

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Board Meeting Minutes
March 30, 2017

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Jim Bendfeldt 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	Jerry Milner	Jay Richeson
Jim Bendfeldt	Barry Obermiller	Bob Schanou
Alicia Haussler	Keith Ostermeier	Steve Sheen
Chris Henry	Doug Reeves	Keith Stafford
Brian Keiser	Marvion Reichert	Deborah VanMatre
Ed Kyes	Mick Reynolds	Jerry Wiese

Excused Absences – Dwayne Margritz, Charles Maser and 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, Dan Clement – Water Resources Specialist, Luke Zakrzewski – GIS Image Analyst, Angie Warner – GIS Programs Coordinator, Tricia Dudley – Resources Conservationist,

Others present – Joe Krolikowski – NRCS Liaison District Conservationist, Ken Lesiak – Fullerton, Lori Potter – Kearney Hub.

MEETING NOTICES: Chairman Bendfeldt 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 February board meeting minutes. Deborah VanMatre seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Brian Keiser, Jerry Milner and Steve Sheen who abstained. Motion carried.

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

PUBLIC FORUM: Chairman Bendfeldt 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 reported on the Fiscal Year 2018 Local Work Group meeting that was held March 22nd at Central Platte NRD's office (see enclosed report).

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Chairman Bendfeldt reported that Dwayne Margritz, Charles Maser 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.

VARIANCE/APPEALS SUB-COMMITTEE – NANCE COUNTY VARIANCE – REPORT & RECOMMENDATION: Chairman Bendfeldt reported for the subcommittee.

He reported they heard a variance request from Ken Lesiak, Charles Syslo and Scott Syslo. Mr. Lesiak has land in Central Platte NRD where he would like to add irrigated acres, with the offset coming from the Syslo land, which is across the road in the Lower Loup NRD. However, Mr. Lesiak's land in Central Platte is in GWMA 20, where the groundwater decline has reached 25 percent of the acceptable decline. The District's Groundwater Management rules state that no transfers of irrigated acres are allowed in GWMA 20 unless the offset comes from land within the same area. Jim Bendfeldt said the Variance/Appeals Subcommittee is recommending that the variance request for a transfer of irrigated acres be denied.

Marvion Reichert made the motion to deny the request for a transfer of irrigated acres from Ken Lesiak, Charles Syslo and Scott Syslo. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

A brief discussion followed concerning transfers of land between NRDs. It was explained that part of the procedure for boundary changes would require approval of both NRDs involved and the Department of Natural Resources.

EASTERN PROJECTS COMMITTEE REPORT & RECOMMENDATIONS: Committee chairman Jerry Wiese reported on their meeting held earlier that day.

Draft Policy for Urban Cost Share Requests – Jerry said the committee discussed developing a policy for the requests we receive from towns and cities for cost share on such things as rehabbing lakes, development of trails, etc. The proposed policy was also reviewed by the Western Projects Committee. It was stated that a proposal will probably be brought to the full board sometime in the next two or three months. Jerry also said that even if the policy is adopted the individual requests will still be brought to the board for action.

Fiscal 2017/2018 Budget – Jerry said the committee reviewed the recommendations and will forward them to the Budget Committee.

Prairie/Silver/Moores Flood Control Project Change Order #1 – Jerry also said they discussed a change order request for the project. The contractor, Van Kirk Brothers Contracting, is currently working on the detention cells (SCLL4-5 Phase 1, and SCLL4N-E). They are in the process of finishing Phase 1. Jerry said we will soon take bids for Phase 2. He said along the bank there are some tree stumps and additional dirt that need to be removed. While the contractor is there they have offered to do the tree and stump removal under a change order to their present contract at a cost of \$344,000.00. The work has to be done and would have to be included in the Phase 2 contract. It is the opinion of the engineering firm and staff that it would be less costly to have Van Kirk Brothers Contracting do the work at this time under a change order.

Jerry Wiese said the Eastern Projects Committee is recommending, and he made the motion, to approve Change Order #1 on the current contract with Van Kirk Brothers Contracting for the Prairie/Silver/Moores Creek Flood Control Project for stump and additional dirt removal at a cost of \$344,000.00. Mick Reynolds seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Jerry Wiese said he had requested that Item 13 - Executive Session be moved ahead on the agenda because he had to leave the board meeting early. The item pertains to legal matters, including an item concerning the Prairie/Silver/Moores Creek Project.

Jerry Wiese made the motion that the board go into executive session at 2:16 p.m. to discuss legal matters and request that that Lyndon, Dianne and Jesse remain in the room. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Mick Reynolds made the motion for the board to come out of executive session at 2:32 p.m. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Prairie/Silver/Moores Flood Control Project – Jerry Wiese made the motion to allow staff to negotiate the levee easement for the Prairie/Silver/Moores Creek Flood Control Project. Mick Reynolds seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

WESTERN PROJECTS COMMITTEE – REPORT & RECOMMENDATIONS: Marvion Reichert, committee chairman, reported on their meeting held earlier that day.

Fiscal 2017/2018 Budget – Marvion reported the committee had worked on the budget recommendations which will be forwarded to Budget Committee.

Kearney Northeast Project Non-Disturbance Agreement – Marvion said the committee had reviewed the proposed non-disturbance agreement with SoCore Energy of Chicago. The agreement is needed in order for SoCore Energy’s project, located south of the Kearney Northeast Flood Control Project’s easement area, can move forward. Our attorney has reviewed the agreement and the Western Projects Committee is recommending approval.

Marvion Reichert then made the motion to approve the Non-disturbance Agreement with SoCore Energy so SoCore Energy’s project located south of the Kearney Northeast Flood Control Project can proceed. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

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

Fiscal 2017/2018 Budget – Bob said the committee continued their review of the proposed budget recommendations.

BioBlitz Funding Request from Kearney High School & UNK – Bob said the committee reviewed a request from Kearney High School and the University of Nebraska/Kearney for \$1,000.00 to assist with developing the Kearney Outdoor Learning Center. The project involves designing and developing a wetland area. High school and college students will collect and analyze natural resources data in an area south of Kearney High School to be transformed into a wetland later this year.

Following a brief discussion Bob Schanou made the motion to approve the request for \$1,000.00 from Kearney High School and the University of Nebraska/Kearney to develop the outdoor learning area. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Scholarships for Students – Bob also reported the committee had reviewed applications for the Ronald G. Bishop Scholarships in the amount of \$1,000.00. The scholarship program is for college students majoring in a natural resources career. Bob reviewed the list of 10 applicants that are being recommended to be approved. General Manager Lyndon Vogt said he wanted to disclose that his son was among the students who were being recommended.

Bob Schanou made the motion that the 10 applicants being recommended to receive the Ronald G. Bishop \$1,000.00 scholarships be approved. Steve Sheen seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

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

Crop/ET Study With UNL Report & Recommendation -- Jay reported that the committee discussed the proposal for an amendment to extend an existing study agreement with UNL that measures actual evapotranspiration (ET) rates of various vegetation surfaces. The information collected is used for Central Platte NRD's Groundwater Management Program. The \$343,259.00 amendment extends the project through June 2020.

Following a brief discussion Jay Richeson made the motion to approve the proposed amendment to extend the existing UNL study that measures actual evapotranspiration rates of various vegetation surfaces; the \$343,250.00 amendment extends the agreement through June 2020. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM UPDATE:

District Biologist Mark Czaplewski reported that the Program's Governance Committee had met in Kearney on March 7th and 8th. He said the Program is starting to sort out and prioritize a variety of water supply options that will take the place of what was earlier envisioned to be accomplished by the J2 Reregulating Reservoir Project (which is now placed on hold). The new water projects options generally fall into two categories: 1) broad scale recharge projects and 2) slurry wall storage projects.

The first broad scale recharge project will be on approximately 400 acres of land owned by NPPD's Cottonwood Ranch property east of Overton. Details on possible locations for slurry wall projects are being worked out, but to accomplish the Program's water goals, five to eight sites may be needed. The first such site will be used as something of a pilot/demonstration project and costs could be in the five to six million dollar range. Mark said Nebraska may want to partner with the Program on such projects in light of the fact Nebraska previously planned to partner on a substantial share of the J2 Project. He reviewed the fact that Central Platte NRD has contributed to a portion of those Nebraska shares and could also choose to fund a portion of the new projects.

Mark said the Governance Committee also continued to discuss plans to extend the First Increment from its current end date of 2019 for another 13 years to 2032. The extension would allow the Program to continue to work on these water goals. He said for an extended First Increment to succeed, new federal funding will be key and new funding from Colorado and Wyoming will also be needed. Mark said the federal connection necessitates the needed NEPA and ESA regulatory compliance activities and a timeline to get those accomplished is also being developed.

NE ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICTS (NARD) REPORT: Jim Bendfeldt briefly reported on the January NARD board meeting as well as the annual NARD Washington D.C. conference held earlier that month.

NE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION REPORT: Middle Platte Basin Commission member Mick Reynolds reported that the Commission will be meeting in

June and that he would report after that date.

COST SHARE PROGRAM: Applications – Programs Coordinator Kelly Cole reported that we have received applications for the following cost share programs: Tree Planting, Soil Moisture Sensors, Prescribed Burn, Grazing Deferment, 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. Deborah VanMatre seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried. Jerry Wiese was absent for the motion.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Alicia Haussler made the motion to approve the March financial report. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried. Jerry Wiese was absent for the motion.

OTHER BUSINESS: Next meeting – The next board meeting was scheduled for Thursday, April 27th at 2:00 p.m. Details to follow.

Changing May Board Meeting -- General Manager Lyndon Vogt asked if the board would consider changing the May board meeting from the 25th because of a conflict with the Groundwater Management Districts’ Association conference that week.

Following a brief discussion Alicia Haussler made the motion to move the May board meeting to June 1st. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Monarch Habitat – I&E Specialist Marcia Lee reported on the Monarch Habitat Learning Area that was planted March 23 along an easement of the Wood River Flood Control Project. The project aims to provide migrating Monarchs with food, water and shelter and is a partnership effort between Central Platte NRD, Grand Island Senior High Success Academy, Roots N’ Shoots, Walnut Middle School, Pheasants Forever, and the NE Wildlife Federation.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Chairman Bendfeldt briefly reviewed the upcoming events.

ADJOURN: Chairman Bendfeldt adjourned the board meeting at 3:03 p.m.

March 29, 2017

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

March Report to CPNRD

NRCS recently held their FY2018 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 some payment rates to provide more broad access to the available funds.
- It was suggested that it may be time to also look at how available funds are being allocated between funding pools to insure a good balance exists to address current resource concerns.
- It was suggested that forestry application preapprovals actually be delayed until the middle of May so that proper planning, planting plans, stock acquisition, and ground preparation can all be done in a more timely manner while still insuring practice application happens within the first twelve months of the contracts.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Joe Krolikowski

Joe Krolikowski
District Conservationist

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CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
 Cost Share
 March 30, 2017

TREE PLANTING COST SHARE PROGRAM.....		\$	6,542.25
Garth Ostergard – Custer	\$	1,676.25	
Anita Lorentzen – Buffalo		644.50	
Randy & Kristi Strohmyer – Dawson		1,473.25	
Scot Bandel – Buffalo		471.25	
Leo & Jeanne Mettenbrink – Hall		133.25	
Prairie Meadows Inc. – Frontier		760.00	
Jeff Leo – Howard		308.75	
Jordan Kinnan – Dawson		1,075.00	
SOIL MOISTURE SENSOR COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$	4,000.00
Sukraw Farms Inc. – Dawson	\$	2,000.00	
Beau Bearnas – Merrick		2,000.00	
PRESCRIBED BURN COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$	1,100.00
Charles Rother – Hall	\$	1,100.00	
GRAZING DEFERMENT COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$	5,614.50
Kelly Evans – Dawson	\$	5,614.50	
WELL DECOMMISSIONING COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$	8,000.00
Frances A Harders Revocable Trust – Hall	\$	750.00	
Troy M Rainforth – Hall		750.00	
Marilyn Ziemke – Polk		500.00	
Andy Faeh – Merrick – 2 wells		1,500.00	
Kurt Koepp – Hall		750.00	
Patrick Luther – Dawson – 3 wells		3,000.00	
Heimann Family Trust – Dawson		750.00	
Total		\$	25,256.75