

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Board Meeting Minutes
August 29, 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	Dwayne Margritz	Mick Reynolds
Jim Bendfeldt	Charles Maser	Jay Richeson
Lon Bohn	Jerry Milner	Steve Sheen
Alicia Haussler	Barry Obermiller	Keith Stafford
Chris Henry	Keith Ostermeier	Ed Stoltenberg
Brian Keiser	Doug Reeves	Deborah VanMatre
Ed Kyes	Marvion Reichert	Jerry Wiese

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

Others present – Joe Krolilowski – NRCS Liaison District Conservationist,

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: Alicia Haussler made the motion to approve the July board meeting minutes. Keith Ostermeier seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor, except Brian Keiser and Barry Obermiller 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.

NRCS REPORT: Joe Krolkowski, NRCS Liaison District Conservationist, reported on three programs which included the Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP), the Livestock Mortality Program, and the Cover Crops for Disaster Assistance Initiative (see enclosed report).

EXCUSED ABSENCES: All board members present.

FISCAL YEAR 2019/2020 BUDGET: Chairman Bendfeldt reported on the special hearing to set the final tax request that was held just prior to the board meeting and briefly reviewed the resolution. He said no testimony was presented at the hearing. The property tax request of \$4,204,344.77 would require a levy of 0.023799 based on the District's valuation of \$17,666,288,850.00.

Marvion Reichert made the motion to approve the "Resolution Setting the Property Tax Request – Fiscal Year 2019/2020" and to set the levy at 0.023799. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

WATER QUANTITY COMMITTEE – REPORTS & ACTION: Committee chairman Jay Richeson reported on their meeting held earlier that day.

Proposals on Schroeder Property – Identification & Evaluation of Alternatives – Jay said proposals were received from JEO Consulting Group, Olsson Associates, EA Engineering and the Flatwater Group to do a study to evaluate management alternatives for the property purchased in Dawson County referred to as the Schroeder property.

Jay Richeson made the motion to approve the Water Quantity Committee's recommendation to enter into a contract with JEO Consulting Group at a cost of \$109,620.00 to do a study to evaluate management alternatives for the District's property in Dawson County. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Recharge Agreement for the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program – Jay said the committee reviewed the agreement that would change the way Central Platte NRD is paid for groundwater recharge from seepage from the Six Mile, Cozad Ditch, Thirty Mile and Orchard Alfalfa irrigation canals in the non-irrigation season.

General Manager Vogt said that currently we get credit for recharge when it returns to the river, which is tracked over a 50 year time frame. This agreement would recognize 100 percent of the recharge the year it happened and would not require Central Platte NRD to track the return flows for 50 years.

Jay Richeson made the motion to approve the Water Quantity Committee's recommendation to approve and sign the water service agreement between Central Platte NRD and the NE Community Foundation, acting as contracting agent of the Governance

Committee for the Platte River Recovery and Implementation Program. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

EASTERN PROJECTS COMMITTEE – REPORTS & POSSIBLE ACTION: Ed Stoltenberg, committee chairman, reported on their meeting held earlier that day and said they discussed several items. He said projects that will probably be presented to the board for consideration in the next months would include a drainage project in the Grand Island Industrial Park and surrounding area. He said they will also be revisiting the snagging and clearing program and considering other programs that could assist with future flooding concerns.

RICHARD PLAUTZ CRANE VIEWING SITE TRAIL PROJECT NEAR GIBBON – RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM GRANT RESOLUTION – REPORT & ACTION: General Manager Vogt said Central Platte NRD is applying for a Recreational Trails Program grant through the Game and Parks Commission to redo the trail and parking lot south of Gibbon. He explained that we applied for the grant last year and funds were included in the budget but we did not get the grant because the required Corps of Engineers 404 permit was received after the announcements had been made of the grant recipients. General Manager Vogt said he is fairly confident that we will be approved this year. The total project cost is \$315,822.00. The grant would pay 80 percent with Central Platte NRD paying the remainder. Funds were again included in this year's budget. A board approved resolution is required to be submitted with the grant application, which is due at the end of August.

Jay Richeson made the motion to approve the resolution required for the grant application for the Recreational Trails Program funds to be used for the Richard Plautz Crane Viewing site trail and parking lot paving near Gibbon. 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 reviewed the fact that Westervelt approached us about having Central Platte NRD holding a conservation easement on a wetland they were wanting to develop for a wetland bank. He said they notified us about two weeks ago they are no longer pursuing the original location proposed. He said if they find a new location in the Central Platte NRD they will have to present the new information and proposal to the board.

General Manager Vogt also briefly reported on the flooding this year and the District's projects. He said the detention cell on the Prairie/Silver/Moores Creek project is full right now and said the Wood River bypass has quite a lot of water in it but is down about a foot. According to the Weather Service there were some areas of the District in July that had 12 inches of rain in six hours which is considered over a 1000-year event. Based on runoff, not rainfall, our March event was likely over a 500-year event. He said the hearing before the NE Department of Natural Resources was held a few

weeks ago on the proposed Platte/Republican diversion and said there is an August 30th deadline for filing briefs. He said we will be working with our legal council and a couple of other entities to file a brief in support of dismissing the application.

Also included in his report was the fact that the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture has received a grant in conjunction with the U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service and Central Platte NRD for the purpose of sharing an education coordinator. He said if the grant goes forward the individual would be located in our office and said Central Platte NRD's cost would be approximately \$16,000.00 a year. He said this is an area we have been trying to become more involved in but currently do not have the staff nor time to cover all of the requests we get from schools and other entities for educational assistance.

In answer to a question concerning the flooding that has occurred this spring and summer and what financial assistance is available General Manager Vogt said we have applied for two grants through the NRCS Watershed Rehabilitation Program, one for Wood River and one for Spring Creek and Buffalo Creek. He also said Buffalo County has hired an engineering firm to look at the flooding problems on Turkey Creek.

NARD ANNUAL CONFERENCE – SELECT VOTING DELEGATE & ALTERNATE FOR THE SEPTEMBER CONFERENCE: Chairman Bendfeldt said the board would need to select a voting delegate and alternate for the conference. He encouraged the directors to attend the conference if possible and said it is a great opportunity to become more informed on issues and to meet directors from other NRDs.

Alicia Haussler made the motion that Deborah VanMatre be selected as the voting delegate and Jay Richeson be selected as alternate. Barry Obermiller seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Deborah VanMatre and Jay Richeson who both abstained. Motion carried.

NE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION REPORT: Mick Reynolds, Middle Platte Basin Commission member, reported on the applications submitted for the Water Sustainability Fund. He said 19 applications had been received and should be ready for the commission to review by the first of October. He said requests submitted totaled \$28,651,602.00.

NE ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICTS REPORT: Jim Bendfeldt, CPNRD's NARD representative, said he did not have a report that month but would report after their September meeting.

COST SHARE PROGRAMS: Request for Transfer of Funds – Kelly Cole, Programs Coordinator, said we have received more requests for the Cover Crop Program than funds are available. She requested a transfer of \$500.00 from the Grazing Deferral Program to the Cover Crop Program.

Alicia Haussler made the motion to transfer \$500.00 from the Grazing Deferment Program to the Cover Crop Program. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Applications – Kelly reported that we have received applications for the following cost share programs: NE Soil & Water Conservation Program, Center Pivot Incentive, Flow Meters, Phragmites Control, Cover Crop, 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.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Marvion Reichert made the motion to accept the August financial report as presented. Alicia Haussler seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Review of upcoming events included the State Fair August 23 – September 2, Husker Harvest Days September 10 – 12, NARD Annual Conference in Kearney September 22 – 24 and the open house following the board meeting on September 26 for Sandy Noecker's retirement celebration.

OTHER BUSINESS: Next Board Meeting – Scheduled for the afternoon of Thursday, September 26th. Details to follow.

ADJOURN: Chairman Bendfeldt adjourned the board meeting at 2:45 p.m.

August 22, 2019

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

August Report to CPNRD

The Federal Governments 2019 Fiscal Year will be ending soon, on September 30th actually. So naturally with the end of any Fiscal Year there is a lot to complete and wrap up before the last day arrives. So, with that said our offices in the Central Platte and across the State are staying very busy trying to complete the contracting process for many applications received. As you all know, this year was one for the books, and it is still not over yet. If you recall last spring, we talked about several disaster initiatives or disaster programs that were available to producers or sponsors. These programs were in addition to the normal Farm Bill programs we administer every year.

We talked about the Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP), that the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) administers. Each EWP project required a local sponsor to apply for this assistance. We also talked about the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) which most of you are familiar with, but there were 2 new initiatives available after the storms this year.

The first was the Livestock Mortality Program, this was available for producers who had suffered livestock losses due to the extreme weather events from the spring. This program was intended to help farmers and ranchers to properly dispose of their dead livestock carcasses in a safe manner. The second was the Cover Crops for Disaster Assistance Initiative. This program and the funds were available to producer to plant their severe weather impacted acres to cover crops in 2019, if they were not able to plant this year's cash crop. This funding was available statewide to assist producers.

This Cover Crops for Disaster Assistance Initiative is being used at a very large scale in the State and in the Central Platte, with the bulk of our applications and obligated contracts in the Central Platte coming from Merrick County. On August 21st we had 241 contracts obligated statewide, treating 45,864 acres, totaling over 1 million dollars. When we are all said and done with this initiative, we are estimating 518 contracts and over 2.2 million dollars, for Nebraska.

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Here is a closer look at our local numbers for the Cover Crops for Disaster Assistance Initiative in the Central Platte. On August 21st we had 74 contracts obligated, treating 14,107 acres, totaling \$364,240 dollars. When we are all said and done with this initiative in the Central Platte, we are estimating 144 contracts and \$708,025. The deadline for our field offices statewide to have all the contracting work done for obligation review is September 13th. The deadline to have all the contracts obligated in the state is September 27th.

Listed below is the estimated breakdown by NRCS Field Office, through the Central Platte NRD.

Field Office	Number of Contracts	Obligated Funds
Central City	107	\$529,286.00
Grand Island	15	\$68,468.00
Kearney	3	\$12,440.00
Lexington	19	\$97,831.00
Totals	144	\$708,025.00

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Joe Krolikowski

Joe Krolikowski
District Conservationist

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CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Cost Share
August 29, 2019

NEBRASKA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COST SHARE PROGRAM.....		\$ 13,275.25
Kent Adelung – Buffalo – Re-Nozzle	\$	3,275.25
Rick Collins – Hamilton – Underground pipeline to pivot		5,000.00
A & G Rickertsen Rev Living Trust – Custer – pipeline to pivot		5,000.00
 CENTER PIVOT INCENTIVE COST SHARE PROGRAM.....		 \$ 15,000.00
Ricky Collins - Hamilton	\$	7,500.00
MKEE LLC – Merrick		7,500.00
 FLOW METER COST SHARE PROGRAM.....		 \$ 1,600.00
Ricky Collins – Hamilton	\$	800.00
MKEE LLC – Merrick		800.00
 PHRAGMITES CONTROL COST SHARE PROGRAM.....		 \$ 2,000.00
Eugene Boryca – Nance	\$	2,000.00
 COVER CROP COST SHARE PROGRAM		 \$ 1,000.00
Kevin Klingelhofer – Buffalo	\$	500.00
Brandon Trampe – Dawson		500.00
 WELL DECOMMISSIONING COST SHARE PROGRAM		 \$ 4,000.00
David Miller – Merrick	\$	750.00
Amherst Public School – Buffalo		500.00
Albin Ziemba Trust – Nance – 3 wells		2,250.00
Mark Aden – Dawson		500.00
 Total		 \$ 36,875.25

