

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD

Board Meeting Minutes

October 22, 2020

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. Hall County has moved to a Phase 4, so the board room will be available for public participation in the meeting. Social distancing guidelines will be followed.

ATTENDANCE: Board members present were:

LeRoy Arends	Charles Maser	Mick Reynolds
Jim Bendfeldt	Jerry Milner	Jay Richeson
Alicia Haussler	Barry Obermiller	Steve Sheen
Brian Keiser	Keith Ostermeier	Ed Stoltenberg
Ed Kyes	Doug Reeves	Deb VanMatre
	Marvion Reichert	Jerry Wiese

Excused Absences: Lon Bohn, Chris Henry, Dwayne Margritz and Keith Stafford

Staff present: Lyndon Vogt – General Manager, Jesse Mintken – Assistant Manager, Kelly Cole – Administrative Assistant, Marcia Lee – Information/Education Specialist, Tricia Dudley – Water Quality Programs Assistant, Courtney Widup – Resources Conservationist, Dan Clement – Water Resources Specialist, Angie Warner – GIS Programs Coordinator, Brandi Flyr – Hydrologist, Dean Krull – UNL/CPNRD Demo Project Coordinator

Others present: Joe Krolikowski – NRCS District Conservationist, Brandon Summers – Grand Island Independent, Chad Nability – Regional Planning Commission, John Peterson – JEO Consulting Group, Lalit Jha – JEO Consulting Group and Jake Klabenes – Lutz

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: Alicia Haussler made the motion to approve the September board meeting minutes. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor, except Jim Bendfeldt, Brian Keiser, Jerry Milner, Doug Reeves 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. There were none.

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Chairman Bendfeldt reported that Lon Bohn, Chris Henry, Dwayne Margritz and Keith Stafford 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.

2019/2020 AUDIT REPORT: Jake Klabenes, Lutz CPA and Audit Manager, reviewed the audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020. He said the independent auditors' report on internal control over financial reporting and on compliance and other matters was based on an audit of financial statements performed in accordance with government auditing standards and that no problems were encountered.

Following a brief discussion Alicia Haussler made the motion to accept the fiscal year 2019/2020 audit. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

NRCS REPORT: Joe Krolikowski, NRCS District Conservationist, reported for Lara Schenck, Resource Conservationist at the Grand Island Field office, as she was unable to attend. Joe reported on the Soil Health Demonstration Farms & Ranches Initiative with UNL & landowners (see enclosed report). Joe also reviewed staffing at the 4 field offices in Central Platte NRD (see enclosed report).

SOIL HEALTH AGREEMENT: Lyndon Vogt, General Manager, reported that the Soil Health Agreement is a subaward agreement that The Nature Conservancy (TNC) was successful in getting from NRCS in the amount of \$4.4 million to install conservation practices within the CPNRD & UBBNRD. This award will pay 60% of Courtney Widup's salary and benefits. Courtney will promote the program and assist producers in the CPNRD in signing up over the next 5 years.

Marvion Reichert made the motion to approve the Soil Health Agreement with TNC as presented. Deb VanMatre seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT AMENDMENT: Lyndon Vogt, General Manager, reported that Brody Vorderstrasse was hired with a one-year grant, shared with RWBJV and NRCS, to assist with Communications. The Central Platte NRD's portion is 26% of Brody's salary and benefits. The RWBJV put a request in to extend this grant for two additional years and was successful.

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

MANAGER'S REPORT: General Manager Vogt, reported that Central Platte NRD signed the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) agreement for our Hazard Mitigation Plan this past week. Central Platte NRD was successful in getting a grant to update the Hazard Mitigation Plan, which must be done every five years. Vogt reported that the Central Platte NRD is still waiting to get approval from NRCS on the Drop Structure at PSM. Should hear something in the next couple of weeks. The Grand Island Independent had an article regarding the Platte Valley Industrial Park Drainage Project. Central Platte NRD budgeted to participate in this project. This will be a joint agreement with the City of Grand Island, Hall County, and the Economic Development Board. More information will be brought to the board next month. Court dates have been set for the three violators in Central Platte NRD: Bernard Katzberg, Hall County Court, November 25, 2020; Artie Moeller, Merrick County Court, November 16, 2020; and Richard Urban, Polk County Court, December 2, 2020.

COST SHARE PROGRAMS: Applications – Kelly Cole, Administrative Assistant, reported that we have received cost share applications for the following programs: Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation, Flow Meter and Well Decommissioning (see enclosed report). 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.

NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICT: Chairman Bendfeldt reported that NARD purchased an office building for \$2.1 million located at 8100 S 15th Street, Lincoln, NE. Virtual presentations were done for Husker Harvest Days and were successful. The trees that are normally handed out at Husker Harvest Days were given to Middle Niobrara for some educational plantings and the Upper Niobrara White for the wildlife restoration plantings in the areas that were destroyed a couple years back by wildfires. Craig Derickson, State Conservationist, sent out an email indicating that NRCS would be stepping back from the Envirothon, Range and Land Judging events. NARD will work with NRCS to see if they will work in rejoining us in the future. Awards that were to be presented at the Annual Conference will now be given at the Legislative Conference. NARD is planning to hold the Legislative Conference at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln on January 26-27, 2021.

NEBRASKA NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION: Mick Reynolds reported that the commission is meeting Wednesday, October 28 in Kearney with the main focus to go over the scoring committees results for the Water Sustainability Applications.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Marvion Reichert made a motion to approve the October 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: Next Board Meeting – Scheduled for the afternoon of Thursday, November 19. Details to follow.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Chairman Bendfeldt reviewed the upcoming events.

OTHER BUSINESS: There was none.

ADJOURN: Chairman Bendfeldt adjourned the board meeting at 3:00 p.m.

October 19, 2020

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

October Report to CPNRD

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) and the USDA-NRCS partnered together in 2016 to form the Soil Health Demonstration Farms and Ranches Initiative, where they established 17 demonstration farm sites across Nebraska to evaluate soil health principles and the impact of cover crops on soil health in different cropping systems. Producers participating in the project received funding for cover crops, crop rotations, and prescribed grazing through EQIP. Contracts are 5-years in length, and provide valuable data concerning the relationship between cover crops and soil infiltration rates, moisture, temperature, structure, biodiversity, grazing management, and crop yields.

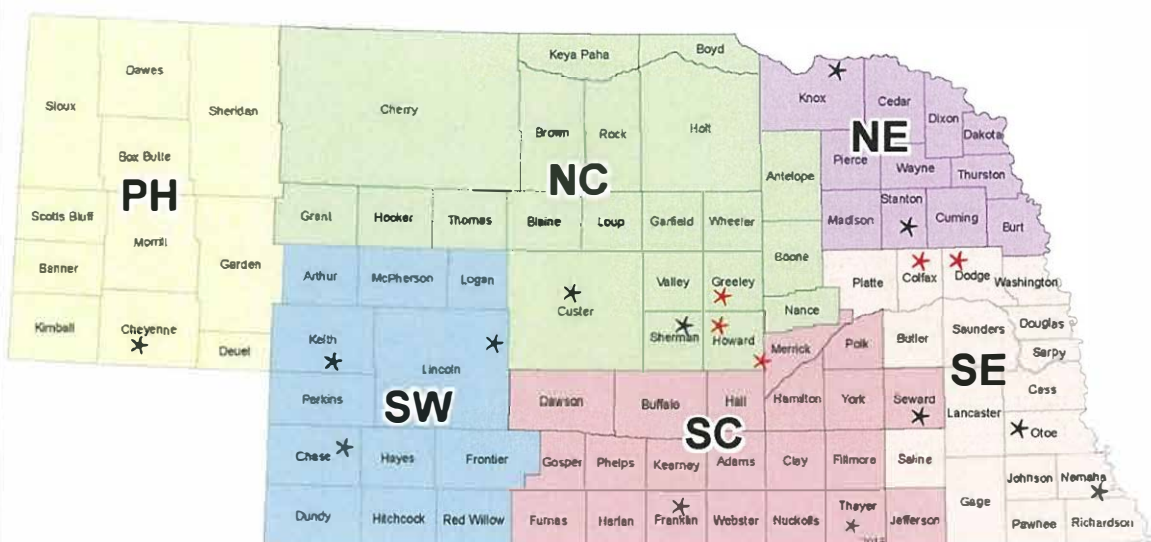
These demonstration farms are field scale projects with randomized and replicated plots and are intended to provide large scale system comparisons between treatments. Treatments included in the farm sites are:

- Cover Crop vs No Cover Crop
- Monoculture Cover Crop species vs Multispecies Cover Crop
- Grazed vs Not Grazed
- Drilled vs Broadcast
- Nitrogen Study
- Cover Crop Mix Comparisons
- Early Termination of Cover Crops vs Late Termination of Cover Crops
- Frost Terminated Cover Crop Species vs Winter Hardy Cover Crop Species
- Companion Cover Crops vs Dormant Seeded Cover Crops
- High Carbon Cover Crops vs Low Carbon Cover Crops
- Economic Data

This project is a valuable learning tool for farmers, educators, and those employed in the agricultural field. It provides local producers with tangible evidence of the improvements in soil health that can result from the adoption of cover crops and proper grazing management. Soil samples and testing are conducted annually by USDA-NRCS staff and analyzed and interpreted through UNL. Results are compiled and reported at: <https://cropwatch.unl.edu/soilhealth/reports>



Nebraska NRCS Soil Health Initiative EQIP Demonstration Fields



* 5 - 2017 Demonstration Fields

* 12 - 2016 Demonstration Fields



Location of the Soil Health Initiative Demonstration Fields

For access to more field scale studies being conducted in the state of Nebraska, please visit the On-Farm Research Network Database at: <http://resultsfinder.unl.edu/>.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Lara Schenck

Lara Schenck,
Resource Conservationist

October 21, 2020

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

October Report to CPNRD

I would like to take this time to update you all on a couple new District Secretary's that have been hired in our Natural Resources Conservation Service Field Offices. After that I would also like to provide an update to everyone on where things currently stand with staffing across our 4 offices in the Central Platte. Over the last 5 years staffing has continued to fluctuate in our NRCS offices, which as you all know is very different from how things were in the past. During the first 14 years of my career there was very little, to no core staffing changes in our 4 offices.

The first new District Secretary hire is Sara Umstead, Sara will be located in our Central City Field Office, Sara is from the Central City and Chapman area. Sara's official start date in Central City was on September 14th, she is doing a great job and we are very happy to have her onboard.

The second new District Secretary hire is Jackie Luebbe, Jackie will be located in our Grand Island Field Office, Jackie is from the Central City and Archer area. Jackie's official start date in Grand Island was on October 5th, we are excited to have Jackie onboard as well and she is picking things up quickly.

Current staff located in our 4 NRCS offices located in the Central Platte NRD.

Grand Island Field Office

- **Joe Krolkowski** – District Conservationist,
- **Lara Schenck** – Resource Conservationist,
- **Jacoba Nowak** – Soil Conservationist,
- **Jackie Luebbe** – District Secretary,
- **Angie Lau** – Program Assistant for our 4 offices and Central Area,
- **Marcy Johnson** – Data Entry All Solutions Employee,

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Central City Field Office

- **Nicole Olsen** – Resource Conservationist,
Position currently vacant, she has accepted a new position out of state.
- **Jacob Kendrick** – Soil Conservationist,
- **Sara Umstead** – District Secretary,

Kearney Field Office

- **Michael Pavel** – Resource Conservationist,
- **Jason Scholz** – Soil Conservationist,
- **Dalton Bender** – Soil Conservation Technician,
- **Shelly Lippincott** – District Secretary,

Lexington Field Office

- **Janelle Taubenheim** – Resource Conservationist,
- **Carrie Feusner**– Soil Conservationist,
- **Kevin Gill** – Soil Conservation Technician,
- **Samantha Keith** – District Secretary,

So, Thank You all again for your continued support to our long-standing partnership, I/we as a staff look forward to maintaining this relationship for years to come between the Central Platte Natural Resources District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Joe Krolikowski

Joe Krolikowski
District Conservationist

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Cost Share
October 22, 2020

NEBRASKA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COST SHARE PROGRAM...		\$ 10,770.62
Phil Mader – Hall – Underground pipeline to pivot	\$ 5,000.00	
Craig Lundstrom – Polk – Brush Management	5,770.62	
FLOW METER COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$ 800.00
Phil Mader – Hall	\$ 800.00	
WELL DECOMMISSIONING COST SHARE PROGRAM.....		\$ 2,000.00
Groves By Riverside LLC – Dawson	\$ 500.00	
Curtis Rohrich – Hall – 2 wells	1,500.00	
Total		\$ 13,570.62