

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD

Board Meeting Minutes

September 28, 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	Jerry Milner	Mick Reynolds
Tom Downey	Barry Obermiller	Jay Richeson
Alicia Haussler	Doug Reeves	Ed Stoltenberg
Ed Kyes	Marvion Reichert	Jerry Wiese
Dwayne Margritz		

Excused Absences: Lon Bohn, Ryan Kegley, Brian Keiser, Charles Maser, Keith Ostermeier, Steve Sheen, Deb VanMatre and Mike Wilkens

Staff present: Lyndon Vogt – General Manager, Kelly Cole – Administrative Assistant, Jesse Mintken – Assistant Manager, Marcia Lee – Information/Education Specialist, Luke Zakrzewski – GIS Image Analyst, Brody Vorderstrasse – Communications Assistant, Brandi Flyr – Hydrologist, Courtney Widup – Water Resources Technician, Nelson Winkel – Prescribed Fire Planning Specialist, Dan Clement – Water Resources Specialist and Tricia Dudley – Water Quality Specialist.

Others present: Joe Krolikowski – NRCS District Conservationist, Jason Schultz – Hall County NRCS Resource Conservationist, Dan Bigbee – EA Engineering Senior Environmental Scientist, and David Griffith – EA Engineering VP of Engineering

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 August board meeting minutes. Tom Downey seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Jerry Milner 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. There was none.

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Chairman Reynolds reported that Lon Bohn, Ryan Kegley, Brian Keiser, Charles Maser, Keith Ostermeier, Steve Sheen, Deb VanMatre, and Mike Wilkens 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.

COVER CROP PRESENTATION: Dan Bigbee, EA Engineering Senior Environmental Scientist presented the results of a cover crop study that Central Platte NRD and Lower Loup NRD partnered on to determine the impacts of groundwater due to cover crop management. The study looked at the influence of cereal rye cover crops on soil moisture and groundwater recharge for the last 3 years. The results showed minimal impact of groundwater recharge and a minimal decrease in nitrate levels.

NRCS REPORT: Jason Schultz, Hall County NRCS Resource Conservationist, reported on funding in the Hall County NRCS office (see attached).

Joe Krolikowski, NRCS District Conservationist, reported on funding district wide for Central Platte NRD (see attached).

WATER UTILIZATION COMMITTEE: Tom Downey, chairman, reported that the committee met earlier today and reviewed the changes to the Groundwater Management Rules & Regulations. After some discussion the committee recommended holding a public hearing on Thursday, November 16 at 1:45 pm, just prior to the monthly board meeting.

WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE: Jerry Milner, chairman, reported that the committee met earlier today and reviewed the changes to the Groundwater Management Rules & Regulations. After some discussion the committee recommended holding a public hearing on Thursday, November 16 at 1:45 pm, just prior to the monthly board meeting.

Milner also reported that an agreement with Longitude 103 was presented to the committee. The agreement would allow Longitude 103 to continue support on our current online software that gWorks was doing prior. The agreement would give support to the Central Platte NRD until the producer connect app is completed. The agreement would be on a cost basis, not to exceed \$50,000 and could last 6 months to 2 years.

Jerry Milner made a motion to approve the agreement with Longitude 103 for support to our current online software, not to exceed \$50,000. Doug Reeves seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: Tom Downey made a motion to schedule the public hearing for the Groundwater Management Rules & Regulations on Thursday, November 16, 2023, at

1:45 pm with the board meeting scheduled that day at 2:00 or immediately following the public hearing. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Mick Reynolds, chairman, reported that the committee met earlier that day. A request for a large amount of dirt for a major road project in Hall County from the Upper Prairie Silver Moores Project was received. The committee gave approval to staff to work with the Nebraska Department of Roads and the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission to potentially make the dirt available for the road project.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Lyndon Vogt, General Manager, reported that Central Platte NRD currently sponsors 6 MESONET weather stations at \$3,000 per year each. UNL and many other entities are interested in increasing the network statewide, which could lead to about 200 stations. A presentation is on Dropbox that has all the details and expected costs to expand the network. If this project is to move forward it will be a legislative decision.

Vogt also reported that Central Platte NRD was recently contacted by the Army National Guard to install a camera at the B-1 Reservoir to monitor wildlife. There would be no cost to the Central Platte NRD.

2023 LONG RANGE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN: Marcia Lee, Information/Education Specialist, reported that the proposed 2023-2028 Long Range Implementation Plan is on Dropbox. There were a few minor changes made. 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 2023-2028 Long Range Implementation Plan as presented and send it 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 Phragmites Control and increasing Cover Crop and reported that we have received cost share applications for the following programs: Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation, Burn Preparation, Center Pivot, Streambank Stabilization 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.

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, reviewed the September

financial report.

Marvion Reichert made a motion to approve the September financial report as presented. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICT: Lyndon Vogt, General Manager, reviewed Deb VanMatre's report.

The NARD Annual Conference was successful with over 400 attendees, which is the highest they've ever had. There were no new resolutions. During the Business Session, directors were encouraged to contact their County Farm Bureau delegates regarding a Legislative Bill to take taxing authority away from Natural Resources Districts.

Central Platte NRD also had two staff members recognized at the Annual Conference for their 35 years of service – Dan Clement and Deb Jarzynka.

A survey from those who attended the Basin Tour in the Central Platte NRD was provided and is on Dropbox to review. The tour was a success.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION: No Report.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Chairman Reynolds reviewed the upcoming events.

Next Board Meeting – Scheduled for the afternoon of Thursday, October 26. Details to follow.

OTHER BUSINESS: There was none.

ADJOURN: Chairman Reynolds adjourned the board meeting at 3:02 p.m.



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

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

September 28, 2023

Central Platte NRD
215 N. Kaufman Ave.
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.

Federally funded programs/practice types

- Irrigation conversions/dryland total 515.9 ac for \$243,882
- CRP 60.5 Ac general, 503.01 Ac grassland
- CSP Total of 5,100.2 Ac. Implement multiple different activities. Examples include Nutrient/pest mgmt., cover crops, grazing practices, adding a resource conserving crop, etc. for \$400,000.

NRD funded programs/practice types

- Windbreak plantings 5 cost share tree plantings for \$6,632.
- Irrigation conversion total 528.5 Ac treated for \$49,877.
- Rangeland improvements 38.3 Ac cedar clearing for \$3,031.

Combined funding and total acres

- Irrigation related projects 1,044.4 Ac treated total cost of \$293,759.
- Rangeland improvement 38.3 Ac. cedars cleared for \$3,031.
- CRP 563.51 Ac combined enrollment.
- CSP 5,100.2 Ac treated for \$400,000 for various activities to be implemented.
- Windbreak Plantings 5 tree planting plans, usually around .5 ac. per planting
- Over 6,746.41 acres covered through financial assistance for various conservation activities.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Jason Scholz

Jason Scholz
Resource Conservationist
Grand Island Field Office

United States Department Of Agriculture



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 28, 2023

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

September Report to CPNRD

Attached is a summary of FY 2023 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 2024, and a copy of the application to be completed by an applicant before the application deadline. The FY2024 application deadline is November 17, 2023. We have already completed an outreach effort to promote the Environmental Quality Incentive Program and the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, as well as all the programs. It is 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 2023 EQIP Contract Summary
FY2024 Blank EQIP Application

FY 2023 EQIP/RCPP Contract Summary-CPNRD

Water Conservation: \$1,789,302 (28 contracts/2,834.7 acres)

- 18 Pipeline/Pivot/Pumping Plant/Dryland/FM/IWM
- 7 SDI/Pumping Plant/Dryland/FM/IWM
- 3 Dryland Only Contracts
- 0 IWM/FM

Grazing Lands: \$722,445.83 (24 contracts/6,547.0 acres)

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

Soil Health: \$277,684.00 (15 contracts/3,314.9 acres)

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

Conservation Activity Plans: \$1,890.00 (1 contracts/320.0 acres)

- Prescribed Burn Management Plans

Forestry/Wetland Improvement: \$75,374.00 (1 contracts/97.1 acres)

- Windbreak establishment/WB Renovation/Forrest Stnd Imprvmt

High Tunnels & SSUA Projects: \$243,492.96 (5 contracts/12.2 acres)

- High Tunnels/Irrigation & Nutrient Mgmt/Cover Crops

FY 2023 EQIP/RCPP Contract Summary Totals - CPNRD

Field Office Summary

Central City – 30 contracts - \$1,344,077 – 5,622.4 acres

Grand Island – 7 contracts - \$412,485 – 650.7 acres

Kearney – 23 contracts - \$1,130,216 – 3,543.3 acres

Lexington – 14 contracts - \$223,407 – 3,309.5 acres

Totals – 74 contracts - \$3,110,185 – 13,125.9 acres

What comes next?

FY 2024 EQIP Timeline

Continuous Signup with Application Cutoff Dates

First Application Cutoff Date: November 17, 2023

Second Application Cutoff Date: To Be Determined

Application Ranking Deadline: February 2024 TBD

Carryover CPNRD EQIP Applications:

Water Conservation: 47 - \$2.9 million

Grazing Lands: 10 - \$186,160

Soil Health: 2 - New Apps

Total Applications: 59 - \$3.0 Million

FY2023 Contracts in All Programs Over the Central Platte NRD

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)
Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
1966 Nebraska Soil Carbon Project (RCPP)
2271 Ogallala Aquifer & Platte River Recovery (RCPP)

- Contracts: 96
- Obligations: \$4,964,879
- Treated Acres 36,858.6

QUESTIONS?

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CONSERVATION PROGRAM APPLICATION

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

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

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.

Applicant Signature	Date

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

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Transfer Request: \$500 from Phragmites Control to Cover Crop

**CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Cost Share
Thursday, September 28, 2023**

NEBRASKA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COST SHARE PROGRAM...	\$ 14,155.60
JDI Inc. – Buffalo – Range Seeding	\$ 5,835.60
Kevin Hoagland – Merrick – Underground pipe to pivot	3,320.00
Cheryl A Riskowski – Hall – Underground pipe to pivot	5,000.00
CENTER PIVOT INCENTIVE COST SHARE PROGRAM	\$ 3,750.50
Everett Turek – Hall	\$ 3,750.50
STREAMBANK STABILIZATION	\$ 3,000.00
Verna E Zmek – Merrick	\$ 3,000.00
COVER CROP COST SHARE PROGRAM	\$ 1,000.00
Corey Boryca – Nance	\$ 500.00
Kenneth Boryca – Nance	500.00
Total	\$ 21,906.10