

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Board Meeting Minutes
October 26, 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	Steve Sheen
Alicia Haussler	Marvion Reichert	Ed Stoltenberg
Ed Kyes	Mick Reynolds	Deborah VanMatre
Charles Maser		

Excused absences: Chris Henry, Brian Keiser, Dwayne Margritz, Keith Ostermeier, Doug Reeves, Bob Schanou, Keith Stafford and Jerry Wiese.

Staff present: Lyndon Vogt – General Manager, Jesse Mintken – Assistant Manager, Dianne Miller - Administrative Director, Mark Czaplewski – District Biologist, Brandi Flyr – District Hydrologist, 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 Krolikowski – NRCS Liaison District Conservationist, Grand Island, Randy Zach – NE Public Power District, Columbus.

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 September 28th board meeting minutes. Deborah VanMatre seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Charles Maser, Barry Obermiller and Marvion Reichert 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, gave an update on the control of ephemeral gully erosion and conservation compliance (see enclosed report).

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Chairman Bendfeldt reported that Chris Henry, Brian Keiser, Dwayne Margritz, Keith Ostermeier, Doug Reeves, Bob Schanou, Keith Stafford and Jerry Wiese had requested to be excused from the board meeting.

Marvion Reichert made the motion to approve the absences as requested. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

EASTERN PROJECTS COMMITTEE – PRAIRIE/SILVER/MOORES CREEK FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT CHANGE ORDERS: -- Committee chairman Mick Reynolds reported on their meeting held earlier that day.

Van Kirk Brothers Contracting Change Order Request – Mick reported on a change order request from Van Kirk Contracting for an extension of time to complete work on cells SCLL4-S and SCLL4 N-E. Because of wet conditions in the bottom of the cells they have been unable to get the seeding done. The extension would allow for an April 30, 2018 completion date, instead of October 21, 2017.

The Eastern Projects Committee is recommending, and Mick Reynolds made the motion, to approve the Van Kirk Contracting change order to extend the completion date to April 30, 2018. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

JEO Consulting Group Contract Amendment – Mick also reported that the committee heard a report from JEO and discussed a proposed Amendment #6 on their contract. The cost is \$320,635.25 and is due to seven tasks that are being expanded. Mick said the funds had been budgeted this year. He also said Assistant Manager Jesse Mintken had reported that the current project estimate is \$24,500,000.00 compared to the previous estimate of \$29,000,000.00.

Mick said the Eastern Projects Committee is recommending, and he made the motion, to approve Amendment #6 in the amount of \$320,635.25, on the JEO Consulting Group contract for the Prairie/Silver/Moores Creek Flood Control Project. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT: Olsson Associates Report – Committee chairman Jay Richeson reported that at their meeting earlier that day Jim Schneider with Olsson Associates gave a status report and slide presentation on their work on the hydrogeologic evaluation and sub-regional groundwater modeling project and on the recharge from the three canals in Dawson County.

DAWSON COUNTY CANALS UPDATE: District Hydrologist Brandi Flyr reported on the spring excess flow diversions to help put stream flow back to the Platte River by Cozad Ditch, Southside Irrigation District and Thirty Mile Irrigation District in Dawson County. She reviewed the fact that when there are excess flows we are able to divert flows into the canals and let it seep into the aquifer for recharge, which then eventually makes it back to the river. Brandi said the numbers are preliminary at this time because the canals are currently doing fall excess flow diversions. The numbers being reported are for the spring event excess flow recharge. Between the three canals approximately 2000 acre feet were recharged into the aquifer so far this year. There will also be some additional temporary transfers during the irrigation season on top of that.

NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICTS: Central Platte NRD's NARD Board representative and NARD Board Chairman Jim Bendfeldt briefly reported on a two-day tour he had attended in October that was sponsored by Central Platte, Twin Platte, Lower Republican, Middle Republican and Upper Republican NRDs, Southwest Public Power District, Nebraska Rural Electric Association and NE Public Power District. The purpose of the tour was to bring the Senators who serve on the Legislature's Natural Resources Committee up to speed on conjunctive management projects, NCORP, and public power. Jim said they were also able to tour the Prairie/Silver/Moores Creek Flood Control Project and were presented with information on Central Platte NRD's agreements with the three irrigation canals in Dawson County.

NEBRASKA NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION REPORT: Mick Reynolds, Middle Platte Basin commission member, said the Commission is currently working on scoring the project applications for the Water Sustainability Fund. He said they will meet November 28th to formally score the projects. The information will be released to the public after that time.

COST SHARE PROGRAM: Applications – Programs Coordinator Kelly Cole reported on the applications for the Well Decommissioning and Center Pivot Incentive cost share programs. 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. Mick Reynolds seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Marvion Reichert made the motion to approve the October financial report as presented. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Jim Bendfeldt, who abstained. Motion carried.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: Board Retreat -- It was reported that the date for the board retreat has been scheduled for January 11th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Dinsdale Automotive Conference Room in Grand Island.

Water Information Update – The Central Platte NRD public Water Information Update meeting has been scheduled for February 7th at the Hotel Grand Conference Center in Grand Island.

OTHER BUSINESS: Next Board Meeting -- Scheduled for November 30th, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting is scheduled one week late due to Thanksgiving. Details to follow.

Other – General Manager Vogt reviewed a couple of items of interest that had been received in our office in the last couple of days (also posted to drop-box).

He said information had just been received from the NE Dept. of Environmental Quality on the 2017 Clean Diesel Rebate Program which offers rebates to replace eligible ag irrigation pump diesel engines with electric motors. Buffalo County is one of the priority counties. Rebates can be up to \$16,200.00.

General Manager Vogt also reported that Nebraska is expected to receive approximately \$12.25 million from the Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Fund. These funds were from a settlement approved by the U.S. District Court against Volkswagen and Audi. The NE Dept. of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) has been designated by Governor Pete Ricketts as the lead agency to administer the funds. NDEQ is seeking public input as it develops a draft mitigation plan. November 3rd is the deadline for submission.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Upcoming events were briefly reviewed.

ADJOURN: Chairman Bendfeldt adjourned the board meeting at 2:37 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>

October 24, 2017

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

October Report to CPNRD

Please find attached a recent News Release from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) discussing the control of ephemeral gully (concentrated flow) erosion and Conservation Compliance. This is a follow-up message to the earlier News Releases and presentations given by NRCS to partners and the public last winter and spring. The timing of this message is to help get producers thinking about ephemeral gully erosion on their farms, and if present, making mental notes during harvest of the spots in the field that require attention. Once these spots have been identified, our hope is producers will come to our offices to talk over conservation practices and the planning process to address these resource concerns in their fields. This process will be used to help treat this type of erosion, when required for conservation compliance and to remain eligible for USDA program benefits.

The conservation practices are based upon the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide and the appropriate practice standard. They are selected with various cropping systems and crop residue management methods that are common to the areas in the CPNRD that are most susceptible to sheet and rill and ephemeral gully erosion.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Joe Krolikowski

Joe Krolikowski
District Conservationist

Attachments: NEWS RELEASE: Got a Gully? Fix it. Don't Disc it

Helping People Help the Land

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Contact:
Joanna Pope, NRCS Public Affairs Officer
(402) 437-4123

GOT A GULLY? FIX IT, DON'T DISC IT.

Conservation compliance requires treating ephemeral gully erosion on highly erodible land.

LINCOLN, Oct. 4, 2017 – Harvest isn't just about cutting stalks, it's about taking stock.

According to Britt Weiser, state resource conservationist with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Lincoln, during harvest farmers should study the areas in their fields where erosion is occurring.

“If you notice rough spots in your cropland where the soil has washed away, take stock. Chances are that area is not only losing soil and productivity, but it could potentially cost you your USDA farm program benefits,” Weiser said.

Since the passage of the 1985 Farm Bill, farmers have been required to control erosion on fields that are classified as highly erodible. A non-compliance ruling can impact the benefits farmers receive from USDA agencies, such as access to federal crop insurance premium subsidies and conservation program dollars.

Each spring, NRCS conducts compliance reviews on a random selection of highly erodible fields to determine if erosion has been adequately controlled. The two factors measured for conservation compliance are sheet-and-rill erosion, and ephemeral gully erosion.

Sheet and rill erosion is generally controlled through no-till farming. Ephemeral gullies are small ditches in fields that are often smoothed out with a disc. According to Weiser, discing or smoothing gullies does not fix the problem, and it puts farmers at risk of losing USDA farm program benefits.

“Using a disc to smooth out ditches in cropland can make the issue worse, causing soil to be more unstable and susceptible to washing away. If it is necessary to smooth out a ditch, farmers should plant a cover crop or grass, or install another practice to prevent erosion from occurring.” Weiser said, “We’re telling farmers, ‘Fix it. Don’t Disc it.’”

NRCS is available to help “fix it” by providing both technical and financial assistance to install conservation practices like no-till farming, cover crops, grassed waterways, and terraces to control erosion.

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“The conservationists in our field offices are available to help farmers identify ephemeral erosion in their fields or where it may occur in the future, and assist them with applying the conservation practices that best fit their farming operations,” Weiser said.

If you discover ephemeral gully erosion this fall, visit your local NRCS office before discing any areas of highly erodible fields. For more information, visit your local USDA Service Center.

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Note to Reporters: Photos are available by contacting Joanna Pope at joanna.pope@ne.usda.gov or (402) 437-4123. Low resolution examples are shown below.



The top two photos show ephemeral erosion on cropland. The bottom photos show conservation practices that can be installed with help from NRCS to control ephemeral erosion – grass water way shown left and cover crop shown right.

Helping People Help the Land

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CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Cost Share
October 26, 2017

WELL DECOMMISSIONING COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$	2,000.00
David Jobman – Custer	\$	750.00	
Aurora Coop – Buffalo		750.00	
Bernard Moliard – Buffalo		500.00	
CENTER PIVOT INCENTIVE COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$	5,683.45
Schuett Farms Inc – Merrick	\$	5,683.45	
Total		\$	7,683.45