

## **CENTRAL PLATTE NRD**

### **Board Meeting Minutes**

**September 22, 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	Charles Maser	Jay Richeson
Jim Bendfeldt	Barry Obermiller	Steve Sheen
Lon Bohn	Keith Ostermeier	Ed Stoltenberg
Tom Downey	Doug Reeves	Deb VanMatre
Brian Keiser	Marvion Reichert	Jerry Wiese
Ed Kyes	Mick Reynolds	

Excused Absences: Alicia Haussler, Ryan Kegley, Dwayne Margritz and Jerry Milner

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, and Tricia Dudley – Water Quality Programs Specialist

Others present: Joe Krolikowski – NRCS District Conservationist, Jason Scholz – NRCS Resources Conservationist – Hall County Office, and Ryan Kelly – DNR Integrated Water Management Coordinator.

**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 August board meeting minutes. Jim Bendfeldt 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 were none.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** Chairman Reynolds asked if anyone wanted to address the board on any item not included on the agenda.

Ryan Kelly, DNR Integrated Water Management Coordinator, introduced himself as he's

been working with some of the NRD's.

**EXCUSED ABSENCES:** Chairman Reynolds reported that Alicia Haussler, Ryan Kegley, Dwayne Margritz and Jerry Milner requested to be excused from the board meeting.

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

**NRCS REPORT:** Jason Scholz, Hall County Resources Conservationist, reported on the EQIP and NRD approved projects for Hall County (see enclosed).

Joe Krolkowski, NRCS District Conservationist, reported on the EQIP, RCPP and NRD approved projects throughout Central Platte NRD (see enclosed).

**PROGRAMS COMMITTEE:** Deb VanMatre, chairman, reported that the committee met earlier today.

VanMatre reported that the committee reviewed the proposal to make a change to our Urban Conservation Program as far as the way we rank the priorities. The committee has developed a High, Medium and Low Priority list and assigned dollar amounts for those potential grants. The committee is also recommending that applications be accepted year-round instead of just in March of each year.

Deb VanMatre made a motion to change the Urban Conservation Program to allow for High, Medium and Low Priorities with an assigned dollar amount and to accept applications year-round. Doug Reeves 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 and reviewed the proposed building plans. No action was taken at this time.

**MANAGERS REPORT:** Lyndon Vogt, General Manager, reported on the upcoming Groundwater Management District Association (GMDA) conference that will be held January 23-26, 2023, in Simon Island, Georgia. This conference will take place at the same time as the NARD Legislative Conference in Lincoln, NE.

**LONG RANGE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN:** Marcia Lee, Information/Education Specialist, reported that the proposed 2022-2027 Long Range Implementation Plan is on Drop Box. There were two changes made, the fiscal year levy was corrected and the address of NARD. She requested approval to send the Long Range Implementation Plan onto The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources.

Jim Bendfeldt made the motion to approve the 2022-2027 Long Range Implementation Plan as presented and send to The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

**COST SHARE PROGRAMS: Transfer & Applications** - Kelly Cole, Administrative Assistant, requested a transfer of \$500 from Soil Moisture Sensor to Cover Crop and reported that we have received cost share applications for the following programs: Center Pivot, Flow Meter, Cover Crop 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, briefly reviewed the September financial reports.

Jim Bendfeldt made a motion to approve the September 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, October 27. Details to follow.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Chairman Reynolds reported that he would like to create a committee called the Nitrogen & Crop Report Committee. The committee will consist of the following directors: Keith Ostermeier (chairman), Doug Reeves, Deb VanMatre, Mick Reynolds and Marvion Reichert.

**ADJOURN:** Chairman Reynolds adjourned the board meeting 2:26 p.m.



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

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

September 22, 2022

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

September Report to CPNRD

To the Central Platte NRD board and staff, please accept this report from the Grand Island Field Office for the September board meeting.

Hall County EQIP Funding/Contracts for Irrigation Projects for Fiscal Year 22

- 10 contracts obligated for total of \$579,174.
- Three Irrigation Water Management (IWM) only, seven system conversions
- 637.3 Ac. converted from gravity, 491.5 Ac to pivot and 145.8 Ac to Sub-surface Drip Irrigation (SDI). 254.2 Ac IWM only.
- IWM on 891.5 Ac. and Temporary Dryland on 83.7 Ac.

NRD Irrigation Projects in Hall County during NRD Fiscal Year.

- Eight projects approved for a total cost of \$74,447.92
- Three flow meters, five pipelines and seven pivots.
- 577.9 Ac converted from gravity to pivot/SDI. Possible additional 138.1 Ac run on neighbor's ground. 716 Ac possibly converted from gravity.
- IWM to be completed on 383.3 AC.

Total Benefit from NRD and NRCS Irrigation Projects.

- \$653,621.92 approved for 18 projects.
- 1,215.2 Ac converted from gravity. Additional 138.1 would increase to 1353.3 Ac.
- IWM to be completed on 1,274.8 Ac. Temporary dryland to be completed on 83.7 Ac. Each for three years.
- Cost share completed on a total of 1,553.1 Ac.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Jason Scholz

Jason Scholz,  
Resource Conservationist





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>

September 20, 2022

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

September Report to CPNRD

Attached is a summary of FY 2022 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) and their activity in the Central Platte NRD (CPNRD). Also included are the timelines for FY 2023, and a copy of the application to be completed by an applicant before the application deadline. The FY2023 application deadline is November 18, 2022. We have already completed an outreach effort to promote the Environmental Quality Incentive Program and the Regional Conservation Partnership Program this past summer. Its our hope this will also help emphasize the benefits to conservation after implementation of these conservation practices across the Central Platte.

Respectfully Submitted,

*/s/ Joe Krolikowski*

Joe Krolikowski  
District Conservationist

Attachment: CPNRD FY 2022 EQIP Contract Summary  
FY2023 Blank EQIP Application

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# FY 2022 EQIP/RCPP Contract Summary-CPNRD

Water Conservation: \$1,924,569 (31 contracts/4,137.6 acres)

- 17 Pipeline/Pivot/Pumping Plant/Dryland/FM/IWM
- 3 SDI/Pumping Plant/Dryland/FM/IWM
- 8 Dryland Only Contracts
- 3 IWM/FM

Grazing Lands: \$287,502 (11 contracts/4,948.9 acres)

- Brush Mgt/Prescribed Burn/Water Supply/X-Fence/PGS

Soil Health: \$270,045 (18 contracts/4,574.6 acres)

- Cover Crop/Terrace/Grassed Waterway/No-Till

Conservation Activity Plans: \$9,743 (5 contracts/3,343.0 acres)

- Prescribed Burn Management Plans

Forestry: \$16,715.41 (1 contracts/37.4 acres)

- Windbreak establishment/WB Renovation/Forrest Stnd Imprvmt

CPNRD Board Meeting Report

9/22/2022



# FY 2022 EQIP/RCPP Contract Summary Totals - CPNRD

## Field Office Summary

Central City – 9 contracts - \$377,317 – 1,271.1 acres

Grand Island – 11 contracts - \$580,508 – 1,117.5 acres

Kearney – 24 contracts - \$523,810 – 6,635.0 acres

Lexington – 24 contracts - \$1,043,823 – 8,035.0 acres

Totals – 68 contracts - \$2,525,458 – 17,058.6 acres



# What comes next?



# FY 2023 EQIP Timeline

Continuous Signup with Application Cutoff Dates

First Application Cutoff Date: November 18, 2022

Second Application Cutoff Date: To Be Determined

Application Ranking Deadline: February 2023 TBD



# Carryover CPNRD EQIP Applications:

Water Conservation: 24 - \$1.7 million

Grazing Lands: 13 - New Apps

Soil Health: 2 - New Apps

Total Applications: 39 - \$1.7 + Million



# FY2022 Contracts in All Programs Over the Central Platte NRD

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)  
Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

1966 Nebraska Soil Carbon Project (RCPP)

Not including Ogallala Aquifer & Platte River Recovery RCPP

• Contracts:	74
• Obligations:	\$3,435,766.36
• Treated Acres	32,676.6



# QUESTIONS?

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### CONSERVATION PROGRAM APPLICATION

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Application Number:</b>
<b>Address:</b>	<b>Application Date:</b>
	<b>County and State:</b>
<b>Email:</b>	
<b>Telephone:</b>	<b>Watershed:</b>
	<b>Subaccount:</b>
<b>Location (Legal Description or Farm and Tract Number):</b>	

1. ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** Do you have farm records established with the appropriate USDA Service Center Agency?

*If no, you must establish them with the appropriate USDA Service Center Agency prior to submitting this application.*

2. This is an application to participate in the:

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>CSP Renewal</b>	<b>Agriculture Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) - Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE)</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>EQIP</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>CSP</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>ACEP- (WRE)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Healthy Forest Reserve Program (HFRP)</b>

3. Are you applying to participate in a conservation program as an (check one of the following):

☐ **Individual**

- a) Please enter your legal name and tax identification number:

**Name:**

**Tax Number:**

☐ **Entity** (Corporation, Limited Partnership, Trust, Estate, etc.)

- a) Please enter entity legal name and tax identification number:

**Name:**

**Tax Number:**

- b) ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** Do you have appropriate documents including proof to sign for the entity?

☐ **Joint Operation** (General Partnership, Joint Venture)

- a) Please enter joint operation legal name and tax identification number:

**Name:**

**Tax Number:**

- b) ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** Do you have appropriate documents including proof to sign for the joint operation?

**4. Is the land being offered for enrollment used for crop (including forest-related) or livestock production?**

☐ Crop Production

Crop Type:

☐ Livestock Production

Livestock Type:

**5. The land offered under this application is (check all that apply):**

☐ Private Land

☐ Public Land (Federal, State, or Local Government)

☐ Tribal, Allotted, Ceded or Indian Land

**6. You certify that Certification of control of the land offered under the application is evidenced by:**

☐ Deed or other evidence of land ownership (required for all ACEP-WRE applications)

☐ Written lease agreement

Years of control are      through

☐ Other agreement or legal conveyance (describe):

Years of control are      through      or,

Evidence of historical control of land since: \_\_\_\_\_

**7. ☐ Yes   ☐ No   Is the land offered under this application enrolled in any other conservation program?**

**8. Do you meet the criteria for any of the following categories? (mark all that apply)**

☐ Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher

☐ Beginning Farmer or Rancher

☐ Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher

☐ Veteran Farmer or Rancher

☐ Not Applicable

*If you wish to apply in any of these categories, you must meet the self certification requirements. Definitions are provided below. For more information please go to this website:*

<https://lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/>

**Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher** – The term “Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher” means a participant:

- With direct or indirect gross farm sales not more than the current indexed value in each of the previous two years, and
- Who has a total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of four, or less than 50 percent of county median household income in each of the previous two years.

A legal entity or joint operation can be a Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher only if all individual members independently qualify. A Self-Determination Tool is available to the public and may be completed on-line or printed and completed hardcopy at: <https://lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/>

**Beginning Farmer or Rancher** – The term “Beginning Farmer or Rancher” means a participant who:

- Has not operated a farm or ranch, or who has operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 consecutive years. This requirement applies to all members of a legal entity, and who
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm or ranch.

In the case of a contract with an individual, individually or with the immediate family, material and



substantial participation requires that the individual provide substantial day-to-day labor and management of the farm or ranch, consistent with the practices in the county or State where the farm is located.

In the case of a contract made with a legal entity, all members must materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm or ranch. Material and substantial participation requires that the members provide some amount of the management, or labor and management necessary for day-to-day activities, such that if the members did not provide these inputs, operation of the farm or ranch would be seriously impaired.

**Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher** – The term "Socially Disadvantaged" means an individual or entity who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group. For an entity, at least 50 percent ownership in the farm business must be held by socially disadvantaged individuals. A socially disadvantaged group is a group whose members have been subject to racial or ethnic prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities.

These groups consist of the following:

- American Indians or Alaskan Natives
- Asians
- Blacks or African Americans
- Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders
- Hispanics.

Note: Gender alone is not a covered group for the purposes of NRCS conservation programs. The term entities reflect a broad interpretation to include partnerships, couples, legal entities, etc.

**Veteran Farmer or Rancher** – The term "Veteran Farmer or Rancher" means a producer who served in the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard, including the reserve component thereof; was released from service under conditions other than dishonorable; and:

- has not operated a farm or ranch, or has operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 years;  
or
- who first obtained status as a veteran during the most recent 10-year period.

A legal entity or joint operation can be a Veteran Farmer or Rancher only if all individual members independently qualify.

**9. Is any of the land offered for enrollment under this application:**

- ☐ **Certified Organic by the National Organic Program (NOP)**
- ☐ **Transitioning to become Certified Organic by the NOP**
- ☐ **Exempt from Organic Certification as defined by the NOP**
- ☐ **Not Applicable**

*Certification in any of these categories is to assist with planning and will not automatically result in the application being considered in any initiatives made available for organic-related production. Applicants must specifically request to participate in an organic initiative. Note that the EQIP Organic Initiative has a lower payment limitation (\$140,000 over the period of fiscal years 2019-2023 per person or legal entity) than payments made to a person or legal entity under General EQIP.*

On the farm(s) identified above, the Applicant agrees to participate in the identified program if the offer is accepted by the NRCS. The undersigned shall hereafter be referred to as the "Participant." The participant understands that starting a practice prior to contract approval causes the practice to be ineligible for program financial assistance. The participant will provide written authorization to

install structural or vegetative practices. The Participant agrees not to start any financially assisted practice or activity or engage the reimbursable services of a certified Technical Service Provider before a Contract is executed by CCC. The Participant may request, in writing, a waiver of this requirement for financially assisted practices by the NRCS State Conservationist.

All participants that certify land control or certify eligibility as Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher, Beginning Farmer or Rancher, or Veteran Farmer or Rancher, will provide all records necessary to justify their claim as requested by a NRCS representative. It is the responsibility of the Participant to provide accurate information to support all items addressed in this application at the request of NRCS. False certifications are subject to criminal and civil fraud statutes.

The Participant acknowledges that highly erodible land conservation/wetland conservation, adjusted gross income certifications, and member information for entities and joint operations are on file with the FSA.

**10. ☐ Yes ☐ No I have received a copy of the applicable conservation program contract appendix.**

<b>Applicant Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>

#### NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



Transfer: \$500 from Soil Moisture Sensor to Cover Crop

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD  
Cost Share  
Thursday, September 22, 2022

CENTER PIVOT INCENTIVE COST SHARE PROGRAM.....		\$	<b>7,500.00</b>
Rohrich Farms, Inc. – Hall	\$	7,500.00	
FLOW METER COST SHARE PROGRAM.....		\$	<b>800.00</b>
Apfel Brothers – Hall	\$	800.00	
COVER CROP COST SHARE PROGRAM.....		\$	<b>1,000.00</b>
Peregrine Ranch Inc. – Nance	\$	500.00	
Kenneth Boryca – Nance		500.00	
WELL DECOMMISSIONING COST SHARE PROGRAM .....		\$	<b>750.00</b>
Kenny Long – Buffalo	\$	750.00	
Total .....		\$	<b>10,050.00</b>