

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Board Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2017

CALL TO ORDER: Vice-chairman Mick Reynolds called the meeting to order at 2:09 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	Barry Obermiller	Bob Schanou
Alicia Haussler	Keith Ostermeier	Keith Stafford
Chris Henry	Doug Reeves	Ed Stoltenberg
Ed Kyes	Marvion Reichert	Deborah VanMatre
Dwayne Margritz	Mick Reynolds	Jerry Wiese
Charles Maser	Jay Richeson	

Excused Absence – Jim Bendfeldt, Brian Keiser, Jerry Milner, & Steve Sheen

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, Tom Backer – Projects Assistant.

Others present – Joe Krolikowski – NRCS Liaison District Conservationist, James Stulken – Doniphan.

MEETING NOTICES: Vice-chairman Reynolds 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 January board meeting minutes. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Dwayne Margritz, Barry Obermiller and Ed Stoltenberg 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. No one requested time to speak.

USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE REPORT: NRCS Liaison District Conservationist Joe Krolkowski gave a status report on the Fiscal Year 2017 Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), the Conservation Stewardship Program (CStP), and the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). He also reported on the status of the federal government's 90-day staff hiring freeze (see enclosed report).

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Vice-chairman Reynolds reported that Jim Bendfeldt, Brian Keiser, Jerry Milner, & Steve Sheen 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.

VARIANCE SUB-COMMITTEE 2016 IRRIGATION VIOLATIONS REPORT: Luke Zakrewski, GIS Image Analyst, reported that he had sent out 57 certified irrigated acre violation letters on February 17th and said so far 18 landowners/tenants have contacted him. He said the violations involve 308.61 acres, with the largest violation at 22.57 acres and the smallest at 0.66 acre; however, the 0.66 acre was tied to a larger tract that is in violation so it had to be included. Luke said there are four second offense violators and one that is a third offense violator. No action was required at that time.

PROGRAMS COMMITTEE REPORT: Committee chairman Bob Schanou reported on their meeting held earlier that day. He said they had approved the recommendations for the cost share programs and will forward those to the Budget Committee and said that they will continue working on the information/education program recommendations next month.

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

Interlocal Agreement - Geocloud Database Partnership – Jay said the committee discussed a proposed agreement for a Geocloud database partnership with nine other NRDs. Central Platte's cost would be \$10,200.00 spread over a three year period beginning in Fiscal Year 2018.

The proposal is to develop a program to preserve, store and access airborne electromagnetic data in a Nebraska GeoCloud platform and is for the purpose of improving estimation of groundwater in storage.

Jay Richeson made the motion to approve the Water Resources Committee's recommendation to enter into an interlocal agreement with nine other NRDs for the Geocloud Database Partnership with Central Platte NRD's cost to be \$3,400.00 per year for three years. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Crop/ET Study With UNL (field readings) – Jay reported that the board postponed a decision until the March board meeting on a proposal for an amendment to an existing agreement with UNL that measures actual evapotranspiration (ET) rates of various vegetation surfaces.

Measuring Crop ET with UNL (Satellite Data/METRIC Computation Process) – Jay said the committee discussed extending an agreement with UNL on evapotranspiration research using high resolution satellite mapping. The cost of the amendment to the existing agreement would be \$70,000.00 and an additional \$20,000.00 to fund a graduate student who would enter data on the crop ET.

Jay Richeson made the motion to approve the Water Resources Committee's recommendation to extend the existing agreement with UNL on ET research using high resolution satellite mapping less UNL's administrative fee of \$5,873.00. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. Voting by roll call vote board members in favor of the motion were: LeRoy Arends, Alicia Haussler, Chris Henry, Ed Kyes, Barry Obermiller, Keith Ostermeier, Doug Reeves, Mick Reynolds, Jay Richeson, Bob Schanou, Keith Stafford and Deborah VanMatre. Board members opposed were: Dwayne Margritz, Charles Maser, Marvion Reichert, Ed Stoltenberg and Jerry Wiese. Motion carried 12 to five.

Jay Richeson then made the motion to approve the agreement with UNL for an additional \$20,000.00 to fund a graduate student to enter data on the crop ET study. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Marvion Reichert who voted no. Motion carried.

Groundwater Quality Management Program – Cease & Desist Hearings – Report & Recommendation on Filing Cease & Desist Orders – Vice-chairman Reynolds reported that cease and desist hearing notices were sent out to 81 operators by certified mail for not submitting the required reports for the 2016 crop year in the Phases 2 and 3 areas of the Water Quality Management Program. Of the 81 operators 72 came into compliance before the hearing dates. The hearings were split into two days, February 13th and 16th. Transcripts of the hearings were posted on Drop Box for the directors' review.

On February 13th, hearings were held for two operators. Those operators did not appear at the hearing, but one operator did come into compliance that afternoon. The other operator said he would submit the reports, but has not done so at this time.

On February 16th, there were hearings for four operators. They also did not appear at the hearings. One of the operators has now come into compliance.

Mick said there were three additional operators that the board would need to discuss after they took action on those from the hearings on the 13th and 16th.

Mick Reynolds then made the motion that the following operators: Dave Mickelson, Buffalo County, Andy Prosocki, Nance County, David Stade, Buffalo County, and Jason Luebbe, Hall County be issued Cease and Desist Orders for non-compliance of the Groundwater Quality Management Program, specifically for not submitting the required reports for the 2016 crop year, which were due March 31st, 2016. The reports must be submitted by March 31, 2017. If the reports are received by March 31st 2017, the Cease and Desist Order will be dissolved. If the reports are not received by March 31st, the District can take such actions as allowed by law to obtain compliance with the Cease and Desist Order and the District's Rules and Regulations. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Doug Reeves, who abstained. Motion carried.

(Note: Jason Luebbe has since come into compliance).

Mick also reported there were three operators who did not pick up their hearing notices that were sent by certified mail. Our attorney said that we could not have a hearing on those three people without them receiving the hearing notice. Mick said with the board's approval a hearing notice will be re-sent to them by certified and regular mail for a cease and desist hearing to be held just prior to the March board meeting.

General Manager Lyndon Vogt said an agenda item that will be discussed later in the board meeting would be a recommendation to hold the March board meeting one week later than normal, due to a schedule conflict with the NARD Washington D.C. conference.

Following a brief discussion, Mick Reynolds made the motion to resend by certified and regular mail cease and desist hearing notices to the three operators who did not pick up their first certified mail notices, and that the hearings be held on the day of the March 30th board meeting. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

VEHICLE BIDS – REPORT & RECOMMENFDATION: Recently bids were requested for a full size SUV that would include the trade-in of the District's 2009 Chevy Trailblazer with about 85,000 miles. Projects Assistant Tom Backer reported two bids were received, one from Plum Creek Motors of Lexington for a 2017 Tahoe at \$33,781.06 and one from Platte Valley Auto of Kearney for a 2017 Ford full size SUV at \$36,225.00.

Following a brief discussion Alicia Haussler made the motion to approve the low bid of \$33,781.06 from Plum Creek Motors for the 2017 Chevy Tahoe, with trade-in of the 2009 Chevy Trailblazer. Deborah VanMatre seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Chris Henry who voted no. Marvion Reichert was absent for the motion. Motion carried.

BURN CONTRACTOR BIDS: Range Management Specialist David Carr reported that he had sought bids from burn contractors to work with the Central Platte NRD prescribed fire crew on approximately 13 landowners burns. The burns will start in approximately mid-March. David said he had researched both contractors and is recommending that we hire Chloeta Fire for \$58,838.00, which was the low bid. The contract would include a four-person crew for 31 days.

Alicia Haussler made the motion to approve hiring the burn contractor Chloeta Fire for the 2017 burns as recommended. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

PRAIRIE/SILVER/MOORES CREEK FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT

PROGRESS REPORT: Assistant Manager Jesse Mintken showed several slides as well as a time-lapse video of the work being done by Van Kirk Brothers Contracting on the detention cells SCLL4-5 Phase 1, and SCLL4N-E. He said work on this phase is expected to be completed this May.

COOPERATIVE HYDROLOGY STUDY (COHYST) UPDATE: District Hydrologist Duane Woodward reported that the Technical Committee recently used CPNRD's Water Quality database to improve the model by providing the data needed to allow the model to replicate 2002 dry river conditions and said another update included the use of a conservation study developed for the Platte Basin Integrated Management Plan to input no-till and other conservation activities to compare conditions back to the 1950s. He said the Technical Committee is currently doing a review to look at all of the changes since 1982 and their net effect.

NE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION REPORT: Middle Platte Basin Commission member Mick Reynolds reported that the Commission is currently working on the rules and guidelines for 2018 proposals.

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, Tree Planting Program, Grassland Conservation Program 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. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Alicia Haussler made the motion to approve the February report. Deborah VanMatre seconded the motion.

Marvion Reichert asked about the Rubicon Systems America Inc. bill for the power

supply unit replacement and whether it was under warranty. General Manager Lyndon Vogt said the unit fell outside of the two-year warranty period.

The motion was then voted on. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS: Next meeting -- General Manager Lyndon Vogt said the individuals attending the NARD Washington D.C. conference are scheduled to return on Thursday, March 23rd which would be the normal board meeting date. He asked if the board would approve changing the board meeting to Thursday, March 30th.

Alicia Haussler made the motion to move the March board meeting to the 30th. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Vice-chairman Reynolds briefly reviewed the upcoming events.

ADJOURN: Vice-chairman Reynolds adjourned the board meeting at 2:55 p.m.

(NOTE: Meeting was not recorded, the sound system was not operating).



Natural Resources Conservation Service
Grand Island Field Office
2550 N. Diers Ave., Suite L
Grand Island, NE 68803
Phone (308) 395-8586 (Ext. 3)

<http://www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov>

February 22, 2017

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.

- FY 2017 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) applications that were received before October 21, 2016 have been ranked. 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 depending on the funds available.
- FY2017 Conservation Stewardship Program (CStP) applications that were received by February 3, 2017, will begin the ranking process. NRCS staff is currently working with producers and gathering the information needed to work through the ranking. The projected ranking deadline for these applications is currently set for the end of April. According to a statement made by the state CStP program manager recently at a program training we have over 1,000 applications statewide, with approximately enough funds to offer 200-250 contracts.
- FY2017 Conservation Reserve Programs (CRP) which is administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA), is experiencing very high application numbers. This is important because the NRCS is responsible for conducting all field visits and then producing all conservation planning and contracting documents for their program. The deadlines for the various types of CRP range from July to August.

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- FY2017 NRCS Staffing update in the Central Platte and the latest information provide from the State Conservationist on the minimum 90 day hiring freeze.
 - To date, no open positions in the NRCS Field Offices through the Central Platte have been filled. We currently have 2 open position in the Central City Field Office and 1-3 in the Grand Island Field Office.
 - Any individual who received a final job offer (FJO) letter from NRCS prior to January 22, 2017, with a confirmed start date on or before February 22, 2017, should report to work on the start date in that FJO letter. Other individuals who had not yet received a written offer to report to work by Feb 22nd will have to wait until the hiring freeze is over, which is slated to be 90 days.
 - No new job announcements may be posted at this time. This does not include Pathways announcements made under the Pathways Internship Program, but does include Recent Graduate announcements (the legal authorities are different).
 - All non-competitive personnel actions, including: reassignments, temporary promotions, and details are on hold until further notice.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Joe Krolkowski

Joe Krolkowski
District Conservationist

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CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
 Cost Share
 February 23, 2017

NEBRASKA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COST SHARE PROGRAM...		\$ 5,000.00
Kurt Koepp – Hall – Underground Pipe to Center Pivot	\$ 5,000.00	
TREE PLANTING COST SHARE PROGRAM.....		\$ 1,696.15
Kaitlin Lindsay – Buffalo	\$ 330.00	
Sean Beckman – Buffalo	1,366.15	
GRASSLAND CONSERVATION COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$ 8,701.50
Berke Family Trust – Dawson	\$ 3,090.00	
Brad M Adams – Dawson	2,634.00	
Jeffrey A Rudolph – Dawson	2,977.50	
WELL DECOMMISSIONING COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$ 2,750.00
Donald Kinnan – Dawson	\$ 750.00	
KS NE Conf. Assoc. of Seventh Day Adventist – Hall – 2 wells	1,500.00	
Will Feed Inc. – Dawson	500.00	
Total		\$ 18,147.65