

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Board Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2017

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Ed Kyes called the meeting to order at 2:03 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	Bob Schanou
Jim Bendfeldt	Keith Ostermeier	Steve Sheen
Alicia Haussler	Doug Reeves	Keith Stafford
Chris Henry	Marvion Reichert	Deborah VanMatre
Brian Keiser	Mick Reynolds	Jerry Wiese
Ed Kyes	Jay Richeson	

Excused Absence – Dwayne Margritz, Jerry Milner, Barry Obermiller & Ed Stoltenberg

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, Sandy Noecker – Data & Compliance Officer, Angie Warner – GIS Programs Coordinator, Tricia Dudley – Resources Conservationist.

Others present -- James Huntwork – NRCS ASTC/Field Operations-Central Area, Andrew Pierson – Audubon Rowe Sanctuary, John Engel – HDR Engineering, Rick Wilson – JEO Consulting Group, Dean Krull – University of NE/Lincoln Extension, Grand Island, and 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: Marvion Reichert made the motion to approve the December board meeting minutes. Mick Reynolds seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. 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.

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Chairman Kyes reported that Dwayne Margritz, Jerry Milner, Barry Obermiller and Ed Stoltenberg had 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.

GROUNDWATER RECHARGE/WATER QUALITY PROJECT UPDATE: John Engel with HDR Engineering Inc. of Omaha presented an update on the feasibility study in the Wood River and South Loup drainage systems to enhance recharge and/or augment stream flows in northern Buffalo County. He said the study area has historically had declines and has been declared impaired by the NE Department of Environmental Quality. The study focused on alternatives to add 10,000 acre feet of water annually to the area located in Groundwater Management Area 8 of the Lower Loup NRD and Groundwater Management Area 9 of the Central Platte NRD. They will present the feasibility study results to the Lower Loup NRD in February.

CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN: Election of Chairman & Vice-Chairman -- Jay Richeson said the Board Officer Nominating Committee is recommending Jim Bendfeldt for chairman and Mick Reynolds for vice-chairman. Bob Schanou then nominated Jim Bendfeldt for Chairman and Mick Reynolds as vice-chairman.

Jay Richeson made the motion that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for Jim Bendfeldt as board chairman and Mick Reynolds as board vice-chairman. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Jim Bendfeldt began his duties as board chairman. He thanked Ed Kyes for the excellent job he had done serving as chairman during the past four years.

Committee's Signup – Chairman Bendfeldt said a sign-up sheet would be passed around for directors to indicate their committee preferences. Directors are requested to consider serving on at least two committees.

EROSION & SEDIMENT CONTROL PROGRAM: Close Hearing & Consider Action on Proposed Changes and/or Amendments – Chairman Bendfeldt resumed the Erosion & Sediment Control public hearing at 2:59 p.m. He again asked if anyone wanted to present testimony. None was presented. He closed the public hearing at 3:02 p.m.

Mick Reynolds made the motion to approve the Sediment and Erosion Control Program as published. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

PROGRAMS COMMITTEE - OUTDOOR CLASSROOM REQUEST: Committee chairman Bob Schanou reported on their meeting held earlier that day.

Monarch Butterfly Habitat Project -- Bob said the committee discussed a request for \$1,666.75 from the Success Academy to implement a Monarch butterfly habitat area as part of the outdoor classroom at Dodge Elementary School in Grand Island.

Bob Schanou said the Programs Committee is recommending, and he made the motion, to approve the request from the Success Academy for \$1,666.75 to develop a Monarch butterfly habitat area as part of the outdoor classroom at the Grand Island Dodge Elementary School. Deborah VanMatre seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

VARIANCE/APPEALS SUBCOMMITTEE: Report & Recommendation – Chairman Jim Bendfeldt reported that the Variance/Appeals Subcommittee held a hearing earlier that day concerning a request from Andrew Daniels to certify 23.3 acres in Platte County as irrigated acres. He said we are no longer certifying irrigated acres and reported that Mr. Daniels would need to come up with a transfer or purchase water in order to get the acres certified as irrigated.

Chairman Bendfeldt said the Variance/Appeals Subcommittee is recommending, and he made the motion, that the request from Andrew Daniels to certify 23.3 acres in Platte County as irrigated be denied. Jerry Wiese seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

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

Proposed Conservation Easement in Buffalo County – Jay said additional information had been presented to the committee on the request originally presented at the November board meeting from the NE Board of Educational Lands and Funds and Westervelt Ecological Services for Central Platte NRD to hold a conservation easement on behalf of the NE Board of Educational Lands and Funds for a wetland in Buffalo County. Westervelt Ecological Services would be responsible for implementing the conservation easement. At that time the request was denied but with the option of having additional information presented for consideration.

Jay Richeson said the Water Resources Committee is recommending, and he made the motion, that Central Platte NRD proceed with drafting a conservation easement to be implemented by Westervelt Ecological Services on land in Buffalo County owned by the NE Board of Educational Lands and Funds and the draft of the conservation easement be brought back to the board for consideration. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Groundwater Quality Management Program – Cease & Desist Hearings Date/Time
– Jay said it was necessary to set hearings for those individuals who are not in compliance with the District’s Groundwater Quality Nitrogen Management Program.

Data Compliance Officer, Sandy Noecker, reported that originally 287 letters had been sent to producers in the Phases 2 and 3 Groundwater Quality Nitrogen Management areas who were not in compliance for the 2015/2016 crop year. She said that number is now down to 81. Those not in compliance affect approximately 130 landowners. Our attorney, Cathy Allen, has suggested scheduling three days for the hearings. The Water Quality Subcommittee is suggesting February 13, 16 and 17 with the hearings to begin at 9:00 a.m. Sandy said certified letters concerning the cease and desist hearings will be sent to the producers as well as the landowners. Letters have to be sent to the landowners because they will be affected if the tenant does not comply. She said hopefully many of the individuals will come into compliance before the hearings.

Jay Richeson made the motion to schedule the Groundwater Quality Nitrogen Management Program cease and desist hearings on February 13, 16 and 17 beginning at 9:00 a.m. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried. Charles Maser was absent for the motion.

PRAIRIE/SILVER/MOORES CREEK FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE: Assistant Manager Jesse Mintken showed several slides and reported on the progress that Van Kirk Brothers Contracting has made on the latest phase of the project, which includes work on the detention cells SCLL4-5 Phase 1 and SCLL4N-E. He said work on this phase is expected to be completed in May this year and the total project is scheduled to be completed in 2018.

LEGISLATIVE BILLS UPDATE: District Biologist Mark Czaplewski reported that the 2017 Legislative session convened on January 4th and is scheduled to close on June 2nd. He reported on a few proposed bills. LB 22 proposes a \$330,000 reduction to the Water Sustainability Fund. LB 98 would extend the date for additional levy authority for NRDs’ groundwater management activities. It is planned that General Manager Lyndon Vogt will testify in favor of LB 98. LB 646 would create an extreme weather preparedness task force and strategic action plan. LB 664 would prohibit a political subdivision from using taxes to employ a lobbyist. Mark said future NARD Legislative Reports will be forwarded to the directors.

NARD LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE & GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

DISTRICT ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE REPORTS: Brief reports on the two conferences were given by Jim Bendfeldt, Ed Kyes, Alicia Haussler and Mick Reynolds. Reports included the benefits of attending the NARD Legislative Conference to meet other directors from other NRDs, as well as being able to meet and talk to our senators. Also reported was the problem of the emerald ash borer which is now in Omaha, and also the potential seriousness of future water security.

General Manager Lyndon Vogt said he would try to arrange to have John Winkler make a presentation to the board on water security in the next few months.

NE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION REPORT: Middle Platte Basin Commission member Mick Reynolds reported that the cut in the Water Sustainability fund had been anticipated. He said future developments will depend on what the Legislature does this session.

COST SHARE PROGRAM: Request for Transfer of Funds – Programs Coordinator Kelly Cole reported that we have received more requests for the Center Pivot Incentive Program than funds are available for. She recommended a transfer of \$7,400.00 from the Streambank Stabilization Program to the Center Pivot Incentive Program.

Marvion Reichert made the motion to approve the recommendation to transfer \$7,400.00 from the Streambank Stabilization Program to the Center Pivot Incentive Program. Mick Reynolds seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Charles Maser was absent for the motion. Motion carried.

Applications –Kelly also reported that we have received applications for the following cost share programs: NE Soil and Water Conservation Program, Center Pivot Incentive, Tree Planting, Grassland Conservation, Grazing Deferment, 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. Bob Schanou seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Charles Maser was absent for the motion. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Ed Kyes made the motion to approve the January report. Jerry Wiese seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Charles Maser was absent for the motion. Motion carried.

WATER QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE: General Manager Lyndon Vogt said that because of the upcoming cease and desist hearings it would be important to have at least a majority of the Water Resources Committee members who serve on the Water Quality Subcommittee be present at the hearings. Chairman Bendfeldt asked for volunteers to serve.

Directors appointed to serve on the Water Quality Subcommittee were: Marvion Reichert, Mick Reynolds, Alicia Haussler, Ed Kyes, Jay Richeson, Jerry Wiese, Keith Ostermeier, Deb VanMatre, Bob Schanou and Jim Bendfeldt.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Chairman Bendfeldt briefly reviewed the upcoming events.

OTHER BUSINESS: Next meeting -- Scheduled for February 23rd at 2:00 p.m. Details to follow. General Manager Lyndon Vogt said at the February board meeting a request will be made to change the March board meeting because those attending the NARD Washington D.C. conference will be returning on Thursday the 23rd which would be the normal board meeting date.

Committee Chairmen – Chairman Bendfeldt asked the committees to meet following the board meeting to select their chairman.

ADJOURN: Chairman Bendfeldt adjourned the board meeting at 3:48 p.m.

Transfer: \$7,400 from Streambank Stabilization to Center Pivot

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Cost Share
January 26, 2017

NEBRASKA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COST SHARE PROGRAM...	\$	1,657.30
Triple K Properties Ltd. – Dawson – Brush Management	\$	1,657.30
CENTER PIVOT INCENTIVE COST SHARE PROGRAM	\$	33,751.50
Allan Farms Inc. – Hall	\$	7,500.00
JR's Sandlot LLC – Merrick		7,500.00
David Brown – Hall		4,039.00
Diamond J Farms Inc. – Hall		7,500.00
Rick Collins – Hamilton		7,212.50
TREE PLANTING COST SHARE PROGRAM.....	\$	2,091.04
Jennifer Soncksen – Dawson	\$	1,011.45
Kris Erickson – Merrick		749.59
Randy Roberts – Buffalo		330.00
GRASSLAND CONSERVATION COST SHARE PROGRAM	\$	9,331.00
Raymond Rieker – Dawson	\$	2,825.00
Brad Turner – Dawson		6,506.00
GRAZING DEFERMENT COST SHARE PROGRAM	\$	17,179.50
The Findlay Family Trust – Dawson	\$	16,800.00
Wade Kloepping – Dawson		379.50
FLOW METER COST SHARE PROGRAM	\$	4,000.00
Sitorius Farms – Dawson	\$	800.00
Steve Herbig – Merrick		800.00
Robert Herbig – Merrick		800.00
Robert Allan – Hall		800.00
Rick Collins – Hamilton		800.00
WELL DECOMMISSIONING COST SHARE PROGRAM	\$	750.00
Jobman Farms Inc. – Dawson	\$	750.00
Total	\$	68,760.34

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