

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Board Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2019

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Jim Bendfeldt called the meeting to order at 2:03 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
Chris Henry	Keith Ostermeier	Keith Stafford
Brian Keiser	Doug Reeves	Ed Stoltenberg
Ed Kyes	Marvion Reichert	Deborah VanMatre
Dwayne Margritz	Mick Reynolds	Jerry Wiese
Charles Maser		

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

Others present – Joe Krolkowski – NRCS Liaison District Conservationist, Grand Island, Lori Potter – Kearney Hub, Shalee Peters – KRVN Radio.

MEETING NOTICES: Chairman 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. Charles Maser seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. 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.

NRCS REPORT: Joe Krolikowski, NRCS Liaison District Conservationist, reported on NRCS activities in Central Platte NRD and the State. See enclosed report.

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Chairman Bendfeldt reported that Alicia Haussler had requested to be excused from the board meeting.

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

BOARD CHAIRMAN & VICE-CHAIRMAN ELECTION: BOARD OFFICER NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT: Deborah VanMatre reviewed the subcommittee's recommendation that was reported at last month's board meeting to elect Jim Bendfeldt as board chairman and Mick Reynolds as vice-chairman, both to serve for a second two-year term.

Deborah VanMatre then made the motion to elect Jim Bendfeldt as board chairman and Mick Reynolds as vice-chairman. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion.

Three times Chairman Bendfeldt asked whether there were any nominations from the floor. There were none.

Jay Richeson made the motion that nominations close. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Jim Bendfeldt and Mick Reynolds who both abstained. Motion carried.

The motion to elect Jim Bendfeldt as board chairman and Mick Reynolds as vice-chairman was then voted on. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Jim Bendfeldt and Mick Reynolds who both abstained. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUAL FOR SUBDISTRICT 4 VACANCY: Keith Stafford reported that earlier that day the Search Committee (Keith, Deborah VanMatre and Ed Stoltenberg) and the Executive Committee had interviewed Lon Bohn of rural Shelton in the northern part of Central Platte NRD, and John Keeney who lives in Kearney. Keith said that both candidates are very highly qualified.

Keith Stafford said the Search Committee and Executive Committee are recommending, and he made the motion, that Lon Bohn of rural Shelton be appointed to fill the director vacancy in Subdistrict #4. Mick Reynolds seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE SELECTION SIGNUP: A sign-up sheet was handed out. Chairman Bendfeldt said directors are asked to sign up for at least two committees. He asked that each committee meet after the board meeting to select their committee chairman.

2018 VIOLATION REPORT: Luke Zakrezewski, GIS Image Analyst, reported that 32 violation letters will be mailed next week due to irrigation of land that has not been certified as irrigated or approved for irrigation through a transfer. Total acres involved with the violations amount to approximately 148.22 acres.

Luke said of the 32 violators approximately 20 involve new irrigation development without any offsets, the other 12 involve individuals who have done transfers of acres but are not following them. He said one involves a second offense and one involves a third. Luke said overall the number of violators is fairly comparable to last year.

He said violators will be given until February 28th to contact him to resolve the issue. If we get beyond that date and the issue is not resolved we will then proceed with issuing the individual a Cease and Desist Order. He said violators could face action in District Court with potential penalties of from \$1,000.00 to \$5,000.00 per day of violation.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Mark Czaplewski, District Biologist, reported the new legislative session started January 9th and is a 90-day session. He said we will keep the board informed of new developments and will be sending out the NARD Legislative Reports. He said there will be more to report next month. He said there have been over 700 bills introduced.

NE ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICTS: Chairman Bendfeldt, Central Platte NRD's NARD board representative, said he did not have a report that month.

NE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION REPORT: Mick Reynolds, Middle Platte Basin Commission member, said he did not have anything new to report.

COST SHARE PROGRAM APPLICATIONS: Programs Coordinator Kelly Cole reported that we have received applications for the following cost share programs: Center Pivot Incentive, Tree Planting, Grazing Deferral, Flow Meters, Capacitance Probes, Burn Preparation, and Well Decommissioning (see enclosed). She said the applicants are in compliance with the District's rules and regulations, funds are available, and she 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.

NEW EMPLOYEES HIRED FOR HABITAT SPECIALIST & EASEMENT ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST POSITIONS: General Manager Lyndon Vogt reported that Krystal Bialas and Ellie Nugent have been hired for the Habitat Specialist positions and Michelle Steffen was hired as the Easement Administrative Specialist. He reviewed the fact that the new hires were due to a Conservation Collaboration grant from USDA and CPNRD will be reimbursed quarterly for the three-year duration of the grant. The individuals will be located in the USDA Service Center in Grand Island.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Marvion Reichert made the motion to accept the December and January financial reports as presented. Deborah VanMatre seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS: Next Board Meeting -- Scheduled for the afternoon of Thursday, February 28th. Details to follow.

ADJOURN: Chairman Bendfeldt adjourned the board meeting at 2:29 p.m.

January 23, 2019

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

February Report to CPNRD

Attached is a summary of events and activities currently happening at the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) field offices throughout the Central Platte and the state during the lapse in Federal funding. As you know funding for the Federal Government ended on December 22, 2018, when this happens employees deemed non-essential are furloughed.

- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offices across the state are still open for business during the lapse in Government funding. How can NRCS employees continue working if there are no current year appropriations? NRCS has a combination of funds from the appropriations prior to December 22, 2018, and mandatory program funds from the signing of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 to cover continuing operations and service to our customers. Depending on how long the lapse in funding goes on these funds could run out, at that point NRCS would be sent home on furlough like the Farm Service Agency.
- USDA to Reopen Farm Service Agency (FSA) Offices for Limited Services During Government Shutdown, this was the press release sent out last week. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has recalled about 2,500 FSA employees to open offices on Thursday, January 17 and Friday, January 18, in addition to Tuesday, January 22, during normal business hours. The employees that were recalled are primarily with the Farm Service Agency Loans Department. We had 3 locations in the Central Platte reopen for those 3 days, they were in Grand Island, Kearney, and Lexington.



- On December 20, 2018 a New Farm Bill was signed into law, and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue celebrated President Trump's signing of the 2018 Farm Bill by issuing the following statement: "This is a great day for our farmers, ranchers, foresters, and producers, as President Trump's signature on this bill is a Christmas present to American agriculture. Having the New Farm Bill is a positive for everyone going forward, unfortunately as mentioned above on December 22, 2018 there was a lapse in Government funding. Therefore, to this point in time there has been no formal communications between National Headquarters and the NRCS State Offices about the content of the New Farm Bill.
- Programs work at the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is continuing as normal per instruction by the Nebraska State Office. So, this means we have or are currently ranking the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) application for FY2019 funding. The hope is that there will be minimal changes to applications ranking process and we will be ahead of the game when things are back up and running again. When a New Farm Bill is signed into law we typically have multiple changes to the paperwork we have on file, for example the current signed applications on file change. Also, there is usually a variety of changes that are required to our ranking system and contracting software.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Joe Krolikowski

Joe Krolikowski
District Conservationist

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CENTRAL PLATTE NRD

Cost Share

January 24, 2019

CENTER PIVOT INCENTIVE COST SHARE PROGRAM.....		\$ 15,000.00
S R Meier Rev Living Trust – Hall	\$ 7,500.00	
Allan Weinrich – Hall	7,500.00	
TREE PLANTING COST SHARE PROGRAM.....		\$ 3,579.29
Paul Hazard – Buffalo	\$ 1,297.25	
Mike Bowman – Buffalo	1,003.05	
Donald A Trampe – Dawson	1,278.99	
GRAZING DEFERMENT COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$ 1,060.50
Steve Kampfe – Dawson	\$ 1,060.50	
FLOW METER COST SHARE PROGRAM.....		\$ 800.00
Sitorius Farms – Dawson	\$ 800.00	
CAPACITANCE PROBE COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$ 12,500.00
Jerry Arnold – Buffalo	\$ 2,500.00	
Holt Ag. Inc. – Kearney	2,500.00	
Willoughby Farms Inc. – Hall	2,500.00	
Jeff Westberg – Buffalo	2,500.00	
Mike Santin – Merrick	2,500.00	
BURN PREPARATION COST SHARE		\$ 2,025.00
Jeff P Johnson – Merrick	\$ 2,025.00	
WELL DECOMMISSIONING COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$ 1,500.00
City of Grand Island – Hall	\$ 750.00	
Eagle Hills Ranch Inc – Dawson	750.00	
Total		\$ 36,464.79