

**CENTRAL PLATTE NRD**  
Board Meeting Minutes  
January 25, 2018

**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	Bob Schanou
Alicia Haussler	Keith Ostermeier	Keith Stafford
Chris Henry	Doug Reeves	Ed Stoltenberg
Brian Keiser	Marvion Reichert	Deborah VanMatre
Ed Kyes	Mick Reynolds	Jerry Wiese
Charles Maser		

Excused absences: Dwayne Margritz and Steve Sheen

Staff present: Lyndon Vogt – General 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, Tricia Dudley – Resources Conservationist, Courtney Widup – Water Resources Technician.

Others present: Joe Krolkowski – NRCS Liaison District Conservationist, Grand Island, Jim Stulken – Doniphan, Lori Potter – Kearney Hub.

**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:** Marvion Reichert made the motion to approve the December board meeting minutes. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Chris Henry, Brian Keiser, and Deborah VanMatre 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 Conservation Stewardship Program (see enclosed).

**COMMITTEES' SELECTION:** Chairman Bendfeldt said January is the month that directors are asked to select at least two committees to serve on. A sign-up sheet was passed around. Committees are Eastern Projects, Western Products, Programs, and Water Resources. He asked the committees to meet after the board meeting to select their chairmen.

**EXCUSED ABSENCES:** Chairman Bendfeldt reported that Dwayne Margritz and Steve Sheen had requested to be excused from the board meeting.

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

**ELECT A BOARD TREASURER AND SECRETARY:** Chairman Bendfeldt said last month the Board Officer Nominating Subcommittee (Alicia Haussler, Bob Schanou and Jerry Wiese) reported on their recommendations for board treasurer and board secretary. They recommended that Marvion Reichert be nominated for board secretary and Charles Maser be nominated for board treasurer. Chairman Bendfeldt asked if there were any nominations from the floor.

Marvion Reichert said he would encourage a nomination of someone else for board secretary. Chairman Bendfeldt asked again if there were any other nominations.

Mick Reynolds nominated Deborah VanMatre as board secretary. Chairman Bendfeldt again asked if there were any other nominations from the floor. There were none.

Jay Richeson made the motion that nominations for board secretary cease. Mick Reynolds seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Voting for board secretary was done by secret ballot. Kelly Cole, Programs Coordinator, and Mark Czaplewski, District Biologist, were asked to count the ballots.

Marvion Reichert then made the motion that nominations for board treasurer cease and that Charles Maser be elected as board treasurer. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Charles Maser who abstained. Motion carried.

Chairman Bendfeldt reported that Deborah VanMatre was elected as board secretary.

**WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE:** Water Resources Committee chairman Jay Richeson reported on their meeting held earlier that day.

**Partnership With Nature Conservancy for Irrigation Conservation Practices –** Jay said the committee heard a proposal for a partnership with the Nature Conservancy for irrigation conservation practices and said the committee directed staff to pursue this.

**Action on Letter of Engagement –** Jay reported that we are required by law to submit a letter of engagement to the NE Dept. of Natural Resources to request initiation of Central Platte NRD's second 10-year increment Integrated Management Plan.

Jay Richeson then made the motion that staff be directed to submit the letter of engagement to the NE Department of Natural Resources for the second increment of our Integrated Management Plan. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

**LEGISLATION REPORT:** General Manager Lyndon Vogt reported that the report of bills that were reviewed at the NARD Legislative conference was put on drop box. He reviewed several bills of interest and said that as the NARD Legislative Reports become available they will be forwarded to the board.

**NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICTS:** Central Platte NRD's NARD Board representative and NARD Board Chairman Jim Bendfeldt briefly reported on the Legislative Conference held in Lincoln earlier that week. He said the report on the bills discussed at the conference and the position taken will be forwarded to the directors.

**NEBRASKA NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION REPORT:** Mick Reynolds, Middle Platte Basin Commission member, said the Natural Resources Commission held a public hearing in Kearney on January 18<sup>th</sup> to gather testimony on the proposed rule change to the Water Sustainability Fund that would require all permits be in place before a project application could be submitted. He said the Rules Committee will meet on February 1<sup>st</sup> in Kearney to discuss the testimony from the hearing and will make a recommendation to the Natural Resources Commission later in February.

**COST SHARE PROGRAM: Applications –** Programs Coordinator Kelly Cole reported on the applications for cost share from the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program, Grazing Deferment, Center Pivot Incentive, Flow Meters, and Tree Planting programs (see enclosed). 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. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were

in favor. Bob Schanou was absent for the motion. Motion carried.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Marvion Reichert made the motion to approve the December and January financial reports as presented. Alicia Haussler 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 legal matters.

Charles Maser made the motion that the board go into Executive Session at 2:30 p.m. for the purpose of discussing legal matters. Mick Reynolds seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Jay Richeson made the motion for the board to come out of Executive Session at 2:52 p.m. Mick Reynolds seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

No board action taken at that time.

**OTHER BUSINESS: Next Board Meeting --** Scheduled for the afternoon of February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Details to follow.

**March Board Meeting –** The board was asked to consider rescheduling the March board meeting to the 29<sup>th</sup> due to a conflict with the NARD Washington D.C. Conference.

Alicia Haussler made the motion to hold the March board meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup>, one week later than the normal schedule, due to the conflict with the NARD Washington D.C. conference. Deborah VanMatre seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

**Staff Introduction –** New employee, Courtney Widup, Water Resources Technician, was introduced. Courtney had worked for the Upper Big Blue NRD for nine years.

**Consider Rescheduling the Board Retreat –** It was decided to reschedule the board retreat to the morning of February 22<sup>nd</sup> and that it would be held at a location other than the office.

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

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

**Committees' Chairmen Selection –** Following the board meeting the committees met to select their chairman. Eastern Projects – Jerry Wiese, Western Projects – Marvion Reichert, Programs – Keith Ostermeier, Water Resources – Jay Richeson.



United States Department of Agriculture

# Conservation Stewardship Program



## Your Stewardship Goals. Our Assistance.

Have you ever looked across your property and thought about some land management goals you would like to take to the next level? Maybe we can help.

No one knows more about your land than you do, and no one knows more about conservation than we do. Together we can develop a plan tailored to your land and your goals to help you increase productivity and protect the value of your land.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) helps you build on your existing conservation efforts while strengthening your operation. Whether you are looking to improve grazing conditions, increase crop yields, or develop wildlife habitat, we can custom design a CSP plan to help you meet those goals. We can help you schedule timely planting of cover crops, develop a grazing plan that will improve your forage base, implement no-till to reduce erosion or manage forested areas in a way that benefits wildlife habitat. If you are already taking steps to improve the condition of the land, chances are CSP can help you find new ways to meet your goals.

## Sustainable Production

CSP is for working lands. It is the largest conservation program in the United States with 70 million acres of productive agricultural and forest land enrolled in CSP. Thousands of people have chosen to enroll in the program because it helps them enhance natural resources and improve their business operation.

CSP participants are seeing real results. Some of these benefits include:

- Increase in cattle gains per acre
- Increase in crop yields
- Increase in wildlife populations
- Decrease in producer inputs
- Greater resilience to impacts of weather extremes

Through CSP, we can help you build your business while implementing conservation practices that help ensure the sustainability of your entire operation. Good land stewardship not only conserves the natural resources on your farm, ranch or forest, it also provides multiple benefits to local communities, including better water and air quality and wildlife habitat, as well as food and fiber.

## Management Makes a Difference

Every piece of property is unique with opportunities to improve natural resources and address any areas of concern. Human activities contribute to the condition of natural resources on the land -- they can help improve them or contribute to their decline, which can result in what we refer to as a "resource concern." We can help you recognize the resources on your land and develop a management plan to improve them. Examples of CSP management activities that can improve resource concerns are:

- Grazing management to improve wildlife habitat
- Extend filter strips to reduce excess sediment, nutrients and chemicals in surface water



**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**

[www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)

# Conservation Stewardship Program

- Plant cover crops to reduce wind and water erosion
- Plant range grasses to improve soil health and wildlife habitat

## How does CSP Work?

Most agriculture producers approved to participate in CSP have already been implementing conservation practices on their land. CSP steps in and offers enhancements for those practices. For example, if you have been practicing prescribed grazing, CSP would give you options to enhance that practice with activities such as grazing management to improve plants for wildlife, or grazing management to reduce soil compaction, or grazing management to improve riparian function, just to name a few.

If you decide to enroll in CSP, the local NRCS conservation planner will have a one-on-one consultation with you to evaluate your current management system and the natural resources on your land. Then the NRCS conservation planner will present a variety of CSP enhancement alternatives for you to consider implementing on your land, based on existing conservation practices. The variety of CSP practices that are offered give you a lot of freedom to select enhancements that help you meet your management goals. These improvements work naturally with your land to bring out your land's best potential.

Once you choose the enhancements that best fit your operation, CSP offers annual incentive payments for installing these practices on your land. If you want to take it even a step further, CSP also offers bundles where you can select a suite of enhancements to implement and receive an even higher payment rate.

## Investment in the Future

From enrollment to planning and implementation, many CSP participants feel the process of working with their NRCS conservation planner helps build an awareness about the resources on their land and helps them look at their land in a more comprehensive and engaging manner. Most participants find that the reporting and tracking that they do in CSP gives them valuable information to refine their operation and make management adjustments that have a positive outcome on their land and their bottom line.

## CSP Contracts

The program represents a genuine commitment to conservation – CSP contracts are for five years, with the option to renew if you successfully fulfill the initial contract

and agree to achieve additional conservation objectives. An NRCS conservation planner will work closely with you throughout the entire process.

Contract payments are based on two components:

- payments to maintain the existing conservation based on the operation type and number of resource concerns that are meeting the stewardship level at the time of application and
- payments to implement additional conservation activities.

All CSP contracts will have a minimum annual payment of \$1500.

You will be required to maintain the stewardship level of the resource concerns you are already meeting plus meet or exceed at least one additional resource concern in each land use by the end of the contract. If the objectives of the initial CSP contract are achieved, you may be eligible to re-enroll for an additional 5 year contract if you agree to adopt additional conservation activities to meet or exceed two additional priority resource concerns.

## Am I eligible for CSP?

To participate in CSP, you must be in compliance with highly erodible land and wetland conservation requirements, and have current farm records with USDA Farm Service Agency. You must have effective control of the land for the term of the proposed contract, be actively engaged in the day-to-day management of the agricultural operation and share in the risks associated with agricultural production. You must also be meeting the stewardship threshold for at least two resource concerns at the time of application. Contact [your local NRCS office](#) to learn more about the program and determine if you meet these requirements.

## How do I apply?

If you feel like you are ready to take your conservation efforts to the next level – we are here to help. You can apply for CSP any time throughout the year but there will be announced cutoff dates for ranking and funding opportunities. For more information on applications visit [www.nrcs.usda.gov/csp](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/csp) or visit your local Service Center.



CENTRAL PLATTE NRD  
Cost Share  
January 25, 2018

NEBRASKA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COST SHARE PROGRAM	\$	5,000.00
Jeanette A Dean – Hall – Underground pipeline to pivot	\$	5,000.00
GRAZING DEFERMENT COST SHARE PROGRAM .....	\$	6,250.50
Dirkon Inc. – Polk	\$	1,512.00
Timothy Dean – Dawson		4,738.50
CENTER PIVOT INCENTIVE COST SHARE PROGRAM .....	\$	7,500.00
M Pat Hannon – Hall	\$	7,500.00
FLOW METER COST SHARE PROGRAM .....	\$	2,400.00
Sitorius Farms – Dawson	\$	800.00
Jeremy Sitorius – Dawson		800.00
Hinerman Trust – Hall		800.00
TREE PLANTING COST SHARE PROGRAM.....	\$	4,075.00
Mark Alberts – Custer	\$	1,529.50
Kermit Bosshamer – Buffalo		917.40
Randy John – Buffalo		767.85
Nolan Wilson – Dawson		860.25
Total .....	\$	25,225.50