

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD

Board Meeting Minutes

February 27, 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	Jerry Milner	Steve Sheen
Lon Bohn	Keith Ostermeier	Keith Stafford
Chris Henry	Doug Reeves	Ed Stoltenberg
Ed Kyes	Marvion Reichert	Deb VanMatre
Dwayne Margritz	Mick Reynolds	
Charles Maser	Jay Richeson	

Excused Absences: Jim Bendfeldt, Alicia Haussler, Brian Keiser, Barry Obermiller and Jerry Wiese

Staff present: Lyndon Vogt – General Manager, Jesse Mintken – Assistant 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, Bill Hiatt – Resources Conservationist.

Others present – Joe Krolkowski – District Conservationist, Janelle Taubeneheim – Resources Conservationist, Lori Potter – Kearney Hub, Rich Bringelson - 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: Marvion Reichert made the motion to approve the January board meeting minutes. Keith Ostermeier seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor, except Deb VanMatre, who abstained. 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: Joe Krolkowski, NRCS Liaison District Conservationist, reviewed the fiscal year 2020 rules for EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program), CStP (Conservation Stewardship Program), CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) and the National Food Security Act Compliance Review (see enclosed report). Janelle Taubenheim, NRCS Resource Conservationist, Lexington Field Office, reviewed the NRCS deadlines and ranking tool (CART) (see enclosed report).

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Vice-Chairman Reynolds reported that Jim Bendfeldt, Alicia Haussler, Brian Keiser, Barry Obermiller and Jerry Wiese had requested to be excused from the board meeting.

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

EASTERN PROJECTS COMMITTEE: Committee Chairman Ed Stoltenberg reported on their meeting held earlier that day.

Upper Prairie/Silver/Moores Creek Project – Ed reported they had reviewed Amendment #9 from JEO for the Flood Risk Reduction Project. Amendment #9 includes project management and coordination, project highlight materials, flood alert implementation phase I, an access road and berm extension and flood alert implementation phase II. The amendment totals \$135,539.97.

Ed Stoltenberg made the motion to approve Amendment #9 in the amount of \$135,539.97 for the Upper Prairie/Silver/Moores Creek Project. Doug Reeves seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

PROGRAMS COMMITTEE: Committee Chairman Ed Kyes reported on their meeting held earlier that day.

Outdoor Classroom Community Grant – Ed reported they had reviewed an application from GISH Success Academy to replace lost trees due to disease and storms. They had requested \$2,500, but the maximum available through the Outdoor Classroom Community Grant is \$2,000.

Ed Kyes made the motion to approve the \$2,000 Outdoor Classroom Community Grant for GISH Success Academy. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor, except Keith Stafford, who abstained. Motion carried.

Johnson Lake Trail – Ed reported that Johnson Lake recently put in a new trail and was requesting seed from us in the amount of \$150.

Ed Kyes made the motion to approve \$150 for seed for the Johnson Lake Trail. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

WESTERN PROJECTS COMMITTEE: Committee Chairman Marvion Reichert reported on their meeting held earlier that day.

Potential Watershed & Flood Prevention & Operations (WFPO) Grant – Marvion reported that CPNRD has an opportunity to apply for a grant through NRCS for Turkey Creek. If approved, this grant will cover 100% of the planning process.

Jay Richeson made a motion to approve staff to move forward with applying for the WFPO grant for Turkey Creek. Lon Bohn seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Thirty Mile Irrigation District Shop/Office – Marvion reported that TMID would like to put up a new 40 x 100 shop, which CPNRD would own/pay for half of. Since CPNRD currently has an employee located in Lexington, if TMID votes to put up the shop, CPNRD would like to add an office addition at the same time (20 x 40) and move our current employee out there and have the room to potentially add another employee.

Marvion Reichert made a motion to allow CPNRD to add the 20 x 40 addition of a turnkey office space to the TMID shop if they move forward, which will be done next fiscal year, and move our current employee, located in Lexington, to this location. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

FIRE CONTRACTOR & CREW BIDS TO IMPLEMENT BURNS WITH THE DISTRICT THIS SPRING: Jesse Mintken, Assistant Manager, reported that requests for proposals were requested from active insured fire contractors for spring burning. We received two bids back that meet the minimum requirements for equipment, personnel and insurance.

Marvion Reichert made the motion to approve the bid from Scholl Fire & Fuels Management in the amount of \$64,441.00. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT: Mark Czaplewski, Biologist, reported on LB 1072 - NRD General Obligation Bonding, Senator Hughes's priority bill. The bill proposes to grant NRDs not encompassing a city of the metropolitan class, the authority to issue general obligation bonds, entitled flood protection bonds.

He said he will keep the board informed as the session continues.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Lyndon Vogt, General Manager, reported next month the Programs Committee will meet regarding the Platte River Resilience Fund.

Vogt reported that all board members should now have access to all the committee folders in Dropbox except for the Executive Committee.

Vogt reported that you can view the NRD budgets online through the State Auditors website. Marcia Lee, Information & Education Specialist, put a link on Central Platte NRD's website that will take you there.

Vogt reported that of the 10 cease & desists that Tricia Dudley, Water Quality Programs Assistant, sent out last month, we still have 9 producers out of compliance from 2019, with one currently working with Tricia. Currently they have 25% of the 2020 reports in that are due March 31, 2020.

Vogt reported that we received the 2019 DNR Annual report, which was put on drop box for everyone to view.

Vogt also reported that Central Platte NRD received the Platte River Diversion DNR Order which states that CNPPID is not the appropriate applicant, as they are not making any beneficial use of the water under the compact compliance for the Republican Basin. This has been placed on Dropbox for everyone to read.

PRIMARY ELECTION: Kelly Cole, Administrative Assistant, reported all directors up for election have refiled except for Keith Stafford. And as of Wednesday, February 26 at 5pm, sub-district 4 is still open. Non-incumbents have until Monday, March 2 to file. They can fax in their application but must mail in the original. The state must receive the original within 7 business days.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SELECTIONS: Vice-Chairman Reynolds reported that committee chairmen were not selected last month. The following board members were selected to be committee chairmen: Water Quality – Charles Maser, Water Quantity – Keith Stafford, Eastern – Jerry Wiese, Western – Chris Henry and Programs – Ed Kyes.

NEBRASKA NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION REPORT: Vice-Chairman Reynolds reported that they meet on February 19th and reviewed their rules and regulations. If the legislature gives them their allocation this year, due to prior commitments, they will have approximately \$6,000,000 to use for applications this year. Next meeting will be May 6 in Kearney.

NE ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICTS REPORT: No report

COST SHARE PROGRAMS: Transfer – Kelly Cole, Administrative Assistant, requested a transfer of \$4,000 from Grazing Deferment Cost Share to Well Decommissioning Cost Share.

Marvion Reichert made the motion to move \$4,000 from Grazing Deferment Cost Share to Well Decommissioning Cost Share. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Applications – Kelly Cole, Administrative Assistant, reported that we have received cost share applications for the following programs: Center Pivot Incentive, Grazing Deferment, Streambank Stabilization, Soil Moisture Sensor, Tree Planting, Capacitance Probe 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.

I & E PROGRAMS UPDATE: Marcia Lee, Information & Education Specialist, gave us a presentation on her job duties at the Central Platte NRD.

CHECK SIGNING POLICY: Kelly Cole, Administrative Assistant, reported that due to the new bond we have for our treasurer, a policy is needed that requires any checks over \$50,000 have dual signatures (treasurer and manager).

Charles Maser made a motion that requires any checks over \$50,000 require dual signatures. 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 February financial report 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, March 26. Details to follow.

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

OTHER BUSINESS: None

ADJOURN: Vice-Chairman Reynolds adjourned the board meeting at 3:15 p.m.

February 26, 2020

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

February Report to CPNRD

Attached is a summary of activities or current happenings at the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) field offices throughout the Central Platte and the state. We are nearing the halfway point in the Federal Governments 2020 Fiscal Year.

- FY 2020 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) comment period on the new farm bill rules ended February 17th, so final rules are still not published. NRCS staff are working to prepare the applications as best we can to be ranked. Once ranking is completed, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will begin extending contract offers to the highest ranked applications until all funds are allocated. This process can sometimes extend into August or September and will for sure this year with the delays.
- FY 2020 Conservation Stewardship Program (CStP) comment period on the new farm bill rules ended January 13th, so final rules are still not published. NRCS staff are working on preparing these applications and the existing contract renewals as best we can to be ranked or extended. NRCS staff is currently working with our producers and gathering the information needed to work through the process. The projected ranking deadline for renewal is set for the April 24th. The obligation deadline for new CStP contracts is July 31st.
- FY 2020 Conservation Reserve Programs (CRP) which is administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA), has held a general signup which will end February 28th. Contracts expiring in September will also be given a chance to reenroll. NRCS is responsible for conducting all field visits and then producing all the conservation planning and contracting documents for their program. The deadlines for NRCS to complete this planning work on the different types of CRP range from July to August, which is the same timeframe as the NRCS program deadlines.

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- FY 2020 National Food Security Act Compliance Review prep is also getting started across the State. Anyone who owns land and receives United State Department Agriculture (USDA) benefits is subject to the compliance spot checks. These tract numbers are randomly selected each year out of the database in Kansas City. If a tract of land in the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) database is carried as Highly Erodible Land or has Wetlands identified on it, the tract is subject to a random compliance spot check. Tracts reported to a USDA Service Center by a Whistleblower, if valid, are also subject to the compliance spot checks.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Joe Krolikowski

Joe Krolikowski
District Conservationist

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NRCS Deadlines & Ranking Tool (CART)



NRCS Program Dates

- EQIP
 - Sign Up Cut Off Date: March 13, 2020
 - (Lexington 42, Kearney 29, Central City 40, Grand Island 55 applications)
- CSP
 - Renewal Applications (Lexington 15, Kearney 4, Central City 4, Grand Island 3 potential)
 - 1 Year Extension: March 13, 2020 (Kearney 4, Lexington 3, Central City 1 potential)
 - Renewal Application Sign Up Cut Off: March 20, 2020
 - Rank: April 24, 2020
 - Obligated: May 8, 2020
- General Sign Up (Lexington 20, Central City 15, Kearney 1, Grand Island 3 current applications)
 - Sign Up Cut Off Date: May 29, 2020
 - Obligated: July 31, 2020

Conservation Assessment Ranking Tool (CART)

- Evaluates Individual Site
 - Potential Resource Concerns, vulnerability, and existing site conditions
- Incorporates static and geospatially-driven standard
- Evaluates existing site condition and planned practices to determine if target-level resource conservation is being achieved
- Suggest conservation practices for implementation to address resource concerns

CART Assessment

- Evaluates Individual Site
 - Potential Resource Concerns, vulnerability, and existing site conditions
- Incorporates static and geospatially-driven standard
- Evaluates existing site condition and planned practices to determine if target-level resource conservation is being achieved
- Suggest conservation practices for implementation to address resource concerns

CART Ranking

- Completed Assessments used to identify potential programs and funding pools
- Ranks the assessments within each applicable pool
 - CPNRD –maintain same ranking pools as prior year

Summary

- New Ranking Program & Mapping Program
- Lots of unknowns for this upcoming ranking
- Tight deadlines and turnaround times, while implementing other normal workload
- Projects will most likely not be able to be implemented until fall due to late obligation

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Cost Share
February 27, 2020

CENTER PIVOT INCENTIVE COST SHARE PROGRAM.....		\$ 22,500.00
Ronald Laub – Merrick	\$ 7,500.00	
Hargens Farms Inc. – Hall	7,500.00	
David G Kenyon – Hall	7,500.00	
GRAZING DEFERMENT COST SHARE PROGRAM.....		\$ 5,767.50
Neomi D Hascall – Buffalo	\$ 2,398.50	
Timothy Dean – Dawson	3,369.00	
STREAMBANK STABILIZATION.....		\$ 3,000.00
James Kershaw – Merrick – Prairie Creek	\$ 3,000.00	
SOIL MOISTURE SENSOR COST SHARE PROGRAM.....		\$ 4,000.00
Eugene Consbruck – Hall	\$ 2,000.00	
M&L Poehler Farms Inc. – Hall	2,000.00	
TREE PLANTING COST SHARE PROGRAM.....		\$ 3,526.79
David Mitchell – Buffalo	\$ 1,948.09	
Tyler McNitt – Buffalo	1,578.70	
CAPACITANCE PROBE COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$ 2,500.00
D&S Rainforth LLC – Hall	\$ 2,500.0	
WELL DECOMMISSIONING COST SHARE PROGRAM.....		\$ 4,000.00
Janssen Family Trust – Dawson – 2 wells	\$ 1,250.00	
Larry Shiers – Buffalo	750.00	
Ryan Sukraw – Dawson	750.00	
Sharon D Klingelhoef – Buffalo	500.00	
Harlon Kenyon – Hall	750.00	
Total		\$ 45,294.29