

Lower Republican NRD Review

Fall/Winter 2023 Volume 74



Protecting Lives,
Protecting Property,
Protecting the Future

New Flow Meter Project

The Lower Republican NRD recently began a new project within the boundaries of the district. Many of the groundwater flow meters were installed in the early 2000s, and they are nearing the end of their useful life. We have been seeing a significant increase in calls for meters that are not working properly. The Board of Directors made the decision to move forward with installing NRD owned telemetry flow meters and flow straighteners across the district. This project will implement remote monitoring capabilities to provide water use in near real-time to agricultural water users and will improve irrigation water management on the farm as well as on a watershed basin level for groundwater wells.

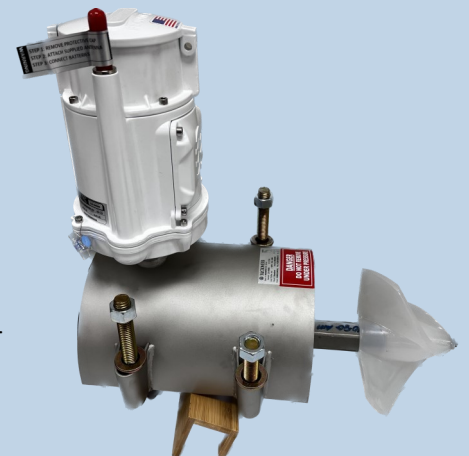
The predominant irrigation flow meter in the district is the mechanical McCrometer propeller meter. For the new meters, FlowConnect™ technology will integrate built-in communications to the meter for transmitting accurate, reliable irrigation flow data. ExactRead technology, made possible with the digital register option, ensures the flow reading on the meter's register in the field and the data remotely viewed on the web are always the same. Flow data is generated and transmitted directly from the meter register.

The District was successful in securing over \$3 million in Federal and State grants for the initial phase of the project. Phase 1 of the grant will target the Rapid Response Area wells, those wells that impact stream and river flows the most, and then will move accordingly to the meters outside of that area.

The District has contracted directly with McCrometer to install and implement these meters according to specifications. If a system needs additional pipe work or a check valve needs to be installed, the District will be asking those producers to get that work done before installing the new meter. These modifications to the pipe or other parts of the system are required for compliance with our current rules and regulations so they will be at the expense of the landowner or irrigation system owner. The new meters do not have installation requirements beyond the current mechanical meters, so if the system is currently "in spec" it should not need to have any additional modification. We ask you to evaluate your current systems and if there is a possibility of replacing 2 meters with 1 telemetry meter, please contact us so we can review your setup.

After the new telemetry meters have been installed, the Lower Republican NRD will continue to do maintenance checks on a 4-year rotating schedule. Future repairs and maintenance to the district owned meters will be budgeted and paid for by the NRD. Intentional damage, negligence, or removal of the meter will be charged to the owner or operator.

Also, we would like to ensure the old mechanical meters are either returned to the proper owner or we can dispose of them if they are at the end of their useful life or will not otherwise be used. These meters were specifically calibrated to the pipe on the system. Using them on other systems or allowing someone else to use them may result in improper usage readings and possible non-compliance with the rules and regulations.



REMINDER:

DEADLINE FOR CHEMIGATION, POOLING AND OCCUPATION TAX EXEMPTION FORM IS JUNE 1, 2024.

Chemigation

The Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE) requires all applicators of fertilizer or pesticide to land or crops through an irrigation system to be licensed and obtain a permit. The LRNRD's renewal permits will be mailed after the beginning of the year. Please review the application and update any of the bulleted items below.

- * Any errors (name, address, etc.),
- * Missing applications from last year,
- * Chemicals applied, and acres irrigated in 2023,
- * Signature for **both** the Permit Holder and Applicator are **required** on all application forms.
- * **NOTE:** Please indicate the application in **pounds**, not gallons*

Completed applications must be received in our office **on or before June 1, 2024.**

The NDEE requires Chemigation systems to be inspected every four years. However, Chemigation in or near Wellhead Protection areas may be inspected at any time.

The LRNRD appreciates your attention and time for getting inspections completed. Scheduled appointments are prioritized by new permits then renewal permits. You will be notified by the LRNRD if you are due for an inspection and a technician will set up an appointment to inspect your site. All permit fees and replacement parts must be paid for prior to or at the time of inspection.

If you did not renew your Chemigation permit last year, or you have a new site in which you will be applying chemical, you must apply for a new Chemigation permit and have it inspected by a LRNRD technician before chemical can be applied. Permits are available on our website at: www.lnrnd.org.

Please contact the LRNRD if you have any questions or need to apply for a new Chemigation permit.

Pooling

LRNRD irrigators have two methods of pooling water. Pooling Arrangements involve a single landowner while Pooling Agreements are between two or more owners of land under common management. Penalties apply for overuse. The LRNRD Groundwater Rules and Regulations are posted on our website at www.lnrnd.org. If you have any questions, please feel free to call our office. Pooling Agreement(s)/Arrangement(s) must be filled out at the District office and notarized signatures are required for both owners and operators. Forms must be completed by **June 1st** to be effective for the 2024 irrigation season. Pooling shall stay in place until written cancellation of the Arrangement/Agreement is received.

Occupation Tax Exemption

To be exempt from 2024 Occupation Tax, state statute requires that you must complete an exemption form that identifies the amount and location of the certified irrigated acres that will not be irrigated in 2024. The exemption form is available at the LRNRD office or on our website: www.lnrnd.org. Forms must be received by **June 1st, per state statute.**

Exempted groundwater acres will not receive an allocation for that year. **Certified irrigated acres that are enrolled in EQIP, AWEP, CREP or any program that requires the participant to relinquish their allocation will automatically be exempted and will no longer require the form after the proper documentation has been received. Providing this information to the district shall be the responsibility of the taxpayer.** Strict penalties will apply to any violators.

Trees Available

The deadline for tree orders is **March 15th**. Cost share is available from the LRNRD. The cost share minimum for hand planting is 100 trees, and the minimum for machine planting is \$750. Place your orders at your County NRCS office for spring planting. Below is the 2024 list of trees and shrubs. Please contact your local NRCS office for availability.

CONIFERS

Eastern Red Cedar
Rocky Mountain Juniper
Colorado Blue Spruce
Jack Pine
Ponderosa Pine
Scotch Pine

BROADLEAF

American Elm
Hybrid Cottonwood
Native Cottonwood
Crabapple
Hackberry
Bur Oak
Swamp White Oak
Silver Maple

SHRUBS

American Plum
Chokecherry
Peking Cotoneaster
Golden Currant
Redosier Dogwood
Elderberry
False Indigo
Sandcherry

Serviceberry
Skunkbush Sumac
Rose Woods
LIMITED
Austrian Pine
Norway Spruce
Southwestern White Pine
Amur Maple
Black Cherry

Black Walnut
Catalpa
Manchurian Apricot
Red Oak
Buffaloberry
Caragana
Centennial Cotoneaster
Hazelnut
Common Lilac
Vilosa Lilac

New Board Member

Chris Grams of Upland has replaced Nelson Trambly as the Lower Republican NRD Subdistrict 4 Board Representative. Chris was sworn in at the September board meeting. Chris was raised in the Upland area and graduated from Minden Public Schools. After high school, Chris attended the University of Nebraska—Lincoln majoring in Agronomy. Upon graduation, Chris moved back to the Upland area to farm and is also a Pioneer Sales Associate at Boldt Seeds. Chris and his wife Brielle welcomed their first child, August Craig, in February of 2023. In his spare time, Chris is also heavily involved with the Nebraska Corn Grower Association, Franklin-Kearney County Corn Growers, assistant chief of the Upland Volunteer Fire department, the Quad Cities Mutual aid group which consists of all the fire departments in Franklin and Kearney County and the Franklin Country Club.



The 2024 South Central Water Conference will be held on **Thursday, February 1st** at the Phelps County Ag Center in Holdrege. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. with the first session beginning at 10:00 a.m. There is no charge for the conference and a lunch is provided for attendees.

The conference provides valuable information about water related issues concerning agricultural producers in central Nebraska. Representatives from area agri-businesses will be available to visit with conference attendees. A full agenda for the conference will be posted on our website at www.lnrnd.org under News and Information.

The LRNRD, Tri-Basin NRD, Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District, UNL Extension and Holdrege Area Chamber of Commerce will be hosting the conference.



South Central Water Conference

New College Scholarship Deadline

Each year, the LRNRD offers three \$1,000 scholarships for conservation education. To be eligible for a scholarship, the student must have a permanent residence within our District, plan to major in a natural resource related field (i.e. forestry, park management, agronomy, agri-business, etc.), and be registered as a full-time student. Scholarship recipients may attend the college or university of their choice, but priority will be given to those attending a Nebraska college or university. The deadline for applications is **April 1**. Applications and additional information regarding these scholarships are available on our website at www.lnrnd.org under the News and Information tab or at the LRNRD office in Alma.

Board of Directors

Subdistrict 1	Clark Andrews, Holbrook
Subdistrict 1	Toby tenBensel, Holbrook-Secretary
Subdistrict 2	Troy Fletcher, Oxford
Subdistrict 2	Marlin Murdoch, Orleans - Chair
Subdistrict 3	Tim Kahrs, Franklin - Treasurer
Subdistrict 3	Matt Harrison, Naponee
Subdistrict 4	Chris Grams, Upland
Subdistrict 4	David Bartels, Riverton - Vice Chair
Subdistrict 5	Lee Fintel, Superior
Subdistrict 5	Don Duffy, Guide Rock
At-Large	Bradley Wulf, Red Cloud

LRNRD Staff

Todd Siel	General Manager
Nick Simonson	Assistant Manager
Shirlee Poyser	Administrative Assistant
Kristi Heft	Water Resources Administrator
Mary Goebel	Water Secretary/Info. & Edu.
Jim Zimmerman	Rural Water Superintendent
PJ Holmes	Water Resources Technician
Dave Bantam	Water Resources Technician
Travis Fisher	Water Resources Technician
Deb Klingenberger	Franklin County Office Secretary
Jennifer Helms	Furnas County Office Secretary
Brittnay Nurnberg	Harlan County Office Secretary
Lynetta Snelling	Webster County Office Secretary

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 14—Board Meeting 2 pm, LRNRD Meeting Room, Alma

December 25—Christmas Day, Office Closed

January 1, 2024—New Years Day, Office Closed

February 1—South Central Water Conference 9:30 am,
Phelps County Ag Center, Holdrege

February 8—Board Meeting 2 pm, LRNRD Meeting Room, Alma

March 10—Daylight Savings Time Begins

March 14—Board Meeting 2 pm, LRNRD Meeting Room, Alma

March 15—Tree Order Deadline

March 31 —Easter

April 1—LRNRD Scholarship Deadline

April 11—Board Meeting 7 pm, LRNRD Meeting Room, Alma

April 23—24—Water Jamboree

Non-Profit Permit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Alma, NE 68920
Permit No. 55

Lower Republican Natural Resources District
PO Box 618 - 30 North John Street
Alma NE 68920

