



# NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICTS

601 S. 12<sup>th</sup> St. Suite 201  
Lincoln, NE 68508  
Web: [www.nrdnet.org](http://www.nrdnet.org)  
Email:  
[nard@nrdnet.org](mailto:nard@nrdnet.org)

January 26, 2007

**TO: NARD Board, NRD Managers and Conservation Partners**  
**FROM: Dean E. Edson, NARD Executive Director**  
**RE: January 26 NARD UPDATE**

**NARD Legislative Conference** -- Almost 300 NRD board members and employees from all 23 NRDs attended the 2007 NARD Legislative Conference this week. Governor Dave Heineman opened the conference stressing the importance of working together to resolve water issues in Nebraska. Part of the Governor's budget includes \$2.7 million annually in new funding for water programs. The NARD delegates supported the Governor's budget and his proposed funding for water programs.

The NARD voting delegates reviewed the legislation before the Nebraska Unicameral this session. Several bills related to water management have been introduced. Two of those bills, LB 594 – well drilling moratorium and LB 701 – creating a new water management committee were discussed extensively by the delegates. Rather than taking a position to support or oppose the bills, the delegates adopted a policy statement to address those bills and to work with the legislature and interested parties to find solutions to the issues. The policy statement is as follows:

*“We support efforts of the local NRDs to address management of water resources within their district. We encourage local NRDs to utilize existing authorities to manage resources pro-actively to assure the public a safe, abundant supply of water for all beneficial uses.*

*We oppose additional intentional transfers of water from one river basin to another for the purpose of augmenting water supplies in the receiving river basin. We believe the districts in these basins should be provided adequate management authorities, resources and funding to manage their water for beneficial purposes. In areas where additional resources are needed, we support adequate funding and technical assistance from state sources to assist the NRDs with management activities.”*

Delegates also voted to oppose the Department of Natural Resources' proposed legislative modifications to water management, but offered to work with the department to clarify the bill. During the conference, several NRD managers worked with employees of the department to resolve conflicting language in the bill. After short discussion, the conflicts were alleviated and an amendment will be offered by the department at the hearing next week to make the changes.

**Kill motion filed on LB 17** – Senator Ernie Chambers filed a motion to indefinitely postpone LB 17 on the second day of General File debate on the bill. Senator Mick Mines quickly asked to pass over the bill to avoid taking up the IPP motion. As proposed the bill adds NRD office holders to the list of high elective offices that would be prohibited from filing as a candidate for another high elective office. Current law defines higher elective office as a member of the Legislature, county, city, or school district. Of the bill comes up again, the IPP motion will have to be addressed first.

**Livestock Waste Ground Water Monitoring Workshops:** For several years, The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) has been reviewing new and modified livestock waste facility permits for the potential for those facilities to impact ground water quality. In cases where that impact appears likely, NDEQ has required the installation of monitoring well networks, periodic sampling of those wells, and submittal of the monitoring results. A knowledge of the basic purposes and procedures for monitoring can improve the overall process. To help provide information to owners/operators about the monitoring, as well as care and maintenance of the monitoring wells, NDEQ is collaborating with the UNL Water Sciences Lab and NARD to sponsor four workshops across the state. The dates and locations are as follows; all are scheduled to run from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM local time:

Tuesday, February 20: Holdrege: City Council Chambers, 502 East Avenue  
Wednesday, February 21: Scottsbluff: Panhandle Research Center, 4502 Avenue I  
Tuesday, February 27: Norfolk: Public Library, 308 Prospect Avenue  
Thursday, March 1: Lincoln: NDEQ Van Dorn Complex, 2717 South 8th Street

The workshops are geared specifically for owners/operators of livestock facilities, but NRD water staff are encouraged to attend. There is no fee for attendance, but NDEQ is requesting that attendees register so they can be sure to have enough space and materials. If you have any questions or need further information, contact Dave Miesbach at NDEQ (402-471-4982 or [David.Miesbach@ndeq.state.ne.us](mailto:David.Miesbach@ndeq.state.ne.us)).

**UNL Irrigation Workshops** – The Irrigation and Energy Conservation Workshops for Corn Growers, sponsored by the Nebraska Corn Board and the Nebraska Corn Growers Association in partnership with University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension, will be available next month free of charge to corn growers in the area. The workshops for irrigated corn growers will focus on the fundamentals of irrigation systems and agricultural water management.

Individuals are encouraged to register in advance as seating is limited. Dates and locations include: Feb. 13, Norfolk, Lifelong Learning Center; Feb. 14, Cozad, Elk's Club; and Feb. 15 Geneva, Ag Hall-Fairgrounds. Register by contacting the location's local UNL Extension office at: Madison County Extension Office in Norfolk, (402) 370-4040, [madison-county@unl.edu](mailto:madison-county@unl.edu); Dawson County Extension Office in Lexington, (308) 324-5501, [dawson-county@unl.edu](mailto:dawson-county@unl.edu); or Fillmore County Extension Office in Geneva, (402) 759-3712, [fillmore-county@unl.edu](mailto:fillmore-county@unl.edu). Certified Crop Advisor credits are available. For more information call (800) 529-8030, visit the [ARDC Web site](#), fax (402) 624-8010 or e-mail [kglewen1@unl.edu](mailto:kglewen1@unl.edu).

#### **Hearings next week**

**LB 295 – Makes several changes to the groundwater management act, Natural Resources Committee.** This bill makes a number of changes at the request of the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources.  
**Hearing 1/31 Natural Resources Committee, 1:30 Room 1525**

**LB314 – Redefine water well for purposes of registration, Louden.** This bill adds dug pits to the definition of water wells. **Hearing 1/31 Natural Resources Committee, 1:30, Room 1525**

**LB391 – Change provisions relating to public records and meetings, Mines.** This bill makes a number of changes regarding copy requests and the Open Meetings Act. **Hearing 2/1 Government Committee, 1:30, Room 1507**

**LB568 – Extend a scrap tire grant program, Natural Resources Committee.** This bill extends the grant program for recycling tires under the Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Fund from June 30, 2007 to June 30, 2012. **Hearing 1/31 Natural Resources Committee, 1:30, Room 1525**

**LB622 – Require training courses in public records and the Open Meetings Act, Pirsch.** **Hearing 2/1 Government Committee, 1:30, Room 1507**