

DRAFT

**CENTRAL PLATTE NRD**

Board Meeting Minutes

September 28, 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	Bob Schanou
Jim Bendfeldt	Keith Ostermeier	Ed Stoltenberg
Alicia Haussler	Doug Reeves	Deborah VanMatre
Chris Henry	Mick Reynolds	Jerry Wiese
Ed Kyes	Jay Richeson	

Excused absences: Brian Keiser, Dwayne Margritz, Charles Maser, Barry Obermiller, Marvion Reichert and Keith Stafford. Absent – Steve Sheen

Staff present: Lyndon Vogt – General Manager, Brandi Flyr – 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, Sandy Noecker – Data Compliance Officer, Angie Warner – GIS Programs Coordinator, Tricia Dudley – Resources Conservationist.

Others present – Joe Krolilowski – NRCS Liaison District Conservationist, Dean Krull – University of NE/Lincoln, Grand Island UNL Extension, Bruce Karnatz and Brad Eifert – Kearney Whitewater Association.

**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 August 31<sup>st</sup> board meeting minutes. Mick Reynolds seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Jerry Milner and Bob Schanou 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 Krolkowski, NRCS Liaison District Conservationist, presented a summary of the Fiscal Year 2017 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) activity in Central Platte NRD, timelines for Fiscal Year 2018, and a copy of the application to be completed before the November 17<sup>th</sup> deadline.

**EXCUSED ABSENCES:** Chairman Bendfeldt reported that Brian Keiser, Dwayne Margritz, Charles Maser, Barry Obermiller, Marvion Reichert, and Keith Stafford had requested to be excused from the board meeting.

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

**KEARNEY WHITEWATER REPORT:** Kearney Whitewater Association member Bruce Karnatz reported on the work the Association has done to improve a 2.5 mile water trail on the Platte River/Turkey Creek in Kearney and their goal to extend the water trail another 13 miles to the Bassway Strip/Highway 10 bridge. The work done so far includes litter removal, promoting water safety, and improving public access. He said they would also like to request the NRD's assistance on the additional section to help with flood prevention and mitigation, invasive species control, bank stabilization, storm water solids reduction, hazard removal and improved public access.

General Manager Lyndon Vogt suggested the Association work with the City of Kearney to apply for assistance under CPNRD's "Recreation Area Development/Maintenance Program" which is a cost share program to provide financial assistance to units of government to establish, develop, and improve public recreation areas.

**HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE:** Assistant Manager Jesse Mintken reviewed the fact that, under FEMA rules, the Hazard Mitigation Plan has to be updated every five years. Jesse had reported at last month's board meeting that JEO Consulting Group had completed the update and gave instructions on how to access the report using a link on JEO's website. Each governmental entity covered in the plan has to approve it and sign a resolution specific to their entity in order to apply for future FEMA grants for projects to mitigate losses from natural hazards. Jesse asked if there were any questions on the plan update or on Resolution 001-17 that had been provided to the directors prior to the board meeting. There were no questions.

Alicia Haussler made the motion to approve Central Platte NRD's updated Hazard Mitigation Plan and Resolution 001-17. Bob Schanou seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

**PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN REPORT:** District Biologist Mark Czaplewski reported that the Governance Committee met in Kearney on September 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. He said they continue their planning for an extension of the First Increment of the Program. The First Increment is set to expire at the end of 2019 and an additional 13-year extension is being pursued. In support of that effort, the Bureau of Reclamation is preparing for the required National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental assessment process. One of the first steps in that process is to hold scoping meetings to seek public input. Four such meetings have been scheduled: October 4<sup>th</sup> - Torrington, WY, October 5<sup>th</sup> - Loveland, CO, October 11<sup>th</sup> - Grand Hotel in Grand Island and October 12<sup>th</sup> - Headwaters office in Kearney. The meetings will be an open house format lasting from 6:00-8:00 pm. The public will also have the opportunity to provide written comments by a November 2<sup>th</sup> deadline. The environmental assessment will evaluate a “no action” alternative, the proposed extension alternative, and possibly other alternatives. In addition, the US Fish and Wildlife Service will need to develop a supplemental Biological Opinion (BO) in compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. The BO will determine if the actions of the Program’s extension are likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the listed target species or adversely modify their critical habitat. These two separate federal processes are hoped to be completed by the fall or winter of 2018.

The Program continues to develop plans for their next water supply projects replacing the J2 Reservoir Project. Land rights efforts are underway, an engineering contractor has been hired, preliminary infrastructure designs are being developed, and necessary state and federal permits are being pulled together. Demonstration water projects being planned include a broad-scale recharge project on NPPD’s Cottonwood Ranch property and slurry-wall sandpits in the Overton-Elm Creek area. Water supplies to those projects are most likely to be provided during times of excess to target flows from Central NPP&ID canals – water wells are another supply option. If everything works as planned, these initial efforts could be under construction by late 2018 or early 2019. They would be the first of several such projects needed to meet Program water goals.

**HIGH PLAINS REGIONAL CLIMATE CENTER REQUEST FOR LETTER OF SUPPORT:** General Manager Lyndon Vogt reported that the president’s Fiscal Year 2018 budget included an 82 percent reduction in funding for the Regional Climate Centers. The High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC) is part of UNL’s School of Natural Resources and provides critical climate information to resource managers and farmers in a six state region covering Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska, Wyoming, South Dakota and North Dakota. General Manager Vogt said the daily information from the HPRCC directly effects decisions on ag and livestock production, energy consumption and water use throughout the six state area. He asked for board authorization to send a letter to the Nebraska federal delegation requesting their support to secure full funding for the continued operation of all six regional climate centers.

Bob Schanou made a motion authorizing General Manager Lyndon Vogt to send a letter to the Nebraska Federal Delegation requesting support to help secure full funding for the continued operation of all six regional climate centers. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

**LONG RANGE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN CHANGES:** I&E Specialist Marcia Lee reviewed the suggested changes that had been made to the draft Long Range Implementation Plan for Fiscal Years 2017 – 2022. A copy of the draft had been provided to the directors last month. She asked if there were any additional suggestions for changes. There were none.

Alicia Haussler made the motion to approve the Long Range Implementation Plan for Fiscal Years 2017 – 2022 with suggested changes. Mick Reynolds seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

**NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICTS:** Central Platte NRD's NARD Board representative and NARD Board Chairman Jim Bendfeldt briefly reported on the Annual Conference and NARD board meeting held in Kearney earlier that week.

**NEBRASKA NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION REPORT:** Mick Reynolds, Middle Platte Basin commission member, said he did not have a report this month.

**COST SHARE PROGRAM: Applications** – Programs Coordinator Kelly Cole reported on the applications for the following cost share programs: Grassland Conservation, Flow Meter, Cover Crop, 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. Bob Schanou seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Chairman Bendfeldt said he would entertain a motion for the board to go into Executive Session to discuss land rights negotiations.

Ed Kyes made the motion that the board go into Executive Session at 3:11 p.m. to discuss land rights negotiations. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Mick Reynolds made the motion that the board come out of Executive Session at 3:37 p.m. Keith Ostermeier seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Jay Richeson made the motion that General Manager Lyndon Vogt be authorized to negotiate the purchase of 23.9 acres along the Platte River, up to a maximum of \$36,000.00. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. Voting by roll call vote, board members in favor were: Jim Bendfeldt, Alicia Haussler, Ed Kyes, Jerry Milner, Doug Reeves, Jay Richeson, Ed Stoltenberg and Deborah VanMatre. Voting in opposition were: LeRoy Arends, Chris Henry, Keith Ostermeier, Mick Reynolds, Bob Schanou and Jerry Wiese. Motion passed 8 in favor, 6 opposed.

**OTHER BUSINESS: Next Board Meeting** -- Scheduled for October 26<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. Details to follow. Following a brief discussion it was decided to move the November board meeting to the fifth week in November (30<sup>th</sup>) the December board meeting to the third week in December (21<sup>st</sup>).

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

**ADJOURN:** Chairman Bendfeldt adjourned the board meeting at 3:45 p.m.



CENTRAL PLATTE NRD  
Cost Share  
September 28, 2017

GRASSLAND CONSERVATION COST SHARE PROGRAM.....		\$	<b>1,399.10</b>
Timothy Dean – Dawson	\$	1,399.10	
FLOW METER COST SHARE PROGRAM.....		\$	<b>800.00</b>
Andrew Jobman – Dawson	\$	800.00	
COVER CROP COST SHARE PROGRAM .....		\$	<b>500.00</b>
Jeff Berggren – Polk	\$	500.00	
WELL DECOMMISSIONING COST SHARE PROGRAM .....		\$	<b>2,250.00</b>
Leslie H Brown – Dawson	\$	750.00	
Doug Block – Dawson		500.00	
Aaron Pelzer – Dawson – 2 wells		1,000.00	
Total .....		\$	<b>4,949.10</b>

