

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Board Meeting Agenda
September 29, 2016 – 2:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

This 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. 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.

MEETING NOTICES

MEETING MINUTES

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER BUSINESS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

PUBLIC FORUM

BUSINESS:

1. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report – James Huntwork will announce the new USDA-NRCS District Liaison
2. Excused Absences
3. Proposed Changes to the Groundwater Exchange Rules & Regulations – Take Action
4. Eastern Projects Committee – Report & Take Action
 - a. Prairie/Silver/Moores Creek Flood Control Project
 - b. Monarch Butterfly Habitat Project with the GI Senior High Success Academy, Nebraska Wildlife Federation & Pheasants Forever
5. Western Projects Committee – Report & Take Action
 - a. Partnership Funding Request for Redevelopment of the Parking/Pull Off Area in Gibbon
 - b. Funding Request towards an Economic Impact Study of the Annual Crane Migration in Central Nebraska

6. Water Resources Committee – Report & Take Action
 - a. Proposed Updates to Erosion & Sediment Control Program & Set a Public Hearing Date for the Proposed Changes
 - b. 1st Year of Using the Online Crop Reporting Form & a Contract from GIS Workshop to Upgrade the Form
 - c. Request from the Nebraska Board of Educational Lands & Funds Regarding an Easement to Implement a Wetland in Buffalo County
7. Proposed Extension of the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program Report – Mark Czaplewski
8. NARD Report – Jim Bendfeldt
9. Nebraska Natural Resources Commission Report – Mick Reynolds
10. Cost Share Program Applications – Kelly Cole
11. Financial Report
12. Executive Session – Discuss Legal Issues
13. Upcoming Events
 - a. October 5, South Central Land Judging Contest – Hamilton County (Test Scorers Needed)
 - b. October 26, State Land Judging Contest – Buffalo County (Test Scorers Needed)
 - c. November 8, Election Day
 - d. November 14-16, National Water Resources Association Annual Conference – San Diego, CA
14. Next Board Meeting – October 27, 2016, 2:00 p.m.
15. Other Business

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Board Meeting Minutes
September 29, 2016

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Ed Kyes called the meeting to order at 2:02 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	Mick Reynolds
Jim Bendfeldt	Jerry Milner	Jay Richeson
Alicia Haussler	Barry Obermiller	Ed Stoltenberg
Ed Kyes	Ladd Reeves	Deborah VanMatre
Dwayne Margritz	Marvion Reichert	

Excused Absences – Charles Bicak, Chris Henry, Brian Keiser, Bob Schanou, Steve Sheen, Keith Stafford and Jerry Wiese

Staff present: Lyndon Vogt – General Manager, Duane Woodward – District Hydrologist, Mark Czaplewski – District Biologist, Dianne Miller – Administrative Director, Jesse Mintken – Assistant Manager, Marcia Lee – Information Education Specialist, Kelly Cole – Programs Coordinator, Luke Zakrzewski – GIS Image Analyst, Tricia Dudley – Resources Conservationist.

Others present – James Huntwork – NRCS ASTC/Field Operations-Central Area, Grant Linder – NRCS, Grand Island, Joe Krolikowski – NRCS Liaison District Conservationist, Grand Island, Jim Stulken – Doniphan, Shalee Peters – KRVN Radio, Lori Potter – Kearney Hub.

MEETING NOTICES: Chairman Kyes reported that the notices of the meeting had been sent to the news media as required by law.

MEETING MINUTES: Alicia Haussler made the motion to approve the September 1st board meeting minutes. Jim Bendfeldt seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Marvion Reichert who abstained. Motion carried.

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

PUBLIC FORUM: Chairman Kyes asked if anyone wanted to address the board on any item not included on the agenda. No one requested time to speak.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) REPORT:

General Manager Lyndon Vogt said that James Huntwork, NRCS ASTC/Field Operations-Central Area, announced that Joe Krolikowski, former NRCS Water Management Specialist, has been hired as the NRCS Liaison District Conservationist.

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Chairman Kyes reported that Charles Bicak, Chris Henry, Brian Keiser, Bob Schanou, Steve Sheen, Keith Stafford and Jerry Wiese had requested to be excused from the board meeting.

Alicia Haussler 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.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE GROUNDWATER EXCHANGE RULES & REGULATIONS: Chairman Kyes briefly reported on the public hearing held earlier that afternoon on the proposed changes to the Groundwater Exchange Section of the Groundwater Management Plan Rules and Regulations. The NE Dept. of Natural Resources will be sending written testimony. No testimony was presented.

Alicia Haussler made the motion to approve the proposed changes to the Groundwater Exchange section of the Groundwater Management Plan Rules and Regulations. Jim Bendfeldt seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

EASTERN PROJECTS COMMITTEE: Committee chairman Mick Reynolds reported on their meeting held earlier that day.

Prairie/Silver/Moores Creek Flood Control Project – Assistant Manager Jesse Mintken reported that we have received the proffered 404 permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for completion of the detention cells. Project construction is scheduled for completion in 2018.

Monarch Butterfly Habitat Project Request – Mick said we have received a request to use approximately four acres of land along the Wood River Flood Control Project for the Grand Island Senior High Success Academy to develop a Monarch butterfly way station. GISH students will develop the site with Central Platte NRD providing annual maintenance. Other project partners include Roots and Shoots, NE Wildlife Federation, Vlcek Gardens, and Pheasants Forever.

Mick Reynolds made the motion to approve the request from GISH to use approximately four acres of land along the Wood River Flood Control Project to develop a monarch butterfly way station. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

WESTERN PROJECTS COMMITTEE – REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS:

Committee chairman, Jim Bendfeldt, reported on their meeting held earlier that day.

Partnership Funding Request for Redevelopment of the Parking/Pull Off Area in Gibbon – Jim said we have received a request from the Audubon Center at the Rowe Sanctuary to remove the current crane viewing pullout located on Elm Island south of the visitor center and a proposal to create a new one just south of the south channel on the west side of 43 Road near Gibbon. The request is being made because the current location is no longer a good crane viewing location and also presents safety issues. The new site would provide more space for parking and provide better wildlife viewing opportunities. Mick Reynolds presented photos of the current parking/pull out that showed inadequate signage and maintenance. Total project cost is \$24,900.00 with \$18,500.00 being paid by funds from the NE Environmental Trust, leaving \$6,400.00 yet to be funded.

Jim Bendfeldt made the motion to approve the request for \$5,000.00 from the Audubon Center at Rowe Sanctuary for development of a new crane viewing pullout as reported. Jay Richeson seconded the motion.

Following some discussion Mick Reynolds made a motion to amend the original motion to approve \$2,500.00 funding for the crane viewing pullout. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. Board members in favor were: LeRoy Arends, Ed Kyes, Dwayne Margritz, Marvion Reichert, Mick Reynolds, Jay Richeson, Ed Stoltenberg, Deborah VanMatre. Board members opposed were Jim Bendfeldt, Alicia Haussler, Charles Maser, Jerry Milner, Barry Obermiller, Ladd Reeves. Amendment passed eight in favor, six opposed.

The original motion as amended was then voted on. Board members in favor were: Jim Bendfeldt, Alicia Haussler, Ed Kyes, Jerry Milner, Barry Obermiller, Marvion Reichert, Mick Reynolds, Jay Richeson, Ed Stoltenberg and Deb VanMatre. Board members opposed were: LeRoy Arends, Dwayne Margritz, Charles Maser, and Ladd Reeves. Motion as amended passed 10 in favor, four opposed.

Funding Request Towards an Economic Impact Study of the Annual Crane Migration in Central Nebraska – Jim reported that we have received a request from the Grand Island Convention and Visitors Bureau to help fund an economic impact study of the annual crane migration in Central Nebraska.

Following a brief discussion Jim Bendfeldt made the motion to deny the request from the Grand Island Convention and Visitors Bureau to help fund an economic impact study of the annual crane migration in Central Nebraska. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Dwayne Margritz who voted no. Motion passed.

WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE – REPORTS & ACTION: Committee chairman Jay Richeson reported on their meeting held earlier that day.

Proposed Updates to Erosion & Sediment Control Program – Jay said the committee is recommending the proposed changes to the Erosion and Sediment Control Program be approved and that they be forwarded to the NE Department of Natural Resources and Commission for review. The proposed changes include new requirements approved by the Legislature, eliminates the 90 percent cost share requirement, adds sheet and rill erosion and including the section of Frontier County that was added to Central Platte NRD a few years ago. If approved by DNR and the Commission a public hearing will be required.

Jay Richeson made the motion to approve the proposed changes to the Sediment and Erosion Control Program and that they be forwarded to the NE Department of Natural Resources and Commission for review. Barry Obermiller seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Online Crop Reporting Form & Recommendation for GIS Workshop Contract to Upgrade Form -- Sandy Noecker, Data Compliance Officer, reported that this was the first year for the groundwater management report forms to be submitted online and said that for the most part the response to the new reporting procedure has been positive. There are a couple of changes to the software that will need to be made including one to allow new owners to submit updates to previously submitted forms, and a change to provide staff the flexibility to personalize letters that are sent to producers. It was staff's recommendation that a contract with GIS Workshop for \$8,000.00 be approved to make the necessary software changes.

Jay Richeson made the motion to approve the contract with GIS Workshop in the amount of \$8,000.00 to make the software changes to the Groundwater Management Program online report forms. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Request from the NE Board of Educational Lands & Funds – Jay said the committee postponed action on this item. They are requesting that a representative attend the committee's next meeting to provide more information on the request that Central Platte NRD hold a conservation easement to implement a wetland in Buffalo County.

PROPOSED EXTENSION OF THE PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM REPORT: Mark Czaplowski, District Biologist, reported that the Program's Governance Committee met on September 13-14 in Kearney. He said the focus of the meeting was the continued discussion to extend the first increment of the Program. The Program is scheduled to expire in 2019, and while Program milestones for land and adaptive management components have been met and exceeded, water goals have been tougher and more expensive to achieve.

Mark said with the J2 Reservoir Project on hold and future budgets a major concern, a key to any extension was how to meet water goals currently set at 130,000 to 150,000

acre feet (on an average annual basis). The Program is now shifting to meet its water objectives through a combination of recharge projects, water leases, slurry wall pits, and irrigation retirement approaches. With a rough estimated budget of \$118 million, preliminary estimates are that the last 10,000 acre feet could cost \$30-40 million. The general plan is to focus on reducing shortages to target flows by 120,000 acre feet at the same time we take a fresh look at the existing U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's target flows. We know that much of the science previously used to develop those flows is outdated and that substantially lower flows can provide benefits to the target species. He said currently it looks like the extension will be a 13-year deal. Final comments are being sought on the draft extension document and a Governance Committee vote is scheduled for November 2.

NE ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICTS REPORT: Jim Bendfeldt, NARD board chairman, reported on the Annual Conference held earlier that week in Kearney. He said this year was a record year with about 430 registrants. He said there were approximately 21 presentations and education breakout sessions which covered multiple topics. Jim also reported on the awards that had been presented.

NE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION REPORT: Middle Platte Basin Commission member Mick Reynolds reported on the Water Sustainability Fund. He said they had received applications totaling \$45 million dollars for the \$25 million dollars available. He also reported on the Governor's recent announcement of a four percent, across the board, spending reduction due to budget constraints, which will also reduce the fund. Mick said the scoring committee will meet November 29th through December 1st and will meet on December 12th to finalize scoring and ranking. He also reported that the four-year term for the Middle Platte Basin Commission member will be up this year and that the caucus to elect the member will be held in January.

COST SHARE PROGRAM: Applications – Programs Coordinator Kelly Cole reported that we have received applications for the following cost share programs: NE Soil and Water Conservation Program, Center Pivot Incentive, Soil Moisture Sensors, Flow Meter, and Well Decommissioning (see enclosed). She said the applicants are in compliance with the District's rules and regulations, funds are available, and recommended they be approved.

Marvion Reichert made the motion to approve the cost share applications as reported. Mick Reynolds seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Jim Bendfeldt who abstained and Barry Obermiller who voted no. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Marvion Reichert made the motion to approve the September financial report as presented. Jim Bendfeldt seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Chairman Kyes said he would entertain a motion for the

board to go into executive session to discuss pending legal matters. It was requested that General Manager Lyndon Vogt, District Hydrologist Duane Woodward, Assistant Manager Jesse Mintken, GIS Image Analyst Luke Zakrzewski and Administrative Director Dianne Miller, and District Biologist Mark Czaplewski remain during the session.

Marvion Reichert made the motion for the board to go into executive session at 3:09 p.m. to discuss pending legal matters and that the staff as listed remain during the session. Charles Maser seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Jay Richeson was absent for the motion. Motion carried.

Barry Obermiller made the motion for the board to come out of executive session at 3:37 p.m. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

No action taken at that time.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Chairman Kyes briefly reviewed the upcoming events.

OTHER BUSINESS: Next meeting -- Scheduled for October 27th at 2:00 p.m. Details to follow.

Certificate of Service – Jim Bendfeldt presented Administrative Director Dianne Miller a certificate from the NE Association of Resources Districts for 45 years of service. She began working for Mid Platte Valley Watershed on July 1, 1971 and has been employed by Central Platte NRD since the NRDs began in July 1972.

ADJOURN: Chairman Kyes adjourned the board meeting.

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
 Cost Share
 September 29, 2016

NEBRASKA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COST SHARE PROGRAM...		\$ 39,222.88
Murray Schmoker – Polk – Planned Grazing	\$ 5,521.90	
Bradley Sutherland – Custer – Brush Management	4,847.56	
Stephen Sheen – Buffalo – Underground Pipeline	5,000.00	
KJ Hueftle Ltd. – Dawson – Brush Management	19,066.81	
Raymond W Rieker – Dawson – Brush Management	3,375.59	
Tim Erickson – Buffalo – Windbreak Renovation	1,411.02	
CENTER PIVOT INCENTIVE COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$ 7,500.00
Stephen Sheen – Buffalo	\$ 7,500.00	
SOIL MOISTURE SENSOR COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$ 22,000.00
Jerry Dexter – Merrick	\$ 2,000.00	
Roger Brandes – Merrick	2,000.00	
Kelly Brandes – Merrick	2,000.00	
Jeff Johnson – Merrick	2,000.00	
Jess Brandes – Merrick	2,000.00	
Sharon Brandes – Merrick	2,000.00	
Evan Brandes – Merrick	2,000.00	
Carly Johnson – Merrick	2,000.00	
Roxanne Brandes – Merrick	2,000.00	
Alison L Feik – Dawson	2,000.00	
Matthew Feik – Dawson	2,000.00	
FLOW METER COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$ 800.00
Ibach & Sons Inc. – Dawson	\$ 800.00	
WELL DECOMMISSIONING COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$ 750.00
Ogden & Ogden Inc. – Merrick	\$ 750.00	
Total		\$ 70,272.88

