

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Board Meeting Minutes
September 1, 2016

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Ed Kyes called the meeting to order at 2:07 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	Dwayne Margritz	Jay Richeson
Charles Bicak	Charles Maser	Bob Schanou
Alicia Haussler	Jerry Milner	Steve Sheen
Chris Henry	Barry Obermiller	Keith Stafford
Brian Keiser	Ladd Reeves	Ed Stoltenberg
Ed Kyes	Mick Reynolds	Deborah VanMatre

Excused Absences – Jim Bendfield and Marvion Reichert. Absent - Jerry Wiese

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

Others present – Alan Rickertsen – Gothenburg, Koby Rickertsen – Gothenburg, Richard Ristine – Cozad, Rick Wilson – JEO Consulting Group, Keith Ostermeier – Grand Island, 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 July board meeting minutes. Barry Obermiller seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Charles Bicak, Jerry Milner 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.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) REPORT:

General Manager Lyndon Vogt said that James Huntwork, NRCS ASTC/Field Operations-Central Area, would announce at the next board meeting who the individual is who will serve as the NRCS Liaison District Conservationist.

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Chairman Kyes reported that Jim Bendfeldt and Marvion Reichert had requested to be excused from the board meeting.

Alicia Haussler made the motion to approve the absences as requested. Mick Reynolds seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

FISCAL YEAR 2016/2017 BUDGET – RESOLUTION & SET LEVY: Chairman Kyes resumed the public hearing to set the property tax request at 2:11 p.m. He again asked if there was any testimony concerning setting the levy. None was presented at that time. He closed the hearing at 2:13 p.m. (See enclosed Public Hearing minutes).

Ladd Reeves made the motion to approve and adopt the Resolution Setting the Property Tax Request for FY 2016/2017 as proposed. Mick Reynolds seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

PROGRAMS COMMITTEE – REPORT & ACTION: Programs Committee chairman Bob Schanou reported on their meeting held earlier that day.

NRCS Event Funding Request – Bob said the committee had discussed the request from NRCS to help pay for the costs of a presentation to be held in Ord in December by Gabe Brown, a farmer from North Dakota who does not use any (synthetic) insecticides, herbicides or fertilizer. Several other NRDs are also being asked to contribute.

Bob Schanou said the Programs Committee is recommending, and he made the motion, that Central Platte NRD contribute \$500.00 to the NRCS to help pay for the costs of the presentation, but with the understanding that if the event is cancelled that Central Platte NRD will get the \$500.00 back. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Chris Henry and Ladd Reeves who voted no. Motion carried.

Grand Island Clean Community System Annual Funding Request – Bob said we have received a letter from the Grand Island Clean Community System requesting \$2,000.00 to help operate the facility and disposal of hazardous waste. He said this is something we have done each year and the funds were again included in the budget.

Bob Schanou said the Programs Committee is recommending, and he made the motion, to contribute \$2,000.00 to the Grand Island Clean Community System. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Kearney Children's Museum Community Outdoor Classroom Funding Request –

Bob reported that we have received an Outdoor Classroom application for \$2,000.00 from the Kearney Children's Museum. This will be used to help develop a prairie garden walkway in the Little Sprouts Outdoor Classroom. He said in the past the requests for this program have come from schools. This application is a little different in that it is a community project.

Bob Schanou made the motion to approve the Programs Committee's recommendation to approve the \$2,000.00 Outdoor Classroom application from the Kearney Children's Museum for a community outdoor classroom. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

WESTERN PROJECTS COMMITTEE – REQUEST FROM CITY OF LEXINGTON FOR TECHNICAL SUPPORT WITH RESTORATION OF KIRKPATRICK MEMORIAL LAKE:

Charlie Bicak reported on the committee's meeting held earlier that day. He said the committee discussed a request from the City of Lexington for a letter of support for a NE Environmental Trust grant and potential technical assistance from Central Platte NRD staff for the renovation and restoration of Kirkpatrick Lake in Lexington. It was reported that there is no financial commitment and technical support is estimated to be minimal. Charlie said Assistant Manager Jesse Mintken had provided the committee a proposed letter of support to Mark Brohman, Executive Director of the NE Environmental Trust.

Charlie Bicak said the Western Projects Committee is recommending, and he made the motion, to approve the letter of support to the NE Environmental Trust and approve a commitment for technical support for the Lexington Kirkpatrick Lake renovation and restoration. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

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

Proposed Updates to Groundwater Exchange Section of Groundwater Management Plan Rules & Regulations – Jay said there is a minor change proposed in the rules which would be to include the area of the Loup influence within Central Platte NRD. He said it was recommended that the September board meeting be set a week later to allow time to advertise the hearing. Chairman Kyes suggested that Agenda Item #9 – September Board Meeting-Consider Moving to September 29th, be moved up on the agenda, ahead of setting the public hearing schedule.

September Board Meeting Date Change -- Jay Richeson made the motion that the September board meeting be scheduled for the 29th at 2:00 p.m. Barry Obermiller seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Jay Richeson then made the motion to approve the Water Resources Committee's recommendation to hold the public hearing on the proposed changes to the Groundwater Exchange Section of the Groundwater Management Plan Rules & Regulations on Thursday, September 29th at 1:50 p.m. Barry Obermiller seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Proposed Updates to Erosion & Sediment Control Program – Jay said there are no proposed updates to the program at this time.

Annual Report on 2015 Water Activities in CPNRD – Jay asked Jesse and Duane to review their reports that had been presented to the committee. Jesse reviewed the breakdown of the 1,028,044 irrigated acres within the district as of December 31, 2015. Duane reviewed the rehab of the three surface water canals, the conjunctive water management studies and also the crop irrigation and demand network. (See enclosed report).

NARD ANNUAL CONFERENCE – VOTING DELEGATE & ALTERNATE FOR CONFERENCE: Chairman Kyes reported that the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Conference is September 26th and 27th in Kearney and said the board needs to elect a voting delegate and alternate.

Ladd Reeves made the motion that Jim Bendfeldt serve as the voting delegate with Jay Richeson as alternate. Charles Bicak seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Jay Richeson who abstained. Motion carried.

NEBRASKA NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION REPORT: Mick Reynolds said the next Commission meeting is scheduled for September 8th at Gothenburg and said he would have a report at the next board meeting.

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, Grassland Conservation, Grazing Deferment, Center Pivot Incentive, and Cover Crop (see enclosed). She said the applicants are in compliance with the District's rules and regulations, funds are available, and recommended they be approved.

Bob Schanou 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. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Barry Obermiller made the motion to approve the August financial report as presented. Mick Reynolds seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Chairman Kyes briefly reviewed the upcoming events.

December Board Meeting – General Manager Vogt said I&E Specialist Marcia Lee is beginning to make arrangements for the District’s annual awards event which, in the past, has been held on the same day as the December board meeting. He asked if the board wanted to hold the meeting on the 22nd which would be the regular schedule. It was the consensus that the board meeting be held on that date.

ADJOURN: Chairman Kyes adjourned the board meeting at 2:35 p.m.

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD

PUBLIC HEARING TO SET PROPERTY TAX REQUEST

FISCAL 2016/2017

September 1, 2016

ATTENDANCE: Board members present were:

LeRoy Arends	Dwayne Margritz	Jay Richeson
Charles Bicak	Charles Maser	Bob Schanou
Alicia Haussler	Jerry Milner	Steve Sheen
Chris Henry	Barry Obermiller	Keith Stafford
Brian Keiser	Ladd Reeves	Ed Stoltenberg
Ed Kyes	Mick Reynolds	Deborah VanMatre

Excused Absences – Jim Bendfieldt and Marvion Reichert. Absent – Jerry Wiese

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

Others present – Alan Rickertsen – Gothenburg, Koby Rickertsen – Gothenburg, Richard Ristine – Cozad, Rick Wilson – JEO Consulting Group, Keith Ostermeier – Grand Island, Lori Potter – Kearney Hub.

Chairman Ed Kyes opened the hearing at 1:55 p.m. He said the purpose of the hearing was to receive support, opposition, criticism, suggestions, or observations of taxpayers relating to setting the Fiscal Year 2016/2017 budget tax request at a different amount than the prior year’s tax request.

He said that notices of the hearing were published in the Grand Island Independent, Kearney Hub, Central City Nonpareil, Lexington Clipper-Herald and Tri-City Tribune. The Grand Island Independent ‘Notice of Hearing’ was entered into the record. (See enclosed notice.)

Chairman Kyes said a copy of the “Resolution Setting the Property Tax Request” had been forwarded to the directors prior to the hearing (see enclosed).

He asked General Manager Lyndon Vogt to review the Resolution. General Manager Vogt explained the NRDs’ taxing authorities under Nebraska statutes. He said the property tax request that was approved at the July board meeting was \$6,106,674.82, which included \$4,841,431.20 for the General Fund, and \$1,265,243.62 for the Sinking Fund. He said this would require a General Fund levy of 0.02840 and a Sinking Fund levy of 0.00742 for a total levy of .03582. This is based on a total valuation in the District of \$17,049,568,819.00.

Chairman Kyes asked if anyone in attendance wanted to present testimony on the proposed property tax request and/or resolution, and asked that anyone testifying give their name and address. He said the board would be asked to take action on the resolution at the board meeting following the public hearing.

My name is Alan Rickertsen, 77655 Roten Valley Road, Cozad, Nebraska. I just have a few questions if I could. How do you go about getting a copy of the budget for 2016 and 2017?

General Manager Vogt – Request it, we'll be happy to give it to you.

Alan Rickertsen – Request it in writing, request it before I leave? Who do I talk to?

Administrative Director Dianne Miller – Talk to me and I'll be happy to get you a copy.

Alan Rickertsen – All right. I guess what I want to know is where do you come up with \$9,000.00 less that you're taking in this year than you took in last year? Because if I go off of, I spent an hour and a half on line in the last couple of days and I can't hardly find anything about a budget for the NRD. I don't know if I don't know the secret hand shake or what it is or whether we are ashamed of what we do or not proud of what we do. I can't hardly find anything. I can find the Gothenburg School District, I can find Cozad School District, I can find ESU number 10 but I can't find NRD.

And if you go off of, wait I have to get a different paper...The way I understand it the County Treasurer takes one percent for collecting the taxes, is that right? County Treasurer takes one percent for collecting your taxes? So last year, looking at what I found on Page 55 of some sheet that you guys have on the internet, I finally found something that has something to do with the budget. Last year the county treasurer charged you \$44,809.19 for your General Fund and \$14,999.81 for your Sinking Fund and this year they are charging you more, so if you are getting less taxes how come they are charging you more money? I don't really expect an answer I just have a question.

What I want to know is, and the reason I drove down here today, I asked Mr. Vogt what this was. I got this out of one of your long term plans and it's a deal on the Cozad Ditch and it says excess flows returned to Platte River and you got this projected out to 2060, 40 some years. What I want to know is, can anybody in here tell me what the taxes are going to be for me next year from this NRD? Can anybody tell me what the taxes are going to be three years from now and can anybody tell me what they're going to be five years from now? I'm going to retire one of these days and I need to know how many pieces of land I'm going to have to sell to pay my damn taxes. And I kind of like to plan ahead. So has anybody in here planned ahead on anything? Are you just going to raise it three million dollars a year, 10 million dollars a year? How damn much is enough?

And I'd like to go around the room and I want every one of you to tell me how much is going to be enough. I'll start with you sir (pointing to Chairman Kyes).

Chairman Kyes – This is a public hearing, all we can do is take testimony. We can't take questions and answers.

Alan Rickertsen – Nobody knows nothing, nobody can fix nothing, nobody knows how it works. How long has this NRD been around, when was it formed?

Jay Richeson – 1972.

Alan Rickertsen – Are you proud of what you've done here, with the NRD for that many years?

Jay Richeson – I am.

Alan Rickertsen – And has the NRD accomplished something? My question is if you are accomplishing something how many more years do you need to be around? Is there an end?

Jay Richeson – We can't discuss this here. You get with me and I'll talk to you when we get back home.

Alan Rickertsen – You can't discuss whether you're proud of what you do and whether there's ever an end?

Bob Schanou – You can ask the same question of a school.

Alan Rickertsen – I'm planning on it, Sir, I'm planning on it.

Bob Schanou – But the answer is, I mean, is the school important? Yes, the school is important, Did you get an education?

Alan Rickertsen – Yes, but it didn't cost \$17,000,000.00 when Gothenburg gave me an education.

Bob Schanou – No, but you got an education. The board, the NRD has done a lot of things. We've decreased the amount of nitrogen that is in our groundwater for a lot of years that was built up by over-fertilization and stuff like that. There's a lot of things that have gone on that is a plus.

Alan Rickertsen – I'm not saying you haven't done a lot of good things. All I want to know is does it ever come to an end or is there going to be projects forever? Does anybody know.

Chairman Kyes – We're getting way off track here. This is a hearing just to establish the mill levy for the NRD and it's strictly for testimony. We aren't here to answer questions, field questions, or anything like that.

Alan Rickertsen – Well, I still haven't got an answer to my first question. Where do you come up with your \$9,000.00? When your county treasurer in Dawson County is charging you more this year than they did last year. It's on your guys' sheet, it's not on my sheet. And why don't you spend a little more time publishing in the paper what you do and how much money you spend and where you get your money? You've got a 10 year plan on the internet that's 70 some pages long and it doesn't say one word about money. It's got 400 different projects, it's got all of this stuff that you do which is fine. If you're so proud of what we do here why don't we advertise how much money we spend and where we put it and where we get it from? Thanks a lot for your time. You need to all start learning how to say no. People like me can't afford our God damned taxes to go up every year. I'm getting sick and tired of it. Thank you.

Chairman Kyes asked if there was any other testimony. There was none.

Chairman Kyes suspended the hearing at 2:06 p.m. and said it would be resumed when it was reached on the board meeting agenda.

The public hearing resumed at 2:11 p.m. when it was reached on the board meeting agenda. Chairman Kyes again asked for testimony. None was presented at that time. He closed the hearing at 2:12 p.m.

At the September 1, 2016 board meeting the following action was taken: Ladd Reeves made the motion to approve and adopt the Resolution Setting the Property Tax Request for Fiscal Year 2016/2017 as proposed. Mick Reynolds seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Summary of 2015 Annual Report of Water Use Activities in the CPNRD

Certified Irrigated Acres

At the end of 2015 the CPNRD had a total of **1,028,044** irrigated acres of which **936,554** acres are ground water only; **14,315** acres are surface water only and **77,175** acres are a co-mingled use. The overall irrigated acres base has increased **11,455** acres, in part to acres still being certified, two years of additional acres being added east of Chapman, NE (both have supporting documentation) and because of our transfer process, which allows for the consumptive use of water to be changed, (either in location or purpose) without causing an increase in depletions to the river or an impact to existing surface water or ground water users.

Approved Transfers

For calendar year 2015 the CPNRD allowed **160** transfers. The certified acre total for 2015 involved in these transfers to new irrigated lands was **1,955** acres. The total number of certified acres used to offset the new uses was **1,094** acres. Each transfer resulted in no net increase in stream depletions when computed using the CIR offset calculator developed from COHYST. There were also a total **160** groundwater acres retired.

Well Permits

131 well permits were issued for 2015.

Over-Appropriated Area Retirements

In 2015, the CPNRD acquired one perpetual conservation easement on water rights in Dawson County, and the estimated accretion to the Platte River from ground water retirements using the latest COHYST offset calculator is **61.46** acre feet. This retirement amounted to **149.5** acres.

Summary

By the close of 2015, the CPNRD Water Bank had a balance of **2,566** acre feet of water rights available for offset in the over-appropriated area.

Other Stream Flow Accretion Activities

Rehabilitation of Surface Water Canals

Cozad, Thirty Mile, and Southside (Orchard Alfalfa). The canals will be used for their original purpose, surface water irrigation delivery; as well as for retiming Platte River flows to enhance target flows for endangered species. The retiming of Platte River flows will be accomplished by diverting flows excess to target flows to recharge the ground water system or by transferring surface water irrigation rights to in stream use, which will be diverted from the canal back to the river. Water rights for diverting excess flow for recharge were granted to the Canal systems by DNR and Temporary Transfer permits for returning surface water to the river for in stream use have been filed with the DNR. Excess Platte River

was diverted in 2011, 2013, 2014, and 2015. The total diverted by the 3 canals was 37,359 AF and the computed recharge was 23,883 AF. The return to the River is computed to will be 80 to 90 AF per month. In 2015 we also worked with DNR to test how the surface water transfer would operate during the irrigation season.

Conjunctive Water Management Studies

The study has been underway for some time to look water management options for the Dawson Canal canals. Currently the partners include: DNR, Central Platte NRD, and Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD). The study is to look at surface water and ground water management options with the goal of ensuring that the supplies of surface and ground water in the Platte basin are optimized and managed efficiently with maximum benefits in a manner consistent with State and local policies. The studies and analysis for the irrigation canal projects are being conducted with the COHYST modeling tools. This past year the partners have met several times with the consultants on the study to review the 5 management scenarios results.

Crop Irrigation and Demand Network

The crop irrigation and demand network has been in place for 3 years and is collecting real-time precipitation, water pumped, and soil moisture data for selected sites across the CPNRD. The CPNRD has partnered with DNR, UNL extension, Seim Ag Technology, and McCrometer to collect information the producers and the NRD can use.

The goal of the project is being accomplished by measuring water pumped and precipitation at selected locations to would provide data that could be use to develop irrigation efficiencies by irrigation equipment type, soil water holding capacities, and crop type.

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
 Cost Share
 September 1, 2016

NEBRASKA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COST SHARE PROGRAM...		\$ 13,085.75
Ken Woitaszewski – Hall – Underground Pipeline	\$ 5,000.00	
Matthew Woitaszewski – Hall – Underground Pipeline	5,000.00	
Janet Eutsler – Dawson – Brush Management	2,252.25	
Dale & Arlene Gengenbach Trust – Dawson – Range Planting	833.50	
GRASSLAND CONSERVATION COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$ 64,535.00
Mick R Peterson – Custer	\$ 64,535.00	
GRAZING DEFERMENT COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$ 5,640.00
Mick R Peterson – Custer	\$ 5,640.00	
CENTER PIVOT INCENTIVE COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$ 15,000.00
Matthew Woitaszewski – Hall	\$ 7,500.00	
Ken Woitaszewski – Hall	7,500.00	
COVER CROP COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$ 733.76
BSJ Farms Inc – Buffalo	\$ 500.00	
Dale Gengenbach – Dawson	233.76	
Total		\$ 98,994.51