

## CENTRAL PLATTE NRD

### Board Meeting Minutes

September 2, 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	Dwayne Margritz	Mick Reynolds
Jim Bendfeldt	Charles Maser	Jay Richeson
Lon Bohn	Jerry Milner	Steve Sheen
Tom Downey	Barry Obermiller	Ed Stoltenberg
Ryan Kegley	Keith Ostermeier	Deb VanMatre
Brian Keiser	Marvion Reichert	Jerry Wiese
Ed Kyes		

Excused Absences: Doug Reeves

Unexcused Absences: Alicia Haussler

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, Brody Vorderstrasse – Communications Assistant, Dean Krull – UNL/CPNRD Demo Project Coordinator, Dan Clement – Water Resources Specialist, and Morgan Wrich – Precision Conservation Specialist

Others present: Joe Krolikowski – NRCS District Conservationist, Scott Sorensen – Hall County Commissioner

**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:** Ed Kyes made the motion to approve the July board meeting minutes. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor, except Jim Bendfeldt, Lon Bohn, Brian Keiser, Charles Maser, Marvion Reichert and Steve Sheen 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 Doug Reeves requested to be excused from the board meeting.

Keith Ostermeier made the motion to approve the absences as requested. Marvion Reichert 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 State Conservationist Position (see enclosed).

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

Central Platte NRD is submitting two grants to NET: Fire Assistance Grant – this will help fund a fire crew and the Prescribed Fire Burn Plan Position and the Alda Crane Deck Rehabilitation Grant.

**STAFF PRESENTATIONS:** Kelly Cole, Administrative Assistant and Morgan Wrich, Precision Conservation Specialist presented to the board on their job duties at the Central Platte NRD.

**RESOLUTION TO SET LEVY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021/2022 BUDGET:**

Chairman Reynolds reported on the special hearing to set the final tax request that was held prior to the board meeting and briefly reviewed the resolution. One of the county valuations had an amended amount that CPNRD received after we had advertised but verified that we are not required to readvertise as there will be no change in the property tax request. He said no testimony was presented at the hearing. The property tax request of \$3,983,622.69 would require a levy of 0.022196 based on the District's valuation of \$17,947,588,662.00.

Marvion Reichert made the motion to approve the "Resolution Setting the Property Tax Request – Fiscal Year 2021/2022" and to set the levy at 0.022196. Jim Bendfeldt seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

**WESTERN PROJECTS COMMITTEE:** Chairman Marvion Reichert reported on their meeting held earlier in the day.

Amendment #1 with HDR Engineering was presented and the purpose was to subdivide the project area to include Spring Creek Sub-Watershed and the Buffalo Creek Sub-Watershed. The additional amount requested was \$125,000.00. The completion date will remain the same of April 2023. USDA-NRCS has approved and will reimburse 100% for

the Amendment.

Marvion Reichert made a motion to approve Amendment #1 with HDR Engineering in the amount of \$125,000.00 for the Spring and Buffalo Creek WFPO. Lon Bohn seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

**BUILDING COMMITTEE:** Chairman Mick Reynolds reported on their meeting held earlier in the day.

The Natural Resources Commission met and unanimously voted to transfer the use of the funds allocated to the Prairie/Silver/Moores Flood Reduction Project from a Land Purchase component to an Educational component in the amount of \$1,723,990.91. The committee will continue discussions on moving forward with a new facility next month.

**ALDA CRANE DECK:** Jesse Minken, Assistant Manager, reported that CPNRD is applying for an NET Grant for the Alda Crane Deck Rehabilitation. The purpose of this grant is to replace the trail, construct a new parking lot, renovate portions of the Crane Viewing platform and engineering costs. Resolution No. 2021-RTP-001 for this grant will allow the General Manager to sign the application for federal assistance and any other official project documents, agreements, contracts or other documents that are required by the State of Nebraska or the Federal Highway Administration.

Jay Richeson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2021-RTP-001, which will allow the General Manager to sign the application for federal assistance and any other official project documents, agreements, contracts or other documents that are required by the State of Nebraska or the Federal Highway Administration. Deb VanMatre seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

**LONG RANGE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN UPDATES:** Marcia Lee, Information/Education Specialist, reported that the proposed 2021-2026 Long Range Implementation Plan is on Drop Box. The plan summarizes district activities including projects of financial, manpower and land right needs for the next five years. All changes are in red and a summary of those changes is listed on page one. We are required to update the plan annually under the Nebraska Natural Resources District Act. She asked that directors review it and if any changes or additions are needed to let her know. This will be considered at the September board meeting.

**NARD ANNUAL CONFERENCE VOTING DELEGATE/ALTERNATE:** Keith Ostermeier made a motion to elect Deb VanMatre as the voting delegate and Jay Richeson as the alternate for the business session of the NARD Annual Conference. Brian Keiser 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 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 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 August financial reports.

Marvion Reichert made a motion to approve the August financial report as presented. Lon Bohn 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 reported that they received 17 applications that totaled \$36 million. The commission has \$13 million available to allocate. Nebraska Department of Natural Resources is reviewing the 17 applications. Next meeting is November 10.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:** Chairman Reynolds reviewed the upcoming events.  
**Next Board Meeting** – Scheduled for the afternoon of Thursday, September 23. Details to follow.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Jesse Mintken, Assistant Manager, reviewed his report that was provided to the directors on Drop Box. The 2020 Annual Report of Water Use Activities in Central Platte NRD for the Platte Basin Meeting showed that Central Platte NRD processed 54 Groundwater Transfers, 55 Well Permits and Retired 228 acres.

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

August 30, 2021

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

August Report to CPNRD

I would like to take this time to update the Central Platte NRD Staff and the Board of Directors on where things stand right now with our vacant State Conservationist position here in Nebraska. As you recall, last December 31, 2020, Craig Derickson retired from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), his retirement came after over 35 years of service. Craig served as the State Conservationist here in Nebraska for his last 10 years of service.

After Craig retired, we have had a few different Acting State Conservationists. The first was Mr. Jeff Vander Wilt, Assistant State Conservationist for Programs in South Dakota. Jeff served in this acting role approximately 6 months, from January 4, 2021 through June 18, 2021. After Jeff, was Mr. Britt Weiser, our State Resource Conservationist from here in Nebraska. Britt's time as the Acting State Conservationist ran from June 21, 2021 through August 13, 2021. Now we will be transitioning to our 3<sup>rd</sup> Acting State Conservationist, Mr. John Wilson, Deputy State Conservationist for the State of Arkansas. John will serve in this role starting August 16, 2021 and will be our Acting State Conservationist until the new State Conservationist is hired. The information provided below about John came to staff in Nebraska in a weekly newsletter that we all receive from the State Office.



Introducing John Wilson, Nebraska NRCS's new Acting State Conservationist. John was recently named Deputy State Conservationist for Arkansas NRCS and is a graduate of Alcorn State University in Lorman, Mississippi. There, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Education. John began his career with the then Soil Conservation Service as a student trainee in Adrian, Michigan. He would be appointed as a soil conservationist in Paw Paw, Michigan and later was reassigned to the Centreville Service Center before accepting a district conservationist (DC) position in Pontiac. He worked as DC for 5 years before changing positions to assist the local conservation partners in Southeast Michigan with the Southeast Michigan River Basin Study as an urban Resource Conservationist.



In 1998, he accepted the position of Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations in Northwest Ohio. In 2007, he moved to Columbus to become the State Administrative Officer and was instrumental in leading Ohio's response to the Audit.

He has also acted as the National Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Officer for NRCS in Washington, D. C., on two occasions and acted as State Conservationist several months in Ohio in 2005 and 2021 as well as Utah in 2011.

In 2014, he accepted the Assistant State Conservationist for Programs position in Columbus. He provided leadership to the Programs staff that administers the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Conservation Stewardship Program, Regional Conservation Partnership Program, and the Conservation Innovative Grants program.

"I am excited about the opportunity to come and play a part in the conservation efforts in Nebraska," John said. We look forward to having John's leadership over the next few months!

In concluding my report, you might be thinking to yourselves, why has Nebraska not filled the State Conservationist opening with someone permanent yet. Nebraska is not the only state in this situation currently in the Central Region, South Dakota and Ohio are also operating with Acting State Conservationists. The reason for this is the Regional Conservationist position, which supervises the State Conservationists for the Central Region, is also vacant. There is and has been a person serving as the Acting Regional Conservationist for some time. We are not sure when that position will be filled, but once it is filled with a permanent employee. Then they said they will advertise and fill the open State Conservationist positions, which will be supervised by that new Regional Conservationist. Currently it is still unknown when any of this will happen, it will be in FY22 for sure, or possibly in calendar year 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,

*/s/ Joe Krolikowski*

Joe Krolikowski  
District Conservationist

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD  
Cost Share  
Thursday, September 2, 2021

NEBRASKA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COST SHARE PROGRAM..	\$	<b>6,383.06</b>
Nancy Stone – Buffalo – Brush Management	\$	1,383.06
Margie Syslo – Nance – Underground pipeline to pivot		5,000.00
CENTER PIVOT INCENTIVE COST SHARE PROGRAM .....	\$	<b>7,489.46</b>
Craig Frenzen – Nance	\$	7,489.46
WELL DECOMMISSIONING COST SHARE PROGRAM.....	\$	<b>1,500.00</b>
Kurt Koepp – Hall	\$	750.00
William Wolbach – Hall		750.00
Total .....	\$	<b>15,372.52</b>

**CENTRAL PLATTE NRD**  
**PUBLIC HEARING TO SET PROPERTY TAX REQUEST**  
**Fiscal Year 2021/2022**  
**September 2, 2021**

**ATTENDANCE:** Board members present were:

LeRoy Arends	Ed Kyes	Marvion Reichert
Jim Bendfeldt	Dwayne Margritz	Mick Reynolds
Lon Bohn	Charles Maser	Jay Richeson
Tom Downey	Jerry Milner	Steve Sheen
Ryan Kegley	Barry Obermiller	Ed Stoltenberg
Brian Keiser	Keith Ostermier	Deb VanMatre
		Jerry Wiese

Staff present: Lyndon Vogt – General Manager, Jesse Mintken – Assistant Manager, Kelly Cole – Administrative Assistant, Marcia Lee – Information/Education Specialist, Courtney Widup – Resources Conservationist

Others present: Joe Krolikowski - NRCS District Conservationist

**OPEN HEARING:** Chairman Mick Reynolds opened the public hearing at 1:45 pm. He stated that this public hearing is an open meeting of the Central Platte Natural Resources District. The NRD abides by the Open Meetings Act in conducting business. A copy of the Open Meetings Act is displayed on the South wall of this room, as required by State Law. He said the purpose of the hearing was to receive support, opposition, criticism, suggestions, or observations of taxpayers relating to setting the final Fiscal 2021/2022 budget tax request at a different amount than last year's request.

Chairman Reynolds said notices of the hearing were published in the Grand Island Independent, Kearney Hub, Central City Republican Nonpareil, Lexington Clipper Herald and Tri-City Tribune. The hearing notice was entered into the record (See attached Grand Island Independent notice).

**REVIEW:** Chairman Reynolds read the proposed "Resolution Setting the Property Tax Request". If approved the Fiscal Year 2021/2022 property tax request would be \$3,983,622.69 and would require a levy of 0.022196 based on the District's valuation of \$17,947,588,662.00. One of the county valuations had an amended amount that CPNRD received after we had advertised but verified that we are not required to readvertise as there will be no change in the property tax request. A copy of the proposed resolution had been provided to the directors prior to the public hearing.

**CALL FOR TESTIMONEY:** Chairman Reynolds then asked if anyone in attendance wanted to present testimony on the proposed property tax request or resolution. No testimony was presented.

**CLOSE:** Chairman Reynolds closed the hearing at 1:48pm.

See September 2, 2021, Board Meeting Minutes for action taken.



\*\*\* Proof of Publication \*\*\*

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State of Nebraska )  
County of Hall ) SS.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL  
HEARING  
TO SET FINAL TAX  
REQUEST - FISCAL  
2021/2022  
Central Platte Natural Re-  
sources District

CENTRAL PLATTE NATURAL / GI

215 N KAUFMAN AVE  
GRAND ISLAND, NE 68803

ORDER NUMBER 1006036

Public notice is hereby given, in compliance with the provisions of State Statutes 77-1601.02, that the governing body of the Central Platte Natural Resources District will meet on September 2, 2021, at 1:45 p.m. for the purpose of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of taxpayers relating to setting the final tax request at a different amount than the prior year tax request. The hearing will be at the headquarters office at 215 Kaufman Avenue, Grand Island, Nebraska.

2020/2021 Taxable Valuation: \$17,653,315,322.00  
2021/2022 Taxable Valuation: \$17,948,500,025.00  
Valuation Percentage Increase from 2020/2021 to 2021/2022: 1.6721%  
2020/2021 Tax Request: \$4,057,019.34  
Property Tax Rate: 0.022982  
2020/2021 Tax Request based on 2021/2022 Valuation: 0.022604  
Proposed 2021/2022 Tax Request: \$3,983,622.69  
Property Tax Rate: 0.022195  
Property Tax Rate Decrease from 2020/2021 to 2021/2022: 1.81%  
Total Operating Budget Decrease from 2020/2021 to 2021/2022: 0.676%  
Unused Budget Authority Created for Next Year: \$2,784,953.72  
28 ZNEZ

Cassy Hervey, being first duly sworn on oath, says that he/she is employed by The GRAND ISLAND INDEPENDENT, a newspaper printed and published in Grand Island, in Hall County, Nebraska, and of general circulation in Hall County, Nebraska, and as such has charge of the records and files of the GRAND ISLAND INDEPENDENT, and affiant knows of his/her own personal knowledge that said newspaper has a bonafide circulation of more than 500 copies of each issue, has been published at Grand Island, Nebraska, for more than 52 weeks successively prior to the first publication of the annexed printed notice, and is a legal newspaper under the statutes of the State of Nebraska; that the annexed printed notice was published on the dates listed below.

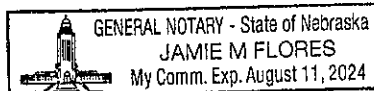
Section: Class Legals  
Category: 0099 LEGALS  
PUBLISHED ON: 08/28/2021

TOTAL AD COST: 29.98

FILED ON: 8/30/2021

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 30<sup>th</sup> day  
of August, 2021

My commission expires August 11, 2024



Jamie M Flores  
Notary Public