

# Lower Republican NRD Review

Summer 2022 Volume 70

Protecting Lives, Protecting Property, Protecting the Future



## Celebrating 50 Years

July 1st marked 50 years of the Nebraska Natural Resources Districts protecting lives, property, and the future. Each NRD is designed around watersheds and equipped with locally elected boards. Local leadership allows for local control and local solutions for natural resources issues.

Natural Resources Districts were created to solve flood control, erosion, irrigation runoff and groundwater quality and quantity issues. Nebraska's NRDs are involved in a wide variety of projects and programs to conserve and protect the state's natural resources.

Even though Nebraska is the number 1 irrigated state in the nation, statewide groundwater levels have been sustained at levels less than a foot below pre-irrigation development in the 1950s. In many areas, groundwater levels are higher!

Water sampling is also done across the state by the local NRDs. They test for over 23 impurities to ensure consistent water quality.

Since 1972, Nebraska NRDs have been planting conservation trees and shrubs for windbreaks, erosion control, wildlife habitat and other conservation purposes. This year we planted the 100millionth tree—that's approximately 50 trees for each Nebraskan.

To join in the 50th anniversary celebration and follow the Natural Resources Districts' special activities throughout 2022, visit [nrd-net.org](http://nrd-net.org) and follow #Since 1972 on social media.



**NEBRASKA'S NATURAL  
RESOURCES DISTRICTS**  
PROTECTING LIVES. PROTECTING PROPERTY. PROTECTING THE FUTURE.

## Extreme Nebraska Weather

Living in Nebraska, we are all familiar with Mother Nature and her extreme weather conditions. This year has been a bigger challenge than most. From a winter that we all loved, but knew we needed snow, to a spring that brought high winds and wildfires, we are wondering what the rest of the summer has in store for us. I know we are all hoping for rain. Only time will tell.

Even though there has been little moisture this spring and summer, the Lower Republican NRD is still in a **NON-Compact call year**. What does this mean? There is no 'hard cap' or maximum allocation cap in 2022. The volume of water pumped this year is still deducted from your current allocation balance for the 5-year period. This year, 2022, is year 5 of the 5-year allocation period and up to 9 inches may be carried over into the next allocation period (2023-2027) based on remaining balance.

**BE ON THE LOOK OUT FOR LEAKS!** We are all concerned with conserving our most precious natural resource, water, so please be on the look out for leaks. Our Rural Water system has been having some extremely high usages over the last few months and we are asking our customers to be aware. If you see something that looks suspicious, please call our office. Livestock customers, make sure your tank float is working correctly when you are checking your cows! This is also a good time to remind those of you living in town or if you have your own domestic well, please be on the lookout for leaks. Be mindful of your water usage! We all know that droughts come and go. Lets hope that the rest of our summer and fall provides more precipitation.

## **WaterSMART Grant Approved**

On May 16th, the Lower Republican NRD received notice from the Bureau of Reclamation that our application for approximately 1,000 telemetry meters had been approved. This grant will allow us to install near real-time telemetry equipment with new flow meters for improved on-farm water management and reporting. Solar-powered weather stations with telemetry will also be installed across the District. These will collect evapotranspiration data that will be made available to all irrigators in the project area. This project is expected to result in water savings of up to 4,110 acre-feet annually by making seasonal timing of irrigation water application closer to the needs of the crops and by improving water application efficiency. The Lower Republican NRD will start the process of finalizing a contract with the Bureau of Reclamation over the next several months. Once that is done, we should be able to move forward with the installation of the telemetry meters.

## **Groundwater Rules and Regs**

2022 is the last year of our 5-year allocation period. As we prepare to enter the next 5-year period (2023-2027), Lower Republican NRD Staff and Directors are starting the process to review and modify our district's Groundwater Rules & Regulations. Over the next few months, we will determine any changes, additions, or deletions necessary before we head into the next allocation period. As part of this process, the board voted to postpone the consideration of any variance requests relating to Rule 6-5.1, that requires board approval, until after any modifications are put into place this fall. The proposed revisions to the Rules & Regulations will be noticed and a public hearing will be scheduled to invite comments and questions before any action is taken finalizing the new edition of the rules.

### **IRRIGATION METER CALCULATOR**

Beginning Meter Reading:

Ending Meter Reading:

Acres Irrigated:

Select Option:

Gallons x 100

Calculate

## **Figuring Irrigation Water Usage**

Our Irrigation Meter Calculator, located on our home page at [www.lnrnd.org](http://www.lnrnd.org), is pictured to the left. It is very simple to use. All you need to do is type in your beginning meter reading, ending meter reading and the number of acres irrigated. Make sure you select how your flow meter reads (example: gallons X 100) then press calculate. It will figure how much water you have used on that field.

## **Free Tire Recycling Events**

**Wednesday, July 27 from 8am—Noon**

- **Guide Rock:** 102 University (Elevator), Webster County Residents Only

**Thursday, July 28 from 8am—Noon**

- **Franklin:** Franklin County Fairgrounds, Franklin County Residents Only

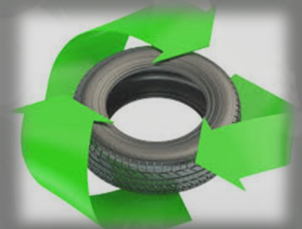
**Thursday, August 4 from 8am—Noon**

- **Alma:** Corner of John & South St (One block South of Hogeland's Market), Harlan County Residents Only

**Friday, August 5 from 9am—4pm**

- **Nelson:** 251 S Park Street, Nuckolls County Residents Only

This event is sponsored by the County Commissioners and Supervisors, Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE), Lower Republican Natural Resources District (LRNRD) and Trailblazer RC&D.





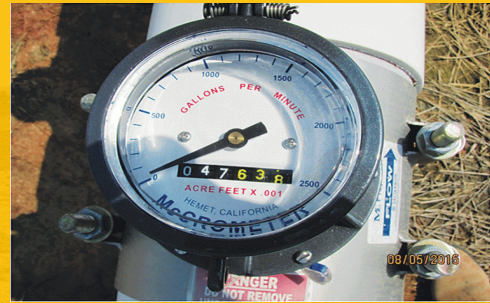
## New Water Resources Technician

Travis Fisher is the new Water Resources Technician for the western part of our district. He and his wife Cindy live in Oxford. Travis was born and raised in Furnas County and is looking forward to assisting producers with their irrigation needs. In his spare time, Travis enjoys spending time with his grandchildren, working in his lawn and garden, and is an avid hunter and outdoorsman.



## Irrigation Season— Flowmeters

Please check flowmeters on your wells periodically throughout the irrigation season. Making sure they are working correctly benefits both the Lower Republican NRD and you, the irrigator, for accurate irrigation records. It is your responsibility to make sure the flowmeters are functioning correctly during the irrigation season. If you have a problem with a meter, please contact our office.



## Caring For Your New Trees

You've just planted new trees on your property. Now what? Many people assume that the trees will be just fine with a bit of water. Newly planted trees need some extra care as they adjust to their new environment. New trees should be watered deeply, which means that the water reaches down to the roots. The way to achieve this is by watering slowly for a longer period of time. Your trees should be watered every 7—10 days the first year. The soil should be moist but not soggy. Keep an eye on the weather. If it's especially hot, you may need to water more often.

Controlling the grass and weeds is a vital part to getting your trees established. Grass is a problem because it competes for water and will quickly dry out the soil. Weeds are a problem because they grow faster and taller than your seedlings. They provide cover for wildlife like rabbits and voles who love to chew on your new trees. Competition from grass and weeds is the primary reason for the failure of tree plantings.

Some tree plantings include fabric mulch. Mulch is a great addition to your new tree planting. It helps keep the moisture in and also the grass and weeds out. Mulch can also cause problems if left on the tree planting though. The mulch should be removed as soon as the trees are established. If the mulch is left it could cause girdling on your tree. When a tree is girdled, there is something wrapped tightly around its trunk. Girdling cuts off the circulation of necessary nutrients as well as water to the rest of the tree. In time, your trees will begin to die.

Newly planted trees take time and effort to get established but the benefits of trees are numerous and well worth it!

If you are interested in planting trees in the spring of 2023, please contact your local NRCS office. It's never too early to start planning!



Board of Directors	
Subdistrict 1	Clark Andrews, Holbrook
Subdistrict 1	Toby tenBensel, Holbrook
Subdistrict 2	Bill Bose, Orleans - Vice Chair
Subdistrict 2	Marlin Murdoch, Orleans - Chair
Subdistrict 3	Tim Kahrs, Franklin - Treasurer
Subdistrict 3	Matt Harrison, Naponee
Subdistrict 4	Nelson Trambly, Campbell
Subdistrict 4	David Bartels, Riverton - Secretary
Subdistrict 5	Lee Fintel, Superior
Subdistrict 5	Don Duffy, Guide Rock
At-Large	Bradley Wulf, Red Cloud

LRNRD Staff	
Todd Siel	General Manager
Nick Simonson	Assistant Manager
Shirlee Poyser	Admin. Assistant/Bookkeeper
Kristi Heft	Water Resources Administrator
Mary Goebel	Water Secretary/Info. & Edu.
Jim Zimmerman	Rural Water Superintendent
PJ Holmes	Water Resources Technician
Dave Bantam	Water Resources Technician
Travis Fisher	Water Resources Technician
Deb Klingenger	Franklin County Office Secretary
Jennifer Helms	Furnas County Office Secretary
Brittnay Nurnberg	Harlan County Office Secretary
Lynetta Snelling	Webster County Office Secretary

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**July 27**—Tire Recycling, Guide Rock, 8—12

**July 28**—Tire Recycling, Franklin, 8—12

**August 4**—Tire Recycling, Alma, 8—12

**August 5**—Tire Recycling, Nelson, 9—4

**August 11**—Board Meeting 7 pm, LRNRD Meeting Room, Alma

**September 5**—Labor Day, Office Closed

**September 8**—Board Meeting 7 pm, LRNRD Meeting Room, Alma

**September 13—15**—Husker Harvest Days

**September 21**—Range Judging Contest, Area 3, URNRD

**September 28—29**—State Range Judging Contest, UNWNRD

**October 5**—Land Judging Contest, South West Region, LRNRD

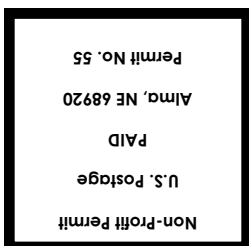
**October 13**—Board Meeting 7 pm, LRNRD Meeting Room, Alma

This is a publication of the Lower Republican Natural Resources District

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