

## **CENTRAL PLATTE NRD**

### **Board Meeting Minutes**

March 27, 2025

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Deb VanMatre called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. She 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:

Tom Downey	Keith Ostermeier	Steve Sheen
Ryan Kegley	Doug Reeves	John Stoltenberg
Brian Keiser	Marvion Reichert	Deb VanMatre
Dwayne Margritz	Mick Reynolds	Kevin Werner
Charles Maser	Jay Richeson	Mike Wilkens

Excused Absences: Todd Arends, Lon Bohn, Jerry Milner, Barry Obermiller and Ed Stoltenberg

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, Brandi Flyr – Hydrologist, Brody Vorderstrasse – Communications Assistant, Shane Max – Resources Conservationist and Nelson Winkel – Prescribed Fire Planning Specialist.

Others present: Joe Krolikowski – District Conservationist, Jason Scholz – Hall County Resources Conservationist and Matt McGuire – Landowner

**MEETING NOTICES:** Chairman VanMatre 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 February board meeting minutes. Dwayne Margritz seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Brian Keiser who abstained. Motion carried.

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

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

**PUBLIC FORUM:** Chairman VanMatre asked if anyone wanted to address the board on any item not included on the agenda.

Matt McGuire, PO Box 143, Kenesaw NE spoke about how he is still against the new building that CPNRD is building.

**EXCUSED ABSENCES:** Chairman VanMatre reported that Todd Arends, Lon Bohn, Jerry Milner, Barry Obermiller and Ed Stoltenberg requested to be excused from the board meeting.

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

**NRCS REPORTS:** Jason Schultz, Hall County Resources Conservationist, reported on programs going on in the Grand Island Field Office (see attached).

Joe Krolikowski, District Conservationist, reported on the FY 2026 local working group (see attached).

**BOARD NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** Keith Ostermeier, chairman, reported that the committee interviewed some potential candidates for sub-district #9. After some discussion the committee is recommending Mrs. Amy Kyes to fill the sub-district #9 seat on the board. Her term will expire December 2026.

Keith Ostermeier made the motion to appoint Amy Kyes of Central City to sub-district #9 seat on the Central Platte NRD board of directors. Doug Reeves seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor. Motion carried.

**VARIANCE/APPEALS COMMITTEE:** Mick Reynolds said the Variance and Appeals Committee meet earlier today for a variance request from Terry Hadwiger of Riverdale, NE.

The request was to allow the transfer of certified irrigated acres from the Platte Basin of Influence to the Loup Basin of Influence within the CPNRD. The committee is recommending that the request be denied because CPNRD rules prohibit transfers between Basins of Influence.

Mick Reynolds made the motion to deny the variance request from Terry Hadwiger of Riverdale, NE which was to allow the transfer of certified irrigated acres from the Platte Basin of Influence to the Loup Basin of Influence within the CPNRD. CPNRD rules prohibit transfers between Basins of Influence. Keith Ostermeier seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote, were in favor except Tom Downey and Marvion Reichert who voted No. Motion carried.

**BUILDING COMMITTEE:** Mick Reynolds reported that the building committee took a tour of the building site and encouraged anyone that wants a tour to visit with Lyndon

or Jesse.

**PROGRAMS COMMITTEE:** Kevin Werner, chairman, reported that the committee meet earlier today.

Werner reported that currently our Prescribed Fire Cost Share program is 50% of actual costs not to exceed a lifetime limit of \$2,500. The committee is recommending changing the program to 50% of the actual cost not to exceed \$2,500 per landowner, per year effective July 1, 2025.

Kevin Werner made the motion to change the Prescribed Fire Cost Share program to 50% of actual costs not to exceed \$2,500 per landowner, per year effective July 1, 2025. Keith Ostermeier seconded the motion. All board members present, voting by roll call vote were in favor. Motion carried.

Werner reported that the committee reviewed the 2025/2026 Cost Share Budget and 2025/2026 Information/Education Budget. The committee recommended moving the budgets to the budget committee.

**WATER UTILIZATION COMMITTEE:** Brian Keiser, chairman, reported that committee discussed water availability for a proposed project located in the over appropriated area. No action is needed.

**VIOLATION REPORT:** Luke Zakrzewski, GIS Image Analyst, reported that he has been in contact with 24 of the 25 violators and is working on resolving the violation. The violators have until March 28, 2025, to contact Luke.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:** Lyndon Vogt, General Manager, reported that all Legislative Information is located on Drop Box with weekly updates in the Legislation folder.

Vogt also reported on the Hall County FSA office. The Hall County FSA office, due to recent staff transitions and to maximize the remaining available staff resources, is adjusting the services available in Grand Island.

**STAFF REPORTS:** Kelly Cole, Administrative Assistant, Nelson Winkel, Prescribed Fire Planning Specialist and Shane Max, Resources Conservationist, presented to the board on what their job duties are.

**COST SHARE PROGRAMS: Transfer & Applications -** Kelly Cole, Administrative Assistant, requested a transfer of \$4,500 from Streambank Stabilization and \$8,000 from Grazing Deferment to increase Trees by \$3,500 and Cover Crop by \$9,000, 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, Cover Crop, Tree Planting, 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. 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 February and March financial reports.

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

Marvion Reichert made a motion to approve the March financial report as presented. Mick Reynolds 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 that award nominations are due by May 1 for the Hall of Fame, Director of the Year and the Conservation awards. If you have any recommendations talk with Marcia Lee.

NARD reviewed their preliminary budget. Dues may increase more if grants are not received.

Reminder that the NARD Basin Tour will be June 9-10, if interested in attending contact Kelly Cole.

**NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION:** Doug Reeves, Middle Platte Basin Representative, reported their next meeting will be April 9<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Next Board Meeting** – Scheduled for the afternoon of Thursday, April 24. Details to follow.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** There was none.

**ADJOURN:** Chairman VanMatre adjourned the board meeting at 2:58 p.m.



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

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

March 24, 2025

Central Platte NRD  
215 N. Kaufman Ave.  
Grand Island, NE 68803

**March Report to CPNRD**

To the Central Platte NRD board and staff, please accept this report from the Grand Island Field Office for the March board meeting.

**EQIP**

- Working through first round pre-approvals
- Completing prior year contract check outs (Pivot/SDI/Cover crop/etc.)

**CSP**

- Spring producer meetings (nutrient budgets, pesticide mitigations, grazing plans, etc.)
- Working through submitted applications to get ready to rank, ranking deadline is April 18th
- Deadline to apply for CSP renewals is June 20<sup>th</sup>.

**CRP**

- Reviewing stages of contracts for site visits for establishment, MCM, and review for renewal of expiring contracts.

**RCPP**

- Development and obligation of preapproved contracts.
- Projects for cover crops, irrigation system conversions and forestry practices.

**Upcoming**

- Annual NFSAM status reviews for HEL/Wetland compliance
- EQIP/RCPP/CSP contracting potential.
- Application cutoff time periods are typically in the fall, applications taken year-round.
- Irrigation design reviews and checkouts for cost shared irrigation systems.
- Children's Groundwater Festival (May).

Respectfully Submitted,

*/s/ Jason Scholz*

Jason Scholz  
Resource Conservationist  
Grand Island Field Office



United States Department Of Agriculture



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Grand Island Field Office  
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March 24, 2025

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

March Report to CPNRD

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Central Platte NRD recently held their FY2026 Local Working Group (LWG) meeting. The Local Working Group recommends to the NRCS State Conservationist how conservation programs like the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) would be used most effectively in their area. The local work group does this by evaluating and prioritizing the resource concerns through their Natural Resource District. These recommendations can include special target areas, cost share rates, which conservation practices should have cost share assistance, or how many dollars could be needed. This work group allows local input into how Federal dollars are spent in their area and across the state. I have listed below some of the LWG findings and recommendations from this year's meeting.

- After reviewing the resource concern list, the working group again confirmed our top 5 high priority resource concerns. Which matched our past list and our current cost share funding pools available to producers in the Central Platte. The recommendation was to continue with all the current funding pools available. We all feel the existing ranking pools are meeting the priority resource concerns of our NRD.
- We also reviewed our current practice payment schedule; this shows the cost share rates available to producers in the Central Platte. We discussed the payment rates, adding, removing, or editing any existing scenarios, and if practice payment caps are recommended.
- Demand for financial assistance has remained high relative to available funds, so the recommendation was to keep all cost share scenarios but review the bills we collected and submit adjustments to the cost share rates on commonly used practices, and to use cost share payment caps. The intent of these gradual adjustments in some payment rates will help to provide more access to the available funds.

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- We also reviewed how available funds are being allocated between the different funding pools both state and local, to ensure a good balance exists to address the current resource concerns. This was done much like I do at the September Board meeting with all of you, when we review contracts, practices, and the acres treated across the Central Platte NRD boundary.
- Lastly, we reviewed the preferred application cut-off date for all the applicable ranking pools that are utilized in the LWG area. After discussion and review it was agreed that the Mid November application cut-off date currently being used is working well and should be continued.

In conclusion, the Local Work Group has reviewed and discussed the local priorities within our Natural Resources Districts, and agree we are still doing a good job of addressing the priority resource concerns with the tools in place. It was also discussed that as NRCS staff we are still working through changes and/or new programs that have come with the farm bill, RCPP, or with the IRA program. We are also still working through the uncertainties and issues as they come up with the new ranking tool that was released in 2020. This new tool is called the Conservation Assessment & Ranking Tool (CART).

Respectfully Submitted,

*/s/ Joe Krolikowski*

Joe Krolikowski  
District Conservationist



Transfer \$4,500 from Streambank Stabilization and \$8,000 from Grazing Deferment and put \$3,500 to Trees and \$9,000 to Cover Crop

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD  
Cost Share  
Thursday, March 27, 2025

NEBRASKA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COST SHARE PROGRAM...	\$	8,040.00
Frank L Meier – Dawson – Planned Grazing	\$	5,547.50
Dean L Smith – Buffalo – Planned Grazing		2,492.50
SENSOR BASED MANAGEMENT OF FERTIGATION COST SHARE .....	\$	1,364.00
Nick Herbig – Merrick	\$	1,364.00
COVER CROP COST SHARE PROGRAM .....	\$	10,000.00
Thomas L Hartman – Hall	\$	2,000.00
Dustin Loeffelholz – Buffalo		2,000.00
Rex Peterson – Buffalo		2,000.00
RGF Farms Inc. – Buffalo		2,000.00
H&H Fields Inc. – Buffalo		2,000.00
TREE PLANTING COST SHARE PROGRAM .....	\$	3,502.50
Cindy Miller – Hall	\$	2,902.50
Sam Wilgocki – Merrick		600.00
WELL DECOMMISSIONING COST SHARE PROGRAM .....	\$	750.00
Timothy Maline – Dawson	\$	750.00
TOTAL .....	\$	23,656.50