

Lower Republican NRD Review

Winter 2022

Volume 68



*Protecting Lives,
Protecting Property,
Protecting the Future*

A Note from the Manager

As indicated by the photos on this page, we recently honored Roger Nelson, of Superior, for his 23 years of dedicated service to the Lower Republican Natural Resources District (LRNRD). Roger officially retired from the board of directors on December 10, 2021. Roger's years of commitment to the conservation and protection of Nebraska's natural resources goes above and beyond all expectations. Having joined the board in 1999, he has seen numerous changes for water management in the Republican Basin and has represented our district in an exemplary way. He also served on the NARD board of directors at the state level for 19 years. Thank You, Roger!

I would also like to acknowledge all of our directors and staff members that continue to serve the LRNRD and are involved with the multiple programs and projects that we administer throughout the course of each year. Tree planting, ground water testing and measurement, chemigation inspections, and our flow meter maintenance program are just a few examples. There are also various new projects we have either implemented or are evaluating for the future. The Platte to Republican High Flow Diversion Project, two Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations planning studies, and telemetry enabled flow meters provide further examples of our intention of protecting our natural resources for the future.

Todd Siel
General Manager



Left: Marlin Murdoch presenting an award to Roger Nelson recognizing his years of service. Roger retired from the Lower Republican NRD board of directors after 23 years.

Below: Dean Edson, executive director of the Nebraska Natural Resources Districts, presenting Roger with an award for his service on the Association Board. Roger served on this board for 19 years.

Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts



Lower Republican NRD Board of Directors

Back row left to right: Toby tenBensel-Subdistrict 1; Matt Harrison-Subdistrict 3; Brad Wulf-At-Large; Nelson Trambly-Subdistrict 4; Clark Andrews-Subdistrict 1.

Front row left to right: Tim Kahrs-Subdistrict 3; Bill Bose-Subdistrict 2; Roger Nelson-Subdistrict 5; Marlin Murdoch-Subdistrict 2; Dave Bartels-Subdistrict 4.

Not pictured: Terry Hoit-Subdistrict 5.

Photo courtesy of Nichole's Imaging, Republican City

REMINDER:

DEADLINE FOR CHEMIGATION, POOLING AND OCCUPATION TAX EXEMPTION FORM IS JUNE 1, 2022.

Chemigation

The Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE) requires all applicators of fertilizer or pesticide to land or crops through an irrigation system to be licensed and obtain a permit. The LRNRD's renewal permits will be mailed soon. Please review the application and update any of the bulleted items below.

- * Any errors (name, address, etc.),
- * Missing applications from last year,
- * Chemicals applied, and acres irrigated in 2021,
- * Signature for **both** the Permit Holder and Applicator are **required** on all application forms.
- * **NOTE:** Please indicate the application in **pounds**, not gallons*

Completed applications must be received in our office **on or before June 1, 2022.**

The NDEE requires Chemigation systems to be inspected every four years. However, Chemigation in or near Wellhead Protection areas may be inspected at any time.

The LRNRD appreciates your attention and time for getting inspections completed. Scheduled appointments are prioritized by new permits then renewal permits. You will be notified by the LRNRD if you are due for an inspection and a technician will set up an appointment to inspect your site. All permit fees and replacement parts must be paid for prior to or at the time of inspection.

If you did not renew your Chemigation permit last year, or you have a new site in which you will be applying chemical, you must apply for a new Chemigation permit and have it inspected by a LRNRD technician before chemical can be applied. Permits are available on our website at: www.lnrnd.org.

Please contact the LRNRD if you have any questions or need to apply for a new Chemigation permit.

Pooling

LRNRD irrigators have two methods of pooling water. Pooling Arrangements involve a single landowner while Pooling Agreements are between two or more owners of land under common management. Penalties apply for overuse. The LRNRD Groundwater Rules and Regulations are posted on our website at www.lnrnd.org. If you have any questions, please feel free to call our office. Pooling Agreement(s)/Arrangement(s) must be filled out at the District office and notarized signatures are required for both owners and operators. Forms must be completed by **June 1st** to be effective for the 2022 irrigation season. Pooling shall stay in place until written cancellation of the Arrangement/Agreement is received.

Occupation Tax Exemption

To be exempt from 2022 Occupation Tax, state statute requires that you must complete an exemption form that identifies the amount and location of the certified irrigated acres that will not be irrigated in 2022. The exemption form is available at the LRNRD office or on our website: www.lnrnd.org. Forms must be received by **June 1st, per state statute.**

Exempted groundwater acres will not receive an allocation for that year. **Ground that is enrolled in EQIP, AWEF, or CREP must have an exemption form filled out each year it is in the program.** Strict penalties will apply to any violators.



South Central Water Conference

The 2022 South Central Water Conference will be held on **Tuesday, February 1st** at the Phelps County Ag Center in Holdrege. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. with the first session beginning at 10:00 a.m. There is no charge for the conference and a lunch is provided for attendees.

The conference provides valuable information about water related issues concerning agricultural producers in central Nebraska. Representatives from area agri-businesses will be available to visit with conference attendees. A full agenda for the conference will be posted on our website at www.lnrnd.org under News and Information.

The LRNRD, Tri-Basin NRD, Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District, UNL Extension and Holdrege Area Chamber of Commerce will be hosting the conference.

Trees Available

The deadline for tree orders is **March 15th**. Cost share is available from the LRNRD on minimum orders of 100 trees or plantings of \$100 or more. Place your orders at your County NRCS office for spring planting. Below is the 2022 list of trees and shrubs. Please contact your local NRCS office for availability.

CONIFERS

Eastern Red Cedar
Rocky Mountain Juniper
Jack Pine
Colorado Blue Spruce
Scotch Pine
Ponderosa Pine
Southwestern White Pine

BROADLEAF

Black Cherry
Black Walnut
Hybrid Cottonwood
Native Cottonwood
Hackberry
Manchurian Apricot
Bur Oak

SHRUBS

American Plum
Buffaloberry
Caragana
McKenzie Chokeberry
Chokecherry
Golden Currant
Elderberry
Chikasaw Plum

Common Lilac
Serviceberry
Skunkbush Sumac
Wood Rose
LIMITED
Norway Spruce
Austrian Pine
Amur Maple
Midwest Crabapple

Catalpa
Swamp White Oak
Red Oak
Silver Maple
Centennial Cotoneaster
Peking Cotoneaster
Redosier Dogwood
False Indigo
Hazelnut
Vilosa Lilac

New College Scholarship Deadline

Each year, the LRNRD offers three \$1,000 scholarships for conservation education. To be eligible for a scholarship, the student must have a permanent residence within our District, plan to major in a natural resource related field (i.e. forestry, park management, agronomy, agri-business, etc.), must attend a Nebraska college or University and be registered full time. The deadline for applications is **March 1**. Applications and additional information regarding these scholarships are available on our website at www.lrnrd.org under the News and Information tab or at the LRNRD office in Alma.



Lower Republican NRD Staff

Back row left to right: Jennifer Helms; Brittnay Nurnberg; PJ Holmes; Jim Zimmerman; Dave Bantam; Deb Klingenberg; Lynetta Snelling.

Front row left to right: Shirlee Poyser; Nick Simonson; Todd Siel; Kristi Heft; Mary Goebel.

Photo courtesy of Nichole's Imaging, Republican City.

NON-Compact Call Year

2022 will be a NON-Compact Call Year. There is no "hard cap" or maximum allocation cap in 2022, the volume of water pumped will be deducted from your current allocation balance for the 5-year period. 2022 is the last year of the allocation period. Up to 9 inches may be carried over into the next allocation period (2023-2027) based on the remaining balance.

Lower Republican NRD 2013-2021 Groundwater Use By County

| COUNTY | AVERAGE (ACRE-INCH) | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| West to East | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
| FURNAS | 8.49 | 5.84 | 6.39 | 7.25 | 7.12 | 5.34 | 5.52 | 8.08 | 7.25 |
| HARLAN | 9.38 | 5.40 | 7.23 | 8.14 | 6.23 | 4.39 | 4.41 | 8.39 | 6.04 |
| FRANKLIN | 8.21 | 5.67 | 7.94 | 8.58 | 6.38 | 4.72 | 2.78 | 8.39 | 6.31 |
| WEBSTER | 7.70 | 5.99 | 7.53 | 7.90 | 6.55 | 5.52 | 2.48 | 7.93 | 5.84 |
| NUCKOLLS | 4.87 | 5.22 | 5.41 | 4.85 | 5.87 | 5.54 | 1.95 | 4.58 | 6.03 |
| Average District Usage | 8.45 | 5.65 | 7.30 | 7.99 | 6.48 | 4.86 | 3.71 | 8.15 | 6.32 |

| Board of Directors | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Subdistrict 1 | Clark Andrews, Holbrook |
| Subdistrict 1 | Toby tenBensel, Holbrook |
| Subdistrict 2 | Bill Bose, Orleans - Vice Chair |
| Subdistrict 2 | Marlin Murdoch, Orleans - Chair |
| Subdistrict 3 | Tim Kahrs, Franklin - Treasurer |
| Subdistrict 3 | Matt Harrison, Naponee |
| Subdistrict 4 | Nelson Trambly, Campbell |
| Subdistrict 4 | David Bartels, Riverton - Secretary |
| Subdistrict 5 | Terry Hoit, Red Cloud |
| Subdistrict 5 | Vacant |
| At-Large | Bradley Wulf, Red Cloud |

| LRNRD Staff | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| Todd Siel | General Manager |
| Nick Simonson | Assistant Manager |
| Shirlee Poyser | Administrative Assistant |
| Kristi Heft | Water Resources Administrator |
| Mary Goebel | Water Secretary/Info. & Edu. |
| Jim Zimmerman | Rural Water Superintendent |
| PJ Holmes | Water Resources Technician |
| Dave Bantam | Water Resources Technician |
| Vacant | Water Resources Technician |
| Deb Klingenberg | Franklin County Office Secretary |
| Jennifer Helms | Furnas County Office Secretary |
| Brittnay Nurnberg | Harlan County Office Secretary |
| Lynetta Snelling | Webster County Office Secretary |

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 1—South Central Water Conference 9:30 am,
Phelps County Ag Center, Holdrege

February 10—Board Meeting 2 pm, LRNRD Meeting Room, Alma

March 1—LRNRD College Scholarship Application Deadline

March 10—Board Meeting 2 pm, LRNRD Meeting Room, Alma

March 13—Daylight Savings Time Begins

March 15—Tree Order Deadline

April 14—Board Meeting 7 pm, LRNRD Meeting Room, Alma

April 17—Easter

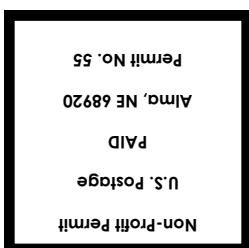
April 22—Earth Day

This is a publication of the Lower Republican Natural Resources District

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