

Staff Report

April 8, 2020

LRNRD Directors,

COVID-19 Pandemic – The LRNRD staff is committed to defeating the spread of Covid-19. We are challenged as a local government agency to balance our public service obligation while protecting our employees and the spread of the virus throughout our small communities. We have instituted a locked door policy for our Alma office, but our staff is available via telephone or by email to provide public service. We are requesting that documents which require delivery to our office, be sent either through the Post Office or by email. Management will work to make other arrangements as necessary such as utilizing our newspaper box near the front entrance as a “Drop Box” for anyone wishing to personally deliver documents.

Calendar changes – Nearly all our events scheduled for the next few months have either been cancelled or postponed. Water Jamboree, Nebraska Envirothon, and the NCF-Envirothon have all been cancelled. Electronic Recycling and Hazardous Household Waste Recycling events have been postponed, with fall dates to be determined. Governor Ricketts has issued an Executive Order that allows political subdivisions to hold “virtual meetings” by video conference or teleconference during this time. This exception allows business to be conducted while complying with the Governor’s issued Direct Health Measure that limits gatherings to no more than ten people until May 11th. We are planning to conduct the April board meeting using a teleconferencing platform and have also been utilizing these means to hold any other meetings whenever possible. We will continue to monitor the Covid-19 Pandemic and any possible changes to the Direct Health Measure deadline date as we plan for the May Board Meeting.

Tree Planting – One effort that has not been cancelled by Covid-19 is conservation tree plantings. Bessey Nursery based out of Halsey National Forest is the primary provider of trees for the LRNRD. We understand that they have been working endlessly as a staff to lift and pack trees. Normally, Bessey has contractors working to complete the lift and pack effort but this year the contractors were affected by the pandemic which has ultimately resulted in drastically depleted manpower at Bessey during their busiest time. The nursery is confident that trees will be delivered to the NRD’s in April for spring plantings. As we understand and expect, weather can serve as a delay during the tree planting season, but deliveries will be coming to all the NRD’s due to the dedication of the Bessey Staff.

Water quantity updates:

Harlan County Reservoir is currently at 100% full irrigation pool (1945.73 MSL @ 314,111 AF) with the Flood Control Pool at 0.6%. Outflows averaged 300 CFS (594 AF/day) through March. The BOR numbers indicate Harlan is storing nearly 21,500 acre-feet less than it was a year ago, but over 72,000 acre-feet more than two years ago.

Date/Time	Storage (AF)	Elevation	Date/Time	Storage (AF)	Elevation
Apr 8 – 2020	317,024	1945.95	Apr 8 – 2016	211,236	1937.20
Apr 8 – 2019	338,407	1947.52	Apr 8 – 2015	180,008	1934.17
Apr 8 – 2018	244,423	1940.16	Apr 8 – 2014	140,697	1929.86
Apr 8 – 2017	222,245	1938.21	Apr 8 – 2013	198,934	1936.04

- Other Reservoirs
- Lovewell: 87.5% full @ 31,272 AF.
- Medicine Creek: 94.3% full @ 33,738 AF.

Respectfully,
Scott and Todd
