

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Board Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2020

CALL TO ORDER: Vice-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	Barry Obermiller	Jay Richeson
Alicia Haussler	Keith Ostermeier	Steve Sheen
Ed Kyes	Doug Reeves	Keith Stafford
Dwayne Margritz	Marvion Reichert	Jerry Wiese
Charles Maser	Mick Reynolds	
Jerry Milner		

Excused Absences: Jim Bendfeldt, Chris Henry, Brian Keiser, Ed Stoltenberg, Deb VanMatre and Lon Bohn – arrived at 2:10 pm.

Staff present: Lyndon Vogt – General Manager, Kelly Cole – Administrative Assistant, Mark Czaplewski – District Biologist, Marcia Lee – Information/Education Specialist, Luke Zakrzewski – GIS Image Analyst, Angie Warner – GIS Programs Coordinator, Courtney Widup – Water Resources Technician, Brandi Flyr – Hydrologist, Tricia Dudley – Water Quality Programs Assistant, Dan Clement – Water Resources Specialist.

Others present – Bill Kurz – Landowner.

MEETING NOTICES: Vice-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 December board meeting minutes. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER BUSINESS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS: Vice-Chairman Reynolds asked if there were any announcements or suggestions for future meetings. There were none.

PUBLIC FORUM: Vice-Chairman Reynolds asked if anyone wanted to address the board on any item not included on the agenda. There were none.

NRCS REPORT: Vice-Chairman Reynolds reported that the NRCS report was located on your drop box (see attached), NRCS staff was unable to attend the meeting today.

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Vice-Chairman Reynolds reported that Jim Bendfeldt, Chris Henry, Brian Keiser, Ed Stoltenberg, and Deb VanMatre had requested to be excused from the board meeting and Lon Bohn – would be 10 minutes late .

Marvion Reichert 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.

ELECT A BOARD SECRETARY & TREASURER: Alicia Haussler reviewed the subcommittee's recommendation that was reported at last month's board meeting to elect Deb VanMatre as secretary and Keith Ostermeier for treasurer. Deb VanMatre will serve a second two-year term.

Vice-Chairman Reynolds asked whether there were any nominations from the floor. There were none.

Marvion Reichert made the motion that nominations close. Barry Obermiller seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Marvion Reichert to elect Deb VanMatre as secretary and Keith Ostermeier as treasurer. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY WITH FIVE POINTS BANK: General Manager Lyndon Vogt reported that we need to remove Dianne Miller's name and replace with Kelly Cole and add our new treasurer, Keith Ostermeier.

Marvion Reichert made a motion to approve the certificate of authority with Five Points Bank naming Keith Ostermeier, new treasurer and Kelly Cole as authorized individuals. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE SELCTION SIGNUP: Vice-Chairman Reynolds reported that a sign-up sheet will be passed around. Board members were encouraged to sign-up for 2 committees, but committees were limited to 10 board members.

VARIANCE/APPEALS SUBCOMMITTEE: Ed Kyes reported for the subcommittee who meet earlier that day.

Appeal on land in Howard & Merrick Counties: Ed said we had a transfer request from Mike Toukan in the NW quarter of section 31-14-8, Merrick County and the N1/2 of the NE quarter of section 36-14-9 in Howard County. The request was to allow the acre for acre transfer of certified irrigated acres that utilize the same well and has the same landowner from one section to the neighboring section. The land is currently split

by a county boundary and in two different groundwater management areas. The well and original well registration shows both parcels were irrigated with underground from the same well.

Ed said the subcommittee is recommending, and he made the motion, that the request be approved, with the conditions that the well stays in groundwater management area 13 under the same ownership and as long as either sub area 16 or 13 is in decline that no supplemental wells are allowed to irrigate the acres. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

VIOLATION REPORTS: Luke Zakrzewski, GIS Image Analyst, reported that numbers are down for violations this year, with just 12 totaling 127.13 acres, compared to last year with 32 violations. The violations run in size from 1 acre to 20.5 acres. Violation letters will be mailed next week notifying violators that they must contact the CPNRD by February 27th to resolve the violations. Luke will report back to the board.

Tricia Dudley, Water Quality Programs Assistant, reported that of the 19 producers that were notified in December, 10 of them have not come into compliance. Legal counsel will be notified and asked to send out a certified letter to the producers that if they irrigate in the upcoming growing season they will be in violation of the cease and desist order.

Barry Obermiller made a motion to inform our attorney to send a letter to the following individuals indicating a cease and desist order has been filed and that legal action will be taken if necessary. The following names are Andrew Blessin, William & Hazel Johnston, John Kearney, Mike Munsterman, Jeff Perry, Donald Santin Jr, William Soll, Tim Sullivan, Richard Urban and Quincy Week. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, except Lon Bohn who abstained, were in favor. Motion carried.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT: Mark Czaplewski, District Biologist, reported the new legislative session started January 8th and is a 60-day session. He said there wasn't a lot going on with the Natural Resources. He said he will keep the board informed as the session continues.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Lyndon Vogt, General Manager, reported that GMDA was last week in Fort Lauderdale, with 6 directors, Luke Zakrzewski and himself attending from Central Platte. This was a well-attended meeting put on by Nebraska.

Also reported that we're hoping to have a signed contract in late February or early March for the Watershed Flood Protection Operations grant with the NRCS. Once signed we can start working on the watershed plans. Phase 1 of 3 has been funded, which is the planning phase. We have 2-years to complete Phase 1. This phase will determine what structures need to be constructed to address flooding concerns and costs in moving forward.

Vogt reported that advertising for the shared Communications Assistant with Rainwater Basin Joint Venture (RWBJV) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will begin next week and run through February 14th. We hope to have someone hired by the first of March.

Vogt also reported that back in November the board approved applying for a Hazard Mitigation grant, which helps all the communities in our district. We were just notified that we've been approved for that grant, which will begin this fall. Without a current Hazard Mitigation plan, federal funds would not be available for disaster assistance.

PRIMARY ELECTION: Kelly Cole, Administrative Assistant, reported that as of Friday, January 17th the following board members have refiled for the NRD Board: Jay Richeson, Dwayne Margritz, Lon Bohn, Jim Bendfeldt, Mick Reynolds, LeRoy Arends and Doug Reeves. Incumbents have until February 18th to file and non-incumbents have until March 2nd to file.

NEBRASKA NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION REPORT: No Report in January.

NE ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICTS REPORT: Lyndon Vogt, General Manager, reported that the Legislative Conference begins next week in Lincoln.

COST SHARE PROGRAMS: Applications –Kelly Cole, Administrative Assistant, reported that we have received cost share applications for the following programs: Capacitance Probe, Burn Preparation 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. Keith Ostermeier seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Marvion Reichert made a motion to approve the December and January financial reports as presented. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Next Board Meeting – Scheduled for the afternoon of Thursday, February 27. Details to follow.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Vice-Chairman Reynolds reviewed the upcoming events.

OTHER BUSINESS: The board retreat will be February 20 at the Tom Dinsdale's conference room. More information will be sent out.

ADJOURN: Vice-Chairman Reynolds adjourned the board meeting at 2:30 p.m.

January 21, 2020

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

January Report to CPNRD

Central City Office Updates

Staffing

We are happy to have our new district secretary, Cindy Duerksen, who has been with us for almost four months now. She is a fast learner and has been invaluable to our busy office! There is also an opening for a Soil Conservation Technician that will be posted next month. We are looking forward to being fully staffed!

Programs

We just wrapped up an incredible 2019 program year, with over 100 EQIP cover crop disaster initiative contracts, and three new conservation stewardship program contracts. But no rest for the weary, as it looks like 2020 is going to be a busy year as well!

In the upcoming months we have several training sessions scheduled to learn about the new Farm Bill, new conservation planning software, and new ranking systems. A cut-off date for submitting applications has not been established yet, but so far for the EQIP program we have around 50 applications, and for CStwP we have 19 applications. The Conservation Reserve Program also has a sign-up happening right now, and we've had a fair amount of interest from landowners for that as well.

General/Outreach

We were able to talk to a Pre-K class about soil health, and even brought our soil health tunnel along to show them what life looks like underground. They had a great time crawling through and checking out the "worms". A high-school class from Central City came to the office and we spoke to them about career and volunteer opportunities available in natural resources. Merrick County extension is hosting an Ag Update Day on January 29th, 2020 at the fairgrounds. We were invited to speak about opportunities for USDA programs. The flyer is attached for your reference. It should be a wonderful event and we'd love to see you there!

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Nicole Olsen

Nicole Olsen
Resource Conservationist

Helping People Help the Land

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

January 21, 2020

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

January Report to CPNRD

Central Platte NRD Board and Staff, I'm sorry we will be unable to attend this month's meeting in person, NRCS employees have a mandatory training on the same day as the Board meeting that we all must attend. I look forward to seeing you all again at the February meeting. Until then, our Resources Conservationist Nicole in the Central City Field Office, and I have prepared short updates for you all on our current NRCS happenings.

The NRCS is currently working to prepare as best we can for the FY 2020 Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) signup and ranking with the information we currently have available. The final rules of the New Farm Bill are still not complete yet, and currently the field staff are not scheduled for Statewide Programs training until March. After the final rules have been announced, then our State Office can set an application cutoff date, after that we could potentially start the ranking of the applications received by the announced cutoff date.

The FY20 program rankings will take place with the New Ranking Software if everything goes as planned by National Headquarters. They are still working on and preparing this new software for use in the field for this year's applications. In fact, the required training we are attending on this month's Board Meeting is on the new ranking software. Hopefully all goes well with the training and we will be up and running soon.

Thanks again for your support and understanding and we will see you all next month.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Joe Krolikowski

Joe Krolikowski
District Conservationist

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CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Cost Share
January 23, 2020

CAPACITANCE PROBE COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$ 7,500.00
Mitch Harders – Hall	\$ 2,500.00	
Dobesh Farms Inc. – Hall	2,500.00	
Bryce Jameson – Buffalo	2,500.00	
BURN PREPARATION COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$ 4,867.50
Karl Neil Hueftle – Dawson	\$ 4,867.50	
WELL DECOMMISSIONING COST SHARE PROGRAM.....		\$ 750.00
Louise M Ford Trust – Hall	\$ 750.00	
Total		\$13,117.50

