

## RSVP for Water Programs Update on February 6

Join us in Central City for our Annual Water Programs Update!  
No registration fee, catered lunch. **RSVP by February 2<sup>nd</sup>** (308) 385-6282 | lee@cpnrd.org



**CPNRD**  
CENTRAL PLATTE  
NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

# Annual Water Programs Update

**Tuesday, February 6, 2024**  
Merrick County Ext Building, Central City

\*NITROGEN TEST  
Attendance replaces CPNRD's Nitrogen Management Certification Test Requirement

\*CEUs (4) Credits Applied for Professional Water Well Contractors License

## 9:30-2:30

Morning	Afternoon
<b>9:35 NITROGEN MANAGEMENT</b> Management Timeline Data-Driven Fertigation Dean Krull, UNL Demo Project Coordinator Khris Staton, Implementation Specialist	<b>12:45 WATER QUALITY</b> New Website & Nitrogen Dashboard Quality Management Plan Tricia Dudley, Water Quality Specialist Courtney Widup, Water Resources Tech
<b>10:15 WATER QUANTITY</b> Groundwater Levels Quantity Management Plan Luke Zakrzewski, GIS Image Analyst Angela Warner, GIS Coordinator	<b>1:15 PERKINS CANAL</b> Location, Funding, Design Jesse Bradley, Assistant Director Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
<b>11:15 DRAINAGE LAW</b> Landowner vs. Renter Responsibilities Don Blankenau, Attorney Blankenau Wilmoth Jarecke	<b>2:00 2024 WEATHER OUTLOOK</b> Precipitation & Climate Forecast Mike Moritz Warning Coordination Meteorologist National Weather Service
<b>12:00 LUNCH</b> RSVP BY FEBRUARY 2 <sup>ND</sup> (308) 385-6282	

To learn more visit: [www.cpnrd.org](http://www.cpnrd.org)

## Important Dates

* January 1	Nitrogen Certification test due
* February 6	CPNRD's Water Programs Update, Central City
* March 1	Deadline: Transfer applications for irrigated acres
* March 31	Crop Report & samples due for Groundwater Management Program
* April 1	Deadline to order Conservation Tree Seedlings
* April 15	CPNRD-Ron Bishop Memorial College Scholarship applications due
* June 1	Chemigation renewal permits due
* September 1 - March 1	Transfer applications for irrigated acres accepted
* September 15	Chemigation reinspections must be completed



## To Do

1. **Submit Nitrogen Management Report** (by March 31)
2. **Place Order for Tree & Shrub Seedlings** (by April 1)
3. **Submit Transfer Application for changes to irrigated acres** (by March 1)
4. **Attend CPNRD's Water Programs Update** (on February 6)

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## Board of Directors

**Subdistrict At-Large** Keith Ostermeier, Grand Island (Treasurer)

- |   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1 Jay Richeson, Gothenburg                  | Brian Keiser, Gothenburg             |
| 2 Dwayne Margritz, Lexington                | Tom Downey, Lexington                |
| 3 Marvion Reichert, Elm Creek (Secretary)   | Steve Sheen, Kearney                 |
| 4 Lon Bohn, Gibbon                          | Ryan Kegley, Kearney                 |
| 5 Deb VanMatre, Gibbon                      | Mike Wilkens, Gibbon                 |
| 6 Jerry Milner, Grand Island                | Mick Reynolds, Wood River (Chairman) |
| 7 Jerry Wiese, Grand Island (Vice-Chairman) | Ed Stoltenberg, Cairo                |
| 8 Todd Arends, Grand Island                 | Vacant                               |
| 9 Ed Kyes, Central City                     | Doug Reeves, Central City            |
| 10 Chuck Maser, Grand Island                | Barry Obermiller, Grand Island       |

## Staff

General Manager: Lyndon Vogt  
 Assistant Manager: Jesse Mintken  
 Administrative Assistant: Kelly Cole  
 Communications Assistant: Brody Vorderstrasse  
 Cozad Ditch Manager: Michael Schmeeckle  
 Cozad Ditch Rider: Jake Laird  
 GIS Coordinator: Angela Warner  
 GIS Image Analyst: Luke Zakrzewski  
 Hydrologist: Brandi Flyr  
 Information/Education Specialist: Marcia Lee  
 Precision Conservation Specialist: Darren Cudaback  
 Prescribed Fire Planning Specialist: Nelson Winkel  
 Projects Assistant: Tom Backer  
 Range Management Specialist: David Carr

Resources Conservationist: Bill Hiatt  
 Resources Conservationist: Shane Max  
 Secretary/CPNRD: Deb Jarzynka  
 Secretary/NRCS-Grand Island: Vacant  
 Secretary/NRCS-Central City: Kyla Friedrichsen  
 Secretary/NRCS-Lexington: Vacant  
 Secretary/NRCS-Kearney: Shelly Lippincott  
 Secretary/Thirty Mile Irrigation District: Marci Ostergard  
 Thirty Mile Irrigation District Manager: Jim Harris  
 Thirty Mile Irrigation District Technician: Mike Ostergard  
 UNL/CPNRD Demo Project Coordinator: Dean Krull  
 Water Quality Specialist: Tricia Dudley  
 Water Resources Specialist: Dan Clement  
 Water Resources Technician: Courtney Widup

Nebraska's NRDs: **Protecting Lives** | **Protecting Property** | **Protecting Your Future**

## Producer To-Dos

1. **Nitrogen Report** Reports are due March 31<sup>st</sup> for all crops in Phase II/III Nitrogen Management areas. The NRD is currently transitioning to a different software company, requiring your report to be submitted by fillable PDF. Producer packets were mailed in early January. *Your Contact: Tricia Dudley*
2. **Place Tree Orders** Place tree, shrub and weed barrier orders for spring planting. Over 30 species available. **COST** \$31.25/bundle of 25. Visit [cpnrd.org](http://cpnrd.org) for details. *Your Contact: Kelly Cole*
3. **Transfer Applications** If you're planning to irrigate acres that are not certified with CPNRD, you must offset the new acres by completing a transfer request prior to the new acres being irrigated. *Your Contacts: Luke Zakrzewski, Angela Warner*
4. **RSVP for CPNRD's Water Programs Update** Attendance at this event in Central City replaces your requirement to take CPNRD's Nitrogen Certification Test. No registration fee/catered lunch provided. *Your Contact: Marcia Lee*  
**Questions? Visit [cpnrd.org](http://cpnrd.org) or call (308) 385-6282**



# IN PERSPECTIVE

Volume 28 No. 2  
January 2024

Central Platte NRD Newsletter

215 Kaufman Ave Grand Island NE (308) 385-6282 [cpnrd.org](http://cpnrd.org)

## Haussler Resigns from Board of Directors

After 23 years serving as a director on the Central Platte NRD Board, Alicia Haussler submitted her resignation at the December Board meeting. Haussler is moving out of Subdistrict 8 and ineligible to serve in that subdistrict.

Alicia was appointed to the Board in 1997 to replace Christine Peterson and served until 2004. In 2007, she was elected, replacing Jim Foster and serving on the Central Platte NRD Board for a total of 23 years. She has been an active member of the Programs, Eastern Projects, Water Resources, Water Utilization, Nomination & Budget committees. Alicia was elected Vice-Chairman from 1999 to 2002 and Chairman of the Board from 2003 to 2004.

If you live in Grand Island and have considered serving on the Central Platte NRD Board, the NRD is accepting *Letters of Intent* until February 9<sup>th</sup> for the term ending in December 2024. The Nominating Committee including Ed Stoltenberg, Doug Reeves, Chuck Maser and Jerry Milner, will recommend candidates to be appointed to the Board.

Those interested in serving on the Board are encouraged to contact a member of the Nominating Committee and the CPNRD office at (308) 385-6282 for a detailed map to determine if they are located in Subdistrict 8, located in northwest Grand Island, east of Highway 281.

A map is also available at [www.cpnrd.org/about/directors](http://www.cpnrd.org/about/directors). *Letters of Intent* can be mailed to CPNRD (address above) or emailed to General Manager Lyndon Vogt at [vogt@cpnrd.org](mailto:vogt@cpnrd.org). Candidates interested in serving a two-year term should also file with the State Election Office which has a filing deadline of March 1, 2024.



Alicia Haussler receives an Outgoing Service Award for 23 years of service from General Manager Lyndon Vogt, during the December Service Awards luncheon.

## In This Edition

- 2023 Service Awards
- New Rate Structure - Prescribed Fire Program
- General Election
- Irrigation Violation Policy - July 1
- U.S. Hardiness Zones Update
- Water Programs Update - February 6
- Producer To-Dos



RSVP by February 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Event details on Page 5

## 2023 Service Awards

CPNRD's service recognition luncheon was held prior to the December Board of Directors meeting. Congratulations to the following award recipients:

### 35 YEARS OF SERVICE

#### Dan Clement, Water Resources Specialist

Many producers know Dan from his 35 years of field work. Dan issues groundwater well permits, updates well registrations and provides technical assistance for well decommissioning. He measures surface flow in the NRD's rivers and streams, checks chemigation systems, and coordinates the monitoring well program and vadose zone research projects.

#### Deb Jarzynka, Secretary-Grand Island Office

As secretary, Deb welcomes the public to the NRD, assists staff, distributes mail, maintains filing and orders office supplies. She also assists with administrative duties including preparing bank deposits, board information, quarterly travel and expense reports.

### 10 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH CPNRD

#### Lyndon Vogt, General Manager

Lyndon has been General Manager of the CPNRD since 2013. He has been employed in the NRD system since 1996, previously working as Water Resources Coordinator and General Manager at Lower Niobrara NRD and also General Manager of the Upper Niobrara White NRD.

### OUTGOING AWARDS

#### Alicia Haussler, Director

23 years of service as a member of the Board of Directors (Additional information on Page 1)

#### Samantha Keith, Secretary at the NRCS Field Office in Lexington

Samantha was the first point of contact for landowners who visit the Dawson County NRCS office for 14 years. She managed landowner records, data entry and mailings; and assisted with the NRCS and NRD conservation programs.

### ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

CPNRD had several staff receive achievement awards from other organizations in 2023. The following were recognized:

#### Duane Woodward, Hydrologist

Duane (retired) received the Maurice Kramer Groundwater Achievement Award from the Nebraska Water Resources Association/Nebraska State Irrigation Association. The Award is a tribute to Maurice Kremer, a Nebraska native who served in the legislature where he was best known for establishing the Natural Resources Districts and helping pass laws to protect Nebraska's groundwater resources. The Award recognizes Nebraskans who have made a significant impact in the conservation and protection of the State's groundwater resources through research, education and management activities. Duane was employed by CPNRD from 1992 - 2017 and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation from 1974-1992.

#### David Carr, Range Management Specialist

David received the Lead Igniter Award from the Nebraska Prescribed Fire Council. The award is presented to individuals who have made significant contributions to the use and knowledge of prescribed fire in Nebraska. David has been employed by CPNRD since 2004.

#### Marcia Lee, Information/Education Specialist

Marcia received the Project WET - Educator of the Year Award. Marcia was selected as an outstanding community educator who uses the Project Wet curriculum to teach students the value of water in the classroom and as part of the Nebraska Children's Groundwater Festival. Community educators must be trained in the Project WET and Project Learning Tree curriculum, carry out the mission of Project WET, inspire and prepare the next generation of water stewards. Marcia has been employed with CPNRD since 1999.



**2023 Award Recipients** (Back row left) Lyndon Vogt, General Manager; Duane Woodward, Hydrologist (retired); Samantha Keith, Secretary; David Carr, Range Management Specialist (Front) Deb Jarzynka, Secretary; Dan Clement, Water Resources Specialist; Marcia Lee, Information/Education Specialist; Alicia Haussler, Director

## New Rate Structure for Prescribed Fire Program

A new rate structure and additional cost share availability were recently approved for the Prescribed Fire Program. New rate structure:

The minimum charge for all burns 40 acres or less is \$2,000. Burns more than 40 acres will be charged \$2,000 with additional charges per acre over 40 acres.

- Burns 41 - 159 acres: \$2,000 + \$16/acre over 40 acres
- Burns 160 - 319 acres are \$2,000 + \$8/acre over 40 acres
- Burns over 320 acres will be determined on a case-by-case basis

The 50% cost share eligibility was extended to include landowners who are not enrolled in another program or contract. CPNRD staff will continue to develop burn plans, assist with the prescribed burns, and assist with grants to aid Prescribed Burn Associations.

Central Platte's Prescribed Fire Program was initiated to promote and encourage landowners to form Prescribed Burn Associations. The NRD has conducted and assisted with 306 prescribed burns totaling 51,832 acres since 2004. Most of the prescribed burns for landowners vary from 20 acres up to 160 acres.

Although CPNRD has met goals to educate landowners on the safe and effective use of prescribed fire for land management, the new rate structure was necessary since the subsidized rate was less than Prescribed Burn Associations needed to charge to cover their expenses and the subsidized rate was competing with private industries. CPNRD's rate set in 2004 was also outdated and did not cover the NRD's expenses.

To learn more about the Prescribed Burn Program and how it may help your land reduce invasive Eastern Red Cedar or improve your pasture for grazing, call (308) 385-6282 or visit [www.cpnrd.org/land-management/prescribed-fire/](http://www.cpnrd.org/land-management/prescribed-fire/).

**Your CPNRD Contacts:** Bill Hiatt | [hiatt@cpnrd.org](mailto:hiatt@cpnrd.org) and Nelson Winkel | [winkel@cpnrd.org](mailto:winkel@cpnrd.org)



Shane Max, Resources Conservationist, uses a drip torch to light a head fire at the Wood River Flood Control Project near Stuhr Museum in Grand Island. CPNRD utilizes prescribed fire as a management tool for vegetation on projects and for private landowners.



## Upcoming General Election

Central Platte NRD has 21 members on the Board of Directors who serve four-year terms, with two directors in each of the NRD's 10 sub-districts and one at-large director. Following are a list of the incumbents and subdistrict in the upcoming election cycle. Incumbents must file with the State Election Office by February 15<sup>th</sup>. The non-incumbent deadline is March 1<sup>st</sup>.

### SUBDISTRICT

Subdistrict 1	Jay Richeson, Gothenburg
Subdistrict 2	Dwayne Margritz, Lexington
Subdistrict 3	Marvion Reichert, Elm Creek
Subdistrict 4	Ryan Kegley, Kearney
Subdistrict 5	Mike Wilkens, Gibbon
Subdistrict 6	Mick Reynolds, Wood River
Subdistrict 7	Jerry Wiese, Grand Island
Subdistrict 8	Todd Arends, Grand Island
Subdistrict 8	Vacant, Grand Island (2-year term)
Subdistrict 9	Doug Reeves, Archer
Subdistrict 10	Barry Obermiller, Grand Island

### DIRECTOR

### SUB-DISTRICT LOCATIONS

Custer, Dawson, Frontier
Buffalo, Dawson
Buffalo, Dawson
Buffalo, Hall
Buffalo
Hall
Hall, Howard
Hall
Hall
Hall, Merrick, Nance, Platte, Polk, Hamilton
Hall

CPNRD's Board meets on the fourth Thursday, once a month, at 2:00 p.m. All meetings are held at the NRD office located at 215 Kaufman Ave in Grand Island. Learn more at: [cpnrd.org/directors](http://cpnrd.org/directors)

## Updated Irrigation Violation Policy to take Effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>

With the changes made to CPNRD's Groundwater Management Plan last year, the violation policy for the Rules and Regulations for Groundwater Use in Fully and Over Appropriated Areas was updated by the Board in December. The stricter policy changes were made to discourage repeat violators. The following changes will take effect July 1, 2024.

*Penalties will be applied to all violations totaling one acre or more. Penalties for irrigating land that is not certified with the district, or violation of soil restrictions on approved transfers from the district, will be imposed on the same parcel(s) that the offending system (gravity, pivot, drip, etc.) resides on.*

### First Offense Violation

- Penalty will require the non-irrigation of certified acres equal to the violation in acres for one year.
- Credit will be given if certified acres were left in dryland production during the violation year.
- If no acres were left in dryland production during the violation year, the one times (1Xs) penalty will be assessed the following year.
- A transfer of certified acres to the violation in question will be allowed during the compliance year (if necessary).

### Second Offense Violation

- Penalty will require the non-irrigation of certified acres that is two times (2xs) the violation in acres for one year.
- No credit will be given for certified acres left in dryland production during the violation year.
- A transfer of certified acres to the violation in question will not be allowed until compliance is achieved.

### Third Offense Violation

- Penalty will require the non-irrigation of certified acres that is four times (4xs) the violation in acres for one year.
- No credit will be given for certified acres left in dryland production during the violation year.
- A transfer of certified acres to the violation in question will not be allowed until compliance is achieved.

**In summary, the major changes from the previous policy are:**

- All penalties are imposed on the same parcel.
- Credit for certified irrigated acres left dry will only be given on a first offense.
- Second and third offense landowners will not be allowed to complete a transfer until compliance is achieved.



## U.S. Hardiness Zones Updated

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently released a new version of its Plant Hardiness Zone Map (PHZM), updating this valuable tool for gardeners and researchers for the first time since 2012. USDA's Plant Hardiness Zone Map is the standard by which gardeners and growers can determine which plants are most likely to thrive at a location. The new map—jointly developed by USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and Oregon State University's (OSU) PRISM Climate Group—is more accurate and contains greater detail than prior versions.

The new map for 2023 has pushed half the country into a warmer half zone, while the rest of the country has remained in the same zone, the USDA said in a press release. It is available online at <https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov>. In addition to the map updates, the Plant Hardiness Zone Map website was expanded to include a "Tips for Growers" section, which provides information about USDA ARS research programs of interest to gardeners and others who grow and breed plants.