

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD

Board Meeting Minutes

January 23, 2025

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

Excused Absences: None

Staff present: Lyndon Vogt – General Manager, Kelly Cole – Administrative Assistant, Marcia Lee – Information/Education Specialist, Jesse Mintken – Assistant Manager, Luke Zakrzewski – GIS Image Analyst, Tricia Dudley – Water Quality Specialist, Courtney Widup – Water Resources Technician, Angie Warner – GIS Programs Coordinator, R Darren Cudaback – Precision Conservation Specialist, Dean Krull – UNL/CPNRD Project Coordinator and Brandi Flyr – Hydrologist.

Others present: Joe Krolikowski – NRCS District Conservationist, Kaitlin Stouffer – Merrick County NRCS Resources Conservationist, Steve White – NTV, Dr. Richard Ferguson – UNL Professor of Agronomy & Horticulture and Matt Maloney – Precision Ag.

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 December board meeting minutes. Deb VanMatre 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: None

ELECTION OF BOARD CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN: Keith Ostermeier reviewed the subcommittee's recommendation that was reported at last month's board meeting to elect Deb VanMatre as Chairman and Tom Downey as Vice Chairman.

Chairman Reynolds asked whether there were any nominations from the floor. There were none.

Marvion Reichert made a motion that nominations close and to elect Deb VanMatre as Chairman and Tom Downey as Vice Chairman. Steve Sheen seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Tom Downey and Deb VanMatre who abstained. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE SIGNUPS: Chairman VanMatre said a signup sheet is going around for committee signups. After the board meeting, a chairman for each committee will be selected.

PRESENTATION BY DR RICHARD FERGUSON, PROFESSOR OF AGRONOMY & HORTICULTURE, UNL: Dr. Richard Ferguson presented on the UNL NebGuide new Nutrient recommendations with developments in sensor technologies and fertilizer application systems.

NRCS REPORT: Kaitlin Stouffer, Merrick County NRCS Resources Conservationist, introduced herself.

Joe Krolkowski, NRCS District Conservationist, reported on the local working group meeting coming up on March 5, 2025 (see attached).

BUILDING COMMITTEE: An updated video of the progress of the new building/education center was presented.

PROGRAMS COMMITTEE: Ryan Kegley, chairman, reported that the committee met earlier today.

The committee reviewed an Outdoor Classroom application from Grand Island Senior High Environmental Club. They would like to revitalize the school's outdoor classroom by adding a pollinator garden. They are requesting \$500.

Ryan Kegley made a motion to approve the Outdoor Classroom application in the amount of \$500 for Grand Island Senior High School Environmental Club. Jay Richeson seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

The committee reviewed the 1-year Dawson County Land Lease with Tyler Kugler in the amount of \$18,875 for the 2025 growing season. This is a dryland lease for the ground the Central Platte NRD owns in Dawson County.

Ryan Kegley made a motion to approve the Dawson County Land Lease with Tyler Kugler in the amount of \$18,875 for the 2025 growing season. Doug Reeves seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

Kegley reported that the committee reviewed the Prescribed Fire Cost Share Program, but no action was taken.

WESTERN PROJECTS COMMITTEE: Lon Bohn, chairman, reported that the committee reviewed a potential hazard mitigation purchase in Buffalo County. After some discussion the committee decided not to move forward. No action was taken.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Lyndon Vogt, General Manager, reported that Central Platte NRD has received applications for the Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Program (NiRIA) totaling just under \$390,000. Central Platte NRD currently is only allocated \$78,000 for the program. The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has allocated \$1 million for the program but with all the applications received statewide, they are currently looking for additional funding for the program.

Vogt reported that interviews were done for a new Cozad Ditch Rider. An offer has been extended to a qualified applicant.

Vogt reported on three Legislative Bills introduced this session. LB 673 would take \$500 million from the Perkins County Canal and put it into the Water Sustainability Fund. LB 674 would put \$250 million in the general fund and \$250 million in the Water Sustainability Fund. LB 344 addresses municipal growth.

Vogt reported that three WaterSmart grants from the Bureau of Reclamation have all been awarded.

VIOLATION REPORT: Luke Zakrzewski, GIS Image Analyst, reported 25 violations were found that totaled 167.14 acres. The smallest was 0.64 acres and the largest was 39.9 acres. Letters will be mailed in February to violators.

PRECISION CONSERVATION REPORT: R Darren Cudaback, Precision Conservation Specialist, gave a report on his job duties. He reported that he currently has 95% of the Frito Lay growers enrolled in their programs, which covers approximately 137,000 acres. In 2024 over \$1 million was paid out to support conservation efforts to those Frito Lay producers.

COST SHARE PROGRAMS: Transfer & Applications - Kelly Cole, Administrative Assistant, requested a transfer of \$25,000 from Grazing Deferment, \$14,600 from Flow Meter and \$5,000 from Phragmites Control and increasing Burn Preparation by \$39,600, Prescribed Fire by \$2,500 and Trees by \$2,500 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, Grazing Deferment and Prescribed Burn (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. Tom Downey seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Lyndon Vogt, General Manager, reviewed the December and January financial reports.

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

NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICT: Deb VanMatre, NARD Board Member, reminded everyone that the Legislative Conference is next week in Lincoln.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION: Doug Reeves, Middle Platte Basin Representative, reported that their next meeting will be February 19, 2025.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Chairman VanMatre reviewed the upcoming events.

Next Board Meeting – Scheduled for the afternoon of Thursday, February 20. Details to follow.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

ADJOURN: Chairman VanMatre adjourned the board meeting at 2:54 p.m.

United States Department Of Agriculture



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>

January 16, 2025

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

January Report to CPNRD

I would like to take this time to update the Central Platte NRD Board and NRD staff on the upcoming Local Working Group Meeting. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Central Platte NRD met and now have their FY 2026 meeting planned. The meeting will be held March 5, 2025, at 9:30am – 12:00pm at the Central Platte NRD Board Room at 215 Kaufman Ave, Grand Island, NE 68803.

These Local Working Groups help provide advice on the priorities for many U.S. Department of Agriculture conservation programs.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Joe Krolikowski

Joe Krolikowski
District Conservationist

Attachments: Attachment A News Release

Helping People Help the Land
USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



News Release

USDA/NRCS
703 S Webb Rd., Suite B
Grand Island, NE 68803

Contact:
Joe Krolikowski
308-395-8586 Ext. 3
Joe.krolikowski@usda.gov

Local Working Group Meetings Planned

Local meetings open to individuals interested in setting natural resources goals for Nebraska.

Grand Island, NE, November 2024 - A Local Working Group that provides advice on the priorities for many U.S. Department of Agriculture conservation programs will meet March 5, 2025 at 9:30am – 12:00pm at the Central Platte NRD Board Room at 215 Kaufman Ave, Grand Island, NE 68803. Contact the Grand Island NRCS field office @ 308-395-8586 Ext.3 for further details.

The public is encouraged to attend and express their natural resource concerns. Ideas generated from the public will help the U.S. Department of Agriculture tailor their natural resource programs to meet the needs identified locally.

There is a Local Working Group in each Natural Resources District (NRD). Membership on the Local Working Group includes Federal, State, county, Tribal or local government representatives according to Krolikowski, district conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) whose agency guides the Local Working Group.

“The Local Working Group recommends to the NRCS State Conservationist how conservation programs like the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), or Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) would be used most effectively in their area. This recommendation can include special target areas, cost share rates on conservation programs, which conservation practices should have cost assistance, or how many dollars could be needed,” said Krolikowski. This work group allows local input into how Federal dollars are spent, he said.

Typically, Nebraska NRCS obligates anywhere between \$45 million to over \$75 million dollars to farmers and ranchers statewide through NRCS conservation programs. These programs helped landowners and operators

make natural resource improvements to their land, water, or wildlife. This funding was allocated according to the priorities set by the Local Working Group.

For more information about the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the programs and services they provide, contact your local USDA Service Center or www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov.

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Transfer \$25,000 from Grazing Deferment, \$14,600 from Flow Meter & \$5,000 from Phragmites Control and put \$39,600 to Burn Preparation, \$2,500 to Prescribed Fire and \$2,500 to Trees.

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD
Cost Share
Thursday, January 23, 2025

NEBRASKA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COST SHARE PROGRAM....		\$ 14,830.00
Kent Hueftle – Dawson – Brush Management	\$ 10,000.00	
Daniel Baker – Merrick – Underground pipeline to pivot	4,830.00	
 SENSOR BASED MANAGEMENT OF FERTIGATION COST SHARE		\$ 1,518.00
Keith Stafford – Buffalo	\$ 1,518.00	
 BURN PREPARATION COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$ 39,600.00
Griffith Farms Inc. – Hamilton	\$ 9,600.00	
Maynard Struempfer – Custer	10,000.00	
Stacey Stockdill – Dawson	10,000.00	
Stallbaumer Agribusiness, Inc. – Custer	10,000.00	
 TREE PLANTING COST SHARE PROGRAM.....		\$ 2,942.50
Todd Bogner – Hall	\$ 2,942.50	
 FLOW METER COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$ 800.00
Buettner Family Farms - Hall	\$ 800.00	
 GRAZING DEFERMENT COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$ 3,840.00
Griffith Farms Inc. – Hamilton	\$ 3,840.00	
 PRESCRIBED BURN COST SHARE PROGRAM		\$ 5,000.00
Kent Hueftle – Dawson	\$ 2,500.00	
Stacey Stockdill – Dawson	2,500.00	
 TOTAL		\$ 68,530.50