

MINUTES OF
THE NEBRASKA PLATTE-REPUBLICAN CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP)
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

FEBRUARY 26, 2020

The CREP Steering Committee met at 1:00 p.m. on February 26, 2016, in the conference room of the Craft State Office Building in North Platte, Nebraska, following public notice given as required by the Open Meetings Act and the By-Laws of the Committee. The Agenda (See Attachment A) for this meeting included the following topics:

- Introduction of Attendees
- Official Roll Call
- Changes to the CREP Program with 2018 Farm Bill
- Discuss Changing CREP Steering Committee By-Laws
- Discuss need for sharing CREP data with NRDs
- Contracts due to expire September 30, 2020

Twenty-one voting CREP Steering Committee members were present. They were: Barb Cross (Acting for John Berge), North Platte Natural Resources District; Glen Bowers, Twin Platte Natural Resources District; Brad Edgerton, Frenchman-Cambridge Irrigation District; Curt Inbody (Acting for Jeff Fassett), Nebraska Department of Natural Resources; Susan France, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources; Jana Ingwerson-Laws, United States Farm Service Agency; Doug Klein, United States Farm Service Agency; Dillon Breinig, United States Farm Service Agency; Lavaine Moore, United States Farm Service Agency; Craig Romary, Nebraska Department of Agriculture; Kent Zimmerman (Acting for Emily Rose), Nebraska Department of Natural Resources; Colt Livingston (Acting for Jack Russell), Middle Republican Natural Resources District; Todd Siel, Lower Republican Natural Resources District; Dennis Strauch, Pathfinder Irrigation District; Mike Thompson, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources; John Thorburn, Tri-Basin Natural Resources District; Elbert Traylor, Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy; Tyler Thulin (Acting for Marcia Trompke), The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District; Andrew Houser (Acting for Kelsi Wehrman), Pheasants Forever; Dustin Wilcox, Nebraska Association of Resources Districts; and, Eric Zach, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. Eric Kamler, Congressman Adrian Smith's non-voting representative was also present. (See proxy letters Attachment B.)

Committee members not present were: Jordan Dux, Nebraska Farm Bureau; Jasper Fanning, Upper Republican Natural Resources District; Rod Horn, South Platte Natural Resources District; Keith Koupal, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission; Jesse Mintken, Central Platte Natural Resources District; Ritch Nelson, United States Natural Resources Conservation Service; Tracy Smith, Bostwick Irrigation District; and, Randy Zach, Nebraska Public Power District.

Non-member present was: Adam Kester, Game and Parks Commission

Lavaine Moore discussed issues related to the 2018 Farm Bill. The rental rates for CREP will remain the same at 100 percent. Signing Incentive Payments (SIP) remain at \$15 or \$10 depending on the practice times the number of acres enrolled times the ten years. Practice Incentive Payments remain the same at

40 percent. The Farm Service Agency and the Department of Natural Resources can no longer pay mid-contract management for contracts signed up under the 2018 Farm Bill. Eric Zach questioned whether Nebraska Department of Natural Resources can continue to pay if they so choose. Lavaine stated that the guidance from the FSA's national office is that neither entity can pay mid-contract management.

Lavaine and Mike Thompson discussed a situation that arose regarding how much dry-land pivot corners and adjoining non irrigated tracts can be signed up and how are they measured. An example of the proposal that started this conversation was shown to attendees. See Attachment C. The discussion included the reminder that the purpose of this CREP is to reduce irrigation and so that money spent on dry-land acres reduces what is available for irrigated acres. Dillon Breinig discussed how having the ability to include a few non-irrigated acres that may be outside of what is determined to be a pivot corner may mean the difference between getting an offer from a producer and not. Susan France stated that the decision by the Department not to include additional dry-land acres that were not pivot corners was based on the current Memorandum of Agreement for the CREP which states that the non-irrigated land must be a center-pivot corner enrolled with the adjacent irrigated center-pivot cropland acres. The Department and the Farm Service Agency will continue to discuss this and if it is determined that the MOA should be amended, it will be brought before the Committee.

Mike Thompson introduced proposed changes to the current By-Laws of the Committee. See Attachment D. Mike explained that when the program started and the By-Laws were written, there were lots of things to discuss because the program was new and issues arose, but once the program was established there really was no need for two meetings a year. Therefore, the draft changes the two-meetings a year requirement to having meetings only when a Committee member believes there is an issue that needs to be discussed. Mike also explained that at the end of the last Committee meeting, we added Brad Edgerton as a member based upon a motion to fill what was believed to be an empty slot under the Agriculture Group. However, upon further examination, it was later determined that there were already five members under that group because we had four members representing irrigation districts and one member representing Nebraska Farm Bureau. Therefore, we are recommending adding one member to that group. Elbert Traylor questioned why we recommended removing the allowance of a video-conference meeting. Susan France explained that under the open meetings act there are a number of requirements for conducting a video-conference meeting and that it is easier with our allowance of having alternates to just be sure we have a quorum at a regular meeting. A motion was made by Elbert Traylor and seconded by John Thorburn to accept the proposed amendments to the By-Laws. The vote was unanimous to amend. As stated within the By-Laws themselves, to change the By-Laws, we needed a vote of two-thirds of the voters present and we needed them to sign. All present voting members signed a clean copy of the amended By-Laws and they are therefore effective as of February 26, 2020. See Attachment E.

Mike Thompson and Lavaine Moore then talked about how the two agencies are in discussion regarding how to go about getting agreement from the federal government so that the Department of Natural Resources can release information to the natural resources districts within the CREP boundaries that specifically shows the location, ownership, and term of CREP contracts within their districts. Susan France explained that one of the reasons this was needed was because the Department's GIS database included not only CREP, but permanent EQIP acres, and acres that had been temporarily or permanently retired through contracts by the local natural resources districts. As districts go out and contract, twice they have contracted for retirement of land that was already retired through a CREP contract. Therefore, having the

ability to provide specific information to the NRD's, who manage groundwater, of what lands are not to be irrigated, and what lands are already under contract for retirement of irrigation is necessary for several reasons. Brad Edgerton then asked that the irrigation districts (which would include canal companies and public power and irrigation districts) also need such information because they have the authority to transfer acres within their districts and there is the potential that the district might transfer water off lands that are under CREP contracts. Doug Klein stated that the Department and the FSA would continue to work on this and find out if there is a way to accomplish what is being requested.

The Department handed out a summary of CREP contracts that are due to expire this September 30. See Attachment F. There are approximately 28,000 acres of the current 44,000 contracted acres due to expire this year. Lavaine Moore stated that people are already working with the local FSA offices to prepare re-enrollment contracts. Lavaine said that contracts can be entered six months prior to the expiration date. FSA wants to have all re-enrollments in their system by August 21, 2020. Mike Thompson stated that the Department would send out letters to all producers whose contracts are due to expire asking that they consider re-enrollment. Eric Zach then asked if the Department could include in the letter information on possible incentives that the Game and Parks Commission has in certain areas that would be applicable to CREP. Mike and Eric will work on this.

Susan France, who is retiring at the end of February, thanked all present for all the help they and their staff have given her during the time she was the Department's CREP coordinator. The group expressed their appreciation for Susan's dedication to the program and wished her well in her retirement.

Dustin Wilcox made a motion to end the meeting.

CREP STEERING COMMITTEE AGENDA

FEBRUARY 26,2020

1:00 P.M., Room 045 Craft State Office Building, North Platte, Nebraska

1. Introductions
2. Official Roll Call
3. Changes to the CREP Program with 2018 Farm Bill – FSA
 - a. Soil Rental Rates (SRR)
 - b. Signing Incentive Payments (SIP)
 - c. Practice Incentive Payments (PIP_
 - d. Acreage limitation (When Offer includes Dryland) (Dryland Corners)
4. Discuss Changing CREP Steering Committee By-Laws
5. Discuss need for sharing CREP data with NRDs – DNR
6. Contracts due to expire September 30, 2020 – DNR

See Two attachments:

From: Colt Livingston <clivingston@mnrnd.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2020 13:15
To: Beall, Lenny
Subject: FW: CREP Steering Committee Meeting Announcement & Attendance Request- February 26, 2020 in North Platte
Attachments: CREP STEERING COMMITTEE AGENDA.docx

For Colt

Colt Livingston
Groundwater Programs Specialist
Middle Republican NRD
clivingston@mnrnd.org

From: Jack Russell <jrussell@mnrnd.org>
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2020 12:25 PM
To: Colt Livingston <clivingston@mnrnd.org>
Subject: FW: CREP Steering Committee Meeting Announcement & Attendance Request- February 26, 2020 in North Platte

From: Thompson, Mike <mike.thompson@nebraska.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 10:24 AM
To: doug.klein@ne.usda.gov; lavaine.moore@ne.usda.gov; Jana.IngwersonLaws@usda.gov; Ritch.Nelson@ne.usda.gov; Fassett, Jeff <jeff.fassett@nebraska.gov>; Thompson, Mike <mike.thompson@nebraska.gov>; France, Susan <susan.france@nebraska.gov>; Rose, Emily <Emily.Rose@nebraska.gov>; Traylor, Elbert <elbert.traylor@nebraska.gov>; Zach, Eric <eric.zach@nebraska.gov>; Koupal, Keith <keith.koupal@nebraska.gov>; Romary, Craig <craig.romary@nebraska.gov>; JordanD@nefb.org; Jack Russell <jrussell@mnrnd.org>; mintken@cpnrd.org; tsiel@lnrd.org; dwilcox@nrdnet.org; jthorburn@tribasinrd.org; Horn, Rod <rlhorn@spnrd.org>; jberge@npnrd.org; gowers@tpnrd.org; jasperfanning@urnrd.org; mtrompke@cnppid.com; rrzach@nppd.com; dennis@pathfinderirrigation.com; bostwick@gpcom.net; bradley.edgerton@gmail.com; kwehrman@pheasantsforever.org; jena.hoehne@mail.house.gov; Eric.Kamler@Mail.House.Gov; Craig_Berning@fischer.senate.gov; lauralee_burkett@fischer.senate.gov; ginger_willson@sasse.senate.gov; Wolff, Cheryl <cheryl.wolff@nebraska.gov>; csteinke@cnppid.com; komiller@tpnrd.org; schaneman@npnrd.org; Lynch, Carie <clynch@tribasinrd.org>
Cc: Inbody, Curt <curt.inbody@nebraska.gov>; Gower, Laurie <laurie.gower@nebraska.gov>
Subject: CREP Steering Committee Meeting Announcement & Attendance Request- February 26, 2020 in North Platte

Greetings,

This note is being sent to currently listed steering committee members and possible alternates for the Platte – Republican Resources Area Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) in Nebraska. The meeting will be held at 1:00 P.M., Room 045 Craft State Office Building, North Platte, Nebraska. Attached is the agenda. At this point in time, we have commitment from enough voting members to have a quorum, but not a comfortable number have committed. If at all possible, please send alternates if you will not be attending. You would need to send them with a signed letter designating them as your alternate or send me an e-mail indicating who your alternate will be.

If any of you need to add a topic for the meeting to the agenda, please respond to me with your additional topic by the close of business on Monday, February 24th.

Thank you all for your continued support for this important program. I look forward to seeing many of you in North Platte on the 26th.

Here is the URL to the public notice posting on the NeDNR website:

<https://dnr.nebraska.gov/sites/dnr.nebraska.gov/files/doc/surface-water/crep/SteeringCommittee/CREP%20STEERING%20COMMITTEE%20AGENDA%20Feb%2026%2C%202020.pdf>

The public notice on our website will be found here:

<https://dnr.nebraska.gov/calendar/event/notice-crep-steering-committee-meeting>

Sincerely,

Mike Thompson

Mike Thompson, C.L.L.

DIVISION MANAGER | PERMITS & REGISTRATIONS

Nebraska Department of Natural Resources

301 Centennial Mall South

P.O. Box 94676

Lincoln, Nebraska 68509

OFFICE 402-471-2363 / FAX 402-471-2900

Mike.Thompson@nebraska.gov

dnr.nebraska.gov

Beall, Lenny

From: Cory Steinke <csteinke@cnppid.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2020 13:11
To: Beall, Lenny
Subject: CREP Alternate

Lenny, Tyler Thulin will be CNPPID's CREP alternated today for Marcia Trompke. He will be our voting participant today.

Cory Steinke
Hydraulic Project Operations Manager

NORTH PLATTE

Natural Resources District

Chimney Rock
on the Oregon Trail

P.O. Box 280 • 100547 Airport Rd. • Scottsbluff, NE 69363-0280 • Phone: 308 632-2749 • Fax: 308 632-4346

February 26, 2020

To whom it may concern:

Barb Cross, Assistant Manager for the North Platte NRD, will be my alternate for the CREP Steering Committee meeting on February 26, 2020.



John Berge
General Manager

Thompson, Mike

From: Kelsi Wehrman <KWehrman@pheasantsforever.org>
Sent: Sunday, February 23, 2020 3:33 PM
To: Thompson, Mike
Subject: RE: CREP Steering Committee Meeting Announcement & Attendance Request- February 26, 2020 in North Platte

Hi Mike,

Andrew Houser will be attending the meeting on behalf of Pheasants Forever as a voting member as I am unable to attend. Please let me know if you need anything else.

Thanks!

Kelsi Wehrman | State Coordinator

Pheasants Forever, Inc. and Quail Forever | PO Box 146 | Nelson, NE 68961
(402)621-0744 | kwehrman@pheasantsforever.org

www.NebraskaPF.com ♦ www.PheasantsForever.org ♦ www.QuailForever.org



Nebraska Pheasants Forever is on Facebook! Like us to get weekly updates & stories!

Mark your calendar for Nebraska's State Habitat Meeting in Kearney, February 1, 2020!

From: Thompson, Mike <mike.thompson@nebraska.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 10:24 AM
To: doug.klein@ne.usda.gov; lavaine.moore@ne.usda.gov; Jana.IngwersonLaws@usda.gov; Ritch.Nelson@ne.usda.gov; Fassett, Jeff <jeff.fassett@nebraska.gov>; Thompson, Mike <mike.thompson@nebraska.gov>; France, Susan <susan.france@nebraska.gov>; Rose, Emily <Emily.Rose@nebraska.gov>; Traylor, Elbert <elbert.traylor@nebraska.gov>; Zach, Eric <eric.zach@nebraska.gov>; Koupal, Keith <keith.koupal@nebraska.gov>; Romary, Craig <craig.romary@nebraska.gov>; JordanD@nefb.org; jrussell@mnrnd.org; mintken@cpnrnd.org; tsiel@lnrd.org; dwilcox@nrdnet.org; jthorburn@tribasinrd.org; Horn, Rod <rlhorn@spnrnd.org>; jberge@nprnd.org; gbowers@tpnrnd.org; jasperfanning@urnrd.org; mtrompke@cnppid.com; rrzach@nppd.com; dennis@pathfinderirrigation.com; bostwick@gpcom.net; bradley.edgerton@gmail.com; Kelsi Wehrman <KWehrman@pheasantsforever.org>; jena.hoehne@mail.house.gov; Eric.Kamler@Mail.House.Gov; Craig_Berning@fischer.senate.gov; lauralee_burkett@fischer.senate.gov; ginger_willson@sasse.senate.gov; Wolff, Cheryl <cheryl.wolff@nebraska.gov>; csteinke@cnppid.com; komiller@tpnrnd.org; schaneman@nprnd.org; Lynch, Carie <clynch@tribasinrd.org>
Cc: Inbody, Curt <curt.inbody@nebraska.gov>; Gower, Laurie <laurie.gower@nebraska.gov>
Subject: CREP Steering Committee Meeting Announcement & Attendance Request- February 26, 2020 in North Platte

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Sincerely,

Mike Thompson

Mike Thompson, C.L.L.

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P.O. Box 94676

Lincoln, Nebraska 68509

OFFICE 402-471-2363 / FAX 402-471-2900

Mike.Thompson@nebraska.gov

dnr.nebraska.gov

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Water.

DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

February 25, 2020

From: Jeff Fassett

To: Mike Thompson

RE: CREP Steering Committee Meeting of February 26, 2020



Pete Ricketts, Governor

I hereby appoint Curt Inbody to act in my place at the February 26, 2020, CREP Steering Committee Meeting.

Gordon W. "Jeff" Fassett, P.E.

Gordon W. "Jeff" Fassett, P.E., Director

Department of Natural Resources

301 Centennial Mall South
P.O. Box 94676
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509

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FAX 402-471-2900

dnr.nebraska.gov

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Water.

DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

February 25, 2020

From: Emily Rose

To: Mike Thompson

RE: CREP Steering Committee Meeting of February 26, 2020



Pete Ricketts, Governor

I hereby appoint Kent Zimmerman to act in my place at the February 26, 2020, CREP Steering Committee Meeting.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Emily Rose".

Emily Rose

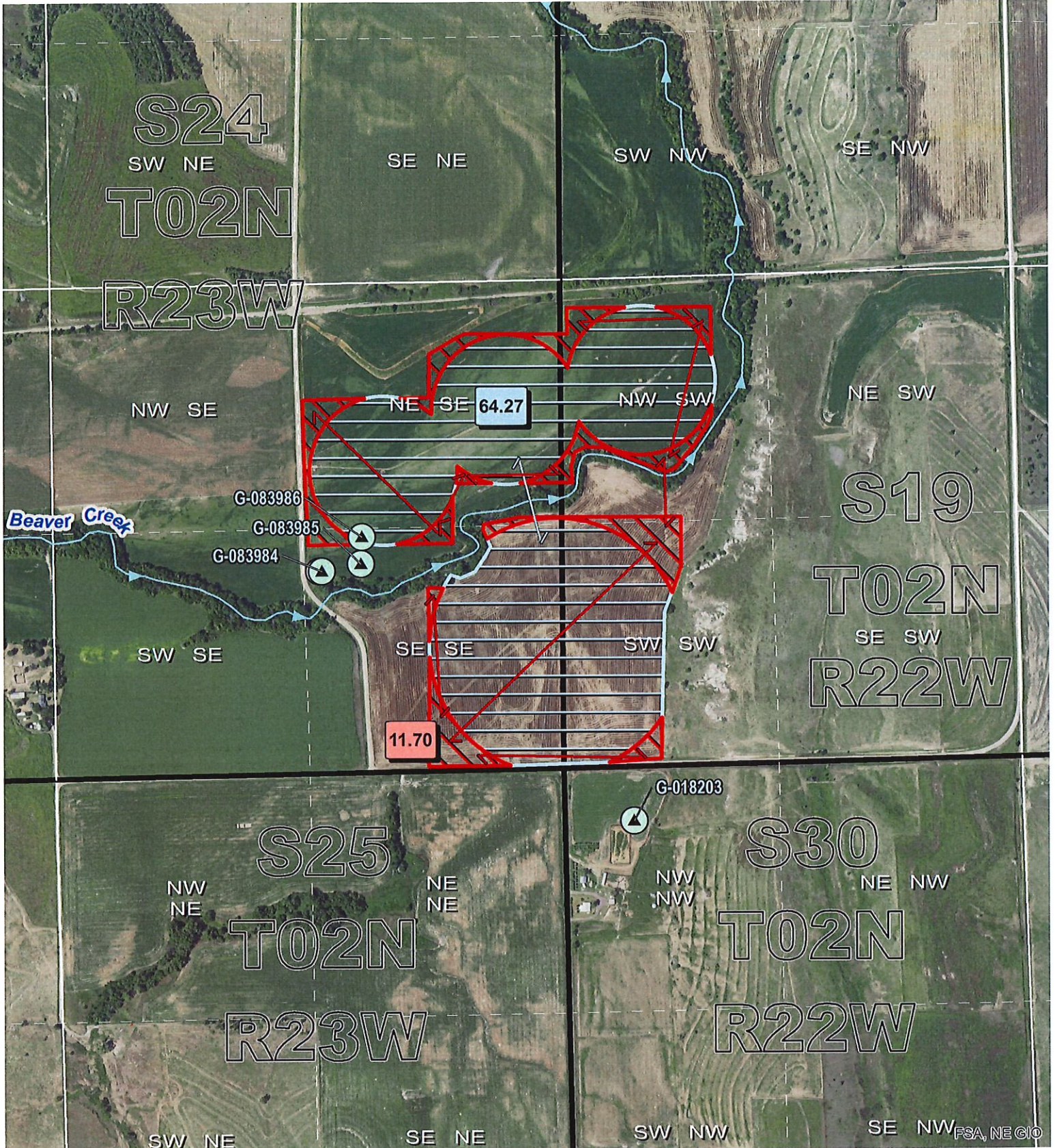
Gordon W. "Jeff" Fassett, P.E., Director

Department of Natural Resources

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P.O. Box 94676
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509

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CREP Contract # 1113

Attachment "c"

Aerial Photo

2016 aerial photography

ScanID: 1755438

Date: 9/12/2018



CREP



Comingled



Surface water



Groundwater



Non-Irrigated



Unknown



Ground Water Well



OPERATING BY-LAWS
FOR
THE NEBRASKA PLATTE-REPUBLICAN CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM
(CREP)
STEERING COMMITTEE

~~NOVEMBER 2009~~ February 2020

PURPOSE

The Nebraska Platte-Republican Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Steering Committee (Committee) is formed to meet the requirements of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the State of Nebraska and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA, Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) to implement the Nebraska Platte-Republican Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. The Steering Committee is to advise the Nebraska Governor's office on the implementation of this CREP.

STRUCTURE AND COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

The MOA currently states that the Steering Committee "will include representatives from the State technical Committee, FSA, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Nebraska Department of Agriculture, NRCS, agriculture and conservation groups and local governments." The following organizations shall be recognized as voting members of the Committee:

FSA:	4 Members
Nebraska Department of Natural Resources:	4 Members
Natural Resources Conservation Service:	2 Members
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission:	2 Members
Nebraska Department of Agriculture:	1 Member
Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality <u>Environment and Energy</u> :	1 Member
Agriculture Groups (Includes Irrigation And Power Groups):	5-6 Members
Conservation Groups:	1 Member
Local Governments:	9 Members
TOTAL	29-30 Members

In addition, staff of Nebraska's congressional and senatorial representatives, the Chairman of the State Technical Committee, and the Governor's Policy Research Office shall be invited to each meeting, but shall be a non-voting member.

A staff member of the Department of Natural Resources and a staff member of the U.S.D.A. Farm Service Agency shall co-chair the committee. If both are unable to attend a scheduled meeting, they shall appoint an acting chair. A staff member of the Department of Natural Resources shall act as the Secretary.

Alternates may be appointed from any representative group. To be able to participate in a vote, the alternate shall present to a Co-Chair a letter from his/her organization saying they are to represent their organization at a specific meeting or the organization can file a letter with the Committee stating who their alternate(s) will be at future meetings.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND ROLES OF INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Each member of the Steering Committee is expected to:

- (a) Regularly attend and prepare for work sessions;
- (b) Keep the other members of his or her group informed of what is being discussed by the Committee and solicit their input on these issues
- (c) Clearly articulate and represent the interests of his/her group;
- (d) Listen to other points of view and try to understand the interests of others;
- (e) Openly discuss issues and participate in cooperative problem solving procedure to resolve differences;
- (f) Be responsible for meeting expenses (travel, per diem) per your entities reimbursement policies and procedures.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMMITTEE AS A WHOLE

The Committee as a whole will make recommendations to the Governor regarding:

- (a) Changes needed to the MOA, and
- (b) Changes needed to the Farm Bill.

The Committee as a whole will review and/or make recommendations to the Department of Natural Resources regarding:

- (a) Changes to the Water Use Contract,
- (b) Opportunities for enhancing the program,
- (c) Public Information

MEETINGS

The Committee shall meet ~~at least twice a year, with one meeting possibly being a videoconferencing meeting when there are issues that need discussion.~~ The Co-Chairs may will schedule ~~additional meetings at any time that there are issues that need to be discussed.~~ Committee members or the public may

request ~~of~~ the Co-Chairs ~~that additional schedule a meetings be held~~. Through electronic mail, the Secretary shall make a good faith effort to arrange a mutually agreeable date, time, and place for all meetings.

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

Official notice of meetings shall be provided electronically to all Committee members through electronic mail at least two weeks prior to the meeting. Notice shall be provided to the public by notice on the Department of Natural Resources' website at least two weeks prior to the meeting. A copy of the proposed agenda shall be included with the Notice, but as allowed under the Open Meetings Act, the agenda can change up until 24 hours before the meeting. Copies of documents that are proposed to be reviewed for action shall also be available on the website and distributed to Committee members through electronic mail at the time of notice. This does not mean that additional documents used for informational purposes cannot be distributed at the meeting. Amended documents being reviewed for action can also be distributed as long as they were available on the website 24 hours before the meeting.

DECISION MAKING

The purpose of the Committee is to advise the Governor, and thus the Department of Natural Resources, the agency that works directly for the Governor to implement the program. There may at times be differing opinions because of the wide range of interests represented on the Committee.

The Committee must operate under the Open Meetings Act (Neb. Rev. Stat. Chapter 84, Article 14). In order for the Committee to convene, there must be a quorum present. For purposes of this Committee, a quorum shall mean that there are more than 50 percent of the members present (15 members must be present.) Members who are monitoring through telephonic means shall not be counted as present and shall not be allowed to vote.

Roll call votes shall be taken and recorded on all matters. The minutes shall reflect how each member voted or whether they abstained. Prior to any vote, sufficient discussion shall be held to allow all members to understand the issues. Approval or disapproval of any motion shall be by simple majority.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

All meetings shall be open to the public. There shall be a place on the agenda for public comment. Other public participation throughout the meeting will be at the discretion of the Committee.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS

Draft minutes of the meeting shall be available on the Department of Natural Resources' website and sent through electronic mail to all Committee members within 10 days of the meeting or prior to the next convened meeting, whichever occurs earlier. Following final approval of the minutes, the CREP Coordinator(s) shall maintain the minutes in the CREP files, have it posted

on the Department of Natural Resources' website, and send a copy by electronic mail to the Committee members.

POWERS AND AUTHORITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee shall have the authority to:

- (a) Form subcommittees
- (b) Enact rules that will further describe the procedures to be used by the Committee and subcommittees as long as such rules are not in conflict with existing local, state, or federal rules and regulations and the Operating By-Laws.

AMENDMENTS TO OPERATING BY-LAWS

Amendments to these Operating By-Laws can only be made upon the agreement and signature of two thirds of those present at a meeting.

Signed by all current members:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SERVICE AGENCY

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SERVICE AGENCY

~~DAN STEINKRUGER~~ DOUG KLEIN

~~GREG REISDORFF~~ JANA INGWERSON-LAWS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SERVICE AGENCY

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SERVICE AGENCY

~~LAVAIN MOORE~~

~~(POSITION OPEN)~~ DILLON BREINIG

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES

~~BRIAN P. DUNNICAN~~ JEFF FASSETT

~~BOB BETT~~ CEREMILY ROSE

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES

~~SUSAN ANN FRANCE~~

~~MICHAEL THOMPSON~~

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION
SERVICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION
SERVICE

~~MICHAEL KUCERA~~ (Position Open)

RITCH NELSON

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS
COMMISSION

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS
COMMISSION

~~TIM McCOY~~ ERIC ZACH

KEITH KOUPAL

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL ~~QUALITY~~ AND ENERGY

~~BOBBIE KRIZ-WICKHAM~~ CRAIG ROMARY

ELBERT TRAYLOR

CENTRAL NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER
AND IRRIGATION DISTRICT

BOSTWICK IRRIGATION DISTRICT

MARCIA TROMPKE

~~MIKE DELKA~~ TRACY SMITH

NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

PATHFINDER IRRIGATION DISTRICT

RANDY ZACH

DENNIS STRAUCH

NEBRASKA FARM BUREAU

PHEASANTS FOREVER, INC

JORDAN DUX

~~PETE BERTHELSEN~~ KELSI WEHRMAN

CENTRAL PLATTE NATURAL
RESOURCES DISTRICT

LOWER REPUBLICAN NATURAL
RESOURCES DISTRICT

~~MILT MORAVEK~~JESSE MINTKEN

~~MIKE CLEMENTS~~TODD SIEL

MIDDLE REPUBLICAN NATURAL
RESOURCES DISTRICT

NORTH PLATTE NATURAL
RESOURCES DISTRICT

~~DANIEL L. SMITH~~JACK RUSSELL

~~RON CACEK~~JOHN BERGE

TRI-BASIN NATURAL
RESOURCES DISTRICT

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL
RESOURCES DISTRICT

JOHN THORBURN

GLEN BOWERS

SOUTH PLATTE NATURAL
RESOURCES DISTRICT

UPPER REPUBLICAN NATURAL
RESOURCES DISTRICT

ROD L. HORN

JASPER FANNING

NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF
RESOURCES DISTRICTS

FRENCHMAN-CAMBRIDGE IRRIGATION
DISTRICT

~~PAT O'BRIEN~~DUSTIN WILCOX

BRAD EDGERTON

OPERATING BY-LAWS
FOR
THE NEBRASKA PLATTE-REPUBLICAN CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM
(CREP)
STEERING COMMITTEE

February 2020

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The Nebraska Platte-Republican Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Steering Committee (Committee) is formed to meet the requirements of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the State of Nebraska and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA, Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) to implement the Nebraska Platte-Republican Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. The Steering Committee is to advise the Nebraska Governor's office on the implementation of this CREP.

STRUCTURE AND COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

The MOA currently states that the Steering Committee "will include representatives from the State technical Committee, FSA, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Nebraska Department of Agriculture, NRCS, agriculture and conservation groups and local governments." The following organizations shall be recognized as voting members of the Committee:

FSA:	4 Members
Nebraska Department of Natural Resources:	4 Members
Natural Resources Conservation Service:	2 Members
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission:	2 Members
Nebraska Department of Agriculture:	1 Member
Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy	1 Member
Agriculture Groups (Includes Irrigation And Power Groups):	6 Members
Conservation Groups:	1 Member
Local Governments:	9 Members
TOTAL	30 Members

In addition, staff of Nebraska's congressional and senatorial representatives, the Chairman of the State Technical Committee, and the Governor's Policy Research Office shall be invited to each meeting, but shall be a non-voting member.

A staff member of the Department of Natural Resources and a staff member of the U.S.D.A. Farm Service Agency shall co-chair the committee. If both are unable to attend a scheduled meeting, they shall appoint an acting chair. A staff member of the Department of Natural Resources shall act as the Secretary.

Alternates may be appointed from any representative group. To be able to participate in a vote, the alternate shall present to a Co-Chair a letter from his/her organization saying they are to represent their organization at a specific meeting or the organization can file a letter with the Committee stating who their alternate(s) will be at future meetings.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND ROLES OF INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Each member of the Steering Committee is expected to:

- (a) Regularly attend and prepare for work sessions;
- (b) Keep the other members of his or her group informed of what is being discussed by the Committee and solicit their input on these issues
- (c) Clearly articulate and represent the interests of his/her group;
- (d) Listen to other points of view and try to understand the interests of others;
- (e) Openly discuss issues and participate in cooperative problem solving procedure to resolve differences;
- (f) Be responsible for meeting expenses (travel, per diem) per your entities reimbursement policies and procedures.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMMITTEE AS A WHOLE

The Committee as a whole will make recommendations to the Governor regarding:

- (a) Changes needed to the MOA, and
- (b) Changes needed to the Farm Bill.

The Committee as a whole will review and/or make recommendations to the Department of Natural Resources regarding:

- (a) Changes to the Water Use Contract,
- (b) Opportunities for enhancing the program,
- (c) Public Information

MEETINGS

The Committee shall meet when there are issues that need discussion. The Co-Chairs will schedule meetings. Committee members or the public may request the Co-Chairs schedule a meeting. Through electronic mail, the Secretary shall make a good faith effort to arrange a mutually agreeable date, time, and place for all meetings.

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

Official notice of meetings shall be provided electronically to all Committee members through electronic mail at least two weeks prior to the meeting. Notice shall be provided to the public by notice on the Department of Natural Resources' website at least two weeks prior to the meeting. A copy of the proposed agenda shall be included with the Notice, but as allowed under the Open Meetings Act, the agenda can change up until 24 hours before the meeting. Copies of documents that are proposed to be reviewed for action shall also be available on the website and distributed to Committee members through electronic mail at the time of notice. This does not mean that additional documents used for informational purposes cannot be distributed at the meeting. Amended documents being reviewed for action can also be distributed as long as they were available on the website 24 hours before the meeting.

DECISION MAKING

The purpose of the Committee is to advise the Governor, and thus the Department of Natural Resources, the agency that works directly for the Governor to implement the program. There may at times be differing opinions because of the wide range of interests represented on the Committee.

The Committee must operate under the Open Meetings Act (Neb. Rev. Stat. Chapter 84, Article 14). In order for the Committee to convene, there must be a quorum present. For purposes of this Committee, a quorum shall mean that there are more than 50 percent of the members present (15 members must be present.) Members who are monitoring through telephonic means shall not be counted as present and shall not be allowed to vote.

Roll call votes shall be taken and recorded on all matters. The minutes shall reflect how each member voted or whether they abstained. Prior to any vote, sufficient discussion shall be held to allow all members to understand the issues. Approval or disapproval of any motion shall be by simple majority.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

All meetings shall be open to the public. There shall be a place on the agenda for public comment. Other public participation throughout the meeting will be at the discretion of the Committee.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS

Draft minutes of the meeting shall be available on the Department of Natural Resources' website and sent through electronic mail to all Committee members within 10 days of the meeting or prior to the next convened meeting, whichever occurs earlier. Following final approval of the minutes, the CREP Coordinator(s) shall maintain the minutes in the CREP files, have it posted on the Department of Natural Resources' website, and send a copy by electronic mail to the Committee members.

POWERS AND AUTHORITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee shall have the authority to:

- (a) Form subcommittees
- (b) Enact rules that will further describe the procedures to be used by the Committee and subcommittees as long as such rules are not in conflict with existing local, state, or federal rules and regulations and the Operating By-Laws.

AMENDMENTS TO OPERATING BY-LAWS

Amendments to these Operating By-Laws can only be made upon the agreement and signature of two thirds of those present at a meeting.

Signed by all current members:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SERVICE AGENCY


DOUG KLEIN

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SERVICE AGENCY


JANA INGWERSON-LAWS


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SERVICE AGENCY


LAVAIN MOORE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SERVICE AGENCY


DILLON BREINIG

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES


~~JEFF FASSETT~~ CURT INBODY

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES


~~EMILY ROSE~~ Kent Zimmerman

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES


SUSAN ANN FRANCE


NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES


MICHAEL THOMPSON

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION
SERVICE

(Position Open)

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS
COMMISSION



ERIC ZACH

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE



CRAIG ROMARY

CENTRAL NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER
AND IRRIGATION DISTRICT



~~MARCIA TROMPKE~~

Tyler Thulin

NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

RANDY ZACH

NEBRASKA FARM BUREAU

JORDAN DUX

CENTRAL PLATTE NATURAL
RESOURCES DISTRICT

JESSE MINTKEN

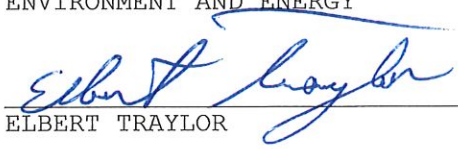
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION
SERVICE

RITCH NELSON

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS
COMMISSION

KEITH KROUPAL

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY



ELBERT TRAYLOR

BOSTWICK IRRIGATION DISTRICT

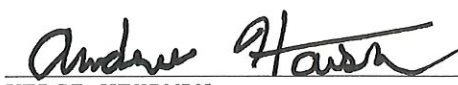
TRACY SMITH

PATHFINDER IRRIGATION DISTRICT



DENNIS STRAUCH

PHEASANTS FOREVER, INC



~~KELSI WEHRMAN~~

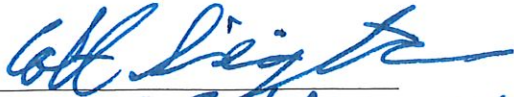
Andrew Houser

LOWER REPUBLICAN NATURAL
RESOURCES DISTRICT



TODD SIEL

MIDDLE REPUBLICAN NATURAL
RESOURCES DISTRICT



JACK RUSSELL *Colt Livingston*

TRI-BASIN NATURAL
RESOURCES DISTRICT



JOHN THORBURN

SOUTH PLATTE NATURAL
RESOURCES DISTRICT

ROD L. HORN

NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF
RESOURCES DISTRICTS



DUSTIN WILCOX

NORTH PLATTE NATURAL
RESOURCES DISTRICT



JOHN BERGE *Barbara S. Cross*

TWIN PLATTE NATURAL
RESOURCES DISTRICT



GLEN BOWERS

UPPER REPUBLICAN NATURAL
RESOURCES DISTRICT

JASPER FANNING

FRENCHMAN-CAMBRIDGE IRRIGATION
DISTRICT



BRAD EDGERTON

Attachment "F"

CREP CONTRACTS SUBJECT TO EXPIRATION ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

Number of Contracts	Natural Resources District	Ground Water Irrigated Acres	Surface Water Irrigated Acres	Commingled Irrigated Acres	Total Irrigated Acres	Non-Irrigated Acres	Total Acres
7	Central Platte NRD	237.1	32.7	134.5	404.3		404.3
67	Lower Republican NRD	4270.37	613.6	618.8	5502.77	259	5761.77
88	Middle Republican NRD	5205.92	2016.83	2082.25	9305	268.02	9573.02
50	North Platte NRD	949.6	2370.09	229.8	3549.49	5.3	3554.79
8	Tri-Basin NRD	948.3			948.3	24.8	973.1
6	Twin Platte NRD		100	126.7	226.7		226.7
46	Upper Republican NRD	<u>7650.33</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>166</u>	<u>7904.33</u>	<u>389.68</u>	<u>8294.01</u>
272		19261.62	5221.22	3358.05	27840.89	946.8	28787.69