

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Board Meeting Minutes
July 25, 2019

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	Charles Maser	Jay Richeson
Jim Bendfeldt	Jerry Milner	Steve Sheen
Lon Bohn	Keith Ostermeier	Keith Stafford
Alicia Haussler	Doug Reeves	Ed Stoltenberg
Chris Henry	Marvion Reichert	Deborah VanMatre
Ed Kyes	Mick Reynolds	Jerry Wiese
Dwayne Margritz		

Excused absences – Brian Keiser and Barry Obermiller.

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, Sandy Noecker – Data & Compliance Officer, Luke Zakrzewski – GIS Image Analyst, Angie Warner – GIS Programs Coordinator, Tricia Dudley – Resources Conservationist, Courtney Widup – Water Resources Technician.

Others present – Joe Krolikowski – NRCS Liaison District Conservationist, Grand Island, Nicole Olsen – NRCS Resources Conservationist Merrick County, Lora Schenck – NRCS Resources Conservationist Hall County, Jessie Winter, Sarah Nevison and Caitlin Smith - NE Dept. of Natural Resources, Lincoln, Mike Gaghagen – Grand Island, Myron Kouba and Dennis Reiter - Buffalo County Commissioners.

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 June board meeting minutes. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor, except Jerry Milner 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.

Izaak Walton League Awards -- Mike Gaghagen, Izaak Walton League of America member, presented the Grand Island Izaak Walton League of America award to the Central Platte NRD for outstanding contributions to the conservation of our nation's natural resources through the Nebraska Children's Groundwater Festival.

He also said this was the second award presented this month to the Central Platte NRD for the Nebraska Children's Groundwater Festival. On July 17 the Izaak Walton League presented their National Honor Roll Award to Kelly Cole and Marcia Lee, festival coordinators, at a ceremony in Des Moines, Iowa for efforts to educate youth about natural resources through the Groundwater Festival.

NRCS REPORT: Joe Krolkowski, NRCS Liaison District Conservationist, introduced two new NRCS staff members, Nicole Olsen Merrick County Resources Conservationist and Lara Schenck Hall County Resources Conservationist (see enclosed report).

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Chairman Jim Bendfeldt reported that Brian Keiser and Barry Obermiller 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.

FISCAL YEAR 2019/2020 BUDGET: Chairman Bendfeldt said there were no recommendations for amendments or changes from the Budget Committee.

General Manager Vogt briefly reviewed the proposed budget and said if it is adopted as proposed the property tax request would be \$4,204,344.77, which is a decrease of \$323,412.83 from last year. He said it is anticipated that valuations will have only a small increase and that our estimate for the levy is approximately 0.02392, compared to last year's levy of 0.02576.

Action on Proposed or Amended Budget -- Marvion Reichert made the motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2019/2020 budget as proposed. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Special Hearing to Set Levy, August Schedule -- Chairman Bendfeldt said a public hearing is required to set the levy for Fiscal Year 2019/2020. Final valuations from the

county assessors will not be available until August 20, which would not allow enough time to publish the hearing if the board meeting is held on the 22nd. It is proposed that the August board meeting be moved to the 29th.

Jay Richeson made the motion to schedule the public hearing to set the Fiscal Year 2019 2020 levy on August 29th at 1:45 p.m. with the board meeting scheduled that day at 2:00 p.m. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

WATER QUANTITY COMMITTEE – RECOMMENDATION ON ENGINEERING FIRM TO UPDATE NRD’S GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN: Jay Richeson reported that at their meeting held earlier that day the committee discussed proposals for contracts to update the District’s Groundwater Management Plan. He said two proposals were received, one from Olsson Associates for \$102,000.00 and one from JEO Consulting Group for \$149,000.00.

Jay Richeson made the motion to approve the recommendation from the Water Quantity Committee to award the contract to Olsson Associates in the amount of \$102,000.00 to update Central Platte NRD’s Groundwater Management Plan. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

BASIN-WIDE INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT PLAN SECOND INCREMENT: Chairman Bendfeldt said the board needs to take action on the proposed Basin-wide Integrated Management Plan Second Increment. General Manager Vogt said the plan is between the five NRDs in the Platte Basin and the NE Dept. of Natural Resources. The public hearing on the proposed plan was held July 15th. Testimony was received from Central NE Public Power & Irrigation District and Nebraska Public Power District. After reviewing the testimony with the NE Department of Natural Resources it was decided that no changes to the proposed plan were necessary based on the information received during the hearing.

Alicia Haussler made the motion to approve the Basin-wide Integrated Management Plan Second Increment as presented at the hearing. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD’S INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT PLAN SECOND INCREMENT: General Manager Vogt said the Joint Integrated Management Plan (IMP) is between Central Platte NRD and the NE Dept. of Natural Resources and has to follow the basin-wide IMP.

Jay Richeson made the motion to approve Central Platte NRD’s Integrated Management Plan Second Increment as presented at the public hearing. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

JOINT LEGAL DEFENSE & COMMON INTEREST AGREEMENT WITH LOWER LOUP NRD & LOUP PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT: General Manager Vogt said Central Platte NRD, Lower Loup NRD and the Loup Public Power District are all using Venessa Silk, attorney at Baird Holm LLP, to provide legal counsel for the purpose of opposing the proposed Platte Basin to the Republican Basin diversion filing before the NE Department of Natural Resources. He said they have visited with Venessa and she has agreed to a joint legal defense. General Manager Vogt said we should be able to save money on legal costs by entering into the proposed agreement and sharing the costs with the Lower Loup NRD and Loup Public Power District and would recommend that Central Platte NRD enter into the proposed agreement.

Marvion Reichert made the motion to approve the Joint Defense & Common Interest Agreement between Central Platte NRD, Lower Loup NRD and the Loup Public Power District relating to sharing legal defense costs associated with opposing the proposed Platte Basin to Republican Basin diversion. Deborah VanMatre seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

CONTRACT WITH HOOKER BROS. CONSTRUCTION FOR THE EMERGENCY INSTALLATION OF RIPRAP AT THE SILVER CREEK DROP STRUCTURE: Chairman Bendfeldt said the board needs to consider and take action on a proposed agreement with Hooker Brothers Construction for the installation of rock riprap to repair the Silver Creek drop structure which was damaged in the March flood event. The cost would be \$36,000.00. Assistant Manager Jesse Mintken said the cost includes installing 300 tons of riprap. He said we also had an estimate from Van Kirk Brothers Construction at a cost of \$48,490.00. He said the original damage occurred in March and since then there have been other rains that have compounded the problem.

Marvion Reichert made the motion to approve the agreement with Hooker Brothers Construction for the installation of rock riprap to repair the Silver Creek drop structure at a cost of \$36,000.00. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH UPPER BIG BLUE NRD: General Manager Vogt said we have received a proposed Interlocal Cooperative Agreement from the Upper Big Blue relative to shared personnel services. He said we currently have an interlocal agreement with that NRD that includes providing secretarial and technical assistance to the U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service offices within the boundaries of the respective districts and have shared costs for those employees shared between the two NRDs. The proposed interlocal agreement would only remove the wording “technical” assistance but would keep in place the secretarial assistance provision. General Manager Vogt said for many years we have actually only had secretarial positions that have been shared so this agreement would not affect current operations. He said he would recommend the board approve the amended agreement.

Marvion Reichert made the motion to approve the revised Interlocal Cooperative Agreement between the Upper Big Blue NRD and Central Platte NRD concerning the shared cost of providing secretarial assistance to the U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service offices within the boundaries of the Upper Big Blue NRD and Central Platte NRD. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

MANAGER'S REPORT: General Manager Lyndon Vogt reported on the hearing before the NE Dept. of Natural Resources on the Platte/Republican proposed diversion. Everyone that had filed were asked to attend and state their case. He said he has not heard any movement on the application since then.

He also reported that we have received a grant from the Water Sustainability Fund to write a drought plan for Central Platte NRD. The first meeting was held last week with 26 individuals attending. The meeting was the beginning step to write the mitigation plan for the District. When the Water Sustainability Fund grant was written and we started on the process we did not know that our basin-wide integrated management plan would require us to write a drought mitigation plan for Central Platte NRD. He said the plan that is being developed at this time will probably be approved in the next year but in five or six years we will probably be required to update the plan to make sure it falls within our Basin-wide IMP.

He also reported that we have received a few proposals to identify and evaluate alternatives on the best use of the property that the District purchased in Dawson County (Schroeder land). He said the proposals will be put on drop box in a few days so the directors have an opportunity to review them before the next board meeting. We should have a recommendation for the board's consideration at the August board meeting.

NE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION REPORT: Mick Reynolds, Middle Platte Basin Commission member, reported that the meeting in Kearney on August 5th was cancelled. He said applications for Water Sustainability Funds can be submitted until July 31st.

NE ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICTS REPORT: Jim Bendfeldt, Central Platte's NARD board member, briefly reported on the NARD Benefits Committee and Risk Pool Committee that had met at our office earlier that week. He said he did not have anything major to report.

COST SHARE PROGRAM: Applications – Programs Coordinator Kelly Cole reported that we have received applications for the following cost share programs: NE Soil & Water Conservation Program, Grazing Deferment, Center Pivot Incentive, Flow Meter 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. Jay Richeson 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 accept the July financial report as presented. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS: Next Meeting – Scheduled for August 29th at 2:00 p.m. Details to follow.

Public Hearing to Set FY 2019/2020 Levy -- Scheduled for August 29th at 1:45 p.m.

Upcoming Events – A review of upcoming events was briefly covered including the September 23 & 24 NARD Annual Conference in Kearney and Sandy Noecker's open house retirement celebration from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. following the board meeting on September 26th.

Executive Committee's Questionnaire – Chairman Bendfeldt reminded the directors to complete the questionnaire from the Executive Committee and return them to the office before the August board meeting.

ADJOURN: Chairman Bendfeldt adjourned the board meeting.



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>

July 22, 2019

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

July Report to CPNRD

I would like to take this time to update the Central Platte NRD Staff and Board of Directors on the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) staffing changes in two of our offices. I am pleased to announce we have 2 new Resource Conservationists, Nicole Olsen and Lara Schenck.

Nicole was previously with NRCS in north central Iowa, where she worked as a Soil Conservationist. Nicole has been with the Agency for approximately 5 years now. Lara was also previously with the NRCS in Iowa as a Soil Conservationist but left the Agency for a while before recently returning. Nicole started with us in Nebraska back in February and will be in the Central City Field Office. Lara started with us in Nebraska back in January and will be in the Grand Island Field Office.

We have been waiting for some time to refill these open positions, and for the last 3 years the only option to do this was to convert Pathway Student Interns. Around the first of the year, the Natural Resources Conservation Service was given the go ahead by the new administration to start advertising vacancies again. These vacancies are going to be grouped and then they will be advertised in phases going forward for the next few years. This is being done so that Human Resources can handle the large number of vacancies that will need to be advertised for NRCS nationwide going forward.

We are very happy and excited to have Nicole Olsen and Lara Schenck onboard, and after working in Nebraska for a while now we hope they feel the same.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Joe Krolkowski

Joe Krolkowski
District Conservationist

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CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Cost Share
July 25, 2019

NEBRASKA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COST SHARE PROGRAM.....		\$ 70,718.53
JK Land LLC – Dawson – Planned Grazing	\$ 6,035.11	
Andrew McHargue – Merrick – Underground Pipe to Pivot	5,000.00	
Keith Boyd Zeilinger – Polk – Range Seeding	221.15	
Dana English – Dawson – Planned Grazing	7,500.00	
Sheldon Bartruff – Frontier – Underground Pipe to Pivot	5,000.00	
Codner JT4 Partnership – Buffalo – Planned Grazing	7,500.00	
Boshart Family Trust – Hall – Underground Pipe to Pivot	5,000.00	
Joel Leo – Howard – Planned Grazing	7,457.00	
K-J Hueftle Ltd. – Dawson – Brush Management	968.45	
Triple K Properties Ltd – Dawson – Brush Management	6,663.41	
Kurt Kugler – Dawson – Brush Management	4,272.57	
Wade Rathman – Hall – Windbreak Renovation	416.50	
Viola Leimser – Polk – Brush Management	4,152.15	
Bernice G Nitsch – Polk – Brush Management	5,070.89	
Robert Rieken – Polk – Brush Management	5,461.30	
 GRAZING DEFERMENT COST SHARE PROGRAM.....		 \$ 1,512.00
Dirkon, Inc. – Polk	\$ 1,512.00	
 CENTER PIVOT INCENTIVE COST SHARE PROGRAM.....		 \$ 15,000.00
Andrew McHargue – Merrick	\$ 7,500.00	
Dibbern Family Farms Inc. – Hall	7,500.00	
 FLOW METER COST SHARE PROGRAM.....		 \$ 800.00
Merna Rae Boshart – Hall	\$ 800.00	
 WELL DECOMMISSIONING COST SHARE PROGRAM		 \$ 2,750.00
Robyn D & John L Dvoracek – Hall	\$ 750.00	
KKES, Inc. – Hall	500.00	
David Miller – Merrick	750.00	
Mark C Alberts – Dawson	750.00	
 Total		 \$ 90,780.53