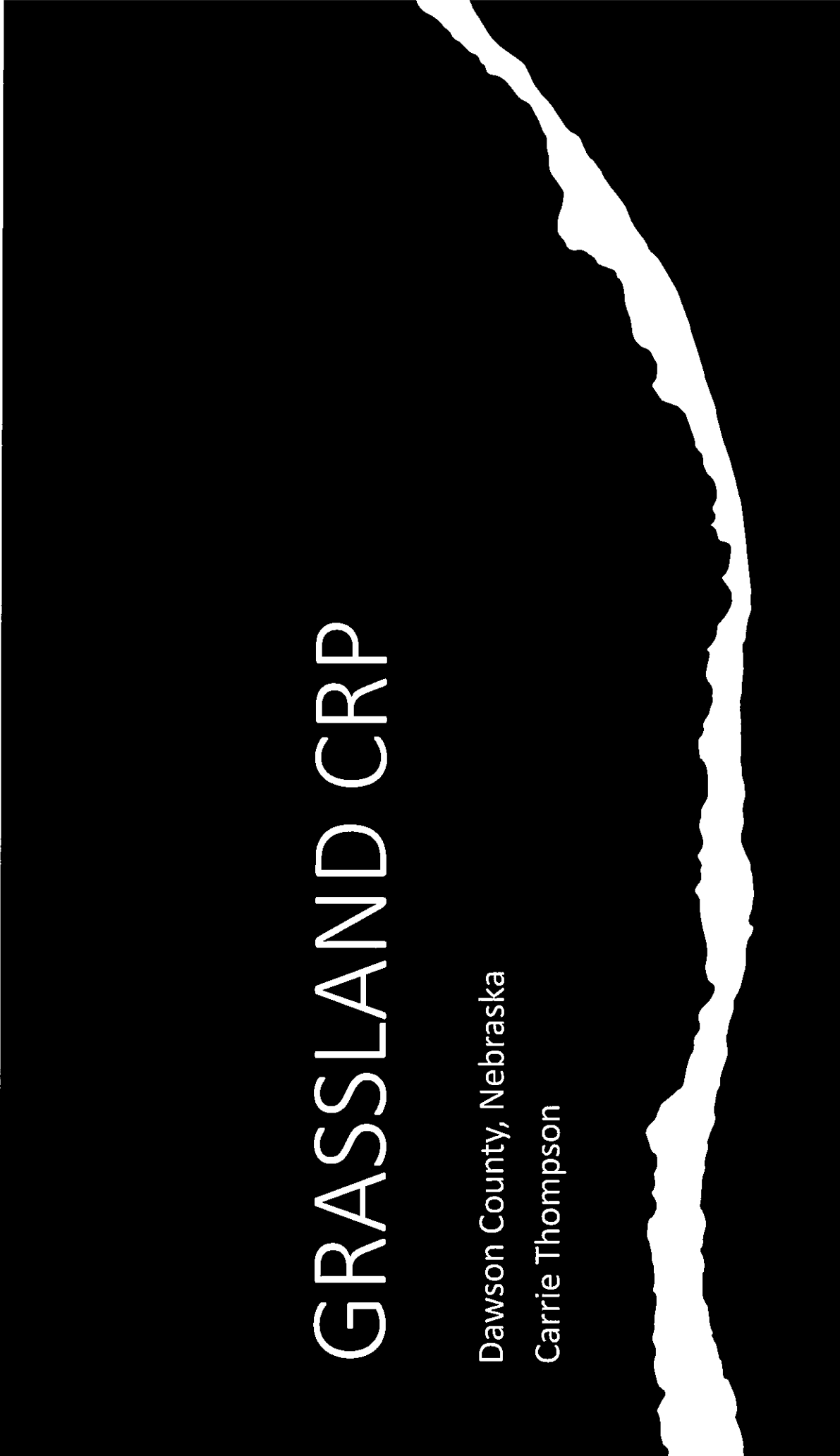
**OTHER BUSINESS:** There was none.

**ADJOURN:** Chairman Reynolds adjourned the board meeting at 2:35 p.m.

# GRASSLAND CRP

Dawson County, Nebraska

Carrie Thompson



# Purpose of Grassland CRP



- Grassland CRP is part of CRP program that is administered by Farm Service Agency
- Grassland CRP help landowners and operators protect grassland, including rangeland, and pastureland and certain other lands, while managing the areas as grazing lands
- The program emphasizes support for grazing operations, plant and animal biodiversity, and grassland and land containing shrubs and forbs under the greatest threat of conversion

# NRCS role with Grassland CRP



- Identify resource concern/concerns
- Complete grazing inventory or forage inventory
  - Consult with the producer if the forage supply/demand is not met, the producer can decide whether or not to move forward with NRCS stocking rates or haying rules
- NRCS prepares plan and soils maps, Conservation Plan, CPO (Conservation Plan of Operations), grazing plan and planning sheets



# Dawson County Grassland CRP



- Last year Dawson county had 4 accepted grassland CRPs
- This year Dawson county has 12 producers that were accepted for an approximate total of 6,500 acres
  - From here, NRCS will meet with producers and go over grazing plans and stocking rates, if the producer agrees to stocking rates, NRCS will then develop the contract documents
  - Grassland CRP does allow cost share for infrastructure such as livestock pipeline, tanks and cross fence. NRCS will provide the technical and design support for these practices as well



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>

July 24, 2023

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

### July Report to CPNRD

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is finishing up processing the third year of applications received for the 1966 Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) agreement, this agreement is with The Nature Conservancy, they are known as the “Lead Partner” in this project. Their Nebraska Soil Carbon Project is a collaboration with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Central Platte NRD, Upper Big Blue NRD, The Nature Conservancy, Ecosystem Services Market Consortium (ESMC), Cargill, Target, and McDonald's.

The project goal is to team up with producers to install soil health practices on central Nebraska cropland fields over the agreement life, which is 5 years. We have completed 3 of the 5 years so far of this agreement. Farmers that choose to enroll in this program can receive cost share for adopting practices such as cover crops, no till, and/or diversified crop rotations. Their soils will be evaluated over this time for both carbon and water quality benefits and then quantified showing the results before and after implementing any of these conservation practices.

The NRCS is finishing up processing a second RCPP agreement as well, it is the first year of applications received for the renewed 2271 Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) agreement, this agreement like in the past is with The Central Platte NRD, they are known as the “Lead Partner” in this project. This Ogallala Aquifer and Platte River Recovery Project is a collaboration with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Central Platte NRD, and Twin Platte NRD.

The objectives of this agreement is to reduce water consumption by converting irrigated land to non-irrigated on a permanent or temporary basis with a focus in the over-appropriated area of the District from Gothenburg to Elm Creek and Groundwater Management Areas that are in declining status. Surface and groundwater quality and quantity concerns will also be addressed with the implementation of improved irrigation systems and management technologies to increase irrigation efficiencies, reducing impacts to the Platte River and the local groundwater supply. Phases II/III areas of the CPNRD's Groundwater Quality Management Program will also be targeted since nitrate levels in these areas are above the recommended 10 ppm drinking water standard.

The application process includes completion of, applicant and land eligibility determinations, conservation planning with the applicant, cost estimates, application assessments, and then ranking. All the applications that we received on or before the November 2022 signup deadline, have been considered for the FY 2023 fund allocation. Contract obligation is complete or on track to be completed by the end of July for the highest ranked applications preapproved for funding. The National Team continues their process of developing the Conservation Desktop contracting software. So, over the last 3 years and currently each RCPP18 contract must be manually constructed, and then manually managed, for the entire life of that contract.

For FY 2023, below is the preapproved application summary for each RCPP Agreement:

RCPP 1966 Agreement

Field Office	Preapproved Applications	\$ Requested
Kearney	2	\$5,547.09
Lexington	2	\$36,450.00
Central City	5	\$273,786.00
Grand Island	0	\$0.00
Osceola	1	\$900.00
Central Platte NRD Apps	10	\$316,683.09
Aurora	2	\$96,500.00
Seward	5	\$202,120.00
York	3	\$169,768.80
Geneva	1	\$55,750.00
Osceola	1	\$53,000.00
Hastings	1	\$18,654.00
David City	1	\$79,227.19
Upper Big Blue NRD Apps	14	\$675,019.99
<b>Totals</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>\$991,703.08</b>

RCPP 2271 Agreement

Field Office	Preapproved Applications	\$ Requested
Kearney	2	\$82,490.64
Lexington	2	\$20,425.00
Central City	1	\$141,901.00
Grand Island	2	\$168,603.00
Central Platte NRD Apps	7	\$413,419.64
Ogallala	3	\$72,020.00
North Platte	1	\$57,509.00
Twin Platte NRD Apps	4	\$129,529.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>\$542,948.64</b>

Respectfully Submitted,

*/s/ Joe Krolikowski*

Joe Krolikowski  
District Conservationist

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD  
Cost Share  
Thursday, July 27, 2023

NEBRASKA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COST SHARE PROGRAM...		<b>\$ 25,817.15</b>
R & O Hill Farms, Inc. – Custer – Planned Grazing	\$ 2,883.95	
Robert Ridenour – Buffalo – Brush Management	433.20	
John P Fritz – Merrick – Pipeline to Pivot/Renozzle	5,000.00	
Dora Kay Tilley – Hall – Pipeline to Pivot	5,000.00	
The Dixson Family Revocable Trust – Hall – Pipeline to Pivot	5,000.00	
Matthew Wyman – Polk – Planned Grazing	7,500.00	
BURN PREPARATION COST SHARE PROGRAM .....		<b>\$ 10,000.00</b>
Jeffrey A Cyriacks – Custer	\$ 10,000.00	
FLOW METER COST SHARE PROGRAM .....		<b>\$ 1,600.00</b>
The Dixson Family Revocable Trust – Hall	\$ 800.00	
Dora Kay Tilley – Hall	800.00	
CENTER PIVOT INCENTIVE COST SHARE PROGRAM .....		<b>\$ 13,299.85</b>
Bret Mader Ag, LLC – Hall	\$ 6,202.75	
The Dixson Family Revocable Trust – Hall	7,097.10	
Total .....		<b>\$ 50,717.00</b>