

Water Committee Meeting
Wednesday, February 28, 2018 5:00 PM
Lower Platte North NRD Office
P.O. Box 126
Wahoo, NE 68066

1. Water Committee

1.A. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1.B. REGULATORY

1.B.1. Voluntary Integrated Water Management Plan - LPNNRD

Attached is a draft of the IMP that will be shown at the Public Open House on Wednesday, March 28 from 7:00 till 8:30 pm.

1.B.2. GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT AREA

1.B.2.a. Groundwater Rules and Regulations

Draft Rules and Regulation with proposed development map is attached.

The Groundwater Advisory Group met Tuesday, February 27 at the Cobblestone Inn in Schuyler with 7 individuals in attendance. Staff went over the proposed rule changes and the rationale behind the changes. Comments on the proposed changes were favorable. Other discussion items included flow meters on all wells, cover crops, row spacing and drilling in the Dakota aquifer. One comment summed everything pretty good "Right Practices on the Right Acres".

1.B.2.b. Well Permit Program

1.B.2.b.1. 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 2018 is 1

Location of Approved Well Permits for 2018: Correct as of 2/28/2018

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	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Saunders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1	0	0	0	0	0	1

1.B.2.c. Cost Share Programs

1.B.2.c.1. Flow Meter Maintenance Program

Would the Committee consider recommending to the Board, Flow Meter Maintenance to all producers that report their water use District wide?

1.B.2.c.2. Flow Meter Cost Share in SQS #2

A followup letter was sent out the first part of February reminding producers if they were interested in receiving flow meter cost-share they needed to contact staff at the NRD office by March 1st. Staff did receive numerous calls and more producers are installing flow meters. We have 7 meters to receive cost-share for this month and 1 application that the meter has not been installed.

*****At the June 28, 2017 Water Committee, motion (1) offer cost-share for flow meters to producers within 2 miles of the SQS #2 Boundary with-in LPNNRD and (2)to offer cost-share within the SQS #2 area to convert gallons reading registers to acre-inches. Cost-share for registers conversion will be \$225 with producer paying the labor cost. Deadline for invoices will be by March 1.

*****At the November 30, 2016 Water Committee, motion was made to fund GWEL cooperator 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)

Water Sustainability Fund (WSF)	
8 inch meters	5 x 8" meters or 7 x \$770 = \$5390
6 inch meters	XX x 6" meters or XX x \$577 = \$0
WSF Total	\$3850
	So Running Total WSF Grant = \$85,621 of \$200,000 grant
	So Remaining Total of WSF Grant = \$114,379

LPNNRD For GWEL Cooperators	
8 inch meter	0 x 8" meters or 1 x \$230 = \$0
6 inch meter	0 x 6" meters or 0 x \$172 = \$0
Carry over (8 inch meter)	0 x 8" meter or 0 x \$230= \$0
LPNNRD Total	\$0

Total For Flow Meter Cost Share Program	
WSF & LPNNRD	For approval at March 12, 2018 Board Meeting = \$5390

=====

1.B.2.d. Bellwood Phase 2 Area

Soil sample results were not included with David Nicolas' corn reports - both David Nicolas and Chris Nicolas have been contacted again regarding the lab sample sheets.

1.B.2.e. Richland - Schuyler Phase 2 Area

2017 reports have **not been received** from Brian Goff. Oaklund has called him again.

1.B.2.f. Richland - Schuyler Phase 3 Area

2017 reports have **not been received** from Chris Dvorak. Oaklund has called him again. Mark Horejsi called today and said he plans to attend today's Water Committee meeting to discuss moving acres in Section 22-T17N-R3E. He had spoken with Oaklund after the February Board meeting and Oaklund mailed him information regarding the Acres Certification of the tracts south of Schuyler.

1.B.2.g. LPNNRD Operator Certification

Four online test requests have been received so far in February. One did not get a passing grade and may retake the test. Four have passed the test and a certification card was mailed to each.

Cert #	Cert date	Name	Re-cert	Comments
6170	2/7/2018	Chad J Lanik	Yes	
5650	2/9/2018	Taylor Murren	Yes	
5992	2/22/2018	Mark Gustafson	Yes	
5979	2/23/2018	Jerod Riha	Yes	
7103	2/28/2018	Carl Williamson	new	
5855	2/28/2018	Marty Reznicek	Yes	

1.B.2.g.1. 2018 LPNNRD Certification Classes for Nitrogen and Water Management

Class	Date & time	Location	Atten
# 1	Thursday, January 4th @ 3:30 p.m. (after Corn Expo)	Fremont - Extension Office	41
# 2	Wednesday, January 17th @ 7:00 p.m. [Dryland focus/emphasis]	ENREC (formerly known as ARDC)	102
# 3	Tuesday, January 30th @ 9:30 a.m. *Special class at 1:00 p.m. AEM	Columbus - Ag Park	26
# 4	Tuesday, January 30th @ 1:00 p.m. *Special class on AEM	Columbus - Ag Park	92
# 5	Thursday, February 5th @ 1:00 p.m. [Dryland focus/emphasis]	Butler County Events Center	36
# 6	Thursday, February 8th @ 9:30 a.m.	Lindsay - Village Office	8
# 7	Tuesday, February 27th @ 9:30 p.m.	Columbus - Pinnacle Bank	14
# 8	Wednesday, March 7th @ 9:00 a.m.	Fremont - Extension Office	
# 9	Tuesday, March 13th @ 9:30 a.m.	Butler County Events Center	

# 10	Tuesday, March 20th @ 7:00 p.m.	ENREC (ARDC)	
# 11	Thursday, March 22nd @ 3:00 p.m. *Special class afternoon. AEM	Columbus - Ag Park	
# 12	Thursday, March 22nd @ 7:00 p.m.	Columbus - Ag Park	

1.B.3. LIVESTOCK WASTE PERMITS

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

Staff did a drive-by of both sites noting the set-back distances of the application sites along Shell Creek. Both facilities are designing confinement barns and increasing the size of the lagoon.

Name	Livestock	Type of Permit	Legal Description	County
Beller Feedlot	Cattle	Modification	SW¼ 13-20N-04W	Platte
Gaspers	Cattle	Modification	NE¼ 12-20N-04W	Platte

Description of permit application

1.B.4. 2017 District Wide Water Use Reports

The District has received approximately half of the 677 reports mailed to producers with the District average being 4.23 in/ac. The listed deadline for these reports is 2/28/2018.

1.C. GROUND WATER PROGRAMS

1.C.1. DECOMMISSIONED WELL PROGRAM

1.C.1.a. Well Estimates

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

Well Owner	Type of Well	Cost Share Estimate	County
Clay Jedlicka	Irrigation	\$450.89	Colfax
Clay Jedlicka	Irrigation	\$420.23	Colfax
Clay Jedlicka	Irrigation	\$420.23	Colfax

1.C.1.b. Plugged Wells

1 well have been plugged, reviewed, and ready for cost share payment approval this month.

Well Owner	Type of Well	Cost Share Estimate	County
James Poulas	Irrigation	\$436.46	Dodge

1.C.2. LOWER PLATTE NORTH NRD GROUND WATER STUDIES

1.C.2.a. Eastern Nebraska Water Resources Assessment (ENWRA)

Staff will be conducting extensive water level measurements in the areas that will be part of the 2018 flights. This will give us a current static water level for these areas compared to the 1995 level used in the prior report. One of the components of the report is to determine total water volume, so accurate numbers will be valuable.

Staff is looking into integrating well log geographic information with the AEM flights to help with the management of the groundwater. Jesse Korus from UNL Conservation and Survey Division is looking to set a standard on geology material on well logs, so conversions can be done easier.

1.C.2.b. Platte and Elkhorn River Valley Integrated Water Monitoring

Attached are some preliminary water contours maps. If you look at these contours, it

appears the water could be flowing toward the Elkhorn on the northern part but shifts a little further south.

1.C.2.c. Lower Platte River Consortium

The meeting was postpone because of weather. Another meeting is being planned for sometime in March.

1.C.3. NEW MONITORING WELLS

On February 14th Andersen and Oaklund met with Sue Lackey, UNL-C&SD, in West Point to review AEM information for locations of testholes and possible monitoring well sites. Three sites were selected: one in Colfax County near the Platte County line; one east of Highway 81; and one northwest of Tarnov. On February 16th Andersen and Oaklund reviewed these sites in the field to identify the favorable location(s) at each site. (Andersen and Oaklund also met with livestock producers Travis Dicke and Terry Lutjens regarding flow meters for their livestock operations.) On February 26th Oaklund met with landowners at the sites to review locating these testholes/monitoring wells near their land by the county right-of-way. Afterwards Oaklund went to the Platte County courthouse to apply for two county R-O-W permits then to the Colfax County Highway Dept to apply for R-O-W permit for the east site. Each county will review the permit(s) applications and send written confirmation after their field review, pending their Board's approval.

At this time UNL will be getting quotes for 3 test holes and monitoring wells.

1.D. OTHER

1.D.1. UTV Purchase

Staff from the Water Department has been looking for the best option in purchasing an UTV for field use. The Polaris Ranger 570 fits most of the criteria that was asked for. It is a little wider than was requested as the hope was to find one that was no wider than 54 inch, so staff could get down corn fields with 30 inch rows. The Ranger specs out at 58 inch wide, but staff did view one and with narrower wheels it measured 56 inches. Staff would like to include a front windshield on the UTV. A plastic windshield through P&R Sales is \$500 and a glass one is \$700.

The Ranger will come with a 1 year warranty but options are a 48 month extended warranty for approximately \$750 or 24 months for \$500. This can be purchased anytime in the first year. It was recommended to consider 6 or 8 ply tires right away for approximately \$500.

Staff recommends accepting the state contract quote for a Polaris Ranger 570 for \$9,567.10 and installing a plastic windshield.

The state contract does not have trailers as an option to purchase. A price was obtained from P&R Sales for an Aluminum Trailer for \$1750.

1.D.2. GMDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Summer Conference is set for May 29 - June 1 in Savannah, Georgia. Registration is attached with deadline of April 15 for early registration.

1.D.3. Project Sense

A thank-you letter from UNL is attached for LPN support and participation.

Grower review meeting March 9th at Chances R in York at 10 AM. If interested please let staff know to confirm.

1.D.4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC