

May 23, 2019

NEWS RELEASE

CPNRD Board Approves Plans for Public Hearings

(GRAND ISLAND, NE) – The Central Platte Natural Resources District’s board of directors took action to approve the Basin-Wide and Individual Integrated Management Plan drafts to hold public hearings on July 15, 2019 at 3:00 and 3:30 p.m. respectively. A public information meeting will be held at 2:30 p.m. just prior to the hearings. The original plans were approved in 2009 with a requirement that the same parties develop a second increment within 10 years after the adoption of the first increment plans. The Basin-Wide and CPNRD Integrated Management plans were implemented to ensure that Nebraska is following the Nebraska New Depletions Plan included within the Platte River Recovery Implementation Plan. Additional details are available on the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources website at dnr.nebraska.gov/iwm.

Other discussion and action items:

-Water Exchange MOU The board approved a water exchange Memorandum of Understanding with the Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District for the second year.

-Cover Crop MOU A Memorandum of Understanding with Lower Loup NRD for a three-year cover crop study in Sub-Area 9 of CPNRD’s Ground Water Management Program to determine the amount of water required to grow cover crops.

-NRCS Watershed Planning Grant The board approved submitting two grant applications to NRCS through the Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Program for the Wood River and Buffalo Creek. They also approved the funding to contract for the grant application.

-Cease & Desist The board approved issuing a Cease and Desist Order to a landowner in Hall County if the landowner does not submit required documents by May 31, 2019.

-Draft Budget The Budget Committee reviewed the draft Fiscal 2020 budget. At their June meeting, the board will act to approve the 2020 Fiscal budget of expenditures to hold a public hearing in July.

-Manager’s Report Lyndon Vogt, general manager, reported that the District applied for Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) funds through NRCS for a drop structure damaged on the Upper Prairie/Silver/Moores Flood Resistance Project during the March flood. The EWP Program allows communities to quickly address serious and long-lasting damages to infrastructure and to the land.

Vogt reported that the NRD also signed a one-year extension request with NRCS for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). In 2014, the NRD was awarded a five-year grant for the *Ogallala Aquifer & Platte River Recovery* project. The project addresses excess/insufficient water,

inadequate habitat for fish and wildlife, soil erosion, water quality degradation, inefficient energy use, and air quality impacts. The resource concerns meet environmental habitat needs under the Platte River Recovery and Implementation Program.

-Natural Resources Conservation Service Joe Krolikowski, district liaison, reported that staff are currently working through the contract development and obligation process for the FY 2019 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funds. All applications received before November 16, 2018 and met eligibility criteria were ranked and contract offers have been extended. This year's EQIP fund allocation for the local CPNRD fund codes was \$713,393.00.

Krolikowski also reported that the Conservation Stewardship Program, (CSP), FY2019 applications that were received by May 10, 2019, will begin the ranking process. NRCS staff will be working with the producers and gathering the information needed to complete that ranking. The projected ranking deadline for all FY2019 CSP applications is currently set for June 21, 2019.

-Nebraska Natural Resources Commission Mick Reynolds, Middle Platte Basin representative, reported that the Nebraska Legislature has budgeted \$11 million plus \$5 million carry-over funds for the Water Sustainability Fund. The Commission will meet next on December 18, 2019.

-Cost-Share The board approved cost-share applications in the amount of \$3,000 through the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation and the Central Platte NRD cost-share programs for the capacitance probe and well decommissioning.

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