

## **CENTRAL PLATTE NRD**

### **Board Meeting Minutes**

July 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.

**ATTENDANCE:** Board members present were:

|                 |                  |               |
|-----------------|------------------|---------------|
| LeRoy Arends    | Dwayne Margritz  | Mick Reynolds |
| Lon Bohn        | Charles Maser    | Jay Richeson  |
| Tom Downey      | Jerry Milner     | Steve Sheen   |
| Alicia Haussler | Barry Obermiller | Deb VanMatre  |
| Brian Keiser    | Keith Ostermeier | Jerry Wiese   |
| Ed Kyes         | Doug Reeves      |               |

Excused Absences: Jim Bendfeldt, Ryan Kegley, Marvion Reichert, and Ed Stoltenberg

Staff present: Lyndon Vogt – General Manager, Jesse Mintken – Assistant Manager, Kelly Cole – Administrative Assistant, Marcia Lee – Information/Education Specialist, Courtney Widup – Water Resources Technician, Brandi Flyr – Hydrologist, Luke Zakrzewski – GIS Image Analyst, Angela Warner – GIS Coordinator, Brody Vorderstrasse – Communications Assistant, Dean Krull – UNL/CPNRD Demo Project Coordinator, Bill Hiatt – Resources Conservationist, Nelson Winkel – Prescribed Fire Planning Specialist and Dean Krull – UNL/CPNRD Demo Project Coordinator

Others present: Joe Krolkowski – NRCS District Conservationist, Carrie Thompson (via Zoom) – NRCS Resources Conservationist – Lexington Field Office, Scott Sorensen – Hall County Board

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

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

**NRCS REPORT:** Carrie Thompson, NRCS Resources Conservationist for the Lexington County Field Office reported on the contracts the Lexington office is currently working on (see enclosed).

Joe Krolikowski, NRCS District Conservationist, reported on the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) agreement (see enclosed).

**BUDGET COMMITTEE:** Chairman Reynolds said the Budget Committee met earlier that day to review the recommended expenditures for Fiscal Year 2022/2023. 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 \$4,395,462.13, which is an increase of \$411,839.44 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 3.5%. The levy estimate may be about 0.023662, compared to last year's levy of 0.022196.

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

**Set Public Levy Hearing –** Alicia Haussler made a motion to schedule the public hearing to set the Fiscal Year 2022/2023 levy on September 1, 2022, at 1:45 pm with the board meeting scheduled that day at 2:00 or immediately following the public hearing. Deb VanMatre seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion Carried.

**EASTERN PROJECTS COMMITTEE:** Acting chairman, Alicia Haussler, reported the committee met earlier that day and reviewed the Alda Crane Viewing Site Improvement Amendment #1 with JEO Consulting.

Alda Crane Viewing Site Improvement Amendment #1 is for the final design, permitting and construction services for boardwalk improvement features, parking lot

paving/expansion, trail replacement details and fishing access in the amount of \$58,290.00.

Alicia Haussler made the motion to approve the Alda Crane Viewing Site Improvements Amendment #1 with JEO Consulting in the amount of \$58,290.00 for the final design, permitting and construction services for boardwalk improvement features, parking lot paving/expansion, trail replacement details and fishing access. Doug Reeves seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call, were in favor. Motion carried.

**WATER UTILIZATION COMMITTEE:** Chairman, Tom Downey reported that the committee met earlier today.

Downey reported that John Peterson with JEO Consulting Group presented some management options for the Schroeder Property in Dawson County. The committee will review and determine which of the management options presented will best meet the requirements of the Integrated Management Plan. The committee discussed notifying the current renter that the property will be leased as dryland to retire the irrigated acres and gain credit back to the Platte River starting in 2023.

Tom Downey made the motion to notify the current renter of the Schroeder Property in Dawson County that starting in 2023 the land will be leased as dryland to retire the irrigated acres and gain credit back to the Platte River. Keith Ostermeier seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call, were in favor. Motion carried.

Downey reported the committee reviewed all the proposed changes from the board last month for the Ground Water Management Plan.

Tom Downey made a motion to forward the Ground Water Management Plan to the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for review. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call, were in favor. Motion carried.

**WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE:** Chairman, Jerry Milner reported the committee met earlier that day.

Milner reported that the committee was given a demonstration on the Nitrogen Use Efficiency Dashboard. No action needed at this time.

Milner reported the committee reviewed the proposed changes from the board last month for the Groundwater Management Plan.

**MANAGERS REPORT:** Lyndon Vogt, General Manager, introduced our new employee, Nelson Winkel. Winkel is our Prescribed Fire Planning Specialist and will work closely with the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture and the Natural Resources

Conservation Service.

Vogt reported that our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary open house was a success. We had approximately 175 people attend and received lots of positive comments.

Vogt reported that the Nebraska Soil Carbon Project is having a kick-off event for all project partners and central Nebraska farmers. The event is August 11, 2022, at Raising Nebraska. If you plan to attend, please let Courtney Widup know.

**ANNUAL REPORT ON WATER USE ACTIVITIES:** Jesse Mintken, Assistant Manager, reported that the Central Platte NRD ended the year with 1,029,230 certified acres. Of which 937,488 acres are Ground Water, 14,562 acres are Surface Water, and 77,180 acres are considered comingled.

Between January 1 and December 31, 2021, we approved 119 ground water transfers. These transfers resulted in 934 acres of new irrigated ground and 872 acres used for offsets.

The CPNRD issued 79 well permits in 2021. Twenty of those were supplemental to ground water wells, 53 were replacement wells, 1 dewatering well, and 5 industrial wells.

The CPNRD retired 366 certified ground water acres in our over appropriated area in Dawson County, which have an estimated accretion to the Platte River of 248 acre-feet. At the end of 2021 we had a balance in our water bank of 2887-acre feet of ground water rights available for offsets across the district, and 2,500-acre feet of surface water rights available for offset in our over appropriated areas.

**VIOLATION UPDATE:** Luke Zakrzewski, GIS Image Analyst, reported that CPNRD currently has 9 irrigators out of compliance with the Groundwater Quality Management Program. Three of the 9 have been caught irrigating and have been turned over to legal counsel.

Richard Urban, Polk County Landowner, has three offenses for irrigating non-certified irrigated acres and will be sent a Cease-and-Desist Order on the latest violation. Urban has violated a prior Cease and Desist Order and a court date to cease irrigation until getting into compliance with CPNRD's Rules and Regulations. Urban has a second court hearing date in August.

**COST SHARE PROGRAMS: Applications** –Kelly Cole, Administrative Assistant, reported that we have received cost share applications for the following programs: Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation, Flow Meter, and Center Pivot (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, briefly reviewed the July financial reports.

Alicia Haussler 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.

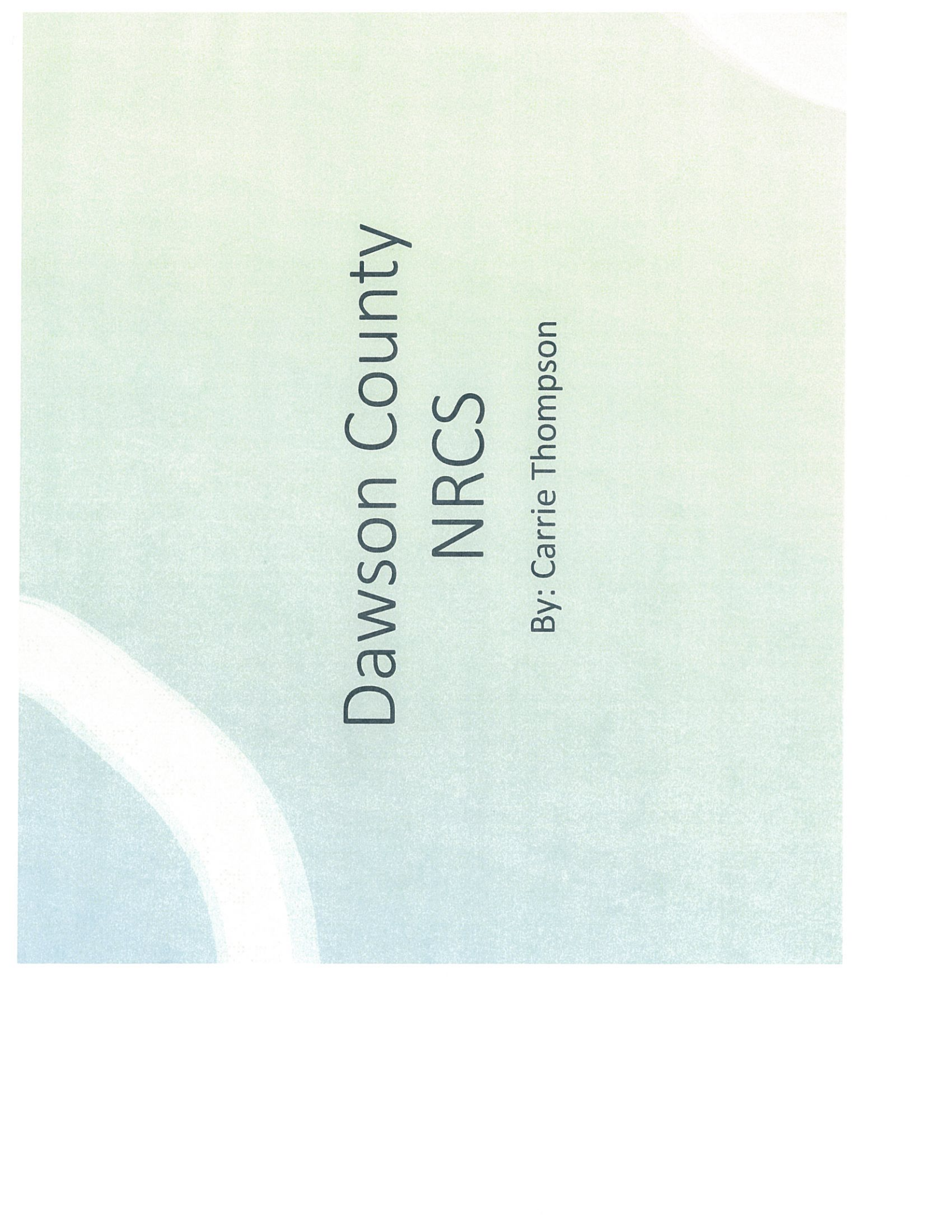
**NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICT:** No Report

**NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION:** No Report

**UPCOMING EVENTS:** Chairman Reynolds reviewed the upcoming events.  
**Next Board Meeting** – Scheduled for the afternoon of Thursday, September 1. Details to follow.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None

**ADJOURN:** Chairman Reynolds adjourned the board meeting 2:39 p.m.



# Dawson County NRCS

By: Carrie Thompson

## EQIP FY22

- Started with around 40 applications
- 20 applications were approved for funding
- 3 CAP's for written burn plans
- 4 Livestock
- 8 Irrigated to dryland
- 5 Gravity to pivot conversions

## EQIP FY22 Con't

- The 4 livestock contracts have brush management, pipeline, tanks, deferment, burning
- The 8 irrigated to dryland contracts are a total of 607 acres
- The 5 gravity to pivot conversions are a total of 468 acres



# EQIP

- We have 58 Active EQIP contracts currently
- A large majority of those are irrigated to dryland contracts, we are getting started on those this week

# RCPP

- 2 RCPP 1966 TNC Contracts
- 1 RCPP 2135 Contract
- All 3 contracts are for cover crops- 504 acres



# CSP FY22

- Dawson county had 27 Classic applications
- Of those 27 only 1 got approved for funding, with the potential of 1 or 2 more this month
- We have 8 CSP 2023 Renewal applications, working on producer meetings now
- We currently have 21 active CSP contracts, sending out Certification letters this week, must be certified by end of September



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July 26, 2022

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 second 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 2 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 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 were received on or before the December 17, 2021, signup deadline, have been considered for the FY 2022 fund allocation. Contract obligations are on track to be completed by the end of July for the highest ranked applications that were preapproved for funding. Our NRCS Field Office staff is still waiting for the National Office Team to finish developing the Conservation Desktop contracting software. So currently each RCPP18 contract must be manually constructed, and then manually managed for the life of the contract.



For FY 2022, below is an application summary for each Natural Resources District:

RCPP 1966 Agreement

| Field Office            | Applications | \$ Requested   |
|-------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Kearney                 | 9            | \$116,725.00   |
| Lexington               | 2            | \$11,894.00    |
| Central City            | 4            | \$93,628.00    |
| Grand Island            | 1            | \$1,334.00     |
| Central Platte NRD Apps | 16           | \$223,581.00   |
|                         |              |                |
| Aurora                  | 2            | \$100,728.00   |
| Seward                  | 6            | \$1,161,102.00 |
| York                    | 2            | \$141,775.94   |
| Geneva                  | 4            | \$126,500.26   |
| Clay Center             | 1            | \$32,487.00    |
| Osceola                 | 1            | \$17,334.00    |
| Hastings                | 1            | \$3,169.00     |
| David City              | 1            | \$4,226.00     |
| Upper Big Blue NRD Apps | 18           | \$1,587,322.20 |
|                         |              |                |
| Totals                  | 34           | \$1,810,903.20 |
|                         |              |                |
|                         |              |                |

Respectfully Submitted,

*/s/ Joe Krolikowski*

Joe Krolikowski  
District Conservationist

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD

Cost Share

Thursday, July 28, 2022

NEBRASKA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COST SHARE PROGRAM.....\$ **86,875.86**

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Leslie Brown – Custer – Planned Grazing               | \$ 7,500.00 |
| P & D Hecox Inc. – Dawson – Planned Grazing           | 1,243.00    |
| Jerry Reichert – Buffalo – Brush Management           | 8,656.13    |
| Marshall Land Co Inc. – Buffalo – Brush Management    | 10,000.00   |
| Donald Ritta – Hamilton – Underground Pipe to Pivot   | 5,000.00    |
| Dale Stengel – Buffalo – Planned Grazing              | 7,478.75    |
| Clarice J Boston – Buffalo – Planned Grazing          | 5,337.40    |
| Daniel Beck – Hamilton – Planned Grazing              | 1,879.60    |
| Dan Wieck – Merrick – Underground Pipe to Pivot       | 5,000.00    |
| Rainforth Cattle Co, LLC – Hall – Brush Management    | 2,200.97    |
| Randall Pierce – Dawson – Planned Grazing             | 1,695.00    |
| Kathleen Lowry – Hall – Underground Pipe to Pivot     | 5,000.00    |
| Howard Eltiste – Dawson – Planned Grazing             | 3,924.30    |
| Larry Neujahr – Polk – Planned Grazing                | 7,500.00    |
| Matthew Lauer – Custer – Planned Grazing              | 5,865.00    |
| Julie Meyers – Buffalo – Brush Management             | 231.71      |
| Raymond Hebda Jr. – Nance – Underground Pipe to Pivot | 3,444.00    |
| Raymond Hebda Sr. – Nance – Underground Pipe to Pivot | 4,920.00    |

CENTER PIVOT INCENTIVE COST SHARE PROGRAM .....\$ **16,408.88**

|                           |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Mike Monson – Hall        | \$ 7,500.00 |
| Raymond Hebda Jr. – Nance | 4,592.92    |
| Raymond Hebda Sr. – Nance | 4,315.96    |

FLOW METER COST SHARE PROGRAM .....\$ **1,600.00**

|                         |           |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Ross Krueger – Hall     | \$ 800.00 |
| Donald Ritta – Hamilton | 800.00    |

Total .....\$ **104,884.74**