

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Board Meeting Minutes
March 31, 2016

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Ed Kyes 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	Charles Maser	Bob Schanou
Jim Bendfeldt	Jerry Milner	Steve Sheen
Charles Bicak	Barry Obermiller	Keith Stafford
Alicia Haussler	Ladd Reeves	Ed Stoltenberg
Chris Henry	Marvion Reichert	Deb VanMatre
Ed Kyes	Mick Reynolds	Jerry Wiese
Dwayne Margritz	Jay Richeson	

Excused Absences – Brian Keiser

Staff present: Lyndon Vogt – General Manager, Duane Woodward – District Hydrologist, Mark Czaplewski – District Biologist, Dianne Miller – Administrative Director, Kelly Cole – Programs Coordinator, Marcia Lee – Information/Education Specialist, Sandy Noecker – Data & Compliance Officer, Dan Clement – Water Resources Specialist, Jesse Mintken – Projects Director, Luke Zakrzewski – GIS Image Analyst, Shane Max – Resources Conservationist, Tricia Dudley – Resource Conservationist.

Others present – Joe Krolkowski – Acting NRCS District Conservationist, Grand Island, Troy Ingram – UNL Extension, Central City, Richard Ferguson – UNL Extension, Lincoln, Bijesh Maherjen – Lincoln, Xiao Jun Lim – Lincoln, Dean Krull – UNL Extension, Grand Island, Lori Potter – Kearney Hub, Shalee Peters – KRVN, Lexington.

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 February board meeting minutes. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Jim Bendfeldt, Charles Maser and Ed Stoltenberg 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.

PROJECT SENSE UPDATE: Richard Ferguson, UNL Extension, reported on the progress of Project Sense which is a sensor-based in-season N application project. (See attached progress report).

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) REPORT: Joe Krolikowski, Acting NRCS District Conservationist, reported on the Fiscal Year 2017 Local Work Group meeting held earlier that month at the CPNRD office (see enclosed).

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Chairman Kyes reported that Brian Keiser had requested to be excused from the board meeting.

Marvion Reichert made the motion to approve the absence as requested. Mick Reynolds 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.

Fiscal 2016/2017 Budget – Mick reported that the committee had reviewed the budget recommendations for next fiscal year and said the recommendations will be forwarded to the Budget Committee.

Ice Jam Agreement – Review & Recommendation – Mick said the committee reviewed the existing cooperative agreement we have with five counties and Tri-Basin NRD. He said the committee is recommending that we dissolve the existing agreement and work on a new one that will stress education and emergency preparedness and that the funds presently held in the Ice Jam Account would be returned to the cooperating agencies. He explained that the main reason for this recommendation is that the present agreement calls for an action that we cannot do.

Mick Reynolds then made the motion to approve the Eastern Projects Committee's recommendation to dissolve the existing Ice Jam Cooperative Agreement and work on developing a new agreement that will stress education, and that the funds presently held in the Ice Jam Escrow Account be returned to the appropriate agencies. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

WESTERN PROJECTS COMMITTEE: Jim Bendfeldt, committee chairman, reported that at their meeting held earlier that day they reviewed next year's budget recommendations and said they would be forwarded to the Budget Committee.

PROGRAMS COMMITTEE: Bob Schanou, committee chairman, reported on their meeting held earlier that day.

Ron Bishop/CPNRD College Scholarship Applications – Bob reviewed the fact that each year Central Platte NRD awards up to 10 “Ron Bishop/CPNRD College Scholarships” at \$1,000.00 each. He explained that the 43 applications were assigned a number so the names and locations of the applicants are not know. Bob said the applications being recommended are from all over the District: #7 - Grand Island, #8 - Central City, #10 - Grand Island, #15 - Wood River, #18 - Central City, #20 - Grand Island, #24 - Kearney, #32 - Gibbon, #33 - Lexington, #43 - Gothenburg.

Bob Schanou made the motion to approve the 10 Ron Bishop/CPNRD College Scholarships as recommended by the Programs Committee. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Fiscal 2016/2017 Information/Education and Cost Share Budgets – Bob said the committee reviewed recommendations for the Information and Education Budget and also the Cost Share budget and will forward those recommendations to the Budget Committee.

WATER QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT: Chairman Kyes said the subcommittee met that morning and discussed the water quality rules and regulations and requested staff to develop recommendations for possible changes. The subcommittee will continue their review.

WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE: Committee chairman, Jay Richeson, reported on their meeting held earlier that day.

Groundwater Exchange Transactions – Jay reported there were 40 total pre-approval applications. After the Groundwater Exchange computer program was run there were two “seller” pre-approvals that matched up with three “purchaser” pre-approvals for leased water.

Jay Richeson made the motion that the Groundwater Exchange transactions that were matches be approved. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Groundwater Exchange Account – Jay said the committee is recommending that the Certificate of Authority-Depository for Funds for Five Points Bank be approved and Chairman Kyes be authorized to sign it. This is to add board treasurer Charles Maser as an authorized signer of District checks, etc. and also authorizes opening a new checking account for the Groundwater Exchange. It was explained that opening the account will be postponed until next fall. A copy of the certificate of authority had been provided to the directors for review prior to the meeting.

Jay Richeson then made the motion to approve the Certificate of Authority-Depository for Funds for Five Points Bank and that Chairman Kyes be authorized to sign it. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

DATA COLLECTION AGREEMENT: District Hydrologist Duane Woodward reported on this item.

Contract with Aqua Geo Framework for Geophysical Data Collection Work & Interlocal Agreement with Twin Platte NRD – Duane showed a few slides to show the area being proposed for the data collection work. He said this is the project that was originally discussed about three years ago when we applied for an Environmental Trust Fund grant to look at the hydrogeology of our groundwater system. He said we had applied for \$670,000.00 and this spring we were approved for the funding, which should be finalized in early April.

He said we have worked with the Twin Platte NRD to put the project together. He said half of the funds will be spent to collect the geo-magnetic data collection using helicopter flights.

He said the purpose of this project goes back to COHYST work. He said originally we built the geology structure from test-hole data that the Conservation & Survey has collected since the 1930's. That was put together when the COHYST groundwater model was built. He showed the area on a map. The proposed project will greatly add to our existing data and provide a lot more detail.

He said we have laid out 35 flight lines to collect a little over 100 miles of data collection which will give us a continual log as the helicopter flies over, it sees down into the ground about 400 to 500 feet.

Duane also said in the Twin Platte NRD there is a special emphasis on the NCORPE project to collect a lot more data because they are trying to build a more detailed groundwater model to really understand how much water you can pump and still stay in compliance with what was consumptively used there before.

He said in Central Platte NRD we would be flying from areas along the Platte River from Kearney out to Gothenburg trying to get a lot more detail.

Duane said what is being proposed is that the board approve and authorize General Manager Lyndon Vogt to sign the contract with Aqua Geo Frameworks Inc. for the geophysical data collection work (\$966,000.00), and the interlocal agreement with the Twin Platte NRD. Copies of the contract and interlocal agreement had been provided to the directors on drop box earlier that month. He also said Twin Platte NRD's board had approved the contract and agreement earlier this month.

Alicia Haussler made the motion to approve the contract with Aqua Geo Frameworks Inc. for the geophysical data collection work, and the interlocal agreement with the Twin Platte NRD and that General Manager Lyndon Vogt be authorized to sign both the contract and interlocal agreement. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT PLAN, SECOND GENERATION: General Manager Lyndon Vogt said we are in the process of working with the NE Department of Natural Resources and the other NRDs in the Upper Platte Basin to begin development of the second generation integrated management plan. The current plan expires in 2019. Interviews have taken place and a facilitator will be hired. Stake holder participation letters have been mailed and the first meeting is scheduled for June 16 at Monsanto near Gothenburg. Central Platte NRD needs to select a representative and an alternate to sit on the stakeholders group.

Jay Richeson made the motion to select Jim Bendfeldt as Central Platte NRD's representative and Chris Henry as alternate to set on the Integrated Management Plan/Second Generation planning process. Keith Stafford seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Jim Bendfeldt and Chris Henry, who both abstained. Motion carried.

PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM: Mark Czaplewski, District Biologist, reported that the Program's Governance Committee met on March 9 in Kearney. He said they discussed the need for additional phragmites control on the river, particularly given the recent failure of the Nebraska Environmental Trust to fund ongoing work in the central Platte. The Program, Central Platte NRD, and other entities have provided significant support for such efforts in the past, including spraying in the late summer and fall. The Governance Committee approved increasing the 2016 budget from \$200,000 to \$300,000 and is hoping basin NRDs, power districts and environmental groups can also help with costs to try to stay ahead of the ongoing phragmites control problem.

Mark also reported that Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District (CNPP&ID) provided the Governance Committee with an update on development of their J2 Reservoir Project. The Program's Executive Director continues to renegotiate the existing Project agreement with CNPP&ID that would result in a smaller, single reservoir within the Program's existing budget. He said Project supporters are looking to maximize Project stream-flow enhancing benefits within a smaller footprint. Mark reviewed the fact that the Program had agreed to pay for 75% of the Project and get 75% of the benefits with the State of Nebraska buying the other 25%. The revised Project mean costs to Project contributors like Central Platte NRD will not increase, but annual benefits may decrease.

Mark said, for the first time, the Governance Committee discussed tentative plans 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. He said significant progress has been made there too, but Program participants are looking into a 10-year extension and said the Governance Committee will continue those discussions when they meet in June in Cheyenne.

NE ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICTS: Chairman Ed Kyes announced that Jim Bendfeldt was elected as NARD board president earlier that month.

Jim reported briefly on the NARD Washington D.C. conference and reviewed some of the sessions. He also said that the NET project, an hour long program called "Keeping Nebraska Local" that the NRDs funded was aired this month. He said Mick Reynolds, who narrated the program had done an excellent job. As a reminder he said the NARD awards nominations are due by May 1st.

NE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION REPORT: Mick Reynolds reported that he serves on the Water Sustainability Fund Scoring Subcommittee and they had spent the last two days at a meeting in Gothenburg to formulate project funding recommendations that will be forwarded to the Natural Resources Commission.

COST SHARE PROGRAM: Applications -- Programs Coordinator Kelly Cole reported that we have received applications for the following cost share programs: NE Soil & Water Conservation Program, Grazing Deferment, Prescribed Fire, Tree Planting, Soil Moisture Sensor, 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. Jerry Wiese seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Because the March board meeting was held a week later than normal the report of payments made on the 24th had been forwarded to the directors prior to the board meeting. General Manager Vogt reviewed the March financial report.

Alicia Haussler made the motion to approve the March financial report as presented. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Legal Matters – Chairman Kyes requested that the board approve going into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing ongoing legal matters and requested that General Manager Lyndon Vogt, Assistant Manager Jesse Mintken, GIS Analyst Luke Zakrzewski and Administrative Director Dianne Miller be included.

Marvion Reichert made the motion that the board go into Executive Session at 3:10 p.m.

for the purpose of discussing legal matters. Jim Bendfeldt seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Marvion Reichert made the motion that the board come out of Executive Session at 3:16 p.m. Jerry Wiese seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

UPCOMING EVENTS: As listed on the agenda.

OTHER BUSINESS: **Next Meeting** – Scheduled for the afternoon of Thursday, April 28th. Details to follow.

ADJOURN: Chairman Kyes adjourned the board meeting.

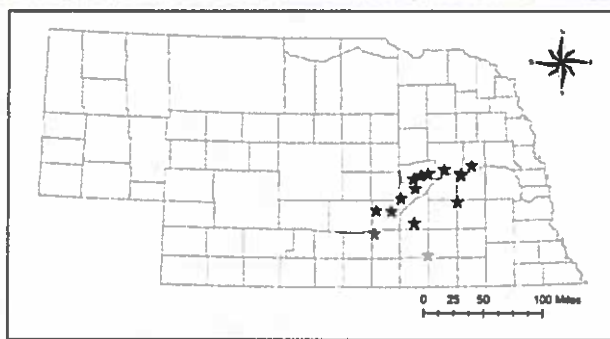


Project SENSE February 2016 PROGRESS REPORT

EXTENSION

Laura Thompson, John Parrish, Nathan Mueller, Joe Luck, Brian Krienke, Troy Ingram, Dean Krull, Keith Glewen, Tim Shaver, Richard Ferguson

The first growing season of project activities was very successful. Five NRDs are active partners in the project along with the Nebraska Corn Board and USDA. John Parrish began as project technologist in March 2015 and capably coordinated all aspects of field activities, working closely with grower participants. A used Hagie DTS 10 applicator and Freightliner tractor, along with a new transport trailer, were purchased for the project in May. Crop canopy sensors and an Ag Leader® Integra monitor were installed in the applicator in May and June. A total of 17 field sites were identified and implemented in 2015 (see map below). This was slightly below our target goal of 20 field sites per year.



Experimental plots were randomized and replicated field-length strips designed to compare the grower's standard N management practice to crop canopy sensor-based management.

On-Farm Research Results Update Meetings

Results of the first year of research were presented at 4 locations across the state in February to 250 attendees.

81% Reported moderate or significant increase in knowledge of in-season N management.

When asked what action they would take after learning about in-season N management strategies, participants responded that they plan to...

- 23%** Re-evaluate their N management plan
- 42%** Pursue more information on N strategies
- 8%** Adopt/suggest N management strategies presented



Field Days

Field Days were held in July and August in each NRD. Total attendance for the 5 demonstration days was 107 growers and advisors representing 319,000 acres. Participants rated the value of knowledge gained at \$5.82/acre

78% Reported moderate or significant improvement in knowledge of principles of crop canopy sensors to direct in-season nitrogen.

62% Indicated they somewhat or strongly agreed that they would like local agribusinesses to provide crop canopy sensor-based in-season application services.

When asked if they were likely to adopt sensor-based in-season N application, attendees responded...

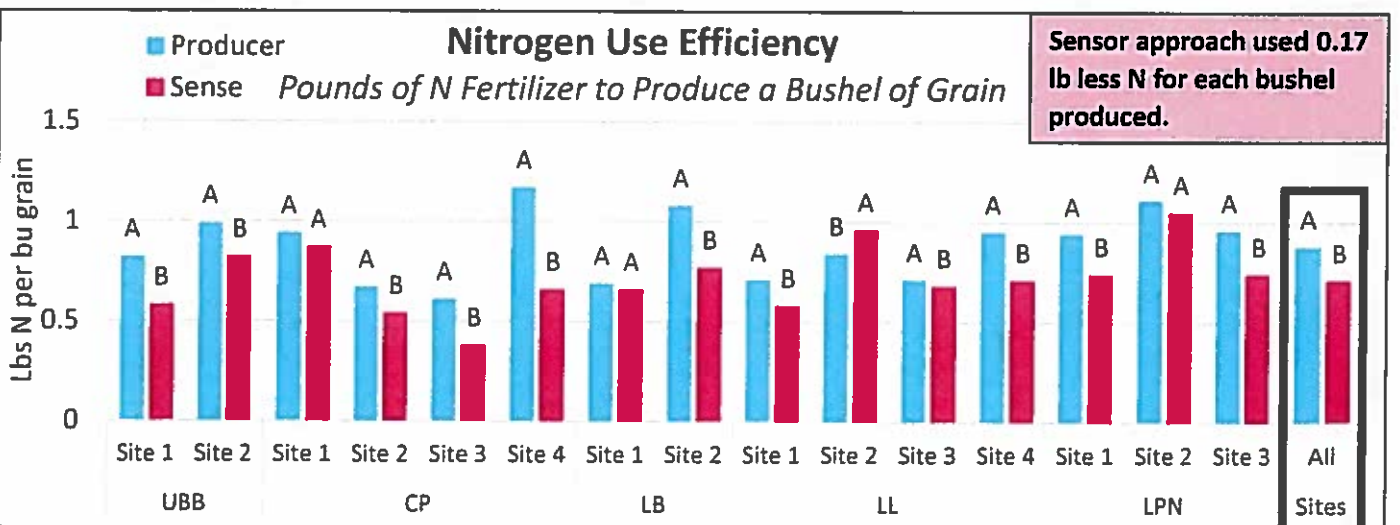
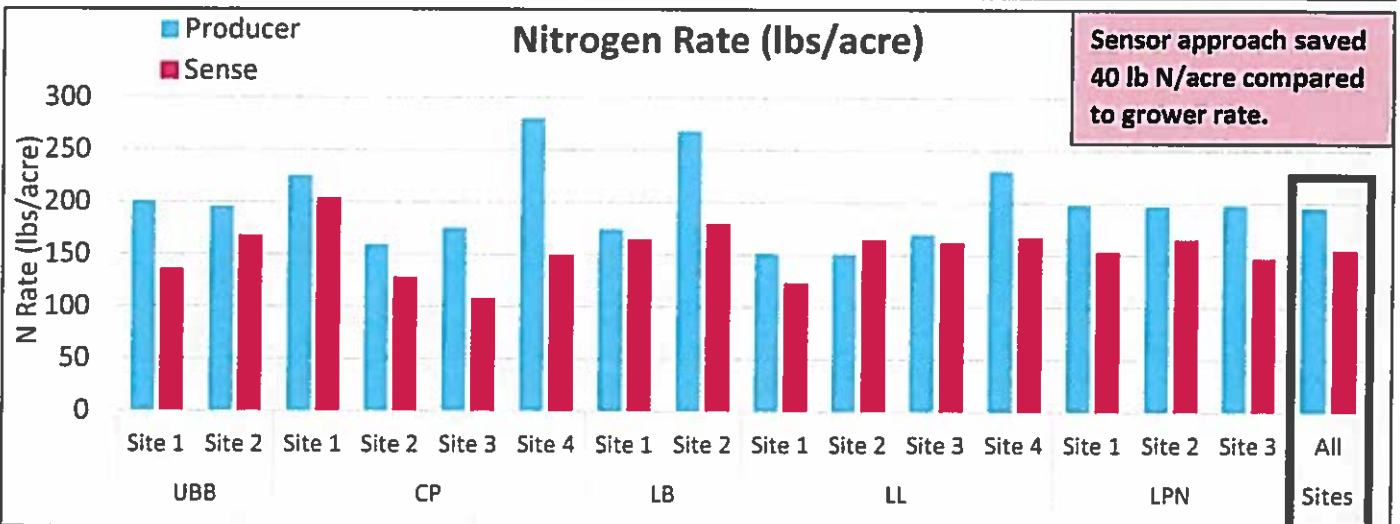
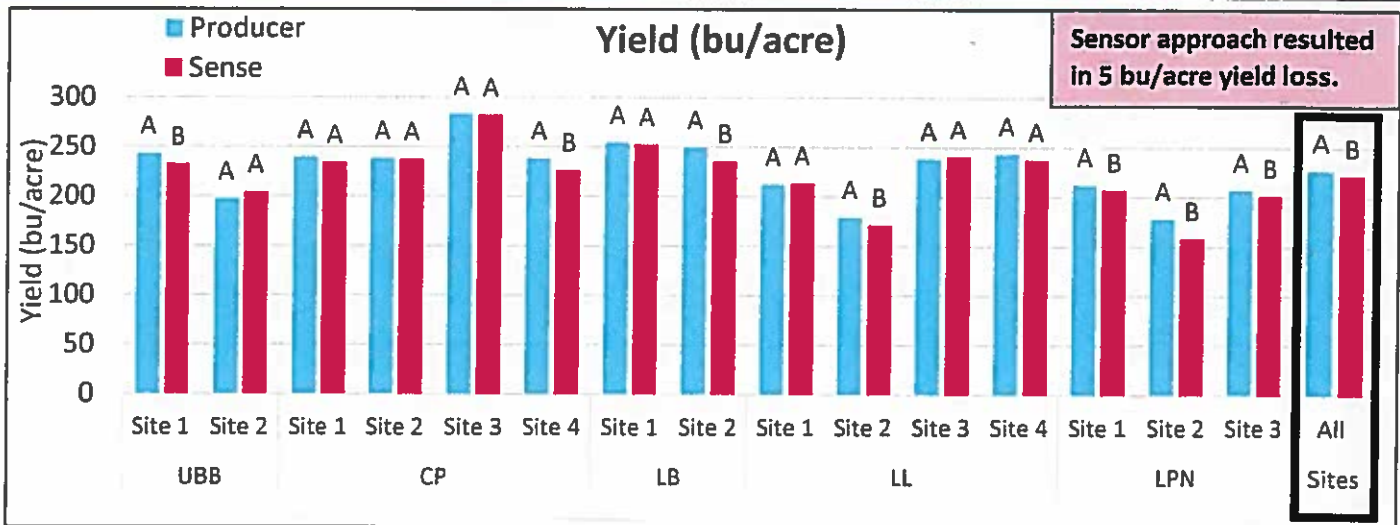
12% I plan to start this in the near future

25% I would like more help to do this



The project has been highlighted frequently in CropWatch (example: <http://cropwatch.unl.edu/farmresearch/articlearchives/introducing-project-sense>), and mentioned in regional farm press such as The Nebraska Farmer and the Furrow Magazine. A video was produced on the project and distributed via CropWatch and to partnering agencies.

2015 Research Results



*Values with same letters are not significantly different at alpha=0.05. Letters apply within site.

Net Return

Using a price of \$0.65/lb N and \$3.65/bu corn, the sensor management resulted in a marginal net return that was \$10.35/ac greater than the grower management.

March 29, 2016

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

March Report to CPNRD

NRCS has recently held their FY2017 Local Work Group (LWG) meeting. The Local Working Group recommends to the NRCS State Conservationist how conservation programs like the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) would be used most effectively in their area. This recommendation can include special target areas, cost share rates, which conservation practices should have cost assistance, or how many dollars could be needed. This work group allows local input into how Federal dollars are spent. I have listed below a couple of the LWG recommendations from this year's meeting.

- After reviewing our current cost share programs available to producers in the Central Platte, the recommendation was to continue with all the current programs available.
- Demand for financial assistance has remained very high relative to available funds, so the recommendation was a gradual reduction in payment rates to provide more broad access to the available funds.

Grant Linder's letter to the staff, and board of directors of the Central Platte Natural Resources District.

The next Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) employee to serve as Acting District Conservationist for the Central Platte will be Brach Johnson. Brach currently serves as the Resource Conservationist in the Schuyler NRCS field office.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Joe Krolkowski

Joe Krolkowski
Acting District Conservationist

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CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Cost Share
March 31, 2016

NEBRASKA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COST SHARE PROGRAM	\$	5,000.00
McHargueland, Inc. – Merrick – Underground pipeline	\$	5,000.00
GRAZING DEFERMENT COST SHARE PROGRAM	\$	1,417.50
William Stovall – Merrick	\$	1,417.50
PRESCRIBED FIRE COST SHARE PROGRAM	\$	1,550.00
Charles Rother – Hall	\$	1,550.00
TREE PLANTING COST SHARE PROGRAM	\$	4,982.91
Bill Dixon – Howard	\$	1,112.01
Renee Behn – Buffalo		666.70
Prairie Meadows Inc – Frontier		1,647.25
John Schrall – Buffalo		581.25
Cody Freeze – Buffalo		678.15
Gary Langenheder – Howard		192.50
Richard Hartman – Hall		105.05
SOIL MOISTURE SENSOR COST SHARE PROGRAM	\$	18,000.00
August Peters – Hall	\$	2,000.00
Finke Farm – Dawson		2,000.00
Brent Carmody – Buffalo		2,000.00
Jeb Boston – Buffalo		2,000.00
Drew Arnold – Dawson		2,000.00
Wayne Hubbard – Dawson		2,000.00
Charles Hubbard – Dawson		2,000.00
James Dalrymple – Dawson		2,000.00
Luehr Farms Inc – Hall		2,000.00
WELL DECOMMISSIONING COST SHARE PROGRAM	\$	7,750.00
Steve & Clayton Stelk – Hall	\$	750.00
Miracle Farms Inc – Buffalo – 4 wells		3,000.00
Glenn D Kegley Rev Trust – Buffalo – 2 wells		1,500.00
Thies Farms Central LLC – Merrick		500.00
William May Revocable Trust – Buffalo		500.00
RGANG LLC – Buffalo – 2 wells		1,500.00
Total	\$	38,700.41