

# WINTER NEWSLETTER 2023



# TWIN PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

PROTECTING PROPERTY, PROTECTING LIVES, PROTECTING THE FUTURE

## EVENTS

### BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings are on the second Thursday of every month, located on the second floor of First Interstate Bank

February 16 @ 3:00 PM CT  
March 9 @ 3:00 PM CT  
April 13 @ 7:30 PM CT

## FOLLOW US

INSTAGRAM:  
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Twin Platte Natural Resources District

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@NrdTwin

Plan to come see us at one of the Water Data Program Open Houses this winter!

For more information check out page 4!

## RECOGNIZING “FRIENDS OF THE TPNRD”

In July 2022, the TPNRD and all Natural Resources Districts (NRDs) in Nebraska, celebrated the Golden 50th Anniversary of NRDs. The TPNRD has worked with many special people contributing to the many successes of the last 50 years.

The TPNRD recognizes the following as Friends of the TPNRD:



**JIM GOEKE** is a retired Hydrogeologist with the University of Nebraska Conservation and Survey Division. He was stationed at the West Central Research and Extension Center in North Platte for 41 years. Jim worked with the TPNRD and gathered extensive data of the ground water of central and southwestern Nebraska for modeling the unconfined aquifers near the Platte River in the central Platte region, that continues to be used today.



**MARY REECE** is the NRCS Assistant State Conservationist / Field Operations – West Area. She worked with the TPNRD as the NRCS District Conservationist from 1992 until assuming her current NRCS position in 2021. Mary’s passion throughout her career with NRCS has been educating her staff, clientele, and youth about range management. Mary has been an integral member of the Nebraska Range Youth Camp Committee since 1983, including serving as the Range Camp Co-Director from 1993 through 2006.



**RORIC PAULMAN** is a grower in the TPNRD with a passion for developing practices that set benchmarks for excellence in all phases of his operation. Roric is active at the state, regional, and national levels promoting the best practices in water use efficiency. Roric was a member of the TPNRD Stakeholders in 2009 and in 2019 which provided recommendations for the TPNRD Integrated Management Plan. Roric shared with the Stakeholders his experience with the Grower Information Services Cooperative, that lead to the TPNRD implementing the Water Data Program that is benefiting every grower in the TPNRD with real time ground water use information.

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# TREE PROGRAM

## LIVE IN TOWN AND NEED A TREE PLANTED?

Eligible residents must live in the city limits of North Platte, Ogallala, or Sutherland. TPNRD has an Urban Forestry Program which will cost-share up to \$50 per tree with a \$100.00 maximum of two trees, per year. This program is in place to help plant a tree in a location that is visible from the street. Contact Dave at the office for more information or an application.

## LIVE IN THE COUNTRY AND NEED A TREE?

The TPNRD has bareroot trees available for spring replanting into an existing windbreak, otherwise known as farmer hand plants. An order form is available at the TPNRD office, or by email. The deadline to order trees is March 10, 2023. Trees will be available for pick up the 2nd or 3rd week of April, weather permitting.

Machine planting is available in the spring for new windbreaks.

## FALL CONTAINER TREE PROGRAM

The TPNRD has a fall container tree program available for anyone who would like to purchase 2-3' container trees for their property. The deadline to order is May 10, 2023. Availability is limited, so place your orders early! All conifer, broadleaf, and shrub trees are \$13 each and will be ready for pick up October 1-15, 2023. Tree orders will need to be paid for after July 1st, and prior to pick up.



# WATER DATA PROGRAM

## FACTS

- Provides growers real time ground water irrigation information
- Provides aggregate ground water use data for the required TPNRD Integrated Management Plan (IMP) ground water models

## IS NOT A PLAN FOR REGULATING GROWERS USE OF GROUND WATER

- The TPNRD priority is to meet the IMP requirement for a Fully Appropriated Platte River, by providing offset water to the Platte River, and grower's conservation of irrigation by knowing their real time use of ground water (this is happening)
- The TPNRD IMP has been in place since 2009

## UPDATE

- 100% of the ground water irrigated acres have been voluntarily enrolled
- 500 different growers
- 95% of connections for electric wells have been made – 250,442 acres or 1,649 connections
- 79% of wireless devices have been installed on non-electric wells (still working on installations this winter as devices are still trickling in)

## WHATS NEXT

- Growers need to enter their 2022 crops and tillage practices - Log onto your dashboard using the website or the app on your smartphone – [water.gisc.coop](http://water.gisc.coop) or search water.gisc in the app store
- Open Houses will be held in February and March to assist entering 2022 crop & tillage practices; help add/remove fields no longer farming; work on connections issues (accept meter #s); answer any concerns growers may have; and share tricks about the dashboard
- Watch For Dates and Locations

## COST-SHARE AVAILABLE FOR NOT IRRIGATING CERTIFIED IRRIGATED ACRES



The TPNRD has a cost-share program for certified irrigated acres not currently irrigated (NICIA), with annual payments of \$10/acre for 1 year and \$12/acre for 4 years. Landowners can sign up January 1 through May 1. Contact Ann at the office for more information or an application.

## GRANTS FOR CONTROLLING WOODY ENCROACHMENT IN THE SANDHILLS

Are you ready to put fire on the ground but need help to get started? The TPNRD, along with five other local Natural Resources Districts, has a new opportunity with a new grant funded cost-share program to get you there. The new “Central Nebraska Core Grassland Grant Program” is an opportunity to improve your pasture! Funding is available for grazing deferment at \$30/ac,



and cost-share for cedar tree removal is \$62.50/ac. Funding is limited, so interested producers need to contact Myles at the TPNRD to sign up as soon as possible. With the proper preparation, prescribed fire will benefit you, your pasture health, and your wildlife. There are also other opportunities for cost-share funding for landowners through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. If you're ready to put some fire on the ground or have any questions about prescribed fire or cedar tree removal, please contact Myles at (308) 535-8080.



# SPOTLIGHT

Ann Dimmitt, Integrated Management Plan (IMP) Manager, has been with the TPNRD for 25 years. Ann started with the TPNRD as a Water Technician mainly working in the field, then became the Water Programs Coordinator, and now the IMP Manager. Ann works with growers in all aspects of ground water irrigation, including rules and regulations, certified irrigated acres, and the Water Data Program. Ann goes above and beyond to help growers with any water questions or concerns they may have and is a fierce protector of keeping local control of the ground water of the TPNRD. She is a great asset for the District, and welcomes growers when they come in.

## PLAN TO COME SEE US AT ONE OF THE WATER DATA PROGRAM OPEN HOUSES THIS WINTER!

We can help you:

- log on to your dashboard and enter crops & tillage practices
- remove fields from your dashboard that you are no longer farming
- add fields to the dashboard that you have started farming
- share fields with your landowners/operators
- double check the calculations of inches pumped
- double check electrical meter #s and connections
- help switch non-electric wells to electric in the dashboard
- verify irrigation wells have been flow tested/or will be
- install the app on your phone

These open houses will have food available!!! Depending on the time, we will have breakfast or lunch available. This is not a formal meeting, but rather a stop by and stay for as long, or as little as you want, when you want.

If you cannot make these open houses, feel free to call the office at (308) 535-8080 and set up an appointment to come visit us, or request a house call!

\*\*Added bonus at the Keith County Open Houses: we will bring Kent, and you can visit with him about the proposed Perkins County Canal. He is the foremost expert as he has researched this project for the last 30 years.

## TPNRD STAFF

Kent O. Miller, P.E..... General Manager  
 Glen Bowers ..... Water Programs Field Coordinator  
 Ann Dimmitt ..... Integrated Management Plan Manager  
 Phil Heimann .. Geographic Information Systems Manager  
 Myles Mendell .....Resources Programs Coordinator  
 Amy Oberst.....Office & Financial Coordinator  
 Dave Slattery ..... Conservation Programs Coordinator  
 Jenny Turner.....Water Data Program Coordinator  
 Jan Brestel..... Field Office Secretary, North Platte NRCS  
 Open..... Range Technician, North Platte NRCS  
 Eryn Rapp..... District Secretary, Ogallala NRCS

This newsletter is an official publication of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District. Please call the TPNRD office if you would like email updates, or if you have any questions.

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