

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD

Board Meeting Minutes

June 22, 2017

CALL TO ORDER: Vice Chairman Mick Reynolds 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	Keith Stafford
Alicia Haussler	Barry Obermiller	Ed Stoltenberg
Ed Kyes	Keith Ostermeier	Deborah VanMatre
Dwayne Margritz	Mick Reynolds	Jerry Wiese
Charles Maser	Jay Richeson	

Excused Absences – Jim Bendfeldt, Chris Henry, Brian Keiser, Marvion Reichert, Bob Schanou and Steve Sheen. Absent – Doug Reeves

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, Angie Warner – GIS Programs Coordinator, Brandi Flyr – Hydrologist.

Others present – Joe Krolikowski – NRCS Liaison District Conservationist, Robert Pore – Grand Island Independent.

MEETING NOTICES: Vice Chairman Reynolds reported that the notices of the meeting had been published in the Grand Island Independent and the news release was provided to other media outlets in the District.

MEETING MINUTES: Keith Ostermeier made the motion to approve the June 1st board meeting minutes. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Alicia Haussler and Mick Reynolds 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 Krolikowski reviewed highlights of the President's proposed 2018 budget. (See enclosed).

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Vice Chairman Reynolds reported that Jim Bendfeldt, Chris Henry, Brian Keiser, Marvion Reichert, Bob Schanou and Steve Sheen had requested to be excused from the board meeting.

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

BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT: Vice Chairman Reynolds said the Budget Committee met earlier that day and asked Barry Obermiller to review their recommendations for changes from what was included on the budget worksheets previously forwarded to the board. Barry said it is estimated at this time that the property tax request could be down approximately \$400,000.00 from last year.

Barry said the Budget Committee is recommending an increase to the Conservation Cost Share item by \$80,000.00 for urban development such as trails, lake rehab, etc. Applications will go through the Programs Committee and that committee will develop recommendations on the cost share program details.

The committee is recommending that \$50,000.00 be moved out of the Capital Outlay-Water Rights line item and moved to Capital Outlay – Project Equipment to be used for a tractor (with trade in).

It is also being recommended that \$20,000.00 be added to the Necessary Cash Reserve item which would make that total \$145,000.00.

The net result would be an increase of \$100,000.00 to the proposed budget of expenditures.

Following a brief discussion Jay Richeson made the motion to approve the recommended changes to the budget of expenditures recommended by the Budget Committee. Charles Maser seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

In answer to a question from LeRoy Arends on how the proposed budget will affect the mill levy General Manager Lyndon Vogt said it is anticipated that the levy will be slightly less than the current year because of the estimated reduction in property taxes and anticipated increase in valuations. He said, however, we will not know what the valuations are until August 20th when they are received from the 11 county assessors.

Jay Richeson then made the motion to approve the recommended budget of expenditures with the changes recommended by the Budget Committee, and that the Public Budget Hearing be scheduled for 1:45 p.m. on the day of the July 27th board meeting.

IRRIGATION VIOLATIONS – CEASE & DESIST REQUESTS: GIS Image Analyst Luke Zakrezewski reported that irrigation violation letters had been mailed in February. He said four landowners failed to respond to that letter. He said earlier this month a final letter was sent to the four indicating that we were going to request a cease and desist order be filed against them if they had not responded by June 21st.

He said he has had contact with all four landowners and has sent the necessary paper work to them to resolve the issues that were pending. Luke said he gave them a deadline of June 30th to get the paper work back to our office. If they fail to comply by that date it would give staff time to prepare the cease and desist orders to present to the board for the board to decide whether or not to take action to issue the cease and desist orders.

Keith Stafford asked if we ever publish the names of individuals who are in violation of the rule for irrigating acres that are not certified. Keith said the board is being asked to take action but do not know the names of those who may have cease and desist orders issued. Luke said the four individuals are: Rodney Aden of Dawson County, Trampe Brothers LLC by Kearney, Schmitz Farms Inc. from Riverdale, and Ladonna Walker from Elm Creek. General Manager said it is hoped that they will come into compliance before the July board meeting.

Alicia Haussler made the motion to give staff the authority to proceed, if necessary, with cease and desist notices for the four landowners who are in violation of the district's rules and regulations for certified irrigated acres and that the cease and desist orders be prepared for board action at the July board meeting. Barry Obermiller seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

SPRING WATER LEVELS REPORT: Luke Zakrezewski reported on the 1982 to 2017 accumulated change in groundwater levels by Groundwater Management Area as of the spring measurements that were taken from mid-April to mid-June. He handed out a copy of the map showing the results. He said during that time we have an accumulated district wide loss of .85 feet. Luke reported GWMA 18 has been above a 25 percent acceptable decline for two consecutive years and will now be open for transfers of irrigated acres and supplemental wells. GWMA 19 reverted back into a declining status, greater than 25 percent, so now no transfers of irrigated acres or supplemental wells will be allowed. Luke said GWMA 9 dropped another .7 foot from the previous year to 12.15 feet decline since 1982. He also reported that GWMA 16 is up again with a .36 foot increase from last year. GWMA 20 dropped .69 foot from last year for an overall drop of 8.36 feet since 1982. Luke said the GWMA map showing results from spring 1982 to spring 2017 is available for viewing on the District's web site. Luke also

reported GWMA's 5,6,7,16 and 23 have increased from last year. He also showed graphics on precipitation, one showed 2016 annual precipitation as a whole with the percent departure from normal, the other showed a water year from October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016.

Keith Stafford asked if GWMA 9 had the most decline. Luke said it is one of three areas of main concern. Keith also asked about the Loup River recharge study. General Manager Vogt said HDR's study shows us that it is probably not economically feasible. He said at the rate area 9 is going it will probably trigger a higher phase of management within the next one or two years. He said the Water Resources Committee should probably discuss this in the fall on how we should proceed. He also said it may not be necessary to revise the groundwater management quantity rules and regulations but a review by the committee would be appropriate.

2017 TREE & WEED BARRIER SALES REPORT: Programs Coordinator Kelly Cole reported on the 2017 tree and weed barrier sales. She reported there were 35,350 trees sold and 52,497 feet of weed barrier sold. (See enclosed report).

NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICTS REPORT: General Manager Lyndon Vogt read a report from Jim Bendfeldt, Central Platte NRD's NARD board member and NARD board chairman (see enclosed).

NEBRASKA NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION REPORT: Mick Reynolds, Middle Platte Basin commission member, reported that the Water Sustainability Fund will have \$15,755,520.00. Applications will be accepted between July 15 through August 1 and then the ranking process will begin. Mick also said that the Resources Development Fund continues to provide the cost share for the Prairie/Silver/Moores Creek Flood Control Project.

COST SHARE PROGRAM: Applications – Programs Coordinator Kelly Cole reported on the applications for the following cost share programs: Grassland Conservation, Streambank Stabilization, Prescribed Burn and Urban Forestry. She said the applicants are in compliance with the District's rules and regulations, funds are available, and recommended they be approved.

Alicia Haussler made the motion to approve the cost share applications as reported. Barry Obermiller seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Jay Richeson who abstained. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Alicia Haussler made the motion to approve the June financial report as presented. Deborah VanMatre seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Scheduled for July 27th at 2:00 p.m. Public Budget Hearing scheduled at 1:45 p.m. that day.

AUGUST BOARD MEETING CHANGE: General Manager said in the past the August board meeting has been held a week later than normally scheduled due to the required hearing for setting the levy. We do not get the valuations from the 11 county assessors until August 20th which does not give us sufficient time to advertise for the levy hearing. It has also been suggested that the August board meeting be held at 1:00 p.m. to accommodate the retirement open house for Duane Woodward. The open house is scheduled on the 31st from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Barry Obermiller made the motion to change the August board meeting to the 31st to accommodate the budget schedule (setting levy) and to change the time to 1:00 p.m. to accommodate the retirement open house for Duane Woodward scheduled for 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Jay Richeson 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.

OTHER BUSINESS: New Staff Member Introduction – General Manager Vogt introduced Brandi Flyr, who began her employment on June 15th. She will be training with Duane for the next couple of months and will take the position of District Hydrologist after Duane's retirement.

Groundwater Management Rules & Regulations Recommended Changes – General Manager Vogt said Sandy Noecker, Data Compliance Officer, has put the draft changes to the District's Groundwater Management Plan rules and regulations on drop box. General Manager Vogt briefly reviewed some of the major changes being proposed. One deals with the 2 in 10 rule. He said we can now tract non use through our annual infrared photography. Another suggested change would eliminate some references to wells that is included in State Statutes which we have to follow. It is proposed to take out information on irrigation runoff procedures because that is already included in the District's irrigation runoff procedures. Another proposed change deals with violations, notices, and issuing cease and desist orders. The directors were asked to review the changes very carefully and let the office know if they have any suggestions, corrections or questions. General Manager Vogt said a Water Resources Committee meeting will be scheduled for next month to discuss the proposed draft and changes.

Budget – General Manager said the updated proposed budget of expenditures will be put on drop box.

Board Workshop – Vice chairman Reynolds asked if the board would be interested in having a workshop for the directors to discuss district projects, programs, etc. A session sometime in the winter was suggested.

ADJOURN: Vice Chairman Reynolds adjourned the board meeting at 2:48 p.m.

United States Department Of Agriculture



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>

June 22, 2017

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

June Report to CPNRD

Please find attached the Highlights of the Proposed President's 2018 Budget. The Trump administration shared its proposed budget for 2018. Here are some of the highlights regarding the programs and services provided by NRCS:

- The President's Budget proposal requests more than \$5 billion in cuts over 10 years to farm bill conservation programs.
- Requests a \$350 million cut to mandatory funding for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).
- Requests a \$91 million cut to the Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA).
- Requests to eliminate the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP).
- Requests to eliminate the enrollment of new acres in the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). (This would not affect existing contracts, and acres on existing contracts could continue to be re-enrolled at end of first five-year term.)
- The President's Budget proposes a \$61M reduction to the mandatory Small Watershed Rehabilitation Program, which limits the program to \$8M in FY 2018.
- No funding was requested for the Watershed Rehabilitation Program.
- The President's Budget proposes to target enrollment of additional acres in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) by using continuous and grassland sign-ups.

One of the goals of the President's Budget is to shift more of the role of conservation planning to the private sector, in coordination with NRCS. In this plan, NRCS would provide training and certification for private entities to support the development of specialized conservation plans. This budget proposal is the first step in the long process of getting a final budget approved. See the full USDA budget proposal at <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-Budget-Summary-2018.pdf>

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Joe Krolikowski

Joe Krolikowski
District Conservationist

Helping People Help the Land

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

TREES**MILES OF WEED BARRIER**

1973	106,355	
1974	93,660	
1975	79,690	
1976	66,250	
1977	86,548	
1978	104,675	
1979	122,925	
1980	148,700	
1981	170,075	
1982	135,150	
1983	111,050	
1984	85,200	
1985	89,300	
1986	65,850	
1987	73,150	
1988	91,550	
1989	83,700	
1990	125,000	
1991	104,900	19.89
1992	117,100	24.66
1993	94,250	25.36
1994	101,100	23.54
1995	78,300	20.63
1996	102,000	8.97
1997	72,450	14.64
1998	75,300	16.98
1999	58,825	17.30
2000	60,050	23.53
2001	58,600	18.70
2002	86,675	37.05
2003	77,975	36.80
2004	70,775	30.97
2005	80,775	37.97
2006	61,125	27.23
2007	44,950	13.35
2008	57,225	26.24
2009	68,703	19.71
2010	57,175	16.41
2011	54,275	28.25
2012	48,025	14.91
2013	37,716	18.86
2014	54,175	17.38
2015	46,575	14.07
2016	45,796	11.77
2017	35,350	9.94
TOTAL	3,688,993	575.11

Central Platte NRD Weed Barrier Program

Year	Total by Feet	Total in miles	By District	By Landowner
1991	105,000	19.89	77,158	27,842
1992	130,200	24.66	99,600	30,600
1993	133,875	25.36	125,400	8,475
1994	124,300	23.54	90,740	33,560
1995	108,950	20.63	92,477	16,473
1996	47,366	8.97	42,527	4,839
1997	77,321	14.64	70,310	7,011
1998	89,681	16.99	83,254	6,427
1999	91,321	17.30	84,076	7,245
2000	124,227	23.53	100,010	24,217
2001	98,755	18.70	85,520	13,235
2002	195,598	37.05	175,923	19,675
2003	194,300	36.80	178,455	15,845
2004	163,542	30.97	143,692	19,850
2005	200,463	37.97	188,577	11,886
2006	143,790	27.23	104,950	38,840
2007	70,484	13.35	58,928	11,556
2008	138,560	26.24	111,500	27,060
2009	104,050	19.71	97,585	6,465
2010	86,660	16.41	75,251	11,409
2011	149,141	28.25	106,254	42,887
2012	78,718	14.91	63,170	15,548
2013	99,590	18.86	40,690	58,900
2014	91,781	17.38	80,937	10,844
2015	74,297	14.07	53,832	24,118
2016	62,164	11.77	42,541	19,623
2017	52,497	9.94	26,624	25,873
TOTALS	3,036,631	575.12	2,499,981	540,303

26,624 FT Installed at 9 sites

Central Platte NRD Tree Program

Handplant
28,502

Dawson 4,507 Hall 13,125
 Buffalo 7,945 Merrick 2,375
 Polk 550

District Plant
6,848

Dawson 518 Hall 450
 Buffalo 4,480 Merrick 1,200
 Frontier 200

Sold 30 small acreage packages (5 species with 10 of each included in packages)

From: Jim Bendfeldt <jcb1@fastmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 18, 2017 10:05:56 AM
To: Lyndon Vogt
Subject: Necessary NARD Reported items.

Lyndon,

In my absence will you please read a report from me to the Board regarding NARD Board actions taken.

1. The NARD EXEC Committee reviewed and approved the Hall of Fame candidates. Selections will be announced at Husker Harvest Days ceremony.
2. Final action was taken by the Board to host the 2020 North American Envirothon.
3. The Board set August 18, 2017 as final day to submit resolutions for consideration by the Legislative Committee and the annual Board meeting Sept. 24-26th, 2017
4. The NARD I&E committee selected Jim Johnson of SPNRD as Director of the Year, and Dennis Mottl of Palmer NE as Educator of the Year. Scott Trost of Sidney as Tree Planter of the Year, Waits Ranch of Tryon as the Outstanding Grassland Conservation Award and Western NE Community College for the Community Conservation award, and lastly Ben and Paula Steffen of Humboldt for the Outstanding Soil Stewardship award. All awards will be presented in Kearney at the annual meeting.
5. The NARD Intergovernmental Risk Pool approved changes to the health insurance program. Premiums will be increased by 5% on health and 2.9% on dental programs. Once again the Risk Pool is projected to break even this year as planned.
6. 73 Attendee's participated in the Northeast Nebraska Basin Tour from Norfolk NE.
Perhaps You or Ed could say something if so desired.

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Cost Share
June 22, 2017

GRASSLAND CONSERVATION COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$ 13,250.00
Kermit Smith – Dawson	\$ 3,750.00	
Berke Family Trust – Dawson	9,500.00	
STREAMBANK STABILIZATION COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$ 2,000.00
Bob Loewenstein – Hall	\$ 2,000.00	
PRESCRIBED BURN COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$ 170.00
Berke Family Trust – Dawson	\$ 70.00	
Kermit Smith – Dawson	100.00	
URBAN FORESTRY COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$ 5,000.00
City of Gothenburg – Dawson	\$ 5,000.00	
Total		\$ 20,420.00