

Operations Committee Meeting
Thursday, February 26, 2026 8:30 AM
Lower Platte North NRD Office
P.O. Box 126
Wahoo, NE 68066

1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
There is nothing to consider for unfinished business.
2. WILD NE AND OTHER PROGRAMS
We are working with the NRCS, who is contracting with a burn contractor to burn the 160 acre Snitily Pheasants Forever tract.
We have prepared to burn 150 acres of Wanhoo property on the east side along Hwy 109. This will be burned in cooperation with NRD staff, G & P, and Pheasants Forever when the weather allows.
3. OPERATION & MAINTENANCE & OTHER ITEMS
The O & M crew continues to remove invasive trees along the Clear Creek Levee, Rawhide Ditch 8, at Czechland and Wanhoo.
 - 3.A. Rehabilitation of Cottonwood 21-A, NRCS, HDR
HDR is working on the questions/comments the NRCS Watershed Programs Branch made in their Programmatic review.
Staff has started an RFP draft for the rehabilitation design for Cottonwood 21-A. It may be ready by the March Board meeting.
 - 3.B. Wanhoo Basin Damage & Repair, FEMA, & Houston Engineering
We have not heard from Houston Engineering, who is working with FEMA in figuring out cost/benefit ratios for replacement repairs and mitigation repairs.
 - 3.C. No-Till Grass Drill
NET notified the District that we would be awarded grant funding for a new No-Till grass drill. We will get updated quotes from three dealers and proceed.
 - 3.D. Tree Cooler
The new tree cooler is almost complete. The refrigeration company has to make some final connections and a test run. Trees will arrive in April.
 - 3.E. Diesel and Gas Purchases
Staff will develop a procedure for purchasing diesel and gas for our fuel barrels. We will call on local fuel providers, as needed, to get prices for the approximate quantity we need.
4. ROCK AND JETTY
We have not received any applications or cost-share request.
5. LAKE WANAHOO
 - 5.A. Lake Wanhoo Permit Sales
For the month of January, the District received \$3,450.50 in park permit revenue.
 - 5.B. Lake Wanhoo Camping Revenue
For the month of January, the District received \$2,837.39 in camping revenue.

5.C. Clint Johannes Education Building

The Clint Johannes Education Building at Lake Wanahoo was rented 9 times in February. Revenue for the month was \$1,225.

6. INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

6.A. Information

6.A.1. Radio & eAds

KTIC schedule:

January: Water Management/Nitrogen Certification

February: Trees & Shrubs

March: Environment Education

Digital display ad schedule:

Tree orders continue through February 28, 2026

6.A.2. Analytics

Top five posts:

1. Lake Wanahoo KETV skycam - 19,463 views
2. LPNNRD public hearing GWMP - 1,722 views
3. Seeking assistant water manager 1,111+ views
4. February Coffee Lakeside 360 views
5. Abandoned wells 306 views

The website had 2,475 views. Top pages visited were the home page, Lake Wanahoo, Forestry, Downloads, and Nitrogen certification/Water conservation classes.

RedThread has received the information to add the live feed from the new camera onto our website. No set deadline yet as to when it will be live on the website.

6.A.3. Winter Viaduct and Annual Report

The Winter Viaduct and Annual Report was printed on January 28 and sent to area newspapers for inserting in the second and third weeks in February. Printed copies are available in the office and a digital copy is available at lpnnrd.org/downloads.

6.A.4. Nebraska Public Media

We would like to continue our successful partnership Nebraska Public Media by sharing one our videos for a 2-3 month period during the Wednesday educational programming. This placement has been a great addition to expanding awareness of the LPNNRD to families in our district and across the state.

This year we would like to share the recreation video since the March - May aligns well with seasonal outdoor activities. Attached is the proposal Nebraska Public Media (TV only option) has provided that fits within the current budget. The dates will be adjusted after board approval.

As a note, these are the previous shared videos:

2025 - Operations and Maintenance video discussing projects and structures across the district.

2024 - Information and Education video discussing reaching audiences from 1 to 100.

6.A.5. Water Department/Producer Digital Newsletter

On February 12, LPNNRD's "Healthy Water, Healthy Future" newsletter was emailed to producers.

Topics included:

- SQS #2 area informational meeting
- March 9th Groundwater Management Plan hearing
- cost-share programs available in Shell Creek and Wahoo Creek
- domestic well water cost-share

The email was delivered to 1,187 users with a 45% open rate. 90 of those users clicked on one of the links to view additional information.

A copy is attached.

6.B. Education

6.B.1. Past events

6. **February 4th:** Survival Club - Foraging for wild foods (16)
7. **February 6-7th:** NACEE Conference
8. **February 10th-11th:** Bishop Neumann MS (20) Survival Skills over two days
9. **February 11th:** Fremont HS AM (22) Pollination/Bumble Bee Atlas
10. **February 12th AM:** Coffee Lakeside (20) Cold Stratification
11. **February 12th PM:** North Bend HS Career Fair (18)
12. **February 17th:** St. Wenceslaus Pre-K - animal safari (16)
13. **February 24th:** Survival Club - Map Reading ()

6.B.2. Upcoming events

14. **March 3rd:** Platte Co Ag Literacy Festival — Columbus
15. **March 12th:** Coffee Lakeside
16. **March 20th:** Fremont Elementary STEM Day
17. **March 25th:** FFA Convention — Lincoln

TBD: Survival Club; St. Wenceslaus Pre-K; classroom visits

6.B.3. NRD Natural Resources Grant

Bishop Neumann's video to our board.

https://cdolinc-my.sharepoint.com/personal/kurt-heideman_cdolinc_net/_layouts/15/stream.aspx?id=%2Fpersonal%2Fkurt%2Dheideman%5Fcdolinc%5Fnet%2FDocuments%2FOther%20Folders%2FAttachments%2FGarden%20Grant%20Video%2EMOV&ga=1&referrer=StreamWebAp

p%2EWeb&referrerScenario=AddressBarCopied%2Eview%2E00858fbf%2Dbde5%2D4e6b%2D9355%2D40e84d3b4992

6.B.4. Volunteers are always welcome

April and May are the busiest months of the school year. We will have field trips, Spring Conservation Sensation, and more events coming up that I can always use more help with. If you are interested in volunteering, please let me know and I will add you to the list. Once you are on the list, I'll send out the information for the upcoming event, and you can decide if it works for your schedule. Thank you in advance for your help!

6.B.5. Native Nook

Our first Native Nook project is underway! The viaduct showcased this new program, and we've received a lot of great feedback and interest. More projects are in the que.

6.B.6. Watchable Wildlife Grant

We received partial funding for the Watchable Wildlife Grant. Currently, the Wahoo High School shop class students are building the bird feeding structure. Once it's complete, Jon will get it into the ground on the east side of Lake Wanahoo near the picnic shelter that is north of the Ed building. Bird seed, feeders, and containers will be purchased next. Lacey is working on the bird ID signage that will be placed near the feeder. The last component will be a community communication piece, where people can write down the species they see and drop it into an iron ranger. Then I will transfer it to a board where we will keep track of species seen and their totals. We plan to have a grand opening at the end of April and close out the grant in early May.

7. RURAL WATER SYSTEMS

7.A. Rural Water Operations

The RWD is reviewing current rate schedules for the upcoming fiscal year. We have not adjusted the rates since 2022. Attached are the current rate schedules.

7.B. Colon System

Routine sampling completed, meters read and bills to be mailed 2/27.

7.C. Bruno System

Routine sampling completed, meters read and bills to be mailed 2/27.

7.D. Other

Proposal For : Lower Platte North NRD

Option 1 TV ONLY: \$1,065

Spots to run February 22 – April 11, 2026

(21) Total spots (3) spots per week for 7 weeks

- (5) spots around Prime Time Programming (7-11pm Mon – Sun)

Programs included: Nature, Finding Your Roots, and Our New World

- (14) spots around Early Fringe Programming (2-6pm Mon - Fri)

Programs included: Antiques Roadshow, Finding Your Roots, Great American Recipe, Nature, NOVA, PBS Newshour

- (2) spots around Sunday Day Time (11am-6pm Sun)

Program Included: Finding Your Roots

Option 2 TV & Radio: \$1,110

Spots to run March 1 – April 11, 2026

TV: (12) Total spots (2) spots per week for 6 weeks

- (4) spots around Prime Time Programming (7-11pm Monday – Sunday)

Programs included: Nature, Finding Your Roots, and Our New World

- (7) spots around Early Fringe Programming (2-6pm Monday - Friday)

Programs included: Antiques Roadshow, Finding Your Roots, Great American Recipe, Nature, NOVA, PBS Newshour

- (1) spots around Sunday Day Time (11am-6pm Sunday)

Program Included: Finding Your Roots

Radio: (12) Total spots (2) spots per week for 6 weeks

- (6) spots around Morning Drive Time (6-9am Mon-Fri)

NPR program: Morning Edition

- (6) spots Evening Time (7-8pm Mon-Fri)

NPR Program: Fresh Air

Sample radio copy:

Support for programming comes from the Lower Platte North Natural Resources District covering over a million acres from Saunders County to Boone and Madison Counties. The Lower Platte NRD is dedicated to the conservation, preservation and wise use of our Nebraska's natural resources including Lake Wanahoo and the Tree Planting Program. To learn more, <L P N N R D dot org>.





LOWER PLATTE NORTH
Natural Resources District

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HEALTHY WATER, HEALTHY FUTURE.



LOWER PLATTE NORTH
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This newsletter is intended to keep you, our area's producers, knowledgeable about the latest developments, trends, and initiatives concerning water quality and quantity within the district. As the Lower Platte North Natural Resources District remains steadfast in its commitment to protecting Nebraska's groundwater for future generations, this newsletter will provide you with straightforward, informative updates, relevant data, and valuable insights into the vital work being done to manage this critical resource.

Platte-Colfax Water Quantity Management Area (SQS #2) Meeting

An informational meeting is planned for Thursday, February 19, 2026, at the Humphrey Community Center from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. noon to discuss Platte-Colfax Water Quantity Management Area (SQS #2). The LPNNRD staff and Board have met after the initial meeting with some producers in that area. This meeting will discuss the potential new boundary change along with the updated rules from the last LPNNRD meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend to provide feedback.

A hearing will be held on Monday, March 9 at 11:00 a.m. on the updated LPNNRD Groundwater Management Plan. Information on the hearing can be found on the NRD website along with a draft document of the plan.

[Read the LPNNRD Groundwater Management Plan](#)

Cost-Share Programs

Cost-share programs for best management practices are available through the LPNNRD. Producers in Shell Creek or Wahoo Creek watersheds may qualify for additional, watershed-specific cost-share opportunities. Eligible practices may include cover crops, herbicide substitution, filter or buffer strips, terraces and underground outlets, among others. Please visit the links below to determine whether your land is located within a qualifying watershed.

[Shell Creek](#)

[Wahoo Creek](#)

Water Check

Have you had your water tested lately for nitrates? The NRD offers free testing of water for nitrates along with domestic water treatment cost share if nitrate levels exceed 8 mg/l or ppm. Contact staff at the NRD office to discuss logistics on getting your drinking water sampled.

[Domestic Well Water Cost-Share Application](#)

How did I get this? The Lower Platte North NRD Water Resources Department is working to ensure landowners and producers across our district are able to receive current news and updates as much as possible! We are testing a new email marketing system to assist in our communications. Stay subscribed for more updates coming soon!



Lower Platte North Natural Resources District

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LOWER PLATTE NORTH NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT 11/2021

WATER RATE SCHEDULE FOR BRUNO RURAL WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM

Pursuant to the Rules and Regulations of the Lower Platte North Natural Resources District for the Butler County (Bruno) Rural Water System, the following shall be the rates and fees to be paid by the consumers of water service of District for the Butler County (Bruno) Rural Water Supply System.

The Water Rate Schedule for each calendar month shall be as follows:

A. Quantity (usage rate):

1 st 10,000 gallons	\$6.25/1000 gallons*
All over 10,000 gallons	\$6.25/1000 gallons*

(*) Plus applicable Nebraska Sales Tax

The monthly billing for water service per each type for Bruno RWD (resident/commercial) Rural Water Supply

Type of Service	Rate (*)
¾" meter (residential hookup)	\$47.00
1" meter	\$60.00
1 ½" meter	\$80.00
2" meter (commercial)	\$185.00
4" meter (municipal)	\$560.00

(*) Plus applicable Nebraska Sales Tax

These rates will take effect during the March 2022 billing period. Please feel free to contact the LPNNRD Rural Water District at (402)443-4675 with any questions. Thank you for your service.

LOWER PLATTE NORTH NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT 12/2020
WATER RATE SCHEDULE FOR COLON RURAL WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM

Pursuant to the Rules and Regulations of the Lower Platte North Natural Resources District for the Saunders County (Colon) Rural Water System, the following shall be the rates and fees to be paid by the consumers of water service of District for the Saunders County (Colon) Rural Water Supply System.

The Water Rate Schedule for each calendar month shall be as follows:

- A. Quantity (Colon Residents):
1st 10,000 gallons \$4.15/1000 gallons*
All over 10,000 gallons \$4.15/1000 gallons*

- B. Quantity (Rural Consumers):
1st 10,000 gallons \$4.15/1000 gallons*
All over 10,000 gallons \$4.15/1000 gallons*

(*) Plus applicable Nebraska Sales Tax

The **minimum billing for service per each type for Colon (resident)** Rural Water Supply

Type of Service	Rate (*)
¾" meter	\$35.00
1" meter	\$60.00
1 ½" meter	\$80.00
2" meter	\$160.00

The **minimum billing for service per each type for Colon (rural)** Rural Water Supply

Type of Service	Rate (*)
¾" meter	\$43.20
1" meter	\$60.00
1 ½" meter	\$80.00
2" meter	\$267.00

(*) Plus applicable Nebraska Sales Tax

These rates will take effect during the March 2021 billing period. Please feel free to contact the LPNNRD Rural Water District at (402)443-4675 with any questions. Thank you for your service.