

**CENTRAL PLATTE NRD**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**December 21, 2017**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Jim Bendfeldt said that because of the hazardous weather and dangerous road conditions the business items would begin at 2:00 p.m. but the reports would be moved up and would start at 1:38 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	Mick Reynolds
Jim Bendfeldt	Barry Obermiller	Bob Schanou
Alicia Haussler	Keith Ostermeier	Keith Stafford
Ed Kyes	Doug Reeves	Ed Stoltenberg
Charles Maser	Marvion Reichert	Jerry Wiese

Excused absences: Chris Henry, Brian Keiser, Dwayne Margritz, Jay Richeson, Steve Sheen, Deb VanMatre

Staff present: Lyndon Vogt – General Manager, Jesse Mintken – Assistant Manager, Dianne Miller - Administrative Director, Mark Czaplewski – District Biologist, Dan Clement – Water Resources Specialist, Marcia Lee – Information Education Specialist, Kelly Cole – Programs Coordinator, Luke Zakrzewski – GIS Image Analyst, Angie Warner – GIS Programs Coordinator, Tricia Dudley – Resources Conservationist.

Others present: Dean Edson – Executive Director, NE Association of Resources Districts, Lincoln, Joe Krolkowski – NRCS Liaison District Conservationist, Grand Island, Dean Krull – UNL, Grand Island, Randy Zach – NPPD 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.

**NE ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICTS (NARD) REPORT:** Dean Edson, NARD Executive Director, reported to the board. He said the 60-day Legislative session starts January 3<sup>rd</sup> and said the key issues would be the budget and property tax relief. He said there is a \$200 million deficit that will have to be cut from the budget to address the shortfall. This will be spread over two fiscal years. The Water Sustainability Fund will be impacted along with other state programs. Dean also reported on a proposed rule change for the Water Sustainability Fund and said the hearing on that will be January 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at the Best Western in Kearney. Primarily what the

proposed rule change is that any project that is applying for money from the WSF would have to have all permits in place before the project would be eligible for any funding. He said he would encourage Central Platte NRD to provide input on that proposed rule change.

Dean reviewed some of the upcoming events including the NARD Legislative Conference January 22<sup>nd</sup> through the 24<sup>th</sup>, NACD Annual Conference in Nashville January 27<sup>th</sup> through the 31<sup>st</sup>, the NARD Washington D.C. Conference March 17<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup> and the Annual Basin Tour in June of the Lower Platte South and Nemaha NRDs.

**USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE REPORT:** Joe Krolkowski, NRCS Liaison District Conservationist, reported on the Fiscal Year 2018 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) priority system used to screen applications for the program (see enclosed).

**PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (PRRIP) REPORT:** Mark Czaplewski reported that the Governance Committee met in Denver on December 5th. The GC approved the Program's Fiscal Year 2018 budget and work plan including \$1.5 million for implementation of the Land Plan, \$2.2 million for the Adaptive Management plan (including monitoring, research, and science review), and \$15.9 million for implementation of the Water Plan. The big-ticket items within the Water Plan include over \$7 million for the broad scale recharge project (beginning with a demonstration project on NPPD's Cottonwood Ranch property), \$2.8 million for slurry wall sandpit pilot projects (south of the Platte in the Overton-Elm Creek area), with much of the remaining funds set aside for water leases and groundwater recharge projects including estimated costs of just over \$1.6 million for Central Platte NRD surface and groundwater leasing. Actual payments would be dependent on what flows are available. Mark also reported the Governance Committee is planning the sale at auction of parts of three properties it has acquired as habitat lands over the last several years. The sales of tracts considered to be of lesser value as habitat for the target species would be used to help purchase higher value habitats.

**NOTE:** At 2:00 p.m. Chairman Bendfeldt said the agenda items that had been postponed would be taken up.

**MEETING MINUTES:** Marvion Reichert made the motion to approve the November board meeting minutes. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Jim Bendfeldt 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.

**EXCUSED ABSENCES:** Chairman Bendfeldt reported that Chris Henry, Brian Keiser, Dwayne Margritz, Jay Richeson, Steve Sheen and Deborah VanMatre 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.

**WATER RESOURCES:** Chairman Bendfeldt asked General Manager Lyndon Vogt to report on some of the items listed on the agenda.

**NE Dept. of Natural Resources Presentation of Preliminary Robust Review of Land Use –** Chairman Bendfeldt said that it was decided to postpone the report from DNR's staff because of the hazardous weather conditions. It has been suggested that the report be presented by General Manager Vogt at the retreat.

**Transfers – Possible Recommendation –** It was planned to discuss this item after DNR's report on the preliminary robust review of land use.

**Update on Groundwater Management Cease & Desist Orders Issued –** General Manager Lyndon Vogt reported for Sandy Noecker, Data Compliance Officer, who was unable to attend the board meeting. He said there were over 80 cease and desist orders issued on producers who were not in compliance with the Groundwater Management program. He said Sandy has been very busy assisting individuals to help them come into compliance and currently there are about 32 producers not in compliance. The list was provided to the directors. General Manager Vogt also reported that since last month Sandy was able to assist David Stade with compliance.

**Groundwater Evaluation Tool Box – Service Contract –** General Manager Vogt referred to the contract we have with Olsson Associates to do a detailed groundwater model of our irrigation canal area. The next step to the contract was for them to develop a tool for us to track all of our excess flow diversions in Dawson County. He said the SAAS agreement had been forwarded to the directors via drop box prior to the board meeting. He said Olsson Associates charges \$5,000.00 a year for the service agreement for the Groundwater Evaluation Tool Box but because of the prior contract we had with them they are waiving the first year's fee of \$5,000.00. He said he would expect that we will be charged the fee in future years.

General Manager Vogt said not only can we use the tool for tracking the excess flows but we can also run scenarios within the canal areas. He said Olsson took the COHYST model and made it more detailed.

Marvion Reichert made the motion to approve the SAAS service contract with Olsson Associates on their detailed groundwater model of the irrigation canal area in Dawson County that waives the first year's fee of \$5,000.00. Bob Schanou seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

**BOARD OFFICER NOMINATING SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT:** Alicia Haussler reported for the subcommittee (Alicia, Bob Schanou and Jerry Wiese). She said they are recommending that Charles Maser be nominated to serve a second term as board treasurer and Marvion Reichert be nominated to serve as board secretary. Both have indicated they would be willing to serve. The election of officers will be held at the January board meeting.

**ELECTION FOR VOTING DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE FOR NARD LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE:** Chairman Bendfeldt said it is necessary for the board to select a voting delegate and alternate for the NARD Legislative Conference in Lincoln on January 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

Alicia Haussler made the motion that Jim Bendfeldt serve as the NARD Legislative Conference voting delegate and Jerry Wiese serve as alternate.

Chairman Bendfeldt said he would like to suggest that another director be named as delegate in order for more directors to be involved in the process.

Alicia amended her motion that Central Platte NRD's NARD Legislative Conference voting delegate be Jerry Wiese and that Ed Kyes be the alternate. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Ed Kyes and Jerry Wiese who abstained. Motion carried.

**NE ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICTS (NARD) REPORT:** Chairman Bendfeldt said he did not have anything to add to Dean Edson's earlier report.

**NEBRASKA NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION REPORT:** Mick Reynolds, Middle Platte Basin Commission member, spoke on the State's budget shortfall and the probability that the Water Sustainability Fund, as well as other State programs, will have to be reduced. He said if the Resources Development Funds are cut for projects that are already underway it would be a considerable problem for the project sponsors.

Mick said one question he had was concerning the proposed rule change for the Water Sustainability Fund that would require that all permits must be in place before an application could be submitted to the Natural Resources Commission and could be considered for funding. He asked the directors and General Manager Vogt what their thoughts were on the proposed rule change. General Manager Vogt said it was his opinion that the change would negate any large projects from ever being done using those funds.

Discussion followed on the cost of doing the feasibility studies and acquiring permits and the fact that the fund will not reimburse a project sponsor for any money spent prior to getting an application approved.

Following some discussion Marvion Reichert made the motion that a staff or board member attend the Natural Resources Commission hearing in Kearney on January 18<sup>th</sup> and present testimony in opposition to the Water Sustainability Fund proposed rule change that would require all permits be in place before a project application can be submitted. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Mick Reynolds who abstained. Motion carried.

**COST SHARE PROGRAM: Applications** – Programs Coordinator Kelly Cole reported on the applications for the Center Pivot Incentive, Tree Planting, and Well Decommissioning 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.

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:** Chairman Bendfeldt reported that because the board meeting was one week early due to the Christmas holiday, December payments will be made on the regular fourth Thursday of the month (28<sup>th</sup>) and the financial report would be acted on at the January board meeting.

**OTHER BUSINESS: Next Board Meeting** -- Scheduled for the afternoon of January 25<sup>th</sup>. Details to follow.

**Audubon Society Parking Lot Dedication** – General Manager Vogt said the dedication of the new parking lot will be April 4<sup>th</sup> and the staff at Rowe Sanctuary wanted to make sure the board was invited because Central Platte NRD had provided some of the funding for the parking lot.

**Board Retreat** – It was requested that if any directors are unable to attend the board retreat on January 11<sup>th</sup> to let the office know.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:** Upcoming events were briefly reviewed.

**ADJOURN:** Chairman Bendfeldt adjourned the board meeting at 2:38 p.m.



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December 18, 2017

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

December Report to CPNRD

Attached is a copy of the priority system, which will be used to screen applications associated with the FY 2018 CPNRD Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) fund codes for cropland, grassland, water conservation for sprinkler irrigation systems, and water conservation for sub-surface drip irrigation systems, water conservation for irrigation water management, and invasive species.

The priority system criteria for each fund code is subject to change, pending receipt of the FY 2018 EQIP Practice Payment Schedule and will be used to assign a high and low priority designation to each application. Applications that are considered as a high priority will be scored using a more detailed system to rank applications for funding. Low priority applications will not be scored or considered for funding unless there are not sufficient applications designated as a high priority to utilize EQIP fund allocations.

Respectfully Submitted,

*/s/ Joe Krolkowski*

JOE KROLIKOWSKI  
District Conservationist

Attachment: Central Platte NRD FY 2018 EQIP Local Fund Code Priorities 12/1/17.

## Central Platte NRD FY 2018 Environmental Quality Incentives Program Fund Code Priorities

(12/1/17)

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The following tools have been developed and recommended by the Central Platte NRD (CPNRD) Local Working Group for use in setting priorities for ranking FY 2018 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) applications for funding under locally established CPNRD fund codes for Cropland, Grassland, and Water Conservation projects (including fund codes established at the Area level for Beginning Farmer/Rancher (LR/BFR) and Socially Disadvantaged (SD) applications). \*Applications associated with FY 2018 CPNRD Fund Codes may be designated as a Low Priority by the District Conservationist if both of the following apply:

- The project associated with the application is complex in terms of land use, resource concerns, treatment alternatives, and/or clientele.
- Steps 1-7 of the conservation planning process cannot be completed due to documented adverse weather conditions, unusual workload considerations, and/or circumstances where the client is unable to or does not communicate objectives or make decisions.

Applications meeting these criteria that are designated as a Low Priority by the District Conservationist will require follow-up action by the servicing office to be considered with applications following the next future application cutoff date.

- **FY 2018 CPNRD Cropland Fund Code**
  - High Priority – Applications associated with a soil loss reduction and/or water quality or quantity improvement. Application must include conservation practices with documented resource impacts as described above.
  - Low Priority – Applications associated with application of a cover crop on HEL cropland with cover crop grazing, full width tillage to establish the cover crop, and/or full width tillage to terminate the cover crop.

## Central Platte NRD FY 2018 Environmental Quality Incentives Program Fund Code Priorities

(12/1/17)

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- **FY 2018 CPNRD Cropland (Excess/Insufficient Water) Fund Code**
  - ☐ High Priority – Applications associated with a water quantity and water quality improvement. Applications must include practices to convert from irrigated cropland to non-irrigated land cropland and/or convert from gravity to sprinkler irrigation and/or subsurface irrigation, with an associated conversion from irrigated to non-irrigated land and irrigation water management for 3 years on irrigated acres included in the application.
  - ☐ Low Priority – Applications associated with a water quantity and water quality improvement without irrigation water management (if the application includes practices for irrigation system improvement) and conversion from irrigated to non-irrigated land. Applications include practices to improve existing irrigation systems or to convert to an alternative irrigation system with a low efficiency improvement, such as projects to convert sprinkler irrigation systems from high to low pressure, projects to convert from a sprinkler irrigation system to a subsurface irrigation system, projects to install a span (corner arm) to an existing sprinkler irrigation system, surge valve installation, flow meter installation, etc...
  
- **FY 2018 CPNRD Cropland (Excess/Insufficient Water-IWM) Fund Code**
  - ☐ High Priority – Applications associated with a water quantity and water quality improvement. Applications must include advanced irrigation water management for 3 years.
  - ☐ Low Priority – Applications associated with a water quantity and water quality improvement. All applications for irrigation water management associated with a gravity irrigation system and applications that include intermediate or basic irrigation water management for 3 years, regardless of the type of system used to apply irrigation water.

## Central Platte NRD FY 2018 Environmental Quality Incentives Program Fund Code Priorities

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- **FY 2018 CPNRD Grassland (Production Limitation) Fund Code**

- High Priority – Applications associated with improved grassland health/vigor/productivity, water quality, and/or soil loss reduction by implementing or improving a prescribed grazing system to improve grassland health. Applications must include conservation practices to facilitate the implementation or improvement of a prescribed grazing system, including: fence, pipeline, water well, pumping plant, watering facility, access control, prescribed grazing, etc... Applications may also include associated practices to improve water quality, improve wildlife habitat, and control soil erosion.
- Low Priority – Applications associated with improved grassland health/vigor/productivity, water quality, and/or soil loss reduction without associated implementation or improvement to a prescribed grazing system. Such applications may include “stand alone” practices such as a well, livestock watering facility, fence, prescribed burning, range planting, or various soil erosion control practices, without prescribed grazing as an associated management practice.

- **FY 2018 CPNRD Grassland (Degraded Plant Condition) Fund Code**

- High Priority – Applications associated with control of invasive plant species to improve grassland health/vigor/productivity, water quantity, and/or wildlife habitat. Applications must include practices to control invasive plant species such as brush management, prescribed burning, forest stand improvement, and/or herbaceous weed control. Applications on grazing lands must include conservation practices to facilitate the implementation or improvement of a prescribed grazing system, including: fence, pipeline, water well, pumping plant, watering facility, access control, prescribed grazing, etc... Applications on wildlife land must include management practices such as upland wildlife habitat management or wetland wildlife management to address identified wildlife habitat resource concerns. Applications may also include associated practices to improve water quality and control soil erosion.
- Low Priority – Applications associated with control of invasive species without prescribed grazing system, upland wildlife habitat, or wetland wildlife habitat as a management practice. Prescribed burn applications without a NRCS approved prescribed burn plan either with or without the use of CAP funds. (CAP prescribed burn plan contracts should be implemented prior to consideration of a FA contract to conduct prescribed burning).

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD  
Cost Share  
December 21, 2017

CENTER PIVOT INCENTIVE COST SHARE PROGRAM .....	\$	7,489.46	\$	7,489.46
Jesse Jareske – Polk	\$	7,489.46		
TREE PLANTING COST SHARE PROGRAM.....	\$	1,683.00		
Dan Kern – Buffalo	\$	760.00		
Justin Nielsen – Howard		923.00		
WELL DECOMMISSIONING COST SHARE PROGRAM .....	\$	750.00		
Nebraska Plastics, Inc. – Dawson	\$	750.00		
Total .....	\$	9,922.46		