

Operations Committee Meeting  
Thursday, July 31, 2025 8:30 AM  
Lower Platte North NRD Office  
P.O. Box 126  
Wahoo, NE 68066

1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

We do not have any unfinished business to address.

2. WILD NE AND OTHER PROGRAMS

Nothing to report.

3. OPERATION & MAINTENANCE & OTHER ITEMS

The O & M crew did maintenance & inspections on 7-8 more dams, shredded roadsides around Wanahoo & Czechland & plots where the BGC group wants to establish food plots near their deer blinds. We are spraying tree problem areas also. Continue to organize & assist around the new building.

3.A. Rehabilitation of Cottonwood 21-A, NRCS & HDR

The NRCS Grants & Agreements Division has approved the amendment to use non-allocated funds from the Work Plan-Environmental Assessment Study for the Planning and Design Phase of Cottonwood 21-A. It was signed by the District on July 22. They expect the Planning & Design Phase to be completed by December 2026.

The Work Plan-Environment Assessment Study was also returned from the Little Rock, AR NRCS office with their comments. Staff sat in on a teleconference page turner review with NRCS and HDR on July 24th. The NRCS & HDR addressed all the comments and will update the plan and send it back to Little Rock.

3.B. Wanahoo Basin Damage & Repair, FEMA, & Houston Engineering

Staff met with Houston Engineering (Mike & Connor) to review the damage on the Wanahoo property and how we want to prioritize, repair and/or mitigate areas. We have teleconferenced with FEMA & NEMA on procedures & directions. FEMA will allow us to work our projects in phases, so if a project is completed we can then be reimbursed for it rather than wait for all phases to be completed. We can move forward with bidding the repairs to the hiking trail, jetties, and pedestrian bridge (need a motion).

FEMA would like us to move forward as fast as we can for the dam joints and basin. FEMA needs repair and mitigation costs and a BCA, so funds can be obligated, and we can bid for the work.

If we want to mitigate the breakwater and improve the third mile weir access, we may have to obtain a 408 permit from the COE since those structures were Corps designed and built.

We need a new contract with Houston Engineering to lead us through this large project. They may have one prepared by the Board meeting.

3.C. Office Generac Generator Warranty & Plan

1) We have a two-year warranty on the office Generac generator. Year one is comprehensive (bumper to bumper), and the second year is parts only. Do we want

an extended warranty of 5, 7, or 10 years? These plans have comprehensive coverage. The 5-year plan is \$1150, the 7-year is \$2132 and the 10-year is \$3446. After 2000 hours on the generator there is no warranty coverage.

2) Do we want a preventative maintenance plan? Attached are two quotes, one for the Silver Plan in which they come out twice a year for a major inspection and a minor. The Bronze Plan is a major inspection once a year and staff would be required to do quarterly inspections for warranty purposes. Also attached is a list of service items for the plans.

3.D. Grass Drill Revenues

The grass drill at Rosendahl Farms was used by three cooperators, and we received \$128.75.

The grass drill at Rezac Seed was used by 8 cooperators, and we received \$1,437.70. Do we want to write another NET grant to replace the grass drill at Rezac Seed? Paul Rezac would recommend one as the current one is very old.

3.E. National Guard Camp Fuse Plug Reimbursement to LPSNRD

Lower Platte South NRD assisted financially with the repair of the Fuse Plug in the National Guard Camp back in Sept. 2020 and paid LPN \$14,641.66 (which is 50% of the local sponsor share).

We can reimburse LPSNRD \$14,641.66 because we have been fully reimbursed by FEMA, NEMA and the CBDG grant for that repair.

4. ROCK AND JETTY

We have not received any request for payments or applications.

5. LAKE WANAHOO

5.A. Lake Wanahoo Permit Sales

For the month of June, the District received \$8,089.00 in annual park permit revenue.

5.B. Lake Wanahoo Camping Revenue

For the month of June, the District received \$17,152.82 in camping revenue.

5.C. Clint Johannes Education Building

The Clint Johannes Education Building at Lake Wanahoo was rented 16 times in July, with 4 NRD events. Revenue for the month was \$1,325.

5.D. Wanahoo Property 600' Setback

When Wanahoo was developed there was a 600' hunting setback filed on the neighboring properties on our west boundary. I have had several requests to consider removing or reducing this setback allowing landowners to develop their properties.

6. INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

6.A. Information

6.A.1. Radio & eAds

The KTIC radio ads for July featured a reminder for annual well water testing. August's ad will feature variances. Those ads are both attached.

Wahoo newspaper e-ad and print ad for July featured variances. We will not be doing an e-ad or print ad for August.

6.A.2. Analytics

Top Posts for Facebook and X included:

- Wildflowers and Wine flyer
- Nocturnal night flyer
- NWQI for Wahoo Creek Watershed
- 4th of July at Wanahoo
- Coffee Lakeside flyer

On the LPNNRD website, we received traffic from Facebook (58), NARD (10), Nebraska tourism (7), Saunders County Fair website (2), KTIC (1) Wahoo newspaper e-ad (0), X (0).

The full reports are attached.

6.A.3. Summer Newsletter

The Summer Viaduct will be finished this week with the printer and sent to newspapers for inserting. This will go into newspapers the week of August 11. Attached is a copy.

6.B. Education

6.B.1. Past Events

- **July 7-11:** NRD Nature Camp. Eight middle school students participated this year. These kids spent a week learning about: insects, birds, reptiles and amphibians, trees, mushrooms, and flowers. They went: fishing and bird watching; dissected owl pellets; and learned photography basics. Every student went home with a nature journal, and they'll receive photo albums from the pictures they took that week.
- **July 15th:** Nocturnal Night (12). Spent the night learning about nocturnal animals and their environments. Ended with a nocturnal nature hike and smores.
- **July 17th:** Coffee Lakeside (5). Walked the prairies discussing the history, current management techniques, common invaders, and species of the prairies.

6.B.2. Upcoming events

- **August 4th:** Wildflowers and Wine (flyer)
- **August 7th:** Coffee Lakeside: Specialty Crops
- **August 7th:** Last nocturnal night of the summer!
- **August 26th:** State Fair Education

2025-2026 Education flyer - Mailed and emailed to every school district  
CEO student schedule - Jack  
Scheduling 2025-2026 school year  
State Land Judging Contest Host

6.B.3. Native Nook

We are starting a new program called the Native Nook. This is for anyone in our district, urban or rural, looking to add native flowers and grasses to their landscape. We will provide 100 square feet of seed, and a yard sign for outreach and education. We are still working on the program details and application process, but are hoping to roll it out in the next two months.

7. RURAL WATER SYSTEMS

7.A. Colon System

The RWD was notified of a leak at a residence in Colon and will work to get it repaired as quickly as possible.

Routine month sampling, meters read and billing completed.

7.B. Bruno System

The lead and copper testing has been completed and results from state labs will be sent to residences. No results were near action limits.

Routine month sampling, meters read and billing completed.

7.C. Operations Budget

7.D. Other



# Preventative Maintenance Quotation

1010475 Lower Platte North NRD

Date: 5/8/2025  
 Equipment: Generac GMN# SD060  
GSN# 3016666564  
 Location: 1616 County Rd 17  
Wahoo, NE 68066  
 Attention: Ryan Chapman 402.432.0372

Service Plan: Silver

### 3 Year Agreement

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Major:	\$ 1,100.18	\$ 1,144.19	\$ 1,189.95
Minor:	\$ 550.00	\$ 572.00	\$ 594.88
Quarterly:			
Quarterly:			
Load Bank:	\$ 1,102.50	\$ 1,102.50	\$ 1,102.50

*can do load for 1 hr*

Total (No Load Bank): \$ **5,151.20**  
 Total (Load Bank Incl.): \$ **8,458.70**

\*\*Initial by Selection

### 1 Year Agreement

	Year 1
Major:	\$ 1,237.55
Minor:	\$ 630.57
Quarterly:	
Quarterly:	
Load Bank:	\$ 1,102.50

Total (No Load Bank): \$ **1,868.12**  
 Total (Load Bank Incl.): \$ **2,970.62**

\*\*Initial by Selection

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:\*\* Pricing includes annual fuel analysis and annual fuel treatment\*\*\*

Each service visit will be billed according to the type of visit completed and invoiced after the work has been performed per HM Cragg checklist guidelines. The field service report will be sent following the invoice. We appreciate your business and look forward to assisting you in all of your power generator servicing needs. **Contract proposals expire after 30 days.**



## Preventative Maintenance Quotation

1010475 Lower Platte North NRD

Date: 7/29/2025  
 Equipment: Generac GMN# SD060  
GSN# 3016666564  
 Location: 1616 County Rd 17  
Wahoo, NE 68066  
 Attention: Ryan Chapman 402.432.0372

Service Plan: Bronze

### 3 Year Agreement

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Major:	\$ 1,100.18	\$ 1,144.19	\$ 1,189.95
Minor:	_____	_____	_____
Quarterly:	_____	_____	_____
Quarterly:	_____	_____	_____
Load Bank:	\$ 772.50	\$ 772.50	\$ 772.50

Total (No Load Bank): \$ 3,434.32  
 Total (Load Bank Incl.): \$ 5,751.82

\*\*Initial by Selection

### 1 Year Agreement

	Year 1
Major:	\$ 1,237.55
Minor:	_____
Quarterly:	_____
Quarterly:	_____
Load Bank:	\$ 772.50

Total (No Load Bank): \$ 1,237.55  
 Total (Load Bank Incl.): \$ 2,010.05

\*\*Initial by Selection

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \*\* Pricing includes annual fuel analysis and annual fuel treatment\*\*\* \*\*Pricing includes 1 hr load bank\*\*

Each service visit will be billed according to the type of visit completed and invoiced after the work has been performed per HM Cragg checklist guidelines. The field service report will be sent following the invoice. We appreciate your business and look forward to assisting you in all of your power generator servicing needs. **Contract proposals expire after 30 days.**

## HM CRAGG'S *PowerON* Planned Maintenance Program

Ensure peace-of-mind with a worry-free *PowerON* plan that includes:

- Multi-point inspections of all equipment, scheduled regularly 1, 2, 4 or 12 times per year included in our *PowerON* Bronze, Silver, Gold or Platinum service levels
- Once-per-year oil, oil filter and fuel filter changes
- Coolant testing and treatment
- EPA-approved disposal of used oil and filters
- Repair recommendations quoted
- Access to 24/7 emergency service
- Technical assistance and support when you need it
- And more depending on your *PowerON* plan level...



Pick the *PowerON* plan that meets your needs and budget...



<i>What services are included:</i>	<i>PowerON Bronze</i>	<i>PowerON Silver</i>	<i>PowerON Gold</i>	<i>PowerON Platinum</i>
<i>Number of times each service performed yearly:</i>				
Total system pre-run checks	1x	2x	4x	12x
Multi-point running inspection	1x	2x	4x	12x
Battery inspection	1x	2x	4x	12x
Coolant level inspection	1x	2x	4x	12x
Enclosure and louver inspection	1x	2x	4x	12x
Engine systems inspection	1x	2x	4x	12x
Exhaust system inspection	1x	2x	4x	12x
Fuel level check	1x	2x	4x	12x
Oil level check	1x	2x	4x	12x
Transfer switch inspection and programming check	1x	2x	4x	12x
Wiring, terminal, and lug inspection	1x	2x	4x	12x
Electronic field service inspection reports	1x	2x	4x	12x
Charging system check	1x	2x	4x	4x
Cooling system test and inspection	1x	2x	4x	4x
Fuel system inspection	1x	2x	4x	4x
Safety shutdowns check	1x	2x	2x	2x
Infrared temperature readings on lugs	1x	2x	2x	2x
Phase rotation compatibility check	1x	2x	2x	2x
System load transfer test	1x	2x	2x	2x
Oil change	1x	1x	1x	1x
Oil filter change	1x	1x	1x	1x
Fuel filter change	1x	1x	1x	1x

# VARIANCE REQUESTS

Variance requests for new and expanded irrigated acres in Restricted Development Areas and Non-Hydrologically Connected Areas are due by August 15.

Hydrologically Connected Areas are due by September 15.

For more information visit [lpnrd.org](http://lpnrd.org) or call 402-443-4675.



LOWER PLATTE NORTH  
Natural Resources District

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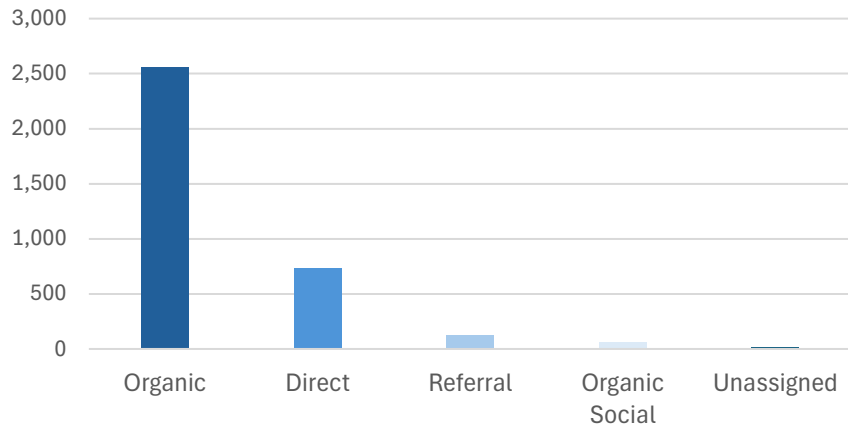
LOWER PLATTE NORTH  
Natural Resources District





# LOWER PLATTE NORTH Natural Resources District

### Traffic Channels

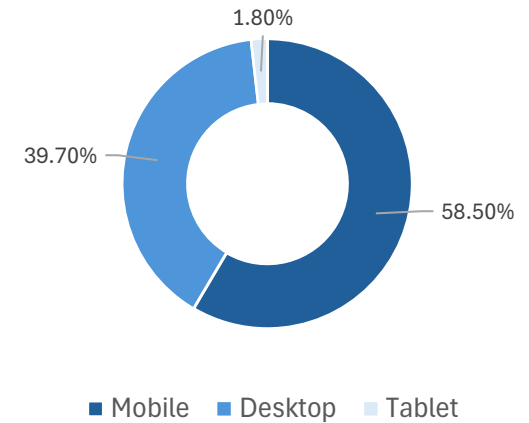


Users

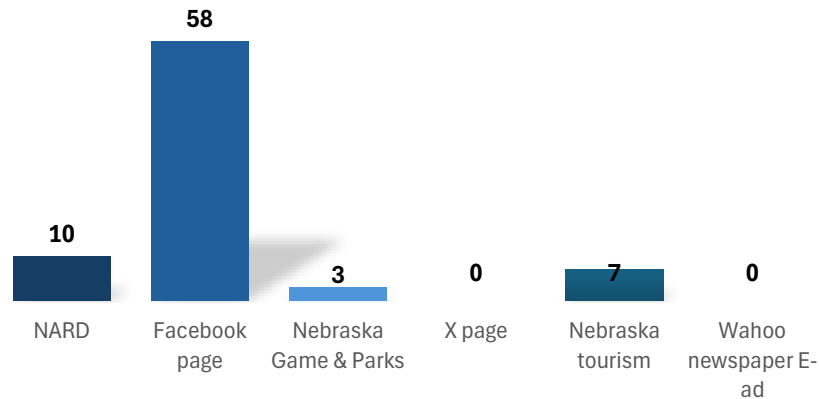


3%

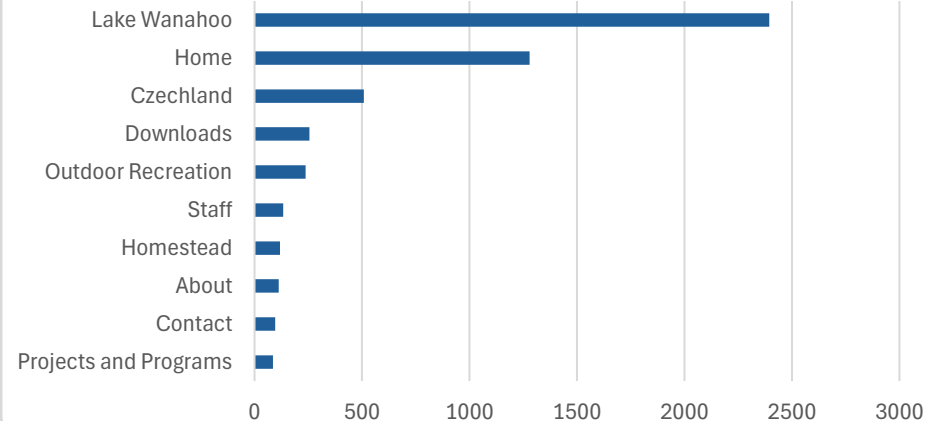
### Devices



### Traffic By Type



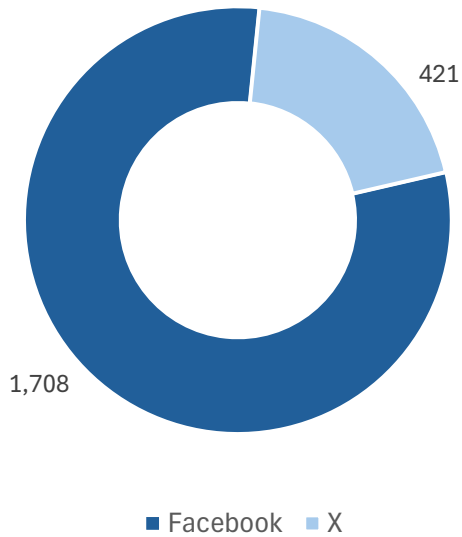
### Website Top 10 Pages by Users





# LOWER PLATTE NORTH Natural Resources District

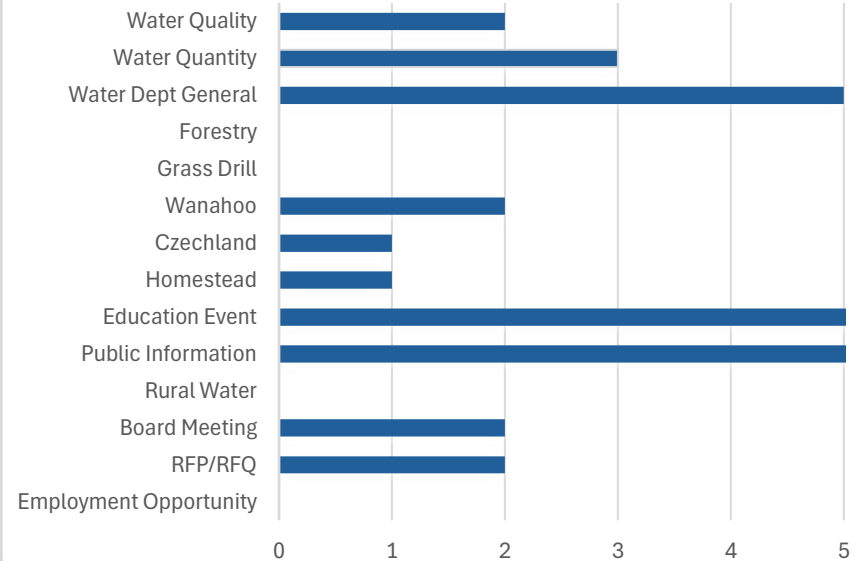
## Social Media Followers



## July 1-29 Content



## July 1-29 Post Categories



Facebook engagement  5%

X engagement  23%



Wahoo Creek Watershed Construction  
**Page 3**



Weather Monitoring  
**Page 4**



Outdoor Adventures for All  
**Page 5**

# the VIADUCT

Lower Platte North Natural Resources District  
Summer 2025

## Investing in Clean Water: Incentives for Operators in the Wahoo Creek Watershed

The Lower Platte North NRD has partnered with the NRCS to promote best management practices for both row crop and livestock operations within the Wahoo Creek Watershed. Producers within the watershed may be eligible for financial assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), or National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI). NRCS administers the EQIP program and has allocated money exclusively to the Wahoo Creek Watershed.

The main goal of the NWQI plan is to reduce the amount of both atrazine and *E. coli* within the watershed. There are currently 10 water bodies within the Wahoo Creek Watershed that are impaired from either of these two contaminants. Applicants can work with NRCS to develop and implement a plan that can help reduce the amount of *E. coli* and atrazine entering our waterways.

The practices in the NWQI plan range from high to

low priority in the effectiveness of reducing these two contaminants. Practices that are deemed low priority must be bundled with a high priority practice to be eligible to apply. Some examples of high priority practices are cover crops, integrated pest management, and waste storage facilities. If a producer were looking to implement a practice that is low priority, like a grassed waterway, they would have to pair that with an integrated pest management practice to become eligible. This example creates an overall highly effective practice for the reduction of atrazine or *E. coli* from entering the watershed while also treating the producer's resource concern.

Anyone interested in applying should contact the Saunders County NRCS office to begin the application process. If you have more questions about the program, please call Jake Maslonka at the LPNDRD. You can also visit [lpnrd.org](http://lpnrd.org) for a list of practices and more information.

## Final Bend of Shell Creek Benching Project Completed

The Shell Creek Watershed Improvement Group (SCWIG) continues to invest in conservation practices throughout the watershed. SCWIG is a locally led group of dedicated individuals created over 25 years ago who lead grassroots initiatives to improve water quality in Shell Creek. Their mission aligns seamlessly with the LPNDRD to collaborate with and open doors for project funding.

The partnership has yielded extensive results over the past decade; utilizing grants through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Nebraska Department of Environment and



The "final bend" benching project looking south from the new county road bridge after recent heavy rains that historically would've caused localized flooding but were contained within the Shell Creek banks.

Energy, Nebraska Environmental Trust, Colfax County, and local NRD funds, SCWIG has provided:

- Over \$120,000 to upgrade septic systems to EPA certified levels
- Built three streambank stabilization structures to provide protection to county road bridge infrastructure
- Assisted livestock producers to install solar wells, tanks, and fencing to provide fresh water and keep cattle out of the creek.
- This summer, along with Colfax

County and Union Pacific Railroad, completed the final phase of a wetland benching project *continued on page 3*

Lower Platte North NRD  
Board & Staff

<b>Board Member</b> .....	<b>Subdistrict</b>
Lon Olson, Fremont .....	1
Anthony Hanson, Fremont.....	1
John Goldsberry, Fremont .....	2
Bill Saeger, Fremont (Secretary).....	2
Dave Saalfeld, North Bend.....	3
Andrew Tonnies, North Bend .....	3
Chris Yosten, Schuyler.....	4
Matt Bailey, Schuyler .....	4
Mark Seier, Newman Grove (Treasurer).....	5
David Lawrence, Columbus.....	5
Joe Birkel, David City.....	6
Robert Hilger, David City .....	6
Ryan Engel, Fremont.....	7
Ryan Sabatka, Weston (Chairman).....	7
Jerry Johnson, Wahoo .....	8
Roger Harders, Wahoo .....	8
Duane Johnson, Mead.....	9
Robert Meduna, Wahoo (Vice-Chair).....	9
Thomas McKnight, Fremont .....	at large

<b>Staff Member</b> .....	<b>Position</b>
Sydney Abbott.....	Education Coordinator
Daryl Andersen.....	Water Resources Manager
Kaitlyn Bargaen.....	Water Resources Specialist
Brandon Beethe.....	GIS/Grants Coordinator
Jill Breunig .....	Bookkeeping Dept. Head/ Admin. Assistant
Adam Brockmann....	NRD/NRCS Conservation Tech
Ryan Chapman.....	Assistant Manager
Sean Elliott.....	Projects/Rural Water Manager
Eric Gottschalk.....	General Manager
Bob Heimann .....	O & M Manager
Jake Maslonka..	Water Quality Program Coordinator
Dave Moore .....	O & M Technician
Sean O'Brien .....	O & M Technician
Dave Odvody .....	Recreation Facilitator
Jake Pittman .....	Water Resources Tech
Karen Rezac.....	Dept./Admin Assistant
Lacey Sabatka .....	Information Coordinator
Jon Speichinger .....	Recreation Supervisor/O&M
Jacob Stover.....	Water Resources Specialist

<b>NRD/NRCS Field Office Assistant</b> .....	<b>County</b>
Kimberly Piitz .....	Butler County
Kristin Miller .....	Colfax County
Jessica Marty .....	Dodge and Saunders Counties

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Sign up at [lpnrd.org](https://lpnrd.org) or send an email to  
[lpnrd@lpnrd.org](mailto:lpnrd@lpnrd.org)

LOWER PLATTE NORTH NRD

protecting lives | protecting property | protecting the future  
1616 County Road 17, Wahoo  
(402) 443-4675 | [www.lpnrd.org](https://www.lpnrd.org)

From the Desk of  
the General Manager



Eric Gottschalk

Lower Platte North Natural  
Resources District: Your Route  
to Conservation

Muzzy Miller...under the welcome mat, Mrs. Holt...in the mail slot; Texels...milk box...Those of you who had a paper route growing up, know exactly what this means.

For nine years, from the 70's to early 80's, my three brothers and I all delivered the Omaha World Herald to nearly 80 households in the northeast neighborhoods of Wahoo. Getting up early every morning, stuffing the Sunday edition with ads and comics and walking door-to-door on Saturday afternoons collecting from customers were responsibilities kids like us took on when managing our routes.

Reflecting back, I appreciate the skills and habits managing a paper route taught young people like me. Rising early each morning, looking people in the eye when speaking, listening and communicating with customers regarding concerns, working to find the most efficient delivery route and the power of a positive attitude (while trudging through snow and rain) are all skills and habits I developed years ago as a paper boy.



Eric, his brothers, and their Mom Donna heading out on their morning route.

At Lower Platte North NRD, we have an amazing staff, ready, willing and able to work with you in your conservation efforts on your farm, your home or in your community. While not all our staff have had the experience of delivering papers, I promise you, they will ALL look you in the eye when speaking, will listen and communicate regarding your concerns and work alongside you, assisting as you work to achieve your conservation goals and objectives. Stop out and see us when you have time at our new office located at 1616 County Road 17 in Wahoo.

As I mentioned earlier, many of our customers had specific locations to have their papers delivered. We also had other amazing customers like Orv and Karen Johnson who's only request was "Please get our paper SOMEWHERE on the porch". Karen and Orv, hopefully your World Herald was safe and dry MOST mornings when you went out to pick up your news.

Eric Gottschalk, LPNNRD General Manager

Please note in this issue: Lower Platte North Natural Resources District may be abbreviated to Lower Platte North NRD, LPNNRD or NRD.

Shell Creek, continued from page 1 along the final three miles of Shell Creek as it meets the Platte River. This project included building a “benched wetland” within the banks of Shell creek, a larger UPRR bridge and county road bridge, to allow for flood flows to stay within the

- banks of the creek and reach the river.
- Future plans include: additional streambank/grade stabilization structures, continued septic system upgrades, and educational outreach opportunities.

## Lower Platte North NRD Relocates to a New Office Space

The Lower Platte North Natural Resources District (LPNNRD) is pleased to announce the relocation of its main office located at: 1616 County Road 17, Wahoo, NE 68066.

This move marks a significant milestone for the LPNNRD, following extensive discussions and planning by staff and the 19-member Board of Directors since preliminary preparations began in 2022. The decision to relocate was first discussed by the LPNNRD board in 2011 and driven by the limitations of the previous office at 511 Commercial Park Road in Wahoo, which was landlocked and offered no room for necessary expansion. On May 9, 2025, the former building was sold at a public auction and will now go back onto the property tax roles.



Lower Platte North NRD's new office located on the southwest side of Lake Wanhoo near Wahoo.

The new office is located on the southwest corner of the Lake Wanhoo NRD Recreation Area, on land already owned by the LPNNRD. The new site offers unlimited expandability, addressing the previous challenge of being landlocked.

While our address is changing, the LPNNRD's unwavering commitment to protecting Nebraska's natural resources for future generations remains the same. We look forward

to continuing our crucial work in local conservation, water quality and quantity management, forestry, and environmental education.

Our phone number, (402) 443-4675, website, [www.lpnrd.org](http://www.lpnrd.org), and office hours—Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM—remain the same.

## Wahoo Creek Watershed Dams Construction Underway

The Lower Platte North NRD broke ground on the Wahoo Creek Watershed flood reduction project last fall.



The riser inlet under construction at site 27.

The watershed plan calls for the construction of nine earthen embankments to reduce the flood damages within the watershed by nearly a third.

The first three structures are scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2026. The NRD is currently acquiring the remaining land rights on the final sites and finalizing design. Olsson was contracted by the NRD for engineering and land right acquisition services. Additionally, Thompson

Construction Inc., of Fremont, is the general contractor for the first three sites currently under construction.

The Wahoo Creek Watershed is part of the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Watershed Flood Protection and Operations (WFPO) program and is being funded through the State of Nebraska's Jobs and Economic Development Initiative (JEDI) fund.



The plunge pool spillway outlet for site 27.



Workers grouting the 24" concrete pipe spillway.

## Local 4-H and FFA Projects Receive Assistance from LPNNRD

Three local high school students were recently awarded funding to assist with their natural resources projects. The mission at the LPNNRD is the conservation, preservation, and wise use of our natural resources. The newly established Natural Resources Grant was created after multiple requests to assist high school students with grant monies that will aid them in completing a project

within their community that aligns with the mission of the NRD. The types of projects available for funding are FFA Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAE), seminar class projects, 4-H projects, and community engagement activities.

Funding recently awarded to students will assist with the following projects:

- **Becca Podolak, member of Always Busy Clovers 4-H club** is working with staff from the Butler County Hospital and Butler County Extension office to expand the community garden housed behind a nursing home in David City. The funding will give the nursing home residents a beautiful garden to visit, and help grow additional produce for hospital patients and

low-income families within Butler County.

- **William Podolak, member of Aquinas FFA Chapter** in David City will use funding for a grow tower and supplies to be used with their plant science class. This will provide learning opportunities for water efficiency, food to be used during school lunches, and allow students to use it for various SAE Projects.

- **Bishop Neumann FFA Chapter** in Wahoo plans to expand their currently successful vegetable growing efforts to provide additional vegetables at the school's salad bar and within the community such as the local food pantry, senior center, and others in need.

LPNNRD looks forward to the successful future of these projects and their efforts to help their communities!

## Internships Provide College Students with Natural Resources Experience

Each summer, LPNNRD offers college students who are pursuing careers in natural resources, water resources, environmental science, agriculture or a related major, an opportunity to learn more about Nebraska's NRDs. The interns work with the Operations and Maintenance Department to assist in tree planting, dam site maintenance, site inspections, property and vehicle maintenance, and other operational duties. The interns also work with the Water Resources Department to verify flow meters, perform variance and well permit checks, complete chemigation

inspections, sample wells for water quality and quantity, and other various water related activities.

These internships offer a strong foundation for students pursuing careers in natural resources, environmental science, and agriculture. The diverse work experience gained is beneficial for their intended career path but also for building crucial personal and professional skills. One such invaluable skill is adaptability.

Working in natural resources means constantly responding to dynamic conditions. The weather, for instance, can be highly unpredictable

during the summer months. Interns quickly learn to navigate these fluctuations, and transition to alternative tasks, demonstrating problem-solving skills. Additionally, the hands-on exposure and practical skills like data collection and equipment operation makes this internship an essential stepping stone for future career paths.

If you or someone you know is interested in a future internship at LPNNRD, contact us at 402-443-4675 or visit our website at [lpnnrd.org/](http://lpnnrd.org/) downloads, then employment opportunities to learn more.

## Weather Station Monitoring Available Across the District

Area residents can now access LPNNRD's METOS weather station network. This service provides valuable local weather data collected from various stations strategically placed across the district.

**Q&A with Jacob Stover, Water Resources Specialist coordinating the weather stations.**

**Where are the weather stations placed?**

The overall goal is to have a weather station every 5 or so miles apart. This distance gets shrunk and stretched in different parts of the district due to suitable placements and the willingness of landowners.

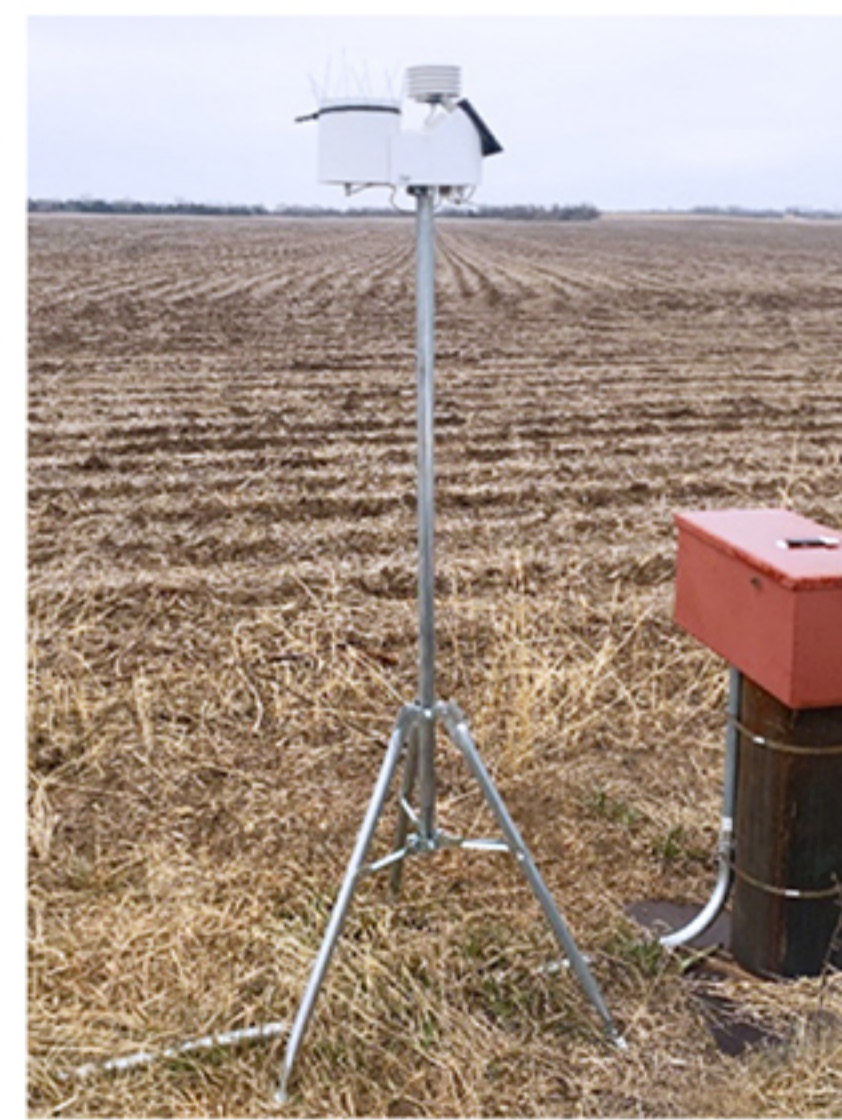
**What needs to be considered when placing a weather station?**

The weather station is solar powered and takes rain readings as well. The stations must be placed a good distance away from trees or buildings

that are taller and could keep rain from entering the rain bucket with different wind directions. The station also needs to be level due to the digital rain gauge using a tipping bucket for calculating rainfall.

**What is the data used for?**

All the data that is being collected is for the public's use as well as the use of the NRD. On the public side, this data could be useful for tracking rainfall for farming, gardening, and lawn care. It also tracks DeltaT, which is a pesticide effectiveness parameter. On the NRD's side, the data is useful for tracking rainfall to compare groundwater recharge and groundwater levels. It can also be used for monitoring rainfall that contributes to varying stream and river levels and



Weather station positioned alongside a monitoring well.

if conditions could lead to flooding. We also use it to know how much it rained and where to decide if it's a good idea to do field work around the district. We never want to tear up anybody's fields or contribute to compaction.

**What can I monitor?**

The parameters that are measured are: temperature, dew point, vapor pressure deficit (VPD), relative

humidity, precipitation, and DeltaT (commonly used as indicator for suitable spraying conditions for pest management).

**How do I access the data?**

Visit [www.lpnnrd.org](http://www.lpnnrd.org). Hover over the 'Projects and Programs' tab, then 'Water Management' tab, then 'Monitoring Programs' *continued on page 6*

# Outdoor Adventures For All Ages

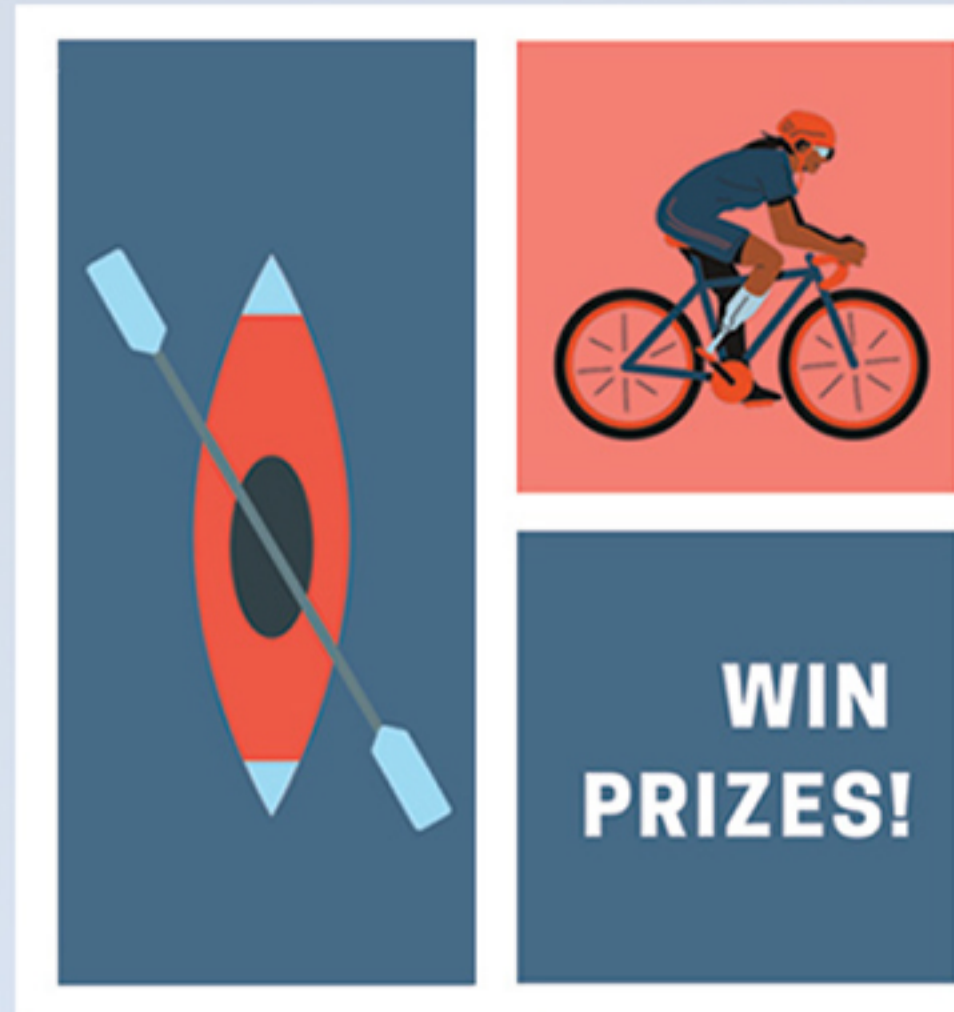
Are you ready to explore hidden gems in Nebraska? Go camping, view wildlife, test your luck at fishing, take nature walks, explore bike trails and more! The NRD Recreation Exploration challenges you to visit as many Natural Resources District recreation areas as you can between March 1, and September 19, 2025. It's simple: visit an NRD recreation area, snap a photo, and submit it online at <https://www.nrdnet.org/nrd-recreation-exploration-entry-form> for a chance to win great prizes!

This is the perfect opportunity to discover a new favorite spots right here in Nebraska. The Lower Platte North NRD offers three locations for

outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy fishing, no-wake boating, hiking, camping, and more at Czechland Lake near Prague, Homestead Lake near Bruno, and Lake Wanahoo near Wahoo.

And while you're out and about, Lake Wanahoo NRD Recreation Area has a fantastic lineup of summer events designed to get everyone outside and exploring:

- **Wildflowers and Wine (August 4):** Enjoy the beauty of native wildflowers paired with a relaxing evening of wine tasting.
- **Coffee, Lakeside (August 7):** Start



your morning with fresh coffee and donuts plus a great chat and view.

• **Nocturnal Night (August 7):** Discover the creepy crawly creatures in the night as Lake Wanahoo comes alive after dark.

- **Starry Night (September 22):** Stargaze with telescopes, explore the StoryWalk, and learn how plants and animals interact with the moon and stars. More details about these events are available at [lpnnrd.org](http://lpnnrd.org), [facebook.com/lpnnrd](https://facebook.com/lpnnrd), and [x.com/LPNNRD](https://x.com/LPNNRD).

## Join Us in Welcoming New Staff at LPNNRD

**Jake Maslonka** joined the LPNNRD at the beginning of 2025 as the Water Quality Program Coordinator. Jake developed his natural resources experience as an intern for the LPNNRD in 2016, the Upper Big Blue NRD from 2020-2022, followed by the City of Lincoln as an arborist. Jake and his fiancé will get married in August; they currently reside in Lincoln with their dog, Gus.



Jake Maslonka

**Jake Pittman** joined in March as a Water Resources Technician. Later this year, he will transition to a Water

Resources Specialist, with a dedicated focus on water quality initiatives. Jake brings experience in environmental science, having graduated from UNL in December 2024, and a two-year Environmental Management internship with Union Pacific Railroad.



Jake Pittman

**Sean O'Brien** joined LPNNRD in April of 2025. He was born in Lincoln and moved to Chadron in 2013 before settling most recently in Valley. As the eldest of three siblings, his background includes familiar ties to natural resources management with his dad currently managing the Upper

Niobrara White NRD. Sean brings hands-on experience from working on a ranch near Chadron and valuable mechanical skills from Honda, Yamaha, and Stihl dealership shops. Furthermore, he has been a dedicated volunteer firefighter since 2022. Sean is an avid outdoorsman who enjoys hunting, fishing, and water sports, and is a proud Nebraska fan through and through.

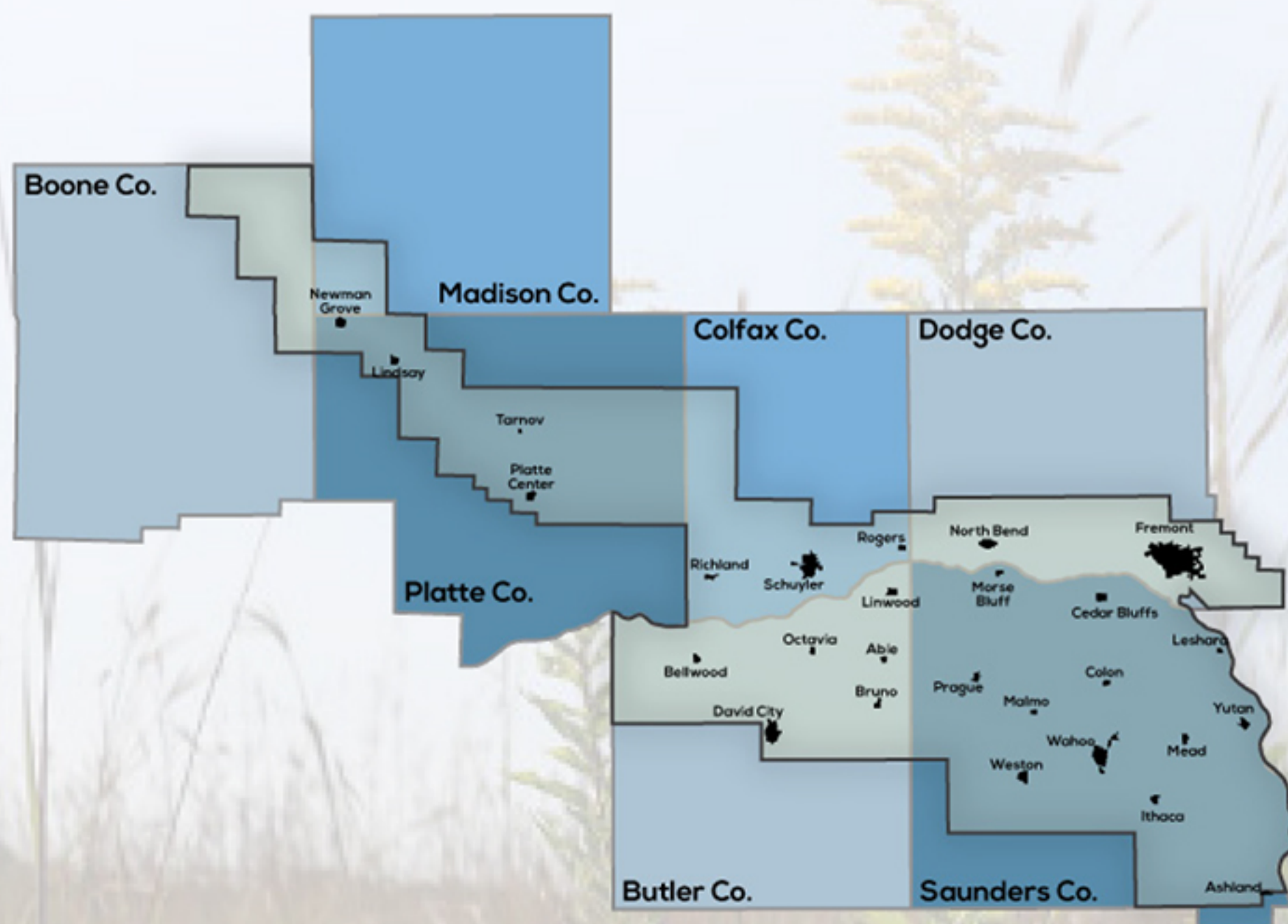


Sean O'Brien

We're delighted to have these three join the staff at the Lower Platte North NRD and invite you to stop by and introduce yourself to them!

## WE ARE THE LOWER PLATTE NORTH NRD

### LOWER PLATTE NORTH NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT



The Lower Platte North Natural Resources District, based in Wahoo, covers parts of seven counties in east-central Nebraska. There are 23 NRDs in Nebraska, charged with developing and protecting the state's natural resources.

In pursuing this mission, the districts often partner with landowners and other government agencies, such as the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The Lower Platte North NRD is governed by 19 locally-elected directors from nine subdistricts, and employs 18 full-time staff members (see current NRD directors and staff on page 2). The district is funded by a combination of property taxes and grants from local, State and Federal sources.



# Groundwater Management

## Beneath Our Feet: the Future of Groundwater

How does the Lower Platte North NRD ensure sustainable groundwater for generations to come? The answer lies in a carefully crafted document called the Groundwater Management Plan. The first plan was developed in 1987 with the most recent update completed in 1995. Over the last 30 years, the NRD has completed additional studies, research projects and updated maps on water quality and water quantity.

Over the last year, the NRD has been updating the Groundwater Management Plan. This plan will serve as a guideline for how the district will manage groundwater for future generations. The plan includes but is not limited to new aquifer sub-area maps, updated geological information and revised goals and objectives that are

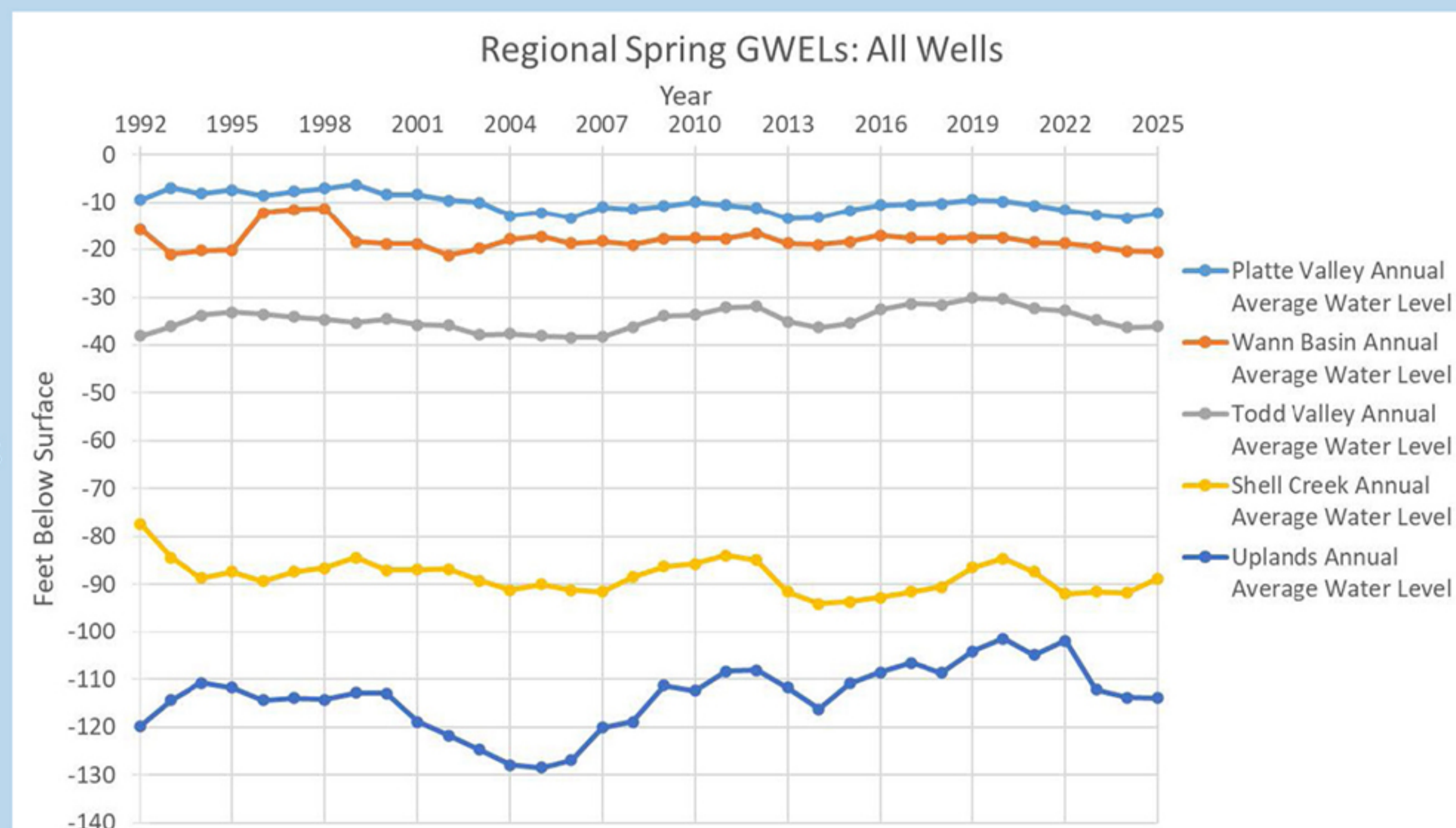
vital to water quality and quantity. The NRD utilized data from Airborne Electromagnetic Survey (AEM), hydrogeological assessments, groundwater levels and water sampling results to update the plan.

Over the course of reviewing and updating the plan, the NRD has held stakeholder and public meetings, as well as frequent meetings with the NRD Water Committee board members to finalize the plan. A final public hearing will be held after all comments are addressed. The public can review the plan by contacting the NRD office for a draft copy. After the plan is finalized, the Groundwater Rules and Regulations can be reviewed and updated if deemed necessary.

## Spring Groundwater Levels by Region

One of the responsibilities of the LPNNRD is conducting water level measurements of groundwater. These levels are invaluable to monitoring so that groundwater remains available for future generations. Groundwater is used by 85% of the Nebraskans for human and livestock consumption, irrigation and industrial use.

LPNNRD has completed its 2025 spring water level measurements and analyzed the data. Four aquifer areas exist within the NRD boundaries: Uplands, Platte Valley, Todd Valley and Shell Creek. The water level analysis looks at these areas separately for a better representation of that area. The chart was made by taking the average distance to water from the ground surface for each year in each region of the district. The plot does fall short, however, in that the number of wells that were tested has increased



each year to get more accurate data. Earlier data was made with less data points within each region, making the earlier data less reliable compared to recent data. Visit [lpnnrd.org](http://lpnnrd.org) for more detailed information on region locations.

*Weather Stations continued from page 5* tab. Scroll down on this page to the titled section 'FieldClimate Weather Station Network'. The PDF will walk you through how to access the data and view it. If you are having trouble with this or have additional questions, please feel free to email Jacob at [jstover@lpnnrd.org](mailto:jstover@lpnnrd.org).

**Disclaimer:** The LPNNRD makes no guarantee regarding the accuracy of this data and takes no responsibility for any consequences that may arise from its application. LPNNRD advised that none of the data collected from this network is reviewed or verified by professional meteorologists or agrometeorologists.



# Wildflowers & WINE

Monday, August 4

6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

Clint Johannes Education Building  
East side of Lake Wanahoo  
1655 County Road 16, Wahoo

- 5:45 p.m. *Doors open* This educational event is open to all
- 6:00 - 7:15 p.m. *Presentations*  
Lower Platte North NRD: landscaping for moths, new Native Nook Program  
Monarch Joint Venture: who they are, monarch habitat, monitoring for monarchs
- 7:30 p.m. *Habitat walk*
- 8:00 p.m. *Wine tasting* ID's will be checked



LOWER PLATTE NORTH  
Natural Resources District



MONARCH  
JOINT VENTURE



# NATIVE NOOK

Restoring nature, one nook at a time



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