

Water Committee Meeting
Wednesday, December 28, 2016 5:00 PM
Lower Platte North NRD Office
P.O. Box 126
Wahoo, NE 68066

1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business from the last Water Committee meeting.

2. REGULATORY

2.A. GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT AREA

2.A.1. Variance Request in the Hydrologically Connected Area (Limited Development Area)

The District received one new application for an expansion of 27 acres from an existing well.

2.A.2. Variance Requests in the Non-Hydrologically Connected Area (Normal Development Area)

No new update.

2.A.3. Variance Requests in the Restricted Development Areas

2.A.3.a. Variance Request by Martin Erickson

Mr. Erickson has talked to Bret Schomer about his variance conditions for his new well and irrigated acres in NE1/4, Section 20, T14N, R7E of the Swedeburg subarea, which is also in the Restricted Development area. Mr. Erickson may attend a future Water Committee meeting to discuss these.

2.A.4. Well Permit Program

2.A.4.a. Well Permits Approved

Four new permits were approved since the last Committee meeting.

Landowner	Number Of Wells	Number Of New Irrigated Acres	Type Of Well	County	Subarea
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Terry A McDonald	1	0	Irrigation (Replacement)	Butler	Octavia
William K Becker	1	0	Irrigation (New)	Boone	Upper Newman Grove
Marian Meduna	1	72	Irrigation (Approved Variance)	Saunders	Weston
Joseph Birkel	1	0	Irrigation (New)	Butler	Octavia

The total number of approved permits for 2016 is 28.

Location of Approved Well Permits for 2016: Correct as of 12/28/2016

County	Irrigation -New	Irrigation - Replacement	Stock	Commercial	Municipal	Other	Total
Butler	1	2	0	0	0	0	3
Colfax	0	3	0	0	0	1	4
Dodge	2	3	0	0	0	4	9
Boone	2	1	0	0	0	0	3
Madison	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Platte	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Saunders	4	2	1	0	0	1	8
Total	9	12	1	0	0	6	28

2.A.5. Special Quantity Subareas

SQS #1 (Butler-Saunders)

There are 30 irrigation wells in this area. 25 of these have a flow meter; the other five wells were not used in 2016. All 25 flow meter reporting forms have been returned.

SQS #2 (Platte-Colfax)

Staff has continued checking flow meters and measuring water levels. Flow meter cost-share applications continue to be received in the mail each day.

Flow meter reporting forms are also being returned – 226 have been received so far.

There are 9 landowners for a total of 11 well and pivot sites that have not installed flow meters in the SQS #2 area (see attached list). Staff is proposing mailing letters informing them of our cost share program, that an acre inch penalty has been added for not installing meters during the summer of 2016, and encouraging meters to be installed by March 15th. Meters not installed by that date could be issued cease and desist orders. Two of these sites are part of our GWEL network.

2.A.6. Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Plan Coalition (LPRBC)

No new update

2.A.7. Voluntary Integrated Water Management Plan - LENRD and LPNNRD

No new update

2.A.8. Cost Share Programs

2.A.8.a. Irrigation Well Sample Kits

A total of 348 irrigation kits were mailed in 2016 with 84 water samples collected since Labor Day. All sample results have been mailed to producers.

2.A.8.b. Flow Meter Cost Share

2.A.8.b.1. Question on Flow Meter Cost Share Program

Currently we have at least 5 well sites that supply water to two pivots each. The landowners have applied for cost share on each pivot and each site requires an 8 inch meter. If the LPNNRD cost shares on both meters it will cost an additional \$3,850 for these 5 meters.

After much discussion Committee members felt that the LPNNRD should only fund one meter per irrigation system, as stated in the mailing to producers outlining the cost share program.

2.A.8.b.2. Flow Meter Cost Share in SQS #2

At the November 30, 2016 Water Committee, motion was made to fund GWEL cooperators wells at \$1,000 per 8 inch meters (\$770 from WSF and \$230 from LPNNRD = \$1,000) and at \$749 per 6 inch meters (\$577 from WSF and \$172 from LPNNRD = \$749)

As of December 28, 2016, we have received a total of 141 applications. Several of these still need to be inspected to insure that the meter is installed properly.

Five well sites have applied for 2 meters each, but following motion of the Water Committee, only one meter per irrigation system will receive funding.

Therefore, for the January 9, 2017 Board Meeting, we will have a total of 55 cost-share applications to approve.

Water Sustainability Fund (WSF)	
8 inch meters	52 x 8" meters or 52 x \$770 = \$40,040
6 inch meters	2 x 6" meters or 2 x \$577 = \$1,154
WSF Total	\$41,194
	So Running Total WSF Grant = \$102,983 of \$200,000 grant
	So Remaining Total of WSF Grant = \$97,017

LPNNRD for GWEL cooperators	
8 inch meter	2 x 8" meters or 2 x \$230 = \$460
6 inch meter	1 x 6" meters or 1 x \$172 = \$172
Carry over (8 inch meter)	1 x 8" meter from Nov. 14, 2016 = \$230
LPNNRD Total	\$862

Total for Flow Meter Cost Share Program	
WSF & LPNNRD	For approval at January 9, 2017 Board Meeting = \$42,056

2.A.9. Bellwood Phase 2 Area

2016 is the fourteenth year for this Phase 2 Area. Phase 2 information packets with order were mailed to producers in June, before the start of irrigation.

This area was reduced from 32 sections to 21 sections in 2015.

Year	Nitrate-Nitrogen Range	Percent Nitrate-Nitrogen 0 To 8.0 Ppm	Percent Nitrate-Nitrogen 8.01 To 10.00 Ppm	Percent Nitrate-Nitrogen Greater Than 10 Ppm
2015	0 to 32.3 ppm	43% (31 of 72)	8% (6 of 72)	49% (35 of 72)
2016	0 to 35.1 ppm	37% (25 of 68)	12% (8 of 68)	51% (35 of 68)

Hough Farms water sample of G-065461 collected in August had a **93.6 ppm** result for G-065461. After talking with Tommy Hough it was determined that this sample was collected while they were chemigating at this well. Oaklund arranged with Tommy Hough to re-sample this well. The result of the second sample was 13.6 ppm, which is within the range of previous sample results (3.70 to 18.5 ppm). *[Note: The 93.6 result was removed from the above table.]*

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2016	0 to 35.1 ppm	34% (25 of 74)	11% (8 of 74)	55% (41 of 74)

Annual Fertilizer Application Reports are being received. Steve Semin brought his reports to the LPNDRD office and hand delivered them to Oaklund.

2.A.10. Richland - Schuyler Phase 2 Area

2016 is the first year of this Phase 2 Area. There are 45 registered active irrigation wells in the ten sections of this new area on the north edge of the current Phase 3 area.

Year	Nitrate-Nitrogen Range	Percent Nitrate-Nitrogen 0 To 8.0 Ppm	Percent Nitrate-Nitrogen 8.01 To 10.00 Ppm	Percent Nitrate-Nitrogen Greater Than 10 Ppm
2016	1.47 to 41.8 ppm	29% (10 of 34)	9% (3 of 34)	62% (21 of 34)

2.A.11. Richland - Schuyler Phase 3 Area

2016 is the first year of this Phase 3 Area. 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.

Year	Nitrate-Nitrogen Range	Percent Nitrate-Nitrogen 0 To 8.0 Ppm	Percent Nitrate-Nitrogen 8.01 To 10.00 Ppm	Percent Nitrate-Nitrogen Greater Than 10 Ppm
2015	0 to 53.3 ppm	23% (55 of 238)	12% (29 of 238)	65% (154 of 238)
2016	0 to 50.5 ppm	25% (58 of 228)	10% (22 of 228)	65% (148 of 228)

Annual Fertilizer Application Reports are being received.

2.A.12. LPNNRD Operator Certification

2017 Certification Classes for Nitrogen and Water Management

Class	Date & time	Location
# 1	Thursday, January 5th @ 3:00 p.m. (after Corn Expo)	Fremont - Christensen Field
# 2	Wednesday, January 18th @ 1:00 p.m.	ARDC - Mead
# 3	Thursday, January 26th @ 1:30 p.m.	Columbus - Ag Park
# 4	Thursday, February 7th @ 9:30 a.m.	David City – Hruska Library
# 5	Friday, February 10th @ 10:00 a.m.	Lindsay - Village Office
# 6	Wednesday, March 1st @ 9:30 a.m.	Columbus - Pinnacle Bank
# 7	Tuesday, March 7th @ 9:00 a.m.	Fremont - Extension Office
# 8	Thursday, March 9th @ 1:30 p.m.	David City – Hruska Library
# 9	Wednesday, March 15th @ 7:00 p.m.	ARDC - Mead
# 10	Thursday, March 16th @ 7:00 p.m.	Columbus - Ag Park

No online requests since the last Committee meeting.

2.A.13. Certifying Acres in Dodge County

Poole has been working with Schomer on updating the acre certification database with the District wide variances that have been recently approved by the Board. Poole will likely return to finishing Dodge County in early 2017.

2.B. CHEMIGATION

No new update. For 2016 we have 478 renewals and 95 new permit applications for a current total of 573. In 2015 we had a total of 515 chemigation permits.

2.C. LIVESTOCK WASTE PERMITS

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

Name	Livestock	Type of Permit	Legal Description	County
Helen Raikes Raikes Farm Enterprises 481 County Road 8 Ashland NE 68003	Cattle	Permit Modification	SW1/4, Section 16, T13N, R9E	Saunders

Description of permit modification of existing permit. Two bedded barns are proposed with the elimination of 6.7 feed lot acres, so the total operation will be reduced from 70.8 acres to 64.1 acres.

3. GROUND WATER PROGRAMS

3.A. DECOMMISSIONED WELL PROGRAM

3.A.1. Well Estimates

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

Well Owner	Type of Well	Cost Share Estimate	County
Terry McDonald	Irrigation	\$568.89	Butler

3.A.2. Plugged Wells

No wells have been plugged, reviewed, or ready for cost share payment approval this month.

3.B. LOWER PLATTE NORTH NRD GROUND WATER STUDIES

3.B.1. Eastern Nebraska Water Resources Assessment (ENWRA)

Angle and Oaklund met with Katie Cameron on December 20, 2016 concerning future plans for LPNNRD and ENWRA. Water staff feel that future AEM flights should focus on confined aquifers or were aquifers are thought to be thin and of limited arial extent. This would mean the Prague and Swedeburg subareas and later the Uplands of Saunders County east of the Todd Valley, the Platte River uplands north west of Fremont, and the rest of the Shell Creek watershed outside the current SQS #2 subarea. Cameron felt that with the next WSF grant request period that ENWRA should apply for one large grant with several NRD's involved.

3.B.2. Platte and Elkhorn River Valley Integrated Water Monitoring

No new update

3.B.3. Lower Platte River Consortium

The last meeting of the Lower Platte River Consortium was held at LPSNRD on December 15, 2016. Topics covered were WSF grant, BOR grant, and comments on the Plan which are due by January 10, 2017.

3.C. GROUND WATER ENERGY LEVELS

Angle gave a power-point presentation with a summary of the GWEL in our District up to the Fall 2016 readings (see attached pdf file). The presentation will be given as the educational program at our January board meeting.

4. OTHER

4.A. GMDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Ft. Worth Conference is in less than two weeks on January 9-11, 2017.

4.B. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mary Wotipka attended the Committee meeting but made no comments.
The Water Committee adjourned at 6:50 pm.