

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD

Board Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2020

CALL TO ORDER: Vice-Chairman Mick Reynolds 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:

Lon Bohn	Charles Maser	Keith Stafford
Alicia Haussler	Keith Ostermeier	Ed Stoltenberg
Brian Keiser	Doug Reeves	Jerry Wiese
Ed Kyes	Mick Reynolds	
Dwayne Margritz	Jay Richeson	

Excused Absences: LeRoy Arends, Jim Bendfeldt, Chris Henry, Jerry Milner, Barry Obermiller, Marvion Reichert, Steve Sheen and Deb VanMatre.

Staff present: Lyndon Vogt – General Manager, Jesse Mintken – Assistant Manager, Kelly Cole – Administrative Assistant, Marcia Lee – Information/Education Specialist, Brandi Flyr – Hydrologist

Others present: Joe Krolkowski – NRCS District Conservationist

MEETING NOTICES: Vice-Chairman Reynolds 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 October board meeting minutes. Keith Ostermeier seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor, except Dwayne Margritz who abstained. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER BUSINESS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS: Vice-Chairman Reynolds asked if there were any announcements or suggestions for future meetings. There were none.

PUBLIC FORUM: Vice-Chairman Reynolds asked if anyone wanted to address the board on any item not included on the agenda. There were none.

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Vice-Chairman Reynolds reported that LeRoy Arends, Jim Bendfeldt, Chris Henry, Jerry Milner, Barry Obermiller, Marvion Reichert, Steve Sheen

and Deb VanMatre had requested to be excused from the board meeting.

Alicia Haussler made the motion to approve the absences as requested. Doug Reeves 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 on EQIP and CStP, the programs that NRCS is currently working with & reviewed the staffing situation with Covid (see enclosed report).

Joe also reported that Craig Derickson, State Conservationist with the Nebraska Natural Resources Conservation Service will be retiring on December 31, 2020.

WATER QUANTITY COMMITTEE: Chairman Keith Stafford reported on their meeting held earlier that day.

The committee reviewed holding a public hearing in January to consider rules and regulations to establish 30-year Acreage Reserve Program to protect surface water canals and to ensure supplies in the Platte Basin are managed efficiently to meet water management obligations. Irrigation districts will sign up for the program and surface water users will have the option to opt-in and opt-out of the program annually.

Keith Stafford made the motion to hold a public hearing on January 28, 2021 at 1:45 pm, prior to our board meeting, to establish a 30-year Acreage Reserve Program to protect surface water canals. Brian Keiser seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

The committee also reported that Karen Griffin, Project Manager for Olsson Associates, gave the committee an update on the Groundwater Management Plan. The committee will continue to work with Olsson's over the next few months.

EASTERN PROJECTS COMMITTEE: Chairman Jerry Wiese reported on their meeting held earlier that day.

The committee reviewed the proposed Platte Valley Drainage Agreement with the City of Grand Island, Hall County and the Grand Island Area Economic Development Corporation to drain the area south of the Wood River Flood Control Project. The project will help to properly drain an industrial area and 1500 acres of farm ground. Total estimated cost of the project is \$650,000, with Central Platte NRD's cost estimated at \$180,000. Central Platte NRD will be responsible for the design, engineering and construction of the project.

Jerry Wiese made the motion to join the Platte Valley Drainage Agreement with the City of Grand Island, Hall County and the Grand Island Area Economic Development. Alicia Haussler 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 the Platte Republican Diversion application to divert water from the Platte River to the Republican River was refiled. Vogt reported that the Legislative session will begin on January 6, 2021. Vogt also reported that Charles Wortman, University of Nebraska Professor, worked with the NRD's on the nutrients and water quality of irrigation wells. This project has been completed and Charles Wortman would like to present the results at our December board meeting. NARD is still planning to hold the Legislative Conference and the Washington D.C. conference. Vogt reported that the Nebraska Forest Service received an RCPP grant from NRCS, that we are a partner of, to help establish windbreaks. Central Platte NRD will be reimbursed approximately 25%, allowing us to offer 75% cost share to landowners.

GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS: Vice-Chairman Reynolds reported that election results are available on Drop Box to view.

NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICT: No Report

NEBRASKA NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION: Mick Reynolds reported that Tom Riley has been appointed as the new Nebraska Department of Natural Resources Director. The commission approved 4 small projects and 2 large projects. A caucus will be held January 13-14, 2021.

COST SHARE PROGRAMS: Applications – Kelly Cole, Administrative Assistant, reported that we have received cost share applications for the following programs: Nebraska Soil & Water Conservation, Prescribed Burn 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.

Alicia Haussler made the motion to approve the cost share applications as reported. Keith Ostermeier seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES: Jesse Bradley, Assistant Director, and Jennifer Schellpeper, Division Head, Water Planning Division of the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources reported to the board on a program being developed for water management for surface water and groundwater users. Partners include five Platte Basin Natural Resources Districts (Central Platte, North Platte, South Platte, Twin Platte, Tri-Basin), Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District, Nebraska Public Power District and the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program.

SURFACE WATER CANAL VIDEO: Brody Vorderstrasse, Communications Assistant, presented a video to the board on the rehabilitation of the Dawson County

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Canals.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Next Board Meeting – Scheduled for the afternoon of Thursday, December 17. Details to follow.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Vice-Chairman Reynolds reviewed the upcoming events.

OTHER BUSINESS: There was none.

ADJOURN: Vice-Chairman Reynolds adjourned the board meeting 2:57 p.m.



Natural Resources Conservation Service
Grand Island Field Office
703 S Webb Rd., Suite B
Grand Island, NE 68803
Phone (308) 395-8586 (Ext. 3)

<http://www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov>

November 18, 2020

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

November Report to CPNRD

Attached you will find a summary of activities or current happenings at the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) field offices throughout the Central Platte and the state.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) staff is currently working to prepare all the Conservation Stewardship Program (CStP) renewal applications they have on file to be ranked, and then for possible funding. The deadline to have these applications prepared and ranked is December 4, 2020. For those producers who do not have a current CStP contract and would like to apply for FY2021 funding through CStP Classic, the deadline to complete this application is November 20, 2020.

NRCS staff is also preparing their Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) applications for ranking. These would be application that were not funded in FY2020 or would be new application received before the EQIP application cutoff date. The deadline to submit an application for consideration in FY2021 is November 20, 2020. Once Ranking is completed, we would begin extending contract offers to the highest ranked applications until all the funds are allocated. This process can sometimes extend into August or September.

Lastly, I would like to give you all an update on where things currently stand as we continue to deal with the Covid 19 virus. Below you will see information sent to us by our State Conservationist Craig Derickson on Tuesday November 17th.

Our COVID numbers in Nebraska, and across all the surrounding states, is currently out of control and raging. We now have more than 100,000 positive cases in Nebraska since the beginning, 805 deaths, and 914 persons hospitalized. Over the past 14 days, our case number has increased a staggering 98%, deaths by 82%, and hospitalization by 68%. Governor Ricketts reported that hospital bed availability statewide is down to only 30% of capacity and ICU unit availability is down to 20%.

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At least 14 new coronavirus deaths and 3,440 new cases were reported in Nebraska yesterday on Nov. 16. Over the past week, there has been an average of 2,293 cases per day, an increase of 98 percent from the average two weeks earlier. As of Tuesday morning, there have been at least 101,601 cases and 805 deaths in Nebraska since the beginning of the pandemic, according to a New York Times database at <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/nebraska-coronavirus-cases.html>.

A report from the FPAC Disaster Center yesterday provided some very sobering numbers to Nebraska leadership. Nebraska is the #7 highest state with rapidly spiking COVID numbers and the corresponding rate of positive cases in the population. The data and numbers are as follows:

<u>State</u>	<u>Cases per 10,000</u>
North Dakota	20.18
South Dakota	17.37
Iowa	14.44
Wyoming	12.93
Wisconsin	12.06
Minnesota	11.50
Nebraska	11.11

NRCS leadership in Nebraska is working with FSA on revised guidance to our field offices on how to manage the surge in COVID cases. At this time, we are being advised to roll back our operational status to sort of a Phase I hybrid status. This means we will be encouraging reduced number of staff in our offices, rotating work schedules, and limiting access to visitors and other routine traffic in our offices. We must begin to more rigorously limit COVID exposure and contact to our employees and the customers we serve. We must take these actions today and begin to get the COVID situation in check.

In closing, please practice social distancing and good health and safety practices. We have the ability to control further spread of COVID if we all work together. I know this is difficult and everyone is really tired of the COVID routine. However, we need to keep going. We should not give up on what we have worked so hard to accomplish with COVID control for the past 8 months. WE CAN DO THIS !!

Craig Derickson, State Conservationist

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Joe Krolikowski

Joe Krolikowski
District Conservationist

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Cost Share
November 19, 2020

NEBRASKA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COST SHARE PROGRAM...		\$	6,306.54
Morgan Fouts – Dawson – Planned Grazing	\$	3,865.73	
Randy Burge – Dawson – Planned Grazing		2,440.81	
PRESCRIBED BURN COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$	390.83
Rick Jones – Polk	\$	390.83	
WELL DECOMMISSIONING COST SHARE PROGRAM.....		\$	3,750.00
Nebraska ILS Feeders LLC – Dawson	\$	750.00	
Donald Rohrich – Hall		750.00	
Mike Herbig – Merrick		750.00	
Lynette J White Rev Trust – Dawson		750.00	
Mark Gloe – Hall		750.00	
Total		\$	10,447.37