

ITEM I. NOTICE OF OPEN MEETING LAW POSTING

ITEM II. VERIFICATION OF MEETING NOTICE AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

ITEM III. EXCUSED ABSENCES

ITEM IV. MINUTES

ITEM V. TREASURER'S REPORT

ITEM VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

ITEM VII. FORESTER'S REPORT

The Nebraska Forest Service Conservation Forester position in Ord has been filled. Aron Lewis, currently of O'Neill, has accepted the position and plans to start November 21<sup>st</sup>.

Forestry assistance with forest stand improvement projects continues. Initial site visits with two cooperators began the process to address windbreak renovation requests.

ITEM VIII. NRCS REPORT

1. We are finalizing our core areas for EQIP. We will be reaching out to owners and having meetings with them this fall and winter.
2. We plan on meeting with producers and promoting advanced nutrient management in certain areas.
3. Staff continues to work on CSP.

ITEM IX. INFORMATION & EDUCATION REPORT

a. 2022 Awards Dinner

The 2022 Lower Loup NRD Awards Dinner is scheduled for December 15 at Trotter Event Center in Ord. Social Hour will follow adjournment of the 4 p.m. Board meeting. Dinner will begin at 6 p.m. Awards presentations and prize drawings will follow the meal.

b. NARD Legislative Conference and 2023 Washington D.C. Conference

The 2023 NARD Legislative Conference will be held January 24-25, 2023, at Embassy Suites in Lincoln. The LLNRD has reserved a block of rooms and Bartels will contact Directors to see who plans on attending.

The Washington D.C. Conference is planned for March 18-22, 2023. NARD will release specifics after the first of the year. Directors planning to attend need to notify Bartels by the December, 2022, Board meeting.

c. Social Media

The number of followers on the LLNRD's Facebook page has grown by nearly 1,000 over the last year. We have an additional 325 followers between Twitter and the new Instagram account. The recent "Water Fact Friday" social media campaign lasted 30 weeks and reached more than 13,000 people. A similar Nitrogen Facts Friday campaign is being researched.

ITEM X. ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

a. Water Quality Management Area

Reminder postcards were sent to all Area 28, 29, and 30 operators regarding soil sample analysis, with a required 36" depth due by February 1, 2023, and Annual report requirement due January 31, 2023. Prefilled annual reports for all fields will be sent out by the end of November. Pre-complaints were sent to 15 operators regarding late or missing soil sample analysis: 9 in Area 28, 2 in Area 29, and 4 in Area 30. The letter outlines the specific field with the missing or late soil sample and references Rule 7 in the LLNRD's Rules and Regulations.

a. NRD Fall Field Work

All fall static water level sites have been collected for 2022. Meter collection is nearing completion as more crop removal improves accessibility. The district-wide average on meter readings appears to be 3" higher than last year's total. A map will be prepared after all readings are in. Some technicians have already begun collecting domestic well samples across the NRD. Results of static water levels, meter readings, and domestic water quality samples will be provided to all participants in each program.

b. Drought Monitoring

The new Nebraska drought monitoring map was released Thursday, November 10, showing more areas of the LLNRD in the "Extreme" drought, D3 status.

c. Cover Crop Study

All equipment was removed from the study sites. LLNRD staff will assist CPNRD and EA in collecting another round of vadose soil samples sometime in late November to finish the study. Information is being compiled to develop a final report with a Summer, 2023, deadline.

ITEM XI. WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Recommendation: 1. Drought Management Plan

**Lower Loup Natural Resources District  
Water Resources Committee Meeting**

HQ Office

November 8, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

Committee members present: Smith, Coffey, Thede, Amsberry, Hadenfeldt

Committee members present via teleconference: Hirschbrunner

Staff present: Callan, Naprstek, Harris, Gustafson, Moudry, Kolar, Bartels

**Drought Management Plan Review**

Naprstek handed out copies of the Drought Management Plan and went through the specific triggers and management actions associated with the plan. Actions would be dependent on a combination of spring static water level measurements and the current Nebraska Drought Monitor Map. It is important to note that the triggers are based on the primary drought indicators, but the LLNRD Board of Directors have discretion on which drought indicator to base their decision. Callan pointed out that any changes to our rules and regulations would require a formal hearing process.

**Coffey motioned, seconded by Thede, to recommend tentative approval of the Drought Management Plan to the LLNRD Board of Directors. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.**

**Nitrate Management Discussion**

Naprstek and Moudry updated the committee on the second nitrate management stakeholder's meeting that was held on October 25<sup>th</sup>. Producers from Areas 28, 29 and 30 as well as crop consultants and community water operators were in attendance. Moudry went over the various polling questions that were included in the PowerPoint presentation that was given at the meeting. Topics included nitrogen as a fertilizer as well as a

contaminant, the University equation for growing corn, and possible NRD rule changes such as eliminating fall application of anhydrous fertilizer.

Other committee discussion included the nitrate article released by Flatwater Free Press, which was sent to the director's tablets. The article discussed health impacts and the source of high nitrates in the groundwater. The article is the first of a multi-part release.

### **Columbus Recharge Project - Update**

Kolar updated the committee on the status of the project and that it will be shut down with the coming colder weather. Callan informed the group that Adam Brockmann was hired to assist with the project and help Mike Lorenz in Area 30. Also in the coming weeks, data will be compiled on the volume of water pumped in this first season of the recharge project, including water pumped into Christopher's Cove.

### **Other**

Callan updated the committee on the Lower Loup NRD's instream flow right between the confluence of the North and Middle Loup Rivers and the Public Power Canal diversion. He stated that to meet the requirements for having a right, additional stream monitoring would have to be completed. Callan said he would be meeting with DNR to discuss the matter further.

Moudry added that the Broken Bow Drinking Water Protection Plan was recently approved by EPA.

An update was provided on the agenda items for the Programs & Projects Committee.

## **ITEM XII. PROGRAMS/PROJECTS COMMITTEE**

No recommendations

# **Lower Loup Natural Resources District Programs/Projects Committee Meeting HQ Office/Teleconference November 8, 2022 1:00 p.m.**

Committee members present: Kruse, Eschliman, Vlach, Kauk

Committee members present via teleconference: Anderson, Hirschbrunner

Staff present: Callan, Naprstek, Gustafson, Harris, Kolar, Bartels, Ruterborries

### **Clear Creek Wetland Quality Project**

Staff presented a potential water quality improvement structure along Clear Creek. The benefits of such a project were explained and much of the background work was done during the Clear Creek-Pibel Lake Watershed Management planning process. The committee discussed the potential benefits of such a project and its potential benefits to Pibel Lake, specifically the settling basin. Also discussed were different funding sources and the pros and cons of ownership versus easement. More information was requested regarding benefits and potential grants.

### **Bowman Lake - Vegetation Control Request**

Naprstek presented a request from Sherman County regarding the continuation of vegetation control at Bowman Lake Recreation Area. Callan said the NRD had previously participated in vegetation control at a rate of \$3,000 per year for 5-years. It was discovered that the lake was renovated in 2016 by the Nebraska Game and Parks as part of the motorboat access and lake rehabilitation program. The public use on the lake was discussed as well as the need and type of vegetation control. More information would be gathered and continued discussion at the next Programs/Projects committee meeting.

### **Mud Creek WFPO**

The Draft Watershed Plan for Mud Creek was submitted, and Gustafson has reviewed and returned comments to JEO. He reported that a 90% progress meeting was being scheduled with the NRCS and JEO on December 6, 2022. The draft plan will be ready to submit to the NRCS Water Management Center in Little Rock after this meeting.

### **Mira Creek (North Loup) WFPO**

The Clean Water Act meeting with JEO, NRCS, and USACE is scheduled for November 16, 2022. The draft plan will be finished after this meeting and submitted for comments before submitting to the NRCS Water Management Center in Little Rock.

### **Sargent Flood Project**

Gustafson reported that the City was working with Olsson and a contractor on the Jessie Street culvert and that work was temporarily halted due to a design misunderstanding between the three parties. The NRD is still waiting to hear on the Hazard Mitigation Grant they applied for, but they were able to obtain the Water Sustainability Fund to assist with local control on the project.

## Building Update

Callan reported that the furniture was delayed, with expected delivery taking place at the end of November.

## Other

Callan discussed meeting with North Loup Public Power and Irrigation District regarding the potential renovation of the Burwell Dam. Callan discussed the merits of such a renovation.

An update was provided on the agenda items for the Water Resources Committee, specifically the Drought Management Plan.

## ITEM XIII. VARIANCE COMMITTEE

The Variance Committee will meet at 2:30 p.m. on the 17<sup>th</sup> prior to the Board meeting.

## ITEM XIV. ENGINEER'S REPORT

### a. Technical Assistance

The Cedar Hills Mennonite School near Scotia is planning to build an additional school building on their property. I met with them to discuss potential options for dealing with runoff from crop ground to the east.

There is an issue with an inlet pipe on the Prosocki Road Dam in Sherman County. I met with Ace Metals to discuss options to repair and will follow-up with the county, who has maintenance responsibility for the dam.

### b. WFPO

I have reviewed and submitted comments on the Mud Creek Draft Watershed Plan. The Mud Creek 90% review meeting is scheduled for December 6, 2022.

The Mira Creek Clean Water Act Meeting with JEO, NRCS, and USACE was held yesterday, November 16, 2022.

ITEM XV. MANAGER'S REPORT

- a. Litigation Update (May require Executive Session)
- b. 2022 Election Results

Provided on the next page is the 2022 Lower Loup NRD election results.

- c. New Hires
- d. Non-action Reports

ITEM XVI. NARD REPORT - Eschliman

ITEM XVII. NRC REPORT - Hadenfeldt

ITEM XVIII. LOUP BASIN RC&D REPORT - Adams

ITEM XIX. ANNOUNCEMENTS / FUTURE MEETING TOPICS

ITEM XX. ADJOURNMENT