

## **CENTRAL PLATTE NRD**

### **Board Meeting Minutes**

**December 19, 2024**

**CALL TO ORDER:** 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. 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 by roll call were:

Todd Arends	Charles Maser	Steve Sheen
Lon Bohn	Jerry Milner	Ed Stoltenberg
Tom Downey	Barry Obermiller	Deb VanMatre
Ryan Kegley	Doug Reeves	Kevin Werner
Brian Keiser	Marvion Reichert	Jerry Wiese
Ed Kyes	Mick Reynolds	Mike Wilkens
Dwayne Margritz	Jay Richeson	

Excused Absences: Keith Ostermeier

Staff present: Lyndon Vogt – General Manager, Kelly Cole – Administrative Assistant, Marcia Lee – Information/Education Specialist, Jesse Mintken – Assistant Manager, Brody Vorderstrasse – Communications Assistant, Nelson Winkel – Prescribed Fire Planning Specialist, Luke Zakrzewski – GIS Image Analyst and Tricia Dudley – Water Quality Specialist.

Others present: Joe Krolkowski – NRCS District Conservationist.

**MEETING NOTICES:** 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:** Marvion Reichert made the motion to approve the November board meeting minutes. Tom Downey seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER BUSINESS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS:**

Chairman Reynolds asked if there were any announcements or suggestions for future meetings. There was none.

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

**EXCUSED ABSENCES:** Chairman Reynolds reported that Keith Ostermeier requested to be excused from the board meeting.

Marvion Reichert made the motion to approve the absences as requested. Deb VanMatre seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

**NRCS REPORT:** Joe Krolkowski, NRCS District Conservationist, reported on the record setting year in treating resource concerns across the state of Nebraska and country (see attached).

**VARIANCE/APPEALS COMMITTEE:** Barry Obermiller, chairman, reported the committee met earlier today for a variance request from Dick Hadenfeldt of Dannebrog, NE.

The request was to allow for the approval to transfer certified irrigated acres from CPNRD to LLNRD. The committee is recommending that the request be approved per the Lower Loup NRD's subsequent approval, as it meets all our rule and regulations requirements for a transfer and is a section directly adjacent to and bordering the CPNRD.

Barry Obermiller made a motion to approve the variance request for Dick Hadenfeldt of Dannebrog, NE that would allow a transfer of certified irrigated acres from CPNRD to LLNRD, per the Lower Loup NRD's subsequent approval. The request meets all our rules and regulation requirements for a transfer and is a section directly adjacent to and bordering the CPNRD. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Barry Obermiller and Ed Stoltenberg who abstained. Motion carried.

**MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN:** Jesse Mintken, Assistant Manager, reported that our Hazard Mitigation Plan is required to be updated every five years to maintain eligibility for FEMA emergency funds. CPNRD received one proposal from JEO to update the District's Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. The cost to CPNRD will not exceed 25% of FEMA's total grant award.

Tom Downey made a motion to approve the proposal from JEO to update the District's Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan at a cost not to exceed 25% of FEMA's total grant award. Deb VanMatre seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

**BUILDING COMMITTEE:** Mick Reynolds, Chairman, reported that the committee met earlier today to discuss change order #003 which would either install rock or concrete for the 13<sup>th</sup> street office entrance to the new building. After discussion, the committee recommended moving forward with the concrete option.

Barry Obermiller made a motion to approve Change Order #003 with Rogge General Contractors, Inc. to pave the remaining section from 13<sup>th</sup> Street to the new office and

education building, with a total cost of \$432,522. Marvion Reichert seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Todd Arends, Ryan Kegley, Jerry Wiese and Mike Wilkens who voted no. Motion carried.

**BOARD OFFICER NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN:** Mick Reynolds reported for the Board Nominating Committee. He said they are recommending Deb VanMatre for chairman and Tom Downey for vice-chairman. It was stated that board officers are elected at the January board meeting.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:** Lyndon Vogt, General Manager, reported the CPNRD will receive \$76,491.79 to distribute to qualified participants in the NiRIA. To date we have received 54 applications totaling 6862 acres from 8 individuals for a total request of \$85,555. There may be the possibility to transfer funds from other areas that do not use all their funding.

UNL has published a new Neb Guide on nitrogen management and crop production this winter. We will have Richard Ferguson attend the January board meeting to review the new Nitrogen recommendations.

There will be a caucus held at CPNRD January 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:00a.m. to fill the Natural Resources Commission position. We will need a number of directors present to nominate candidates and vote in the caucus. The guideline for conducting the caucus is on Dropbox this month

**FALL GROUNDWATER LEVELS REPORT:** Luke Zakrzewski, GIS Image Analyst, reported that of the 409 wells measured between spring and fall 2024, 244 wells recorded an average decline of 2.41 feet, while 165 wells showed an average increase of 1.27 feet. The yearly comparison of groundwater levels from fall 2023 to fall 2024 showed that 119 wells experienced an average decline of 1.13 feet, while 276 wells recorded an average increase of 1.72 feet. Groundwater areas 9A and 13 continue to show declining levels and could soon reach their maximum acceptable decline triggers.

**ELECT VOTING DELEGATES FOR NARD LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE IN JANUARY:** Brian Keiser made a motion to elect Deb VanMatre as our voting delegate and Jay Richeson as our voting alternate for the NARD Legislative Conference in January. Tom Downey seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Jay Richeson and Deb VanMatre who abstained. Motion carried.

**COST SHARE PROGRAMS: Transfer & Applications -** Kelly Cole, Administrative Assistant, requested a transfer of \$10,600 from Grazing Deferral and increasing Burn Preparation and reported that we have received cost share applications for the following programs: Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation, Center Pivot, Sensor Based Management of Fertigation, Burn Preparation, Tree Planting, 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 transfer and applications as reported. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Ed Stoltenberg who abstained. Motion carried.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** The November financial report was not available at last month's board meeting because the meeting was held a week early. Lyndon Vogt, General Manager, reviewed the November financial reports.

Marvion Reichert made a motion to approve the November financial report as presented. Tom Downey seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

It was stated that the December financial report will be acted on at the January board meeting.

**NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICT:** No Report.

**NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION:** Mick Reynolds, Middle Platte Basin Representative, reported that the Commission will hold a caucus on January 13, 2025, at 11:00 at the CPNRD office to fill the Middle Platte Basin Representative seat, Reynolds did not refile for the seat.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:** Chairman Reynolds reviewed the upcoming events.

**Next Board Meeting** – Scheduled for the afternoon of Thursday, January 23. Details to follow.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None.

**ADJOURN:** Chairman Reynolds adjourned the board meeting at 3:12 p.m.

United States Department Of Agriculture



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

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

December 16, 2024

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

December Report to CPNRD

I would like to take this time to update you all on a record setting year. Attached is a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), News Release from December 4, 2024. The news release is a summary of this record setting year for NRCS in treating resource concerns across the state of Nebraska and the country. NRCS accomplished this record setting year with the hard work of their dedicated employees and partners. They used programs like the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CStP). Staff showed their dedication to conservation and teamwork to each other to overcome the many obstacles in front of them while working through this very large workload. My report this month is intended to focus on the Great Employees accomplishments, and to recognize what good partnerships can achieve.

Respectfully Submitted,

*/s/ Joe Krolikowski*

Joe Krolikowski  
District Conservationist

Attachment: USDA-NRCS Sets Record News Release



PRESS RELEASE

# Biden-Harris Administration Sets Record Investment in Private Lands Conservation in 2024 Thanks to Inflation Reduction Act

PUBLISH DATE: December 04, 2024



[Home](#) [News](#) (/news) [Biden-Harris Administration Sets Record Investment in Private Lands Con...](#)

USDA supported more than 23,000 landowners with climate-focused conservation contracts funded by the Inflation Reduction Act, covering over 11 million acres in fiscal year 2024.

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 4, 2024 – The Biden-Harris Administration today announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) supported more than 23,000 climate-focused conservation contracts funded by the Inflation Reduction Act. These investments cover over 11 million acres in fiscal year 2024,

contributing to the highest total investment in private lands conservation in any year in the history of USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The Biden-Harris Administration's Inflation Reduction Act, the largest investment in climate action in history, bolstered funding for NRCS' in-demand conservation programs for climate-smart practices on farms, ranches, and forests. NRCS also released [updated state-by-state data](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/resources/data-and-reports/rca-data-viewer) showing where financial assistance went in fiscal year 2024 for resources provided under both the Farm Bill and Inflation Reduction Act.

"This past year was another record-breaking one for America's farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners, with more conservation assistance provided than ever before," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "Producer demand for conservation assistance remains strong, and the Biden-Harris Administration continues to meet that demand by increasing capacity, streamlining programs and processes, building partnerships, and expanding opportunities to access conservation funding for America's producers."

Despite the additional Inflation Reduction Act funding, NRCS still did not fund nearly 64% of the applications received for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship (CSP) and Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) applications.

In fiscal year 2024, NRCS [made over \\$3 billion available](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/news/biden-harris-administration-makes-available-historic-3-billion-for-climate-smart-practices) from the Inflation Reduction Act for climate-smart agriculture and forestry (CSAF) mitigation activities, in addition to the \$2 billion available from the Farm Bill for all conservation activities. The agency obligated 97.6% of all available fiscal year 2024 Inflation Reduction Act conservation program financial assistance funds, or more than \$1.6 billion, to farmers, ranchers and forest landowners across America. Learn more by using the [Inflation Reduction Act Data Visualization Tool](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/resources/data-and-reports/rca-data-viewer). Further details on program enrollment in fiscal year 2024 are also available in a [fact sheet](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2024-12/NRCS%20and%20the%20Inflation%20Reduction%20Act%20Fiscal%20Year%202024.pdf) and in [NRCS Financial Assistance Program Data](https://www.farmers.gov/data/financial-assistance-overview).

This funding positively impacted farmers, ranchers and forest landowners across the nation. To highlight how meaningful this funding was to individual landowners, NRCS also released an [interactive map](https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/fd32ca8490dc4f15856c6c31fb40f82d) that shows farmers, ranchers and forest landowners across the nation who are adopting climate-smart conservation practices with funding from the Inflation Reduction Act. Importantly, these investments provide critical co-benefits for farmers and communities, including for water conservation, wildlife habitat, soil health, and more.

For example, within the \$5 billion-plus total available in fiscal year 2024, NRCS provided \$3 billion (an increase of nearly \$1 billion from fiscal year 2023 due to Inflation Reduction Act funding) in conservation investments in line with the agency's [Western Water Framework](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/natural-resource-concerns/water/western-water-and-working-lands-framework-for) to help producers and communities in the West better steward water resources and build resilience to the impacts of drought. About 40%, or \$1.2 billion, of this investment was funded by the Inflation Reduction Act, benefiting both water conservation and climate mitigation.

NRCS also continued full support for Working Lands for Wildlife (<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/working-lands-for-wildlife>) (WLFW) in fiscal year 2024, including about \$60 million to kickstart the migratory big game effort in the West and the grassland and northern bobwhite effort in the East. WLFW is NRCS's premier approach to focus science-based financial and technical assistance to deliver win-win conservation solutions that benefit both people and wildlife.

To strengthen implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act, NRCS increased staffing levels, streamlined its Regional Conservation Partnership Program (<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/rcpp-regional-conservation-partnership-program/improvements-to-the-regional>) (RCPP) and improved its ACEP program (<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/news/biden-harris-administration-makes-available-historic-3-billion-for-climate-smart-practices>), and built partnerships with organizations to expand capacity to help provide assistance to producers.

For fiscal year 2025, the third year of implementation, NRCS is making up to \$7.7 billion available (<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/news/biden-harris-administration-makes-up-to-7.7-Billion-Available>) for conservation and climate-smart practices through Farm Bill and Inflation Reduction Act funding.

A total of \$19.5 billion from the Inflation Reduction Act is available over several years for climate-smart agriculture and forestry mitigation activities, including through NRCS conservation programs: EQIP, ACEP, RCPP and CSP. These programs also help advance the President's Justice40 Initiative (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/environmentaljustice/justice40/>), which aims to ensure 40% of the overall benefits of certain climate, clean energy and other federal investments reach underserved communities.

## **More Information**

To learn more about NRCS programs, producers can contact their local USDA Service Center. (<https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator>) Producers can also apply for NRCS programs, manage conservation plans and contracts, and view and print conservation maps by logging into their farmers.gov account (<https://www.farmers.gov/account>). If you don't have an account, sign up today. (<https://www.farmers.gov/account>).

For more than 90 years, NRCS has helped farmers, ranchers, and forestland owners make investments in their operations and local communities to improve the quality of our air, water, soil, and wildlife habitat. NRCS uses the latest science and technology to help keep working lands working, boost agricultural economies, and increase the competitiveness of American agriculture. NRCS provides one-on-one, personalized advice and financial assistance and works with producers to help them reach their goals through voluntary, incentive-based conservation programs. Now, with additional funding from the Inflation Reduction Act, NRCS is working to get even more conservation practices on the ground while ensuring access to programs for all producers. For more information, visit [nrcs.usda.gov](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov) (<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>).

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. Under the Biden-Harris administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and



nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit [usda.gov](https://www.usda.gov/) (<https://www.usda.gov/>).

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**Transfer \$10,600 from Grazing Deferment to Burn Preparation**

**CENTRAL PLATTE NRD  
Cost Share  
Thursday, December 19, 2024**

<b>NEBRASKA SOIL &amp; WATER CONSERVATION COST SHARE PROGRAM....</b>		<b>\$ 10,000.00</b>
Micah Bolin – Merrick – Underground Pipeline to Pivot	\$ 5,000.00	
Jon Strong – Merrick - Underground Pipeline to Pivot	5,000.00	
<b>CENTER PIVOT INCENTIVE COST SHARE PROGRAM .....</b>		<b>\$ 7,500.00</b>
Micah Bolin – Merrick	\$ 7,500.00	
<b>SENSOR BASED MANAGEMENT OF FERTIGATION COST SHARE .....</b>		<b>\$ 3,135.00</b>
Bob Bendfeldt – Buffalo	\$ 3,135.00	
<b>BURN PREPARATION COST SHARE PROGRAM .....</b>		<b>\$ 10,000.00</b>
Phylis Broadfoot – Buffalo	\$ 10,000.00	
<b>TREE PLANTING COST SHARE PROGRAM.....</b>		<b>\$ 9,248.75</b>
Joseph Radke – Buffalo	\$ 1,928.75	
Erin Kuck – Buffalo	2,468.75	
Kelly Nasland – Buffalo	2,576.25	
Dan English – Dawson	2,025.00	
Randall Zwink – Buffalo	250.00	
<b>FLOW METER COST SHARE PROGRAM .....</b>		<b>\$ 1,600.00</b>
Micah Bolin – Merrick	\$ 800.00	
Gordon Graf – Hall	800.00	
<b>WELL DECOMMISSIONING COST SHARE PROGRAM.....</b>		<b>\$ 1,500.00</b>
Jobman Brothers LLC – Dawson	\$ 750.00	
Marilyn Denman – Hall	750.00	
<b>TOTAL .....</b>		<b>\$ 42,983.75</b>