

## **CENTRAL PLATTE NRD**

### **Board Meeting Minutes**

September 23, 2021

**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    | Marvion Reichert |
| Jim Bendfeldt   | Jerry Milner     | Mick Reynolds    |
| Lon Bohn        | Barry Obermiller | Jay Richeson     |
| Alicia Haussler | Keith Ostermeier | Ed Stoltenberg   |
| Ed Kyes         | Doug Reeves      |                  |

Excused Absences: Tom Downey, Ryan Kegley, Brian Keiser, Dwayne Margritz, Steve Sheen, Deb VanMatre, and Jerry Wiese

Staff present: Lyndon Vogt – General Manager, Jesse Mintken – Assistant Manager, Kelly Cole – Administrative Assistant, Marcia Lee – Information/Education Specialist, Courtney Widup – Water Resources Technician, Luke Zakrzewski – GIS Image Analyst, Brody Vorderstrasse – Communications Assistant, Dan Clement – Water Resources Specialist, Angie Warner – GIS Programs Coordinator, Deb Jarzynka – District Secretary, Tricia Dudley – Water Quality Programs Specialist and Morgan Wrich – Precision Conservation Specialist

Others present: Joe Krolikowski – NRCS District Conservationist, Becky Appleford – JEO Consulting Inc., and Brandon Summers – GI Independent

**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. Keith Ostermeier seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor, except Alicia Haussler 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 Tom Downey, Ryan Kegley, Brian Keiser, Dwayne Margritz, Steve Sheen, Deb VanMatre, and Jerry Wiese requested to be excused from the board meeting.

Marvion Reichert made the motion to approve the absences as requested. Alicia Haussler 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 FY 2021 EQIP activity and timeline for FY 2022 applications (see enclosed).

**MANAGERS REPORT:** Lyndon Vogt, General Manager, reviewed the managers' report.

Central Platte NRD is about 95% complete with construction on the Gibbon Crane Deck. September 15 begins the fall crane migration season; therefore, work must stop until mid-November. Signage and seeding will be completed in late November.

The Burn Plan Position has been advertised twice now, 4 individuals have been interviewed, but Central Platte NRD has had no luck in filling the position. Central Platte NRD is still currently looking to fill the opening.

The next Integrated Management Plan trigger is in 2023. The Platte Basin NRDs met with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources to discuss the Robust Review. The mitigation activity that Central Platte NRD is required to do by 2023, we have more than meet.

The Lower Wood River WFPO update is located on Drop Box with some of the alternatives that have been looked at for flooding in the Watersheds. More details will be discussed at future board meetings.

**STAFF PRESENTATIONS:** Deb Jarzynka, District Secretary, Marcia Lee, Information/Education Specialist and Brody Vorderstrasse, Communications Assistant presented to the board on their job duties at the Central Platte NRD.

**PRECISION CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT REPORT:** Morgan Wrich, Precision Conservation Specialist, reported that she has started meeting with growers and signing them up to implement cover crops in Dawson County.

**VARIANCE/APPEAL COMMITTEE:** Jim Bendfeldt reported that the variance and appeals sub-committee meet today at noon for a variance request. The request was from Doug Anderson to transfer 2.31 acres of land from the NW ¼ 20-12N-6W, which is in the Upper Big Blue, to the NW ¼ 17-12N-6W, which is in the Central Platte NRD, located within Hamilton County. Given that both sections are directly adjacent to each

other and the Upper Big Blue NRD has approved the transfer request, the subcommittee is recommending that the acre for acre transfer request be approved.

Jim Bendfeldt made the motion to approve the transfer of 2.31 acres of land from the NW ¼ 20-12N-6W, which is in the Upper Big Blue, to the NW ¼ 17-12N-6W, which is in the Central Platte NRD, located within Hamilton County for Doug Anderson. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

**DROUGHT MITIGATION PRESENTATION:** Becky Appleford, JEO Engineering Hazard Mitigation and Emergency Planner, presented Central Platte NRD's Drought Mitigation Plan to the board. JEO developed the Plan as a resource for mitigation and response during periods of drought. Appleford indicated that the US Drought Monitor is a key tool to defining drought locally.

Appleford indicated that the next step would be to incorporate this Drought Mitigation Plan into the Central Platte NRD's Hazard Mitigation Plan, Integrated Management Plan and the Groundwater Management Plan. As well as implement proposed projects and utilize the extreme events committee.

**BUILDING COMMITTEE:** Lyndon Vogt, General Manager, presented a short video to the board on some information on a possible educational/office building. More information will be brought back at our December board meeting.

**LONG RANGE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN UPDATES:** Marcia Lee, Information/Education Specialist, reported that the proposed 2021-2026 Long Range Implementation Plan is on Drop Box. There were no recommended changes from the board from last month. She requested approval to send the Long Range Implementation Plan onto The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources.

Alicia Haussler made the motion to approve the 2021-2026 Long Range Implementation Plan as presented and send to The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources. Keith Ostermeier seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

**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, Center Pivot, Flow Meter and Cover Crop (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.

Alicia Haussler made the motion to approve the cost share applications as reported. Keith Ostermeier 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.

Alicia Haussler made a motion to approve the September financial report as presented. Charles Maser 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 28. Details to follow.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Chairman Reynolds set a board retreat date of Tuesday, December 14, details on the location will be sent out once it's all been finalized.

Chairman Reynolds also asked the board if there were any objections to saying the Pledge of Allegiance after the board meetings have been opened. There were no objections, this will begin in October.

**ADJOURN:** Chairman Reynolds adjourned the board meeting 3:30 p.m.



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 21, 2021

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

September Report to CPNRD

Attached is a summary of FY 2021 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) activity in the Central Platte NRD (CPNRD), timelines for FY 2022, and a copy of the application to be completed by an applicant before the deadline. The FY2022 application deadline has not been announced yet, but it is typically in mid-November. We will be completing outreach efforts to promote the Environmental Quality Incentive Program and to 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 2021 EQIP Contract Summary and FY 2022 Application

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# FY 2021 EQIP Contract Summary-CPNRD

Water Conservation: \$1,205,426 (30 contracts/4,707.6 acres)

- 8 Pipeline/Pivot/Pumping Plant/Dryland/FM/IWM
- 3 SDI/Pumping Plant/Dryland/FM/IWM
- 6 Dryland Only
- 13 IWM/FM

Grazing Lands: \$216,331 (6 contracts/1,931.1 acres)

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

Soil Health: \$111,021 (7 contracts/2,000.6 acres)

- Cover Crop (Ephemeral Gully Initiative)/No-Till

Conservation Activity Plans: \$2,976 (3 contracts/2,141.8 acres)

- Prescribed Burn Management Plans

Forestry: \$ (0 contracts/0 acres)

- Windbreak establishment/Windbreak Renovation

CPNRD Board Meeting Report

9/23/2021



# FY 2021 EQIP Contract Summary Totals - CPNRD

## Field Office Summary

Central City – 7 contracts - \$136,334 – 1,034.7 acres

Grand Island – 12 contracts - \$305,597 – 1,586.7 acres

Kearney – 9 contracts - \$147,839 – 1,616.8 acres

Lexington – 20 contracts - \$967,289 – 6,713.5 acres

Totals – 48 contracts - \$1,557,059 – 10,951.7 acres



# What comes next?



# FY 2022 EQIP Timeline

Continuous Signup with Application Cutoff Dates

First Application Cutoff Date: Mid November 2020

Second Application Cutoff Date: To Be Determined

Application Ranking Deadline: February 2021 TBD



# Carryover CPNRD EQIP Applications:

Water Conservation: 40 - \$2.1 million

Grazing Lands: 2 - \$27,768

Soil Health: 5 - \$56,653

Total Applications: 47 - \$2,184,421



# FY2021 Contracts in All Programs Over the Central Platte NRD

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

Not including Ogallala Aquifer & Platte River Recovery RCPP  
Not including Resilient Futures for Nebraska Soil RCPP

- Contracts: 62
- Obligations: \$2,956,623.41
- Treated Acres 27,456.2



# QUESTIONS?

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### CONSERVATION PROGRAM APPLICATION

|   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| <b>Name:</b>  | <b>Application Number:</b> |
| <b>Address:</b>   | <b>Application Date:</b>   |
| <b>Email:</b>   | <b>County and State:</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><br><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><br><input type="checkbox"/> <b>EQIP</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> <b>CSP</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> <b>ACEP- (WRE)</b><br><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>  |
| <br><br><br>               | <br><br><br> |

#### NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

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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)

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CENTRAL PLATTE NRD  
Cost Share  
Thursday, September 23, 2021

|  |             |                     |
|--|-------------|---------------------|
| NEBRASKA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COST SHARE PROGRAM....      |             | <b>\$ 14,049.53</b> |
| C & L Harders Farm Inc. – Hall – Underground Pipe to Pivot       | 5,000.00    |                     |
| High Prairie Investments Inc. – Polk – Underground Pipe to Pivot | 5,000.00    |                     |
| Francis Elaine Jones – Polk – Brush Management                   | 4,049.53    |                     |
| <br>FLOW METER COST SHARE PROGRAM.....                           |             | <b>\$ 800.00</b>    |
| Ryan Happold – Hall  | \$ 800.00   |                     |
| <br>CENTER PIVOT INCENTIVE COST SHARE PROGRAM .....              |             | <b>\$ 15,000.00</b> |
| Timothy Swantek – Polk   | \$ 7,500.00 |                     |
| Keith Harders – Hall   | 7,500.00    |                     |
| <br>COVER CROP COST SHARE PROGRAM .....                          |             | <b>\$ 500.00</b>    |
| Gary Anderson – Buffalo  | \$ 500.00   |                     |
| <br>Total .....  |             | <b>\$ 30,349.53</b> |