

IN THE LOUP

NRD Grants New Irrigation In Two Sub-Basins

New groundwater irrigation totaling up to 2,000 new acres has been approved for the North Loup River and Beaver Creek Sub-Basins in 2017 by the Lower Loup Natural Resources District Board of Directors.

NRD General Manager Leon “Butch” Koehlmoos said that the new irrigation was approved after a review of the available water in the NRD from the Lower Platte River Basin Study. The study showed a “surplus” in the water budget created for both sub-basins of the Loup River Basin.

He said that meant the new irrigation would not have a negative

effect on current users downstream of the irrigation development. New irrigation was not an option for any other basin in the NRD given present water supplies.

Koehlmoos said that, under the new Integrated Management Plan developed by the LLNRD and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (DNR), one surface water acre of new irrigation could also be developed for every three new groundwater irrigated acres.

LLNRD Assistant General Manager Russell Callan said applications for new irrigation would be ranked using criteria approved by the NRD Board in previous distributions. The

criteria include the stream depletion factors, the status of groundwater and surface water, irrigated acres concentration, the number of acres being developed, and the soil classification. A non-refundable fee of \$500 will be required with each application.

Callan said that application forms for new irrigated acres will be available to potential applicants on the NRD web site, www.llnrd.org; NRCS offices in the District; and at the NRD Headquarters office, 2620 Airport Drive, in Ord. Applications will be accepted September 1-20, 2016 only, and landowners will be notified of their application’s outcome by December 1st.



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Helicopter Maps Aquifers, Geology In NRD

Data from low flying helicopter surveys is now being analyzed to give the Lower Loup Natural Resources District better data on the aquifers in the eastern portion of the NRD.

Tylr Naprstek, Water Modeling Coordinator for the Lower Loup NRD, said that the data gathered during the flights is being processed by Aqua Geo Frameworks, LLC. The final report is expected later this year. He said that the report will provide the NRD with information on the proper-

ties of the aquifer and the geology of the area.

The flights were conducted over Platte and Nance Counties and provide characteristics and subsurface material. Details on soil types and layers of the aquifer will also be provided.

Naprstek said that the flights were funded under a collaboration between nine NRDs, including the Lower Loup, and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources.



Study flight begins in Columbus.

Groundwater Rules Hearing Is September 22

The Lower Loup NRD Board of Directors will hold a public hearing at 5:15 pm on September 22, 2016 to consider changes to the District's Groundwater Management Rules and Regulations.

The Board will consider a rule change to allow irrigated acres

developed after the LLNRD's Integrated Management Plan was approved to be regulated differently than those developed before the IMP approval. Another change would regulate the transfer of large quantities of water out of the District.

The proposed rule changes can be found on the NRD web site, www.llnrd.org. Public testimony on the rules changes can be presented during the hearing or written testimony can be submitted to the NRD. The deadline for written testimony is 4:30 pm on September 22, 2016.

Work Underway At Davis Creek Rec Area

Construction on 42 new campsites and other improvements is underway at the Davis Creek Recreation Area south of North Loup.

The improvements, which include the new campsites with electrical hook-ups, as well as a new shower-house and a primitive restroom facility, is expected to be complete this fall.

Overflow crowds, especially on holiday weekends, prompted the LLNRD Board of Directors to explore

the potential for expansion at Davis Creek.



Davis Creek camper pads have been poured.

The construction project is a joint effort of the LLNRD and the U.S.

Bureau of Reclamation. The Bureau will provide \$428,000 of the \$740,805 total project costs.

A second round of improvements will be considered by the NRD Board this fall. Those improvements could include a camper dump, fish cleaning station, and a second boat ramp.

A Message From The Manager

Welcome to another edition of In the Loup. We are always happy to share information on the work the NRD is doing and I want to thank you for reading our newsletter. I think we have some very interesting and challenging programs and projects started and we are excited to share them with you.

One project in particular is the LLNRD Board's decision to make an additional 2,000 acres of irrigation development available in sub-basins of our District. Data shows these basins have some excess water flows available. These acres and the actions made by the Board are the result of a number of pro-active data collection and modeling activities in which the LLNRD has been involved,

working with countless partners and government entities to give us the information necessary to make knowledgeable decisions.

I'd also like to share that the NRD Board has approved the District's Fiscal-Year Budget for 2016-2017. The Board held their budget hearing on August 25th. The LLNRD's property tax requirement for FY2017 will be \$5,093,387.24 compared to \$4,974,011.33 last year. This is a 2.4% increase in asking on a \$12,067,358 total budget.

The levy was set at \$0.031512 on a \$16,163,384,468 total District valuation. This compares to a \$0.033193 levy last year, a 5.1 percent decrease, due to a slight



*LLNRD General Manager
Leon "Butch" Koehlmoos*

increase in total valuation. To put this in perspective, on a \$100,000 house or piece of property, the tax for the LLNRD would be \$31.51 versus \$33.19 last year.

Natural Resources District News Updates

HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

The first round of meetings for the Lower Loup NRD Hazard Mitigation Plan update have been completed and follow-up meetings will be held in October.

There were 38 counties, communities and other government entities taking part in the first round of the meetings. The meetings were held in Broken Bow, Albion, Genoa, and Ord.

A hazard mitigation plan establishes goals, identifies vulnerabilities to natural disasters and prioritizes projects to alleviate potential damages from natural disasters.

PIBEL LAKE HISTORICAL MARKER

Photos and other historical information on Pibel Lake is being sought by the Lower Loup Natural Resources District for an informational display at the recreation area.

Photos of people fishing, swimming, or boating at the lake from the 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s, etc. would be accepted as well as any photos of either of the hotels (lodges) at the lake.

If you have a photo or other information you would be willing to share, contact I&E Coordinator Larry Schultz at the Lower Loup NRD Headquarters office in Ord, (308) 728-3221.

CROP WATER USE DATA AVAILABLE

Producers working to determine the last irrigation for their fields this summer will find valuable information in the Lower Loup NRD's Crop Water Use information.

Found on the NRD web site, www.llnrd.org, the report provides details on how much water is being used by corn, soybeans, alfalfa, potatoes and even bluegrass lawns.

The crop water use report is broken down into several regions of the state. You should utilize the data for the region which most closely applies to your fields.



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Nebraska's NRDs . . .
Protecting Lives, Protecting
Property, Protecting the Future.

*****ECRWSSSEDDM*****
POSTAL PATRON

Conservation Tree Sales Start In November

SPECIES	NUMBER	SPECIES	NUMBER	SPECIES	NUMBER
CONIFERS		HARDWOODS		SHRUBS	
Red Cedar		Hackberry		Cotoneaster	
Ponderosa Pine		Honey Locust		Common Lilac	
Austrian Pine		Hybrid Cottonwood		Chokecherry	
Colorado Blue Spruce		Native Cottonwood		Nanking Cherry	
Jack Pine		Silver Maple		American Plum	
Black Hills Spruce		Black Walnut		Skunkbush Sumac	
South Western White Pine		Catalpa		Sand Cherry	
Norway Spruce		Red Oak		Caragana	
Scotch Pine		Bur Oak		Buffaloberry	
Rocky Mountain Juniper		Black Cherry		Elderberry	
		Kentucky Coffee Tree		American Hazelnut	
		Swamp White Oak		Midwest Crabapple	
		American Elm		Amur Maple	
				Golden Currant	
				Manchurian Apricot	
				McKenzie Black Chokeberry	
				Red Osier Dogwood	
				False Indigo	
				Dwarf Russian Almond	
				Northline Serviceberry	
				Gray Dogwood	
				Woods Rose	
				Villosa Lilac	

Start planning now for conservation tree planting in Spring, 2017.

The best first step is to contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service office in Ord, Burwell, Broken Bow, Albion, St. Paul, Spalding, Fullerton or Columbus.

You may also visit with an LLNRD Conservation Technician by calling (308) 728-3221.

Name

Address

Town, Nebraska, Zip Code

Phone Number

Species must be ordered in lots of 25 (95 cents per seedling)
Orders accepted beginning Nov. 1, 2016



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