

NRDs 2018 Legislative Conference

Time	Room	Session	Presenter	Session Description	Moderator
Monday, January 22, 2018 - Embassy Suites					
9:30 -12:00 p.m.	Regents DE	NRD Benefits Committee Meetings			
12:00 p.m.	Lower Platte South NRD	NRD Staff I&E Meeting			
1-5:00 p.m.	Regents DE	Managers Meeting			
1-5:00 p.m.	Regents F	NRD Administrative Staff Committee			
3-6:00 p.m.	Executive Boardroom	NARD Legislative & Executive Committee			
Tuesday, January 23, 2018 - Embassy Suites					
7:30 a.m.	Suite 909	NARD Fiscal Planning & Budget Committee Breakfast Meeting			Shane Rippen, NARD Secretary/Treasure (MRNRD)
7:30	Suite 904	NARD Program & Planning Committee Breakfast Meeting			Larry Reynolds, NARD Vice-President (TBNRD)
7:30	Pre-Convene Area	Registration desk opens ~ Coffee compliments of Embassy Suites in Regents AB			
8:45	Regents AB	Opening Remarks	Governor Pete Ricketts		Jim Bendfeldt, NARD President (CPNRD)
9:00	Regents AB	General Session	Jeff Fasset, Director, NeDNR	Statewide NRDs and the Department of Natural Resources continue to work in close collaboration in integrated water management planning. Director Fasset will provide an overview of ongoing water planning activities across the state.	Jim Bendfeldt, NARD President (CPNRD)
9:45-10:00	Regents AB	Break Sponsored by Olsson Associates			
10:00	Regents AB	Framing Legislative Issues and Discussion of Proposed Legislation of Interest	Dean Edson, Executive Director - Nebr Assn. of Resources Districts		Jim Meismer, Legislative & Gov't Affairs Chair (TPNRD)
12:00	Regents CDEF	Luncheon Co-Sponsored by Mid-American Benefits, Inc.	Speaker, Senator Dan Hughes - Natural Resources Committee Chair. Trent Mastny & Johnny Ference-Ag Youth Coordinators, NE Dept of Agriculture.		Jim Bendfeldt, NARD President (CPNRD)
1:00 - 5:00	Chancellors 2	Olsson and Associates - Trade Show			
	Chancellors 3	JEO Consulting - Trade Show			
1:30 - 5:00	Executive Boardroom	NRD Administrative Staff Committee			
2:45 - 3:00	Regents AB	Break Sponsored by JEO Consulting Group, Inc.			
3:00	Regents AB	Action on Proposed Legislation			Jim Meismer, Legislative & Gov't Affairs Chair (TPNRD)
4:00	Chancellor 1	Health Care – Plan for costs in retirement.	Roberta Eckert, Vice President for the Nationwide Retirement Institute	Health care is consistently among the primary concerns of retirees and pre-retirees as they consider their post-employment finances. This concern is due, in part, to the historical growth in health care expenses relative to overall inflation, the on-going debate among our political leaders how to best fund, manage and deliver health care to retirees, and the shift in retirement income and retiree health care responsibilities from employer-sponsored defined benefit plans and retiree medical insurance plans to the individual's personal savings and private insurance. During this session, we'll examine how you can place the health care expense question into your overall retirement income plan, understand the importance of planning for health care-related expenses in retirement, and the options available to address and manage health care expense risk.	
5:00 - 7:00	Ballroom	Reception with Senators - Co sponsored by JEO Consulting Group Inc., Olsson Associates and HDR			
Wednesday, January 24, 2018 - Embassy Suites					
7:30 a.m.	Alumni	Information & Education Committee Breakfast Meeting			Jim Johnson, NARD Information & Education Committee Chair (SPNRD)
7:30	Suite 904	Native Vegetation and Forestry Sub-Committee Breakfast Meeting			Judy Ridenour, NARD Native Veg & Forestry Chair (ULNRD)
8:00	Pre-Convene Area	Break Co-Sponsored by Husch Blackwell			
8:00	Pre-Convene Area	Registration desk opens			

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	Concurrent Sessions - Wednesday, Jan 24th				
8:30 - 9:15	Regents C	Drone Provides a Different Perspective	Alex Boyce, Engineer/Hydrologist, Middle Republican NRD	A drone has been successfully used by the MRNRD in watershed dam inspections, streambank erosion documentation, several agronomic and irrigation uses. When drones started hitting the market the MRNRD took a hard look at the potential for drones to be used effectively. It has been more than worth the time, effort and cost when looking at the return.	Shane Rippen, NARD Secretary/Treasure (MRNRD)
8:30 - 9:15	Regents DE	*The Groundwater Evaluation Toolbox (GET)	Jim Schneider, Olsson Associates	This presentation will highlight work that's been done with NRDs developing sub-regional groundwater models and setting those models up into Groundwater Evaluation Toolbox (GET). The presentation will showcase how your groundwater models can be put to work for you with examples using sub-regional groundwater models developed for five areas in Central Nebraska.	Jim Eschliman, NARD Director (LLNRD)
8:30 - 9:15	Regents F	Evaluating Soil Health Benefits: Economics and Soil Resiliency	Aaron Hird, State Soil Health Specialist, Nebraska NRCS	The USDA/NRCS in Nebraska will present local comparisons evaluating the effect of a Soil Health Management System economically and ecologically. Current agronomic field data and soil health assessments completed lends to a reasonable evaluation of the changes resulting from the use of no-till and cover crops. Explore how the results from these local in field comparisons can support the adoption of a Soil Health Management System on the land you manage, own or support.	Orvil Gigstad, NARD Director (NNRD)
8:30 - 9:15	Chancellor 2/3	Communicating Sensitive and Technical Information to the Media and Public	Cara Pesek, Game and Parks Commission	The world of natural resources is both highly technical and often sensitive. People want to know why we make the decisions we do – and the answers are rarely simple. This presentation will give you real life examples to help you learn to effectively communicate complicated and sometimes sensitive material to the public and the media.	Jim Johnson, NARD Information & Education Committee Chair (SPNRD)
9:20 - 10:05	Regents C	*Protecting High-Capacity Groundwater Supplies Using Conceptual Hydrogeologic Models and Basic Groundwater Hydraulics	Dave Hume, P.G., WSP USA, Inc.	Developing and maintaining sustainable, high-quality groundwater supplies for municipal, agricultural, and industrial uses is the goal of all stakeholders involved with water resource planning and management. High-capacity wells that are required to meet these demands have the potential to put significant stress on the source aquifer, and hydraulically connected groundwater systems and surface waters. This presentation will show the importance of understanding the conceptual hydrogeology and basics of groundwater hydraulics when siting wells and monitoring for well performance and aquifer sustainability. Case studies will be used to illustrate how the use of these tools, in addition to water quality and groundwater level monitoring data, can provide information needed to develop and protect high-capacity wells and the groundwater systems that supply them.	Dave Ost diek, NARD Director (NPNRD)
9:20 - 10:05	Regents DE	Growing Our Tree Planting Programs In a Time of Declining Interest	John Dupplissis, Rural Forestry Program Leader, Nebraska Forest Service	In the height of the Dust Bowl of the 1930s the federal government invested \$13.8 million to establish over 200 million trees and shrubs in windbreaks throughout the Great Plains. Since 2000, large numbers of windbreaks have been actively removed by landowners during periods when land and crop prices were high. Thousands of miles of riparian forest growing along the region's river and stream corridors have also been removed, and are no longer stabilizing streambanks or absorbing nutrient runoff from cropland. Increasing damage to soil and water resources threaten not only Great Plains communities with declining air and water quality, but also the stability and productivity of agricultural and recreational enterprises region-wide.	Judy Ridenour, NARD Director (ULNRD)
9:20 - 10:05	Regents F	Funding for Water Resources Projects in Neighboring States	Lindy Rogers, PE and Charles Ikenberry, PE, PhD, FYRA Engineering	Decades of research and more recent results from the Great Plains Initiative I confirm that windbreaks and riparian woodlands are critically important economic and ecosystem service providers in the Great Plains. This presentation will provide an overview of the Great Plains Initiative 2 and discuss the proposed marketing plan and pilot projects that we hope to establish.	Kurt Janke, NARD Director (LENRD)
9:20 - 10:05	Chancellor 2/3	Accountability and Disclosure	Frank Daley, Executive Dir., Accountability and Disclosure Commission	This session will provide an overview of Nebraska's ethics laws applicable to directors of natural resources districts.	Milt Schmidt, NARD Director (LPSNRD)
10:05 - 10:20	Pre-Convene Area	Break Co-Sponsored by TransCanada			

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10:20 - 11:05	Regents C	Lincoln Premium Poultry	Jessica Kolterman	The Costco Poultry facility being built in Fremont NE will impact a large area of the state with the 60-mile radius for the Grower network associated with the facility. In this presentation learn about the innovative project and receive an update on Lincoln Premium Poultry and Costco's commitment to environmental stewardship and best practices being implemented across the project spectrum.	Robert Hilger, NARD Director (LPNNRD)
10:20 - 11:05	Regents DE	Innovative Approach for Retiming Flows in the Platte River	Rick Wilson, P.E. , JEO Consulting and Dr. Jerry Kenny, Ph.D., P.E. Executive Director, PRRIP	A key milestone of the Platte River Recovery and Implementation Program (Program) is to reduce deficits to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service target flows by an average of 130,000 – 150,000 acre-ft. annually. One mechanism the Program will use to reduce deficits is the retiming of excess flows through surface water storage and flow augmentation. Specifically, the Program will utilize gravel pits in the central Platte River valley and convert them to water storage facilities. This will be accomplished by equipping existing (already excavated) pits with a vertical slurry wall barrier keyed into a subsurface impervious layer to create finite storage domains. Water will be delivered to the facility and discharged to the river as needed.	Larry Reynolds, NARD Vice-President (TBNRD)
10:20 - 11:05	Regents F	Monitoring the effects of land practices on the quality of receiving streams	David L. Rus, U.S. Geological Survey Nebraska Water Science Center	Many water-quality issues arise from diffuse, nonpoint sources associated with land practices. These nonpoint sources can be difficult to characterize, and even more difficult to attribute to water quality. However, establishing accurate connections between land practices and their receiving streams is critical to effectively and efficiently managing those streams. For over 30 years, the U.S. Geological Survey has been monitoring the water quality in streams at the watershed scale. Over that time, the approaches have evolved from traditional sampling of regulated compounds to a wide suite of tools, like continuous measurements of nitrate or the use of DNA to detect the presence of bacteria. State- and national-level data that describe the contributing landscape are becoming increasingly detailed and are essential to statistical- and process-based models that connect the streams to the watersheds they drain. Several examples of establishing these connections will be described, including the Midwest Stream Quality Assessment. In addition, much understanding can be gained from focusing monitoring efforts down to the field scale. Some examples of 'edge-of-field' monitoring projects will be described.	Steven Kelley, NARD Director (LBNNRD)
10:20 - 11:05	Chancellor 2/3	Great Plains Biochar Initiative	Heather Nobert, Forest Products Marketing Coordinator, Nebraska Forest Service	Biochar is a simple solution to complex environmental issues. It offers a unique opportunity for long term soil improvement using locally sourced and appropriate materials. Produced from waste (agricultural or forestry), it can be used alone or in combination with compost, manure, or agrochemicals to enhance local soil conditions. The resistance of biochar to decomposition also serves as a carbon sink, sequestering carbon in the soil long into the future. The presentation will cover biochar basics as well as the Nebraska Forest Service's initiative to expand biochar production and utilization in the Great Plains Region.	Tod Dorshorst, NARD Director (UNWNRD)
11:10 - 11:55	Regents C	University of Nebraska Water Research: 5 Case Studies on Decision-Making and Water Sustainability	Chittaranjan Ray, David Aiken, Simanti Banerjee, Mark Burbach, Daran Rudnick, Karina Schoengold - UNL	The Nebraska Water Center, part of the Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, is currently engaged in exciting and multi-faceted water research across the state. This session will introduce participants to several of these projects, while emphasizing the role social science plays in water and natural resources management decisions.	Terry Martin, NARD Past President (URNRD)
11:10 - 11:55	Regents DE	DEQ Update	Marty Link & David Chambers, DEQ	The NDEQ will give short updates on the Nitrate-Risk Communication Workshops being held across the state, the Volkswagen Settlement fund use, and how groundwater contamination from a leaking underground storage tank is cleaned up.	Lyle Heinrichs, NARD Director (LBNRD)
11:10 - 11:55	Regents F	Nebraska Corn Farmers Sustaining Innovation	Boone McAfee, Nebraska Corn Board	Whether we are educating on the benefits of ethanol, promoting the quality of our corn to international buyers, or communicating to consumers across social media, one theme that transcends all areas of the board's focus is stewardship. This presentation will cover how stewardship is intertwined in the board's vision for Nebraska corn and will overview the value of the corn industry to Nebraska, why stewardship is a focus of corn growers, and the stewardship initiatives of the board.	Larry Moore, NARD Director (UBBNRD)
11:10 - 11:55	Chancellor 2/3	Update on NeDNR Groundwater Modeling Application	Jesse Bradley, Mahesh Pun - NeDNR	NeDNR will be providing an update on applications that it has been developing to allow users to run model simulations and view outputs (recharge, pumping, land use, water level changes, baseflow depletions, etc.). The initial application is being developed for the UNWNRD Groundwater Model with plans for other models to be incorporated into the application over the next year. NeDNR will be providing a demonstration of the types of model simulations that can be conducted and output formats that are available to users.	Ted Hughes, NARD Director (UENRD)
12:00	Regents AB	Luncheon	Senator John Stinner, Chairman of the Appropriations Committee		Jim Bendfeldt, NARD President (CPNRD)
1:30 - 5:00 pm	Regents DE	NARD Board of Directors Meeting			