

New Directors & Staff

Welcome to Central Platte NRD!



SubDistrict 5

Mike Wilkens of Gibbon was selected to fill the vacancy in Sub-District 5, held for the last 17 years by Jim Bendfeldt of Kearney. Jim stepped down from the Board in January for personal reasons.

Wilken's two-year term will end in December 2024.



SubDistrict 8

In May, Todd Arends of Grand Island was selected to fill the vacancy in Sub-District 8, previously held by his father, LeRoy Arends. LeRoy passed away in March and had been a director on the Board since 2005.

Arends's two-year term will end in December 2024.

New Secretary in Grand Island Office

Sydney Wagner started her position in the Grand Island NRCS Field Office on July 17th. Sydney will be the first point of contact for landowners that visit the Hall County NRCS office. She will help the District with data entry, records management and mailings. Sydney will also assist with conservation programs. The District employs four full-time staff to assist in the USDA-NRCS offices located in Grand Island, Central City, Kearney and Lexington.

Learn more about CPNRD's Board and Staff at cpnrd.org/about

CPNRD Receives Award for Hazard Mitigation Plan

Central Platte NRD was recently awarded the 2023 Implementation Award for the Hazard Mitigation Plan from the American Planning Association-Nebraska Chapter. Over the past decade, CPNRD staff has worked with the county emergency managers in the district to create and update the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Jess Mintken, CPNRD Assistant Manager, said "Receiving the Implementation Award reflects 15 years of dedicated work toward reducing flood risk and establishing comprehensive local partnerships."

The plan was first implemented in 2012 and has been updated every five years, with updates in 2017 and most recently in 2022. Through these updates, many flood and other risk reduction projects have been initiated to meet the goals and actions identified in the plan.

The Plan analyzes the risks to both natural and manmade hazards for the entire NRD and individual jurisdictions within it. The plan also identifies potential actions that could be implemented to help reduce risk and potential impacts from future hazard events. Examples of recent projects that CPNRD communities have benefited from the Plan include improved outdoor warning systems with expanded coverage areas and the replacement of aging devices in Hall County and a \$7.7 million safe room in Central City.

Jon Rosenlund, Hall County Emergency Manager, said "If not for these projects, the City of Grand Island would have seen repeats of its two historically largest flooding scenarios (1967 & 2005) on two different flood plains in the very same year. It is truly a testament to the value of hazard mitigation and a model for others to follow."

The American Planning Association's mission is "to elevate and unite a diverse planning profession as it helps communities, their leaders and residents anticipate and navigate change."



Important Dates

* January 1	Nitrogen Certification test due
* March 1	Deadline: Transfer applications for irrigated acres
* March 31	Crop Report & samples due for Groundwater Management Program
* April 1	Deadline: Last day to order Conservation Tree Seedlings
* April 15	CPNRD-Ron Bishop Memorial College Scholarship applications due
* June 1	Chemigation renewal permits due
* July 27 - 1:45 p.m.	Budget Hearing for 2024 FY Budget - CPNRD Office
* September 1 - March 1	Transfer applications for irrigated acres accepted
* September 15	Chemigation reinspections must be completed
* November 1 - April 1	Tree and shrub seedling orders accepted
* December 25 - January 1	Office Closed

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Board of Directors Subdistricts

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	Alicia Haussler, Grand Island
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: Sydney Wagner
Secretary/NRCS-Central City: Kyla Friedrichsen
Secretary/NRCS-Lexington: Samantha Keith
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

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IN PERSPECTIVE

Central Platte NRD Newsletter

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215 Kaufman Ave Grand Island NE (308) 385-6282 cpnrd.org

Sunset Seminars to Feature Central Platte Producers

Mark your calendar to attend one of Sentinel Fertigation's *Sunset Seminars* in August. Central Platte NRD producers Arnie Hinkson, Wood River, and Don Batie, Lexington, will feature their research sites on August 3rd & 10th as Sentinel Fertigation joins forces with innovative farmers, Nebraska Natural Resource Districts, and the Nebraska On-Farm Research Network to host the *Fertigation Sunset Seminars* at trial field sites across Nebraska.



"If a farmer is wondering how to enhance their nitrogen management practices and is curious about technologies that can help them achieve their goals, this event is for them," said Jackson Stansell, Sentinel's Founder & CEO. "This is a tremendous opportunity to see how N-Time™ is working on a real field, with a real farmer in real time. All events will discuss data comparing N-Time™ recommendations with grower practices."

The informal and informative evening events will give growers and agronomists a chance to see how N-Time™ works and how it can influence nitrogen management outcomes. Seminars are being hosted by growers who have tried N-Time™ this growing season and experienced its impact on their farm. N-Time™ is Sentinel's flagship software system that analyzes field imagery to detect early signs of crop nitrogen stress and provides growers with timely fertilizer application recommendations, developed through research and proven through trials.

Data collected from the on-farm pilots will be presented by representatives from UNL, providing growers with data quantifying N-Time's impacts on nitrogen use efficiency while maintaining or improving yield. Effects of other nitrogen management technologies will also be discussed at some locations.

Central Platte NRD offers cost share on this new sensor-based fertigation technology. It provides \$11 per acre with a two-year commitment and a maximum of two fields or 320 acres. The program is open to the entire District.

In addition to UNL's presentation, the Sentinel Team will demonstrate exactly how N-Time™ functions and how it can be implemented with advanced fertigation systems. After the demo, host growers will have the opportunity to talk about their experiences and answer questions about using image-based fertigation technology. Light snacks and beverages will be provided during the seminars, followed by an unstructured Q&A and mingling.

Sunset Seminar Schedule

Monday, July 31 – Beaver Creek
Thursday, August 3 – Wood River (Hosted by Central Platte NRD)
Tuesday, August 8 – Bellwood (Hosted by Lower Platte North NRD)
Wednesday, August 9 – Stapleton
Thursday, August 10 – Lexington (Hosted by Central Platte NRD)
Monday, August 14 – Pierce
Tuesday, August 15 – Gibbon

Signup at www.sentinel fertigation.com/sunset-seminars

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Groundwater Management Plan Changes

The NRD's updated Groundwater Management Plan went into effect on July 1st. CPNRD's Board of Directors updated the Plan to address continuing groundwater level declines and increased nitrate levels in some areas of the District. The original Plan was implemented in 1987.

New Ground Water Quantity Triggers & Controls for each Phase Area

- Phase I:** Trigger ranges from 0-25% of the maximum acceptable decline. **Control:** No changes
- Phase II:** Any area with declines greater than 25% of Maximum Acceptable Decline (MAD).
Control: Limitations on transfers and supplemental wells
- Phase III:** 50% decline in water levels relative to MAD. **Control:** Measurement devices required on active irrigation wells in GWMA & owner/operator of active wells required to report annual water usage on each well.
- Phase IV:** Area where water levels continued to decline & reach 75% of the MAD.
Control: Groundwater use allocated to prevent the management area from reaching the MAD.
- Phase V:** Area where MAD is 100% reached or exceeded. **Control:** Reduction of the Phase IV allocation

Subdivision of Ground Water Management Areas

Ground Water Management Areas 7 and 9 were subdivided due to differences in irrigation development.

New Ground Water Quality Triggers

The main sources of groundwater pollution in the District is nitrate-nitrogen in amounts greater than the maximum contaminant level of 10 ppm established by the federal government. The new Quality triggers address the increasing high concentrations in the groundwater and the vadose zone (area between root zone & top of water table). Lesser restrictions are enforced in areas with lower nitrates and added regulations in areas with higher concentrations.

New Quality Phase Triggers

- Phase I:** 0 - 7.5 ppm
- Phase II:** 7.6 - 10.0 ppm
- Phase III:** 10.1 ppm and above
- Phase IV:** An area where nitrate concentrations are not decreasing

The Management Plan and maps may be downloaded at www.cpnrd.org or can be requested at (308)385-6282

Spring Groundwater Levels Show Declines throughout District

Spring static groundwater levels showed declines in all 24 of CPNRD's Ground Water Management Areas (GWMAs) compared to the groundwater levels in 1982. The 1982 levels were established as the baseline for the original Plan in 1987 utilizing data from the USGS groundwater model and CPNRD's future comparison groundwater model.

The data from the USGS model was developed for the years 1951 to 1976 and CPNRD's comparison model simulated future conditions from 1982 to 2020. Geographical and hydrological data of the Central Platte area included surface water, root zone soil profile, unsaturated and saturated aquifer zones, and river-groundwater interaction.

Each of the 24 GWMAs have calculated maximum acceptable declines (MAD) and a margin of safety. This spring's results included 4 wells per township (376 wells) and showed an accumulated loss of -1.30 feet from 1982 to 2023.

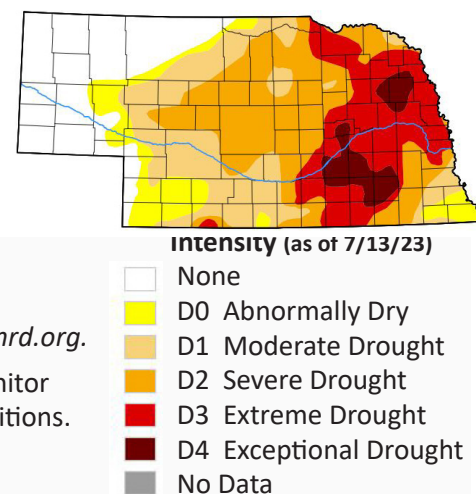
GWMAs 2, 16, 17 & 18 triggered below 25% decline and will be monitored. Three of the GWMAs show continued declines and are under management restrictions including:

- GWMA 9 down 1.18 ft from 2022 = -9.06 to -10.24 ft
- GWMA 16 down 3.26 ft from 2022 = -2.17 to -5.43 ft
- GWMA 20 down 2.15 ft from 2022 = -4.78 to -6.93 ft

View the 1982-2023 comparison map on the groundwater quantity page at cpnrd.org.

Recent rains have been beneficial; however, as shown on the U.S. Drought Monitor map (right), most of the District remains in severe to exceptional drought conditions.

Your CPNRD Contact: Luke Zakrzewski, GIS Image Analyst (308) 385-6282



New 2023/2024 \$\$ Available for Cost Share Programs

New funding is available for producers and communities to install conservation practices and projects through CPNRD cost share programs:

PRODUCER COST SHARE PROGRAMS

Center Pivot Incentive Payment	Up to \$7,500 Must be in Phase 2 or 3
Sensor Based Fertigation	\$11/acre, maximum 2 fields = 320 acres
Prescribed Fire	50% of actual cost up to \$2,500
Streambank Stabilization	50% of actual costs up to \$3,000
Trees	50% of actual costs up to \$3,000 Must order 200+ trees
Well Decommissioning	60% up to \$750 maximum for irrigation wells. Up to \$500 for wells pumping 50 gallons or less. Up to \$1,500 for hand dug wells. No replacement wells.
Phragmites Control	75% up to \$2,000 on a 3-year program if not qualified for EQIP
Cover Crop	50% up to \$500 on the cost of seed
Soil Moisture Sensors	\$2,000 for a 3-year contract
Grazing Deferment	\$30 per acre with a max of \$30,000
Flow Meters	50% up to \$800
Burn Preparation	50% up to \$75 per acre



URBAN/COMMUNITY COST SHARE PROGRAMS

Urban Conservation Program	Up to 50% for cities, villages, counties. Max: \$40,000 for recreation areas/trails
Urban Forestry	50% matching grant on trees & shrubs to cities or villages up to \$5,000
Outdoor Classroom- Schools	Up to \$2,500 matching per school to develop or improve an outdoor classroom
Outdoor Classroom- Community	Up to \$2,000 matching per community organization to develop/improve OC

NEBRASKA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

NRCS offers continuous sign-up programs for these cropland, rangeland & animal feeding practices:

Converted Irrigated Cropland to Dryland (temporary), **Watering Systems & Cross Fencing**, **Cover Crops**, **Irrigation System Conversions/Management** Approx. \$23.35/ft for Center Pivot & \$890.24/ac for Subsurface Drill

Your CPNRD Contact: Kelly Cole (308) 395-7134 | cole@cpnrd.org or your local NRCS Office

Grand Island (308)-395-8586 Ext. 3 Central City (308)-946-3035 Ext. 3
Kearney (308)-237-3118 Ext. 3 Lexington (308)-324-6314 Ext. 3

Producer To-Dos this Summer

Take those water & soil samples! Producers in Phases II/III of the Groundwater Management Program are required to submit water and soil samples with their annual report. It's best to take these samples while your pivot is still running and the ground is moist.

- **Water Samples** Groundwater analysis for nitrogen content required on each field. Water sample bottles provided by your agronomist, crop consultant or laboratory.
- **Soil Samples** Deep soils analysis for residual nitrogen (NO3-N) required on each field or 80-acre tract. Composite sample must consist of a mixture from no less than one three-foot probe every five acres.

UPLOAD YOUR SAMPLES to: cpnrd.gisworkshop.com

Schedule Your Chemigation Inspection ASAP

Be sure to get your chemigation system inspected before you turn off your wells. Chemigation systems must be inspected before September 15th to meet State and District's requirements. Inspections require a complete startup and shutdown of your irrigation system. Chemigation permits will not be renewed if inspection requirements are not met. If you have a new system and it is not inspected this growing season, the State will not allow you to carry it over the next year and you will forfeit your money.

Make an appointment: David Carr or Dan Clement at (308) 385-6282

If you are in Dawson, Custer or Frontier counties, call Shane Max at (308) 380-8943

Gearing Up for Fall Education

We're ready to schedule fall presentations in your area. Our staff provides activities and/or presentations to all grade levels - kindergarten through high school - on topics that meet your curriculum. CPNRD has valuable resources and our staff is well-informed on water quality, water quantity, flood reduction, trees, soil, grasslands, range management, prescribed fire, wildlife and pollinators. If you'd like ideas on what to add to your curriculum, we're just a phone call or email away.

Teach Outside

Why would you want to teach outside? Outdoor learning helps foster the development of creativity, problem-solving, independence and confidence. Students can use their curious minds to explore their environment instead of being restricted to the regimented classroom structure; and it's beneficial to their physical health as well.

Your school could receive up to \$2,500 to implement or update a current outdoor classroom. The NRD funds three outdoor classrooms annually to support teachers in providing lessons outside to ensure that children are growing up with meaningful daily connections to nature. Ideas for projects: rain gardens, rain barrels, butterfly habitat, pollinator gardens, trees, native grasses, bird and wildlife feeders, educational signage, outdoor student seating and other conservation-minded projects. Learn more at: cpnrd.org/education/outdoor-classrooms.

Your CPNRD Contacts: Marcia Lee (308) 395-5771 | lee@cpnrd.org
Brody Vorderstrasse (308) 395-7590 | brody@cpnrd.org

Dawson County Envirothon Club Qualifies for International NCF-Envirothon

Congratulations! Dawson County Envirothon Club took home the championship at the 31st annual Nebraska State Envirothon in April at Lake McConaughy. The Club won \$1,500 and will represent Nebraska at the National Conservation Foundation (NCF) Envirothon in New Brunswick, Canada this month.



Envirothon is an environmental education program for high school students that combines classroom learning and outdoor activities. During the state competition, five-member teams were tested on their knowledge of aquatics, forestry, policy, range, soils and wildlife, as well as prepared and delivered an oral presentation focusing on a current environmental issue. The 2023 oral presentation theme "Adapting to a Changing Climate" challenged teams to propose a solution to a complex problem before a panel of judges.

The Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD) Foundation awarded cash prizes to the top three teams:

- First Place (\$1,500): Dawson County Envirothon Club (Dawson County, Nebraska)
- Second Place (\$1,000): Milford High School (Milford, Nebraska)
- Third Place (\$500): St. Paul High School (St. Paul, Nebraska)

Dawson County Envirothon Club will represent Nebraska at the NCF-Envirothon July 23-29, 2023, to compete for a top prize of \$15,000. The international NCF-Envirothon will be hosted at Mount Allison University in New Brunswick, Canada, and include more than 40 teams from the U.S., Canada, China and Singapore.

Learn more about the Nebraska Envirothon at www.nrdnet.org/nebraska-envirothon



See You in the Field...

NRD staff will be out sampling wells in Buffalo, Hall and Howard counties this summer. The program is organized to sample the District in three sections. In 2022, samples were taken in the east and in 2024 samples will be taken in the western portion of the District.

Wells that have been historically tested by CPNRD are used to collect a sample that is analyzed for nitrate. Results are sent to well owners following the irrigation season and used to monitor & manage water quality.

Your CPNRD Contact: Courtney Widup (308)395-7605 | widup@cpnrd.org