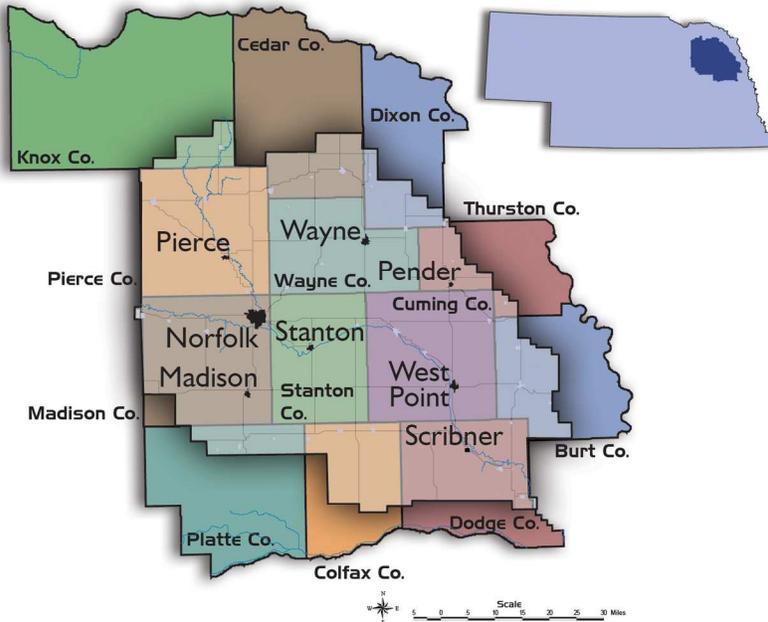


KNOW YOUR NRD



Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts
Making the Good Life Better Since 1972

Summer 2013



LOWER ELKHORN NRD

LENRD QUICK FACTS:

The Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District (LENRD) serves the people in all or parts of 15 counties in northeast Nebraska, and is governed by a 15 member Board of Directors elected by the people of the district.

Our Mission:

“Strive to improve the quality of life for all citizens of the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District

by promoting and demonstrating sound methods of stewardship which conserve, develop and manage all natural resources.”

Protecting Lives - Protecting Property - Protecting the Future

NEW Rural Water System will provide quality water to area

The proposed system takes in three townships in Madison County between the Elkhorn River and the cities of Madison and Battle Creek plus several square miles of western Stanton County and a Highway 81 corridor between Madison and Humphrey. The new draft of the water system's boundary map has expanded eastward and includes properties along the Elkhorn River south of Norfolk, extending to southwest of Stanton.

Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District (LENRD) General Manager Stan Staab said, “Providing good quality water for rural communities and residents is vital to the rural way of life. Those interested in the project have demonstrated the

willingness to help their neighbors improve their quality of life.”

Boundaries of the project can be adjusted as more answers come from the study, Staab added.

Funds to help build the system could come from low-interest loans or grants from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development.

With the drought still fresh in mind, the system, while it would take several years to build, would eventually provide a dependable source of clean water to households in the country. If they choose to join, residents would pay a one-time hookup fee and a monthly water bill to get service via buried pipeline.

Local Advisory Committee:

Officers: Chair - Bonnie Smith, Norfolk; Vice-Chair - Dana Podliska, Norfolk; Secretary - David Kathol - Norfolk. Other members - Tom Mischke, Norfolk; Jerry Lewis, Norfolk; Paul Medelman, Norfolk; Karen Mackel, Norfolk; Doug Sunderman, Norfolk; Tim Miller, Norfolk; Lonnie Weidner, Humphrey; Paul Eisenmenger, Humphrey. NRD Board representatives (non-voting): Tim Tighe, Humphrey & Bob Huntley, Norfolk. Other representatives (non-voting): Harold Reynolds, Wayne - Midwest Assistance Program (MAP) & Darol Ellwanger, Norfolk - PrairieLand RC&D.

Improving Your Quality of Life

NEW Rural Water System facts:

- The open houses were attended by nearly 150 people. They were held in early April in Norfolk, Madison, and Humphrey.
- 217 questionnaire signups have been received as of July 1, 2013. This includes 16 businesses, 6 large feedlots and the areas of Andy's Lake and Cedar Lake.

Funding of the feasibility study:

- The feasibility study is underway and is being financed by the potential users and local governmental agencies:
 - Cost of the study - \$67,900
 - Funds received:
 - City of Madison - \$5,000
 - City of Humphrey - \$5,000
 - City of Norfolk - \$5,000
 - Lower Elkhorn NRD - \$5,000
 - Survey Fees - \$21,100
- The remainder of the cost of the study will be financed by the Lower Elkhorn NRD. A grant in the amount of \$25,000 from the Nebraska Health and Human Services is still possible and a grant in the amount of \$5,000 has been requested from the Madison County Commissioners.

Status of the Project:

- JEO Consulting Group is working on the feasibility study which should be completed by the end of the year. They have been evaluating the questionnaires and making an assessment of the potential usage of water from the rural water system. Also a preliminary report of the location of the water lines will be completed.
- The potential sources of water are being reviewed; these include water from the cities of Madison and Norfolk and a potential location of a well field somewhere in the rural area.

What's next?

- After the study is completed and the project deemed feasible, various state and federal agencies will review the project. If their analysis is positive, financing the project will be secured and final engineering of the project will be completed along with determining the exact location of the water lines.
- The local Advisory Committee will then set the hookup fees and monthly water rates, and put a plan in place to manage the project.
- If the Project is deemed feasible, it could be constructed in 4-5 years.

More LENRD Facts:

- The LENRD has distributed over 3.8 million trees to customers across our 15 counties.
- 72 road structures have been constructed since 1972 to replace old, worn out bridges.
- The LENRD has sold 1,700,000 feet of weed barrier through the Conservation Tree Program, which equals approximately 322 miles.
- Rural Water Systems provide a reliable supply of quality drinking water to a large number of rural customers and small communities. The LENRD has worked with various local, state, and federal agencies to provide area and regional water supply systems for people across the district. The Logan East Rural Water System (Oakland) - reaches over 1,000 customers. The Wau-Col Regional Water System (Wausa-Coleridge) was dedicated on August 11, 2012.
- The LENRD requires the installation of a flow meter on all new high capacity wells. Cost-share is available.

Concerned about your natural resources? So are we. Give us a call or stop by our office. We have programs to fit both urban and rural lifestyles. Our staff and directors are here to serve you - we're your *local* voice for natural resources management.

Find out more about
Nebraska's NRDs at
www.nrdnet.org and
www.lenrd.org