

# Lower Republican NRD Review

Fall 2022 Volume 71

Protecting Lives, Protecting Property, Protecting the Future



## Coffee with the NRD

The Lower Republican NRD will be hosting “Coffee with the NRD” gatherings across the district. This will be an opportunity to learn and ask questions about what is happening in the Lower Republican NRD.

Staff and Directors will be providing updates on district programs and services, as well as current and future projects sponsored by the Lower Republican NRD.

Below is a sampling of topics that will be discussed:

- Ground Water Quality Programs and LRNRD’s Rural Water project
- Ground Water Allocations—2022 usage and pumping history for the Lower Republican NRD
  - \* The next 5-year period (2023—2027) begins on January 1, 2023
- Ground Water Management Rules & Regulations
  - \* Highlighting changes to several sections
- Republican River Compact (RRC) - outlook for next year and beyond
  - \* A Compact Call Year appears likely for 2023
- Harlan County Lake (HCL) - current conditions and future projections
  - \* Lake elevation is over 7’ below normal pool level
- NCORPE Augmentation Project—status update



Please plan on joining us at one of the following locations:

November 29	1:00—3:00 pm	Johnson Center	Alma
December 1	9:00—11:00 am	Superior County Club	Superior
December 1	1:00—3:00 pm	Community Center	Red Cloud
December 6	9:00—11:00 am	City Hall	Hildreth
December 6	1:00—3:00 pm	Franklin Country Club	Franklin
December 13	9:00—11:00 am	Community Building	Holbrook
December 13	1:30—3:30 pm	Hilltop Event Center	Oxford

## Rebates on Reverse Osmosis Systems

Is water from your private well safe to drink? If your drinking water test levels are above 10 PPM of nitrates, you may be eligible for a rebate on a reverse osmosis system to remove nitrates from your private well. Private wells must be registered with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources. For well registration information visit: <https://dnr.nebraska.gov/>. You must also get your well tested by the state laboratory. To request a test kit go to <https://www.nebraska.gov/dhhs/water-test-kits/private.html>. Funding amounts up to \$4,000 per small treatment installations are available. Application period opens January 1, 2023. Ranking will be based on concentration of nitrate. For more information about this rebate, please visit: <http://dee.ne.gov/>.

# Spring Tree Planting

## Ordering Deadline is March 15, 2023

Trees offer thousands of benefits like protecting livestock from the harsh winter winds in Nebraska to improving your property by reducing heating and cooling costs. They also provide wildlife with food and habitat while offering them cover from bad weather and predators. Planting trees also improves water quality by reducing soil erosion, stabilizing stream banks and filtering out pollutants.

The most successful tree plantings are those that are thought of long in advance of planting trees. It's especially important to have the site properly prepared prior to tree planting. If the site is currently in native grass, alfalfa, or in a location where trees have been recently removed, tilling the site and allowing moisture infiltration and the soil to mellow will significantly enhance tree survival rates next spring. The site should be tilled at least once this fall and again just prior to tree planting.

The Lower Republican NRD is currently taking orders for trees. Stop in and visit with the staff at your local NRCS office about various options available to you. Whether you are interested in a windbreak or planting shrubs for wildlife, there are trained personnel to assist you with your tree selection and tree plan. We also offer mulch and drip tape to help get your trees established. The Lower Republican NRD will cost-share for hand plantings, a minimum of 100 trees, and for machine plantings costing \$750 or more. The deadline to order trees is March 15, 2023 so call your county NRCS office today.



## Flow Meter Readings

The Lower Republican NRD technicians are currently reading irrigation flow meters in the District. These meter readings will be used to determine water usage for the 2022 irrigation season. If you are not done irrigating or there is a possibility that you irrigated after your meter was read, please contact our office at 308-928-2182.

Please remember that it is the water user's responsibility to have operational flow meters on every well. The Lower Republican NRD provides assistance to water users to make sure that flow meters are reading

properly. Our staff is certified and trained by McCrometer to make necessary repairs. Additionally, we can provide ultrasonic testing to assist water users with their water management decisions. Contact our office if you believe your meter is not working properly. Please have your flow-meter serial number handy when you call.

If you have replaced your flow meter with a new one, please call our office with the new serial number.



## Range Judging & Land Judging Contests

The Area 3 Range Judging contest, one of six statewide, was held on September 21st in Chase County. Fifteen schools participated bringing over 50 teams. District schools involved were Southern Valley, Cambridge, Arapahoe—Holbrook, Franklin and Alma. A total of 187 students and 4 adults competed this year. The participants identified individual plants and evaluated different ecological sites.

Three Senior Division teams from the Lower Republican NRD made the top ten with one of the Southern Valley teams placing fourth overall. The Lower Republican NRD also had five Junior Division teams placing in the top ten. A Cambridge Junior Team placed fourth. To see the full results from this year's contest, go to [nrdnet.org/programs/education](http://nrdnet.org/programs/education).

The Southwest Region Land Judging contest was held on October 5th in Harlan County. Fourteen schools participated this year bringing 218 students and 10 adults. District schools competing in this year's competition were Alma, Franklin, and Arapahoe-Holbrook. Six district teams placed in the top ten with a team from Alma placing first.

The competition teaches students the physical features of soils. They also look at the slope of the land and determine erosion and flood potential. Land judging is a great introduction to understanding the balance between the soil, water, and air, and how that sustains the life of plants and animals.

Congratulations to all the students competing. For full contest results, please visit [www.nrdnet.org/nebraska-land-judging-soil-evaluation](http://www.nrdnet.org/nebraska-land-judging-soil-evaluation).



Alma's First Place Team: Karsten Bradley, Ian Dunse, Isaiah Neal, Nolan Phiel

Courtesy photo from Ben Robison

## Staff Honored at NARD Annual Conference

On September 26th and 27th, NRD staff and directors from across the state gathered in Kearney for the Annual Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD) conference. Representing the Lower Republican NRD were staff members Todd Siel, Nick Simonson, Shirlee Poyser, Kristi Heft, Mary Goebel and Lynetta Snelling. The annual event is an opportunity for NRD's to share ideas, meet new employees and collaborate with other districts. During the Conference, Shirlee Poyser and Kristi Heft were awarded certificates for 30 years with the Lower Republican NRD. Lynetta Snelling was also presented a certificate for her 20 years of service. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication to the Lower Republican NRD. Congratulations on your recognition!



Top left: NARD Vice President Dr. Orval Gigstad and LRNRD Administrative Assistant Shirlee Poyser. Top right: NARD Vice President Dr. Orval Gigstad and LRNRD Water Resources Administrator Kristi Heft. Left: NARD Vice President Dr. Orval Gigstad and LRNRD Webster County Field Office Secretary Lynetta Snelling.

The Lower Republican NRD is now on social media. Please follow us on Facebook and Twitter!



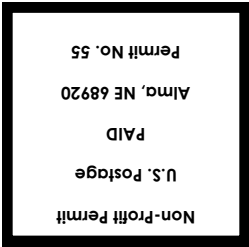
Board of Directors	
Subdistrict 1	Clark Andrews, Holbrook
Subdistrict 1	Toby tenBensel, Holbrook
Subdistrict 2	Bill Bose, Orleans - Vice Chair
Subdistrict 2	Marlin Murdoch, Orleans - Chair
Subdistrict 3	Tim Kahrs, Franklin - Treasurer
Subdistrict 3	Matt Harrison, Naponee
Subdistrict 4	Nelson Trambly, 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 Klingenberg	Franklin County Office Secretary
Jennifer Helms	Furnas County Office Secretary
Brittnay Nurnberg	Harlan County Office Secretary
Lynetta Snelling	Webster County Office Secretary

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**November 24**—Thanksgiving Day, Office Closed  
**November 25**—Office Closed  
**November 29**—Coffee with the NRD, 1—3 pm, The Johnson Center, Alma  
**December 1**—Coffee with the NRD, 9—11 am , Superior County Club, Superior  
**December 1**—Coffee with the NRD, 1—3 pm, Community Center, Red Cloud  
**December 6**—Coffee with the NRD, 9—11 am, City Hall, Hildreth  
**December 6**—Coffee with the NRD, 1—3 pm, Franklin Country Club, Franklin  
**December 8**—Board Meeting 2 pm, LRNRD Meeting Room, Alma  
**December 13**—Coffee with the NRD, 9—11 am, Community Building, Holbrook  
**December 13**—Coffee with the NRD, 1:30—3:30 pm, Hilltop Event Center, Oxford  
**December 26**—Christmas Day Observed, Office Closed  
**January 2, 2023**—New Year’s Day Observed, Office Closed  
**January 12, 2023**—Board Meeting, 2 pm, LRNRD Meeting Room,

This is a publication of the Lower Republican Natural ResourcesDistrict  
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