

Water Committee Meeting  
 Wednesday, March 2, 2016 5:00 PM  
 Lower Platte North NRD Office  
 P.O. Box 126  
 Wahoo, NE 68066

1. REGULATORY

1.A. GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT AREA

Recently we had a inquiry from John Wotipka's lawyer asking whether or not Mr. Wotipka had to refile his variance request. We replied no that it still was on file. We have discussed this several times during the Water Committee but staff can find no record that a motion was passed to this effect for all un-approved variance requests. A motion is needed to formally approve the system we have used for the past three years.

1.A.1. Well Permit Program

1.A.1.a. Well Permits Approved

Wells Permits Approved: 0

Landowner	Number of Wells	Number of New Irrigated Acres	Type of Well	County	Subarea

The total number of approved permits for 2016 is 1

Location of Approved Well Permits for 2016: Correct as of 3/2/2016

County	Irrigation - New	Irrigation - Replacement	Stock	Commercial	Municipal	Other	Total
Butler	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Colfax	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dodge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Boone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Madison	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Platte	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Saunders	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	1	0	0	0	0	0	1

#### 1.A.1.b. Fremont Family YMCA Dewatering Well

The Fremont Family YMCA has applied for a new dewatering well in the NE 1/4 NW 1/4 Section 24-17-8E Fremont Subarea, Dodge County. The well will be used for initial construction and on a permanent basis when the draining the pool. The water will be discharged into the storm drain. Currently the well permit is incomplete, such as the gallons per minute that the well would pump is not listed on the permit.

This may be reviewed again at the Board meeting if the permit has been completed by that time.

#### 1.A.2. Special Quantity Subareas

##### 1.A.2.a. Butler - Saunders SQS (SQS #1)

Angle has developed a calculation spreadsheet in Excel software that looks at the water used in previous years to figure next year's allocations and to work with their individual flow meter reading. In SQS #1 the breakdown is as follows:

Total number of wells = 30

Number of wells with no meters = 5 (Producers signed a pledge in 2015 that they would not use the well until a meter is installed. One well has no pump.)

Number of wells with meters = 25 (meter in acre inches = 16 / meter in gallons = 9)

Acre inches used in 2015:

- Range = 0.0 to 5.02 acre inches (7 of these wells with meters, were not used)
- Average = 1.11 acre inches

An individual water use report will be sent to each well owner in this SQS area showing past water use and their remaining allocation. Rolling allocation is 27 acre inches over a three year period.

##### 1.A.2.b. Platte - Colfax SQS (SQS #2)

Platte - Colfax SQS

- Two of the three informational classes for this area have been held. The last scheduled class is Tuesday, March 29, 2016, at 3:00 p.m. (prior to evening NRD certification class). It too will be held at Ag Park, Columbus.
- 92 landowners/producers attended the first class on Thursday, January 14, 2016. One director was present at this class.
- 49 landowners/producers attended the second class on Thursday, February 11, 2016. One director was present at this class.

293 letters were mailed to producers, landowners, and tenants (mailing address information from the Acres Certification database).

### 1.A.3. Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Plan Coalition (LPRBC)

No new update

### 1.A.4. Voluntary Integrated Water Management Plan - LENRD and LPNDRD

Angle met with Amy Zoller of DNR on February 25th to review the Goals and Objectives of our V-IMP. After these are approved we plan to take these back to the Stakeholders Comm.

The draft version for the V-IMP Plan is attached. Water Committee members urge all Board members to read/review the V-IMP plan.

### 1.A.5. Cost Share Programs

### 1.A.6. Bellwood Phase 2 Area

2016 is the fourteenth year for this Phase 2 Area. This area was reduced from 32 sections to 21 sections in 2015 - to be in compliance with **Section G Ground Water Quality Management Area - Phase Two Rule 1 Phase Two Criteria.**

133 reports for the 2015 crop year have now been received. Four completed fertilizer reports have still not been received and the deadline was December 31, 2015.

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|-----------------------------|--|
| • W½SW¼, Section 8-T16N-R1E | Steve Semin (certified letter sent)      |
| • NE¼, Section 21-T16N-R1E  | Gary Kreikemeier (certified letter sent) |
| • NW¼, Section 22-T16N-R1E  | Gary Kreikemeier (certified letter sent) |
| • NE¼, Section 22-T16N-R1E  | Steve Semin (certified letter sent)      |

Two reports have **not** yet been received from Steve Semin. Semin was the last one to submit his reports for the 2014 crop year. The U S Postal Service has attempted to deliver the certified letter to Steve Semin. If he hasn't signed for it by March 8, 2016, it will be returned to sender (LPNDRD). Steve Semin called Oaklund on March 2nd at noon and indicated that he had now signed for the certified letter.

A signed certified receipt card has been received from Kreikemeier. Incomplete reports for his two tracts listed above were received in the mail on Monday, February 29,

2016. Oaklund spoke with Kreikemeier on the phone on Monday February 29th. Kreikemeier contacted a Director from the Bellwood area and the Director called Oaklund regarding this matter. Steve Semin and Gary Kreikemeier are habitually late on turning in their fertilizer reports.

1.A.7. Richland - Schuyler Phase 3 Area

2016 is the first year of this Phase 3 Area (to be in compliance with **Section H Ground Water Quality Management Area - Phase Three Rule 1 Phase Three Criteria**). This Phase 3 area went into effect September 1, 2015. The 55 sections of this area first went into a Phase 2 Area in 2004.

407 reports for the 2015 crop year have now been received. 22 reports were received from Dan Zoucha on February 24th.

1.A.8. Richland - Schuyler Phase 2 Area

On September 1, 2015, the ten sections immediately north of the Phase 3 area became a Phase 2 Area. These sections are: Township 18 North, Range 2 East, sections 31 to 36; Township 18 North, Range 3 East, sections 31 to 34. Soil samples and water samples are required for 2016.

1.A.9. LPNNRD Certification

1.A.9.a. LPNNRD Operator Certification Classes

Four on-line test requests have been made since the last committee meeting (one of these requests was yesterday March 1st), but no on-line tests were completed. Half of the twelve scheduled classes have been completed. Two classes are scheduled for later this week.

Class	Date & time	Location	Attendance	First-time
# 1	Thursday, January 7th @ 3:00 p.m. (after Corn Expo)	Fremont - Christensen Field	30	3
# 2	Thursday, January 14th @ 1:30 p.m.	Columbus - Ag Park	32	4
# 3	Friday, January 29th @ 1:30 p.m.	ARDC - Mead	14	2
# 4	Thursday, February 18th @ 1:30 p.m.	David City – Frontier CO-OP	12	1
# 5	Friday, February 19th @ 9:30 a.m.	Lindsay - Village Office	21	2
# 6	Monday, February 22nd @ 9:30 a.m.	Schuyler – St Benedict Center	10	1
# 7	Thursday, March 3rd @ 9:30 a.m.	Columbus –		

		Pinnacle Bank		
# 8	Friday, March 4th @ 1:30 p.m.	Fremont - Extension Office		
# 9	Wednesday, March 9th @ 1:30 p.m.	David City - Hruska Library		
# 10	Tuesday, March 22nd @ 9:30 a.m.	David City – Frontier CO-OP		
# 11	Thursday, March 24th @ 7:00 p.m.	ARDC - Mead		
# 12	Tuesday, March 29th @ 7:00 p.m.	Columbus - Ag Park		

A total of 119 have been certified with 13 for the first time.

#### 1.A.10. Certifying Acres

Landowner Brach Johnson has contacted US House Representatives, US Senators and NE State Senators about his case of the LPNNRD de-certifying his property of 32.8 acres in the NW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 7, T18N, R2E Colfax County. This land has never been irrigated and currently is in the Platte - Colfax SQS subarea. Information has been sent to each of these political offices.

#### 1.B. CHEMIGATION

So far for 2016 we have 515 permits on file and 1 new permit application. Renewal forms will be mailed out in mid-March with renewals due by June 1st. The cost of renewals is \$30. Attached is the Chemigation summary for 2015, which includes a list of chemicals used in 2014. Nitrogen is still the most chemical used.

#### 1.C. LIVESTOCK WASTE PERMITS

The LPNNRD has received one livestock permit applications from DEQ since the last Water Committee meeting.

Name	Livestock	Type of Permit	Legal Description	County
Linwood Pig c/o Larry Dowd PO Box 129 Columbus NE 68602	Swine 2,200 Head 880 A.U.	Transfer of construction and operating permit	SE1/4, of SW1/4, Section 35, T17N, R3E	Butler

Linwood Pig permit is a transfer permit request to new ownership of an existing operation previously owned by ONeill Farms - Star Breeding.

## 2. GROUND WATER PROGRAMS

### 2.A. DECOMMISSIONED WELL PROGRAM

#### 2.A.1. Well Estimates

Two new wells has been reviewed and approved by Gottschalk for decommissioning since the last Committee meeting.

Well Owner	Type of Well	Cost Share Estimate	County
Jamie Schnakenberg	domestic well	\$459.56	Saunders
Keith and Ardith Ziegenbein	domestic well	\$476.25	Saunders

#### 2.A.2. Plugged Wells

One well has been plugged, reviewed, and ready for cost share payment approval this month.

Well Owner	Type of Well	Cost Share Estimate	County
Rita Divis	domestic well	\$243.75	Saunders

### 2.B. LOWER PLATTE NORTH NRD GROUND WATER STUDIES

#### 2.B.1. Eastern Nebraska Water Resources Assessment (ENWRA)

Test hole drilling is to start later this week in LPSNRD. Several sites are planned for LPN but details still need to be worked out.

#### 2.B.2. Water Conveyance Study

LPSNRD plans to submit a grant request to the Water Sustainability Fund (WSF) concerning a study to look at water conveyance from upper portions of the Lower Platte River Basin to the lower reaches of the river past the Lincoln and Omaha municipal well fields (see attached sheet). A dollar figure has not been established yet. Committee members discussed the details, merits, and potential cost of this study. This study could aid funding of the construction cost of a potential storage reservoir near Octavia for future irrigation, offsets, and/or recreation if this is a viable site.

#### 2.B.3. Potential Reservoir Siting in LENRD

A Joint Funding Agreement between LPS, LPN, Papio, and LE NRD's is being proposed to site potential storage projects within the LENRD for later release of water to benefit the Lower Platte River Basin. \$5,000 is being requested from LPN, LPS, and Papio NRD's with the balance of the study to be paid by LENRD.

Since the water inventory reports (as part of the V-IMP) for LPN and LE NRD's included such siting, not sure if this study is needed. Staff will contact LENRD for more information by the March 10, 2016 Board Meeting.

#### 2.C. GROUND WATER ENERGY LEVELS

Staff will start the spring readings of our GWEL network wells later in the month of March.

#### 2.D. FORMER ORDNANCE PLANT NEAR MEAD

Attached are the latest flow recorders from the Corps of Engineers on the clean up efforts at the Former Ordnance Plant near Mead (see attached). This pumping is year round and is roughly equivalent to 50 to 60 center pivots pumping water over the summer. In relation to Platte River flows this is not a significant amount, but it should still be noted as a kind of stream augmentation project by the LPNNRD because ground water is being contributed to the river at least 9 months out of the year.

### 3. OTHER

#### 3.A. GMDA SUMMER SESSION

The GMDA Summer Session is being scheduled for June 29 to July 1, 2016 in Yakima WA. No other details are yet available.

#### 3.B. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mary Wotipka addressed the Water Committee again asking when John Wotipka request for new irrigated acres would be approved. A variance request has been submitted but this land is within the restricted development area but ~one mile from the border of the hydrologically connected area. It has not ranked high enough for recent approvals.

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**The following information is from the December 30, 2013 Water Committee minutes.**

John Wotipka is seeking to expand his irrigated acres in the Restricted Development Area (RDA) eight years after his initial approval in 2005 of NRD well permits and the State well registration (for details see attached sheet). Wotipka and members of his family were present at the Water Committee meeting and stated that when the wells were originally registered additional acres were allotted to each permit to allow for this future expansion and these should still be allowed. The LPNNRD position is that since this full expansion did not occur in 2006, the LPNNRD well permits, the State (DNR) well registration and the County Assessor Records should have been updated to reflect the actual acres being irrigated, but this was not done. The District also required a variance application for expansion of acres in this RDA starting in 2008 and no variance was filed with the NRD. It was recommended by Johannes, seconded by Pollard, to deny the expansion of irrigated acres for well G-095822 and well G-136546 beyond the number of acres actually irrigated by each well in 2006. Recommendation Carried.