

**CENTRAL PLATTE NRD**  
Board Meeting Minutes  
August 31, 2017

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Jim Bendfeldt called the meeting to order at 1:00 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	Dwayne Margritz	Jay Richeson
Jim Bendfeldt	Charles Maser	Steve Sheen
Alicia Haussler	Barry Obermiller	Keith Stafford
Chris Henry	Keith Ostermeier	Ed Stoltenberg
Brian Keiser	Doug Reeves	Deborah VanMatre
Ed Kyes	Mick Reynolds	Jerry Wiese

Excused absences: Jerry Milner, Marvion Reichert and Bob Schanou

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, Sandy Noecker – Data Compliance Officer, Angie Warner – GIS Programs Coordinator.

Others present – Joe Krolilowski – NRCS Liaison District Conservationist, Dean Krull – University of NE/Lincoln, Grand Island UNL Extension.

**MEETING NOTICES:** Chairman Jim Bendfeldt 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:** Alicia Haussler made the motion to approve the July 27<sup>th</sup> board meeting minutes. Charles Maser seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Steve Sheen and Keith Stafford 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:** Joe Krolikowski, NRCS Liaison District Conservationist, reported on the USDA's planned reorganization (see enclosed report).

**EXCUSED ABSENCES:** Chairman Bendfeldt reported that Jerry Milner, Marvion Reichert and Bob Schanou 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 2017/2018 BUDGET: Resolution & Set Levy --** Chairman Bendfeldt referred to the public hearing that was held just before the board meeting and asked if there were any questions on the proposed resolution setting the property tax levy. There were no questions.

Barry Obermiller made the motion to approve the Resolution setting the property tax levy at .03239. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

**PROGRAMS COMMITTEE REPORT & RECOMMENDATIONS:** Ed Kyes reported for the committee on their meeting held earlier that day.

**Scholarship Program –** Ed said the committee is recommending a change to the scholarship program. He said under the current program there are 10 scholarships for \$1,000.00 provided to college students. The committee is recommending that this be changed to provide five \$1,000.00 scholarships to junior and senior college students and the other \$5,000.00 be spent on natural resources education for grades K through 12.

In answer to a question on why the change is being recommended, Ed said there were several on the committee who thought there would be more opportunity for educating more students about natural resources.

Ed Kyes then made the motion to approve the Programs Committee's recommendation to change the scholarship program to provide five \$1,000.00 scholarships to junior and senior college students, with the other \$5,000.00 to be spent on natural resources education in schools for grades K through 12. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

**Conservation Awards –** Ed said we have received notification that the bank that has sponsored the conservation awards event for the past few years is no longer interested in sponsoring the event.

The Programs Committee discussed whether Central Platte NRD should sponsor the event and are recommending that the conservation awards event be discontinued.

Ed Kyes made the motion to approve the Programs Committee's recommendation to discontinue the conservation awards event. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

**Urban Development** – Ed also reported that the committee discussed the proposals for the Recreation Area Development/Maintenance Program, and said funds had been included in the budget for the program. Information was provided to the directors prior to the meeting. He said the committee is recommending two separate programs, one is for public recreation area development and the other is for trails assistance. The cost share rate for each is recommended at 50 percent up to a maximum of \$40,000.00. Applications will be reviewed by the Programs Committee.

Ed Kyes then made the motion to approve the Programs Committee's recommendations for the Urban Development cost share program. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

**Soil Health Conference** – Ed said the committee discussed a request from NRCS to help sponsor a Soil Health Conference in Albion on September 6 that is being conducted by the NRCS and the Boone County Extension Service.

Ed Kyes said the Programs Committee is recommending, and he made the motion to, approve the request to help sponsor the Soil Health Conference on September 6, sponsored by NRCS and Boone County Extension, with a monetary donation of \$500.00. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

**UNL Plains Safari Conference** -- Ed also reported the committee discussed a request from the University of Nebraska/Lincoln for \$10,000.00 to help sponsor the Plains Safari Conference in April 2018.

Ed Kyes said the Programs Committee is recommending, and he made the motion to deny the request from UNL for \$10,000.00 to help sponsor the Plains Safari Conference. Mick Reynolds 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 afternoon.

**UNL Research Grant Requests for Nitrate Studies** – Jay said we have received two requests for letters of support for grant applications, one to study wood chips and soil health, and the other to study wood chips, livestock waste, soil health and nitrates.

Jay Richeson said the Water Resources Committee is recommending, and he made the motion to approve providing the two letters of support for the UNL studies. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

**Groundwater Management Plan Rules & Regulations – General Provisions & Procedures for Enforcement** – The hearing on the proposed amendments to the Groundwater Management Plan was held earlier that afternoon.

Jay Richeson made the motion that the amendments to the Groundwater Management Plan Rules and Regulations, General Provisions and Procedures for Enforcement be adopted. Mick Reynolds seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

**COOPERATIVE HYDROLOGY STUDY (COHYST) – REPORT:** General Manager Lyndon Vogt said this would be Duane Woodward’s last report as an employee due to his retirement but said he was sure Duane would be reporting to the board again in the future as a consultant. Duane reported that things were going very well in working with Brandi Flyn, who would be taking his place as District Hydrologist. He said they have completed the first draft of the COHYST report and comments on the report from the technical people are starting to come back. Duane said he and Brandi are finalizing the first four chapters and the modeling team is working on the chapters for the watershed model, the operations model and the groundwater model. By the end of September or first part of October the report should be put together. Duane also said they are putting together a new web page for the COHYST material.

Duane also reported on the study that Olsson and Associates is doing to focus and refine the data on the Dawson County canal areas to better define how return flows go back to the drains and said it will be a very important tool to begin looking at recharge ponds. The other hope for that model is to track diverted excess flows from the canals and how they will move back through the river over the next 50 years. Duane said the COHYST information will also be used to update the Groundwater Management Plan.

**HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE:** Assistant Manager Jesse Mintken reviewed the fact that JEO Consulting Group was hired to do the plan update and that the work has been ongoing over the past 18 months. He said FEMA has approved the update and now it is required that every entity included in the plan has to have board approval in order to be eligible for pre or post disaster mitigation assistance. Jesse explained how the board can access the updated plan on drop box through a link to JEO Consulting Group. There is information on why the plan update had to be done, what is required, and the information for each entity. He said the update is required every five years but we have to start in the third year in order to get approval from FEMA to get funding for the majority of the cost of the update. Jesse asked the board to review the update so action can be taken next month.

**UPPER PRAIRIE/SILVER/MOORES CREEK PROJECT – PROGRESS**

**REPORT:** Assistant Manager Mintken reported that Van Kirk Brothers Contracting is basically done with their portion of the cells. They are not able to finish the smoothing and grass seeding at this time because of water in the bottom of the cells so it may be January before they can come back to complete that part of the work. Jesse said Hooker Brothers Construction started on phase 2 of the cells in mid-August and are making good progress.

**PLATTE RIVER PROGRAM LAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE –**

**RECOMMEND APPOINTMENTS FOR REPRESENTATIVE:** District Biologist Mark Czaplewski reported that among the members on the Land Advisory Committee for the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program there is a Central Platte NRD representative, a Tri-Basin NRD representative, and a CPNRD/Tri Basin joint representative and alternate appointed by both NRDs. When the Program began the joint representative was from Central Platte NRD (Scott Woodman) and the alternate was from Tri-Basin serving two three-year terms. The joint member and alternate then rotated for two terms. Mark said it is time to rotate back to Central Platte NRD. Both John Thorburn (Tri-Basin's joint representative) and Jim Bendfeldt (alternate) have indicated they would be willing to serve and are agreeable to the rotation. Mark recommended the board take formal action to appoint Jim Bendfeldt as the joint CPNRD/Tri-Basin NRD member and John Thorburn as alternate to the Platte River Recovery Implementation Land Advisory Committee for a three-year term.

Alicia Haussler made the motion to approve the appointment of Jim Bendfeldt as the joint Central Platte/Tri-Basin NRD member and John Thorburn as alternate on the Land Advisory Committee for the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program. Barry Obermiller seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Jim Bendfeldt who abstained. Motion carried.

**NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICTS: Elect Voting Delegate & Alternate –** Chairman Bendfeldt said it is necessary for the board to select a voting delegate and alternate for the September NARD Annual Conference in Kearney.

Alicia Haussler made the motion to select Jim Bendfeldt as voting delegate and Jay Richeson as alternate for the NARD Annual Conference in September in Kearney. Mick Reynolds seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Jim Bendfeldt and Jay Richeson who abstained. Motion carried.

**CPNRD VIDEO:** I&E Specialist Marcia Lee showed the 90 second video produced by Red Thread of Lincoln that was developed as an educational tool to show the projects and programs that Central Platte NRD is involved in. Marcia said the video can be used in classrooms, clubs, social media, commercials and other presentations the NRD gives. Feedback from the board was very positive.

**NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICTS: NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICTS REPORT:** Central Platte NRD's NARD Board representative and NARD Board Chairman Jim Bendfeldt said the NARD board had not met since last month so did not have a report.

**NEBRASKA NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION REPORT:** Mick Reynolds, Middle Platte Basin commission member, reported the Commission met the day before. He said there are 25 proposed projects for the Water Sustainability Fund, nine are small projects, under \$250,000.00, and 14 large projects over that amount. All have to be approved by the Department before they come to the Commission. The small project requests total \$1,435,777.00, with \$1,337,136.00 available. The large projects are asking for \$17,795,479.00 with \$13,209,509.00. Mick said the next Commission meeting will be November 28<sup>th</sup> in Kearney.

**COST SHARE PROGRAM: Applications** – Programs Coordinator Kelly Cole reported on the applications for the following cost share programs: NE Soil & Water Conservation Program, Center Pivot Incentive, Cover Crop, Streambank Stabilization, and Well Decommissioning. 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. Motion carried.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Alicia Haussler 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.

**OTHER BUSINESS: Next Board Meeting** -- Scheduled for September 28<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. Details to follow.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:** Chairman Bendfeldt briefly reviewed the upcoming events.

**ADJOURN:** Chairman Bendfeldt adjourned the board meeting.

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>

---

August 30, 2017

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

August Report to CPNRD

Please find attached an update we received earlier this month about the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) planned Reorganization. Leonard Jordan, the Acting Chief of Conservation for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provided this update to all the employees. The goal of this reorganization is to help ensure better customer service to America's farmers, ranchers, and foresters while improving efficiencies for the American taxpayer. During my report I will provide a brief summary on the update we received and answer any questions you have with the information that is available at this time.

Respectfully Submitted,

*/s/ Joe Krolikowski*

Joe Krolikowski  
District Conservationist

*Helping People Help the Land*

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer



## USDA Reorganization Update to NRCS Employees

Secretary Perdue announced a [reorganization of the Department](#) in May that will ensure better customer service to America's farmers, ranchers, and foresters. The Secretary's goals for USDA are simple: improved customer service for our rural customers and greater efficiencies for the American taxpayer.

Part of this reorganization included the creation of the Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC) Mission area – a new mission area for the agencies which impact farmers and ranchers most directly: FSA, NRCS, and RMA. The FPAC mission area will enable us to focus our collective strengths and harness our delivery of services, programs, and benefits more effectively and efficiently to achieve greater customer service.

The mission of the FPAC agencies is not changing. We will continue to provide expert advice and assist producers making investments in their operations and local communities to keep working lands working, strengthen rural economies through an effective farm safety net, increase the competitiveness of American agriculture, and support solutions that help the nation's hardworking farmers, ranchers, and foresters and their families succeed.

As part of this customer service effort, we've established a series of cross-agency teams to look closer at a variety of issues. Specifically, these teams will evaluate the best path forward regarding:

1. **Collocation** – Many FSA and NRCS offices are already collocated to serve the agricultural community. We want more than a collocation of offices in the same building. We want a unified team to serve our customers in any of our offices and know they are dealing with a team that's working together for them.
2. **Unifying our web presence and streamlining the application process** – We are working on ways to make it much easier for farmers and ranchers to use USDA services without having to make a number of stops. We will start with the development of a single web-based portal where producers will have access to conservation programs and we plan to expand to other programs.
3. **Streamlining Services** – We want to be smarter about things like our fleet, office leasing, and information technology (IT). We need to make sure our vehicle fleet are available and rightsized, the office locations make sense, and IT systems are compatible. These streamlining efforts will enable us to manage our resources better while providing cross-cutting operational improvements that will provide greater accessibility and services to farmers, ranchers, and foresters throughout the country.
4. **Improving Customer Experience** – We know that overall our agencies provide extraordinary service. We want to talk to our customers about where we can continue to improve at all levels and look at the programs we implement (producer and non-producer facing) to see how we can streamline our efforts. We also intend to examine ways to reduce producer and program burdens and continue to look at training and workload analysis to see where improvements may be made.

Some of you may be contacted soon to serve on these or other teams or provide information to support these teams. Please contribute to this effort. Your experience, knowledge, and commitment to our core mission is valued and necessary to ensure success of the reorganization.

We are asking you to embrace the opportunities of this closer alignment as we work together to find ways to do things even better for the people who grow our food and fiber.

We have the finest and most dedicated staff in Government. We've got the best program delivery network in the world. Together we can and will make USDA the most efficient and the best managed department in the U.S. government.

Thank you again for everything you do.

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD  
Cost Share  
August 31, 2017

NEBRASKA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COST SHARE PROGRAM..		\$	14,530.00
Lloyd Schmeckle – Frontier – Diversion	\$	2,328.00	
Tim Swertzic – Nance – Underground Pipeline		5,000.00	
Allan L Urkoski – Nance – Underground Pipeline		2,202.00	
Orson LLC – Merrick – Underground Pipeline		5,000.00	
CENTER PIVOT INCENTIVE COST SHARE PROGRAM.....		\$	3,456.23
Tim Swertzic – Nance	\$	3,456.23	
COVER CROP COST SHARE PROGRAM .....		\$	500.00
Joe Widdowson - Buffalo	\$	500.00	
STREAMBANK STABILIZATION COST SHARE PROGRAM .....		\$	3,000.00
Jon Kiser – Platte	\$	3,000.00	
WELL DECOMMISSIONING COST SHARE PROGRAM .....		\$	750.00
Ed Foster – Dawson	\$	750.00	
Total .....		\$	22,236.23