

LLNRD Board Appoints Two New Directors

Rick Vlach of Scotia and Larry Mohrman of Columbus are the newest members of Lower Loup Natural Resources District Board of Directors. The two men were appointed to the Board by a vote at its November 2017 meeting.

Both new directors will be up for election in 2018. Vlach, who serves

Subdistrict 4, will be up for a four-year term and Mohrman's term will be two years.

Vlach, owner of an excavation and earth moving company in Scotia, filled the Board vacancy in Subdistrict 4 created by the resignation of Dean Rasmussen of North Loup, who resigned when he

moved from the NRD.

Mohrman, who farms northwest of Columbus, fills the unfinished term of Cliff Loseke, who passed away in 2017.

Under state law, he must run for election for a two-year term in Subdistrict 7.

Russell Callan Named New LLNRD Manager

Russell Callan has been appointed the new General Manager of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District. Callan succeeds Leon "Butch" Koehlmoos, who retired at the end of 2017.

Callan had served as the Assistant General Manager since 2001. He worked previously at the Upper Big Blue NRD in York and the Middle Republican NRD in Curtis.

Callan and his wife, Karla, have two children, daughter Riley, and husband Taylor Smith; and son Ryan and wife Kacia, all of Ord.

The Callans have one granddaughter, Natalie Smith.

Callan has named Tylr Naprstek as Assistant General Manager. Naprstek served previously as the

Water Modeling Coordinator. He and his wife Sabrina have two sons, Isaac and Tyson.

Naprstek worked previously for the Upper Elkhorn and Middle Niobrara Natural Resources Districts.



LLNRD General Manager Russell Callan (right) and Assistant General Manager Tylr Naprstek

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Lakin Is New Water Resources Technician

Brent Lakin has joined the Lower Loup Natural Resources District as a Water Resources Technician.

Lakin is a former employee of the Lower Niobrara NRD and had a cedar tree control business.



Brent Lakin

Lakin, a former Loup County resident, his wife Molly, and son Eli, live in Burwell.

Lakin's duties will cover the Lower Loup NRD's portion of Buffalo County,

Sherman County, Howard County, and part of southern Valley County.

Lakin began his duties in January. He will be handling chemigation inspections, groundwater measurements, water quality analysis, and numerous other activities.

South Loup Plan Gets DEQ & EPA Approval

Both the Environmental Protection Agency and Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality have accepted the Lower Loup Natural Resources District's Watershed Management Plan for the South Loup River Basin.

NRD Assistant General Manager Tylr Naprstek said the District can now secure funding for conservation practices within the watershed. A full copy of the plan with all appendices is available on the LLNRD web site, www.llnrd.org.

Water quality issues are a concern for both groundwater nitrate levels and in-stream E. coli bacteria levels. Groundwater level declines in the basin have not made a full recovery following the drought of 2012.



Any conservation program implemented for the watershed will be strictly voluntary and funding may be available through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) administered by the NRCS.

Naprstek said applications not funded through EQIP might qualify for other funding and asked that those not funded contact the NRD at (308) 728-3221.

New Phase of Updates Begins At Davis Creek

This year the Lower Loup Natural Resources District plans to add more amenities to the Davis Creek Recreation Area, located south of North Loup in Valley County.

Plans are for new playground equipment to be installed in each of the campgrounds. A vault latrine will be installed at the lake inlet, and a maintenance shed will be built at the facility.

Last year, a second boat ramp was

placed to reduce congestion for boaters at the lake. Funds for the ramp and fish cleaning station were provided by the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission Sport Fish Restoration Fund. An RV sanitary dump was also added.

Those additions followed the creation of 42 new full service camp sites, a coin-operated shower house, and new vault toilets.

Over half the cost of the expansion project was offset by U.S. Bureau of Reclamation funding totaling \$428,000.



New Davis Creek Recreation Area Entrance Sign

A Message From The Manager

First of all, thanks to you for taking the time to read our newsletter. I would also like to introduce myself; I am Russell Callan, the new General Manager of the LLNRD. I have taken over for Leon “Butch” Koehlmoos who has recently retired from the District.

My goal here is to continue the positive and proactive resource management that Butch has handed off to me. I would like to bring your attention to a project on which the LLNRD as well as six other NRDs and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NDNR) have been working. We have created a coalition to bring all the partners

together to develop a method and accounting system for monitoring water development within the Lower Platte Basin.

The Lower Platte Basin consists of the Loup River System, the Elkhorn River System, and the Platte River and tributaries below Columbus. The Lower Platte Basin Water Management Plan, which should be approved soon, has set up agreed-to water quantity boundaries. These boundaries will mark where the partners can allow groundwater and surface water development within areas with available water.

The cooperation and agreement



*LLNRD General Manager
Russell Callan*

between the seven NRDs and the NDNR will help ensure that our precious resource will continue to provide a reliable water source well into the future.

Teams in LLNRD Head to State Envirothon

Teams from St. Paul, Burwell and Ord High Schools are headed to the Nebraska State Envirothon at Niobrara State Park on April 25th. The St. Paul team qualified by winning the Central Region contest in Columbus, Burwell finished as a wild card at the Northeast contest in Norfolk and the Ord teams qualified as wild cards at the Envirothon in Curtis.

In the Central Region contest, the St. Paul team of Marissa Baker, Noah Thede, Bree Carlson, Sierra Smith, and Dalton Jerabek tied an Aurora team for first with a score of 127 points. The contest was held at Central Community College in Columbus on February 27th and was sponsored by the Lower Loup

and Central Platte Natural Resources Districts.

In Envirothon, teams of high school students compete in each category of the contest and for the best score overall. The categories of competition are forestry, natural resources policy, range, soils, aquatics, wildlife, and a special topic. This year the special topic is “Western Rangeland Management.”

The winner of state Envirothon will go on to represent Nebraska in the North American Envirothon at Idaho State University at Pocatello, Idaho. The 2020 North American contest will be hosted by Nebraska’s NRDs and will be held in Lincoln.





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