

SOUTH PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

# PIPELINE

NEWSLETTER

## BOARD DISCUSSES POTENTIAL CHANGES TO THE GWMA RULES & REGULATIONS

Nebraska’s Natural Resources Districts have experienced tremendous growth in the responsibilities given by state statute, especially in protecting ground water. To conserve, protect, develop, and manage the state’s natural resources, the SPNRD relies on the Ground Water Management Area Rules and Regulations. Due to the current irrigation water allocation period ending and to ensure objectives for ground water management are met, updates may be needed.

During the November 2023 meeting, the SPNRD Projects and Programs Committee and Board of Directors began discussing potential changes to the Ground Water Management Area Rules and Regulations. Some items of discussion included: grammatical changes/clarifications, the 2025-2027 Allocation Period, pooling and transfer arrangements, and the development of a local drought plan. The map shows allocation subareas and amounts for the current three-year period.

Public information meetings regarding this topic have been scheduled in our District. The meetings will have a formal presentation followed by a question and answer session. The scheduled dates are:

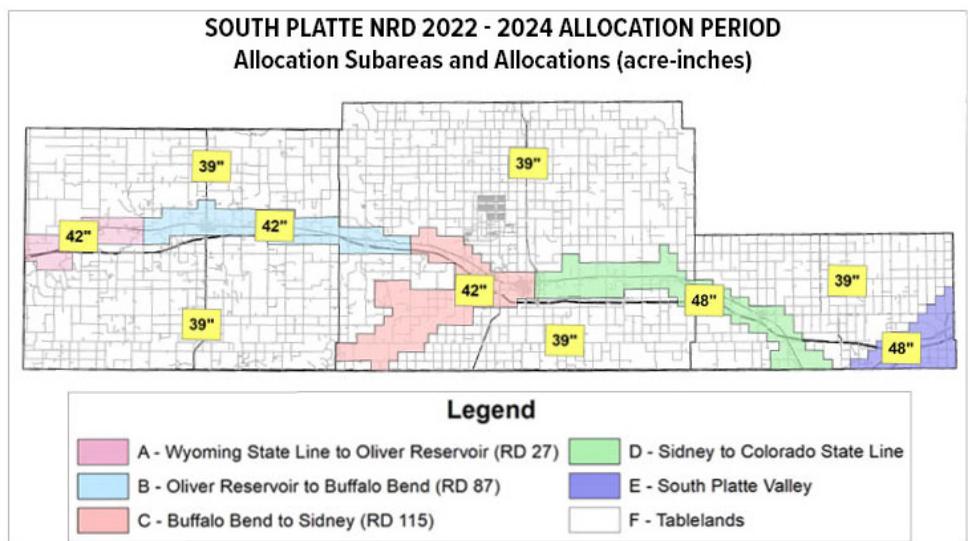
**CHEYENNE COUNTY:** March 20th, 9:30 a.m.,  
WNCC-Sidney, 371 S. College Dr.

**DEUEL COUNTY:** March 20th, 3:00 p.m.,  
Chappell Fire Hall, East Highway 30

**KIMBALL COUNTY:** March 21st, 9:30 a.m.,  
KCTS Meeting Room, 233 S. Chestnut St.

Ground water management affects all users, therefore, we encourage county residents to attend. Prior to any action, public concerns, ideas, and input will be reviewed and considered by the SPNRD Board of Directors.

The GWMA Rules and Regulations and Board Meeting Minutes are available on spnrd.org and at the SPNRD Office.



### BOARD MEETINGS

Board of Director Meetings are hosted the second Tuesday of every month at the South Platte NRD office located at 551 Parkland Drive, Sidney, NE.

### BOARD MEETING DATES

- March 12, 2024
- April 9, 2024
- May 14, 2024

# COST SHARE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

## CONSERVATION TREE PROGRAM & COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM

Each year we provide a low-cost, wide variety inventory of bulk trees and shrubs conducive to our dry climate and the Nebraska High Plains. The purpose of our programs is to encourage tree planting and provide financial assistance (cost share) to property owners who desire to improve their tree resources through effective planning, tree planting, removal, and maintenance. Our program begins mid-October collecting orders through the end of March. Trees are received in April, staff sorts and distributes them in time for spring planting.

The Conservation Tree Program provides seedlings for establishing farmstead windbreaks, shelterbelts, and wildlife habitat. These trees are available at a minimal cost.

Cost share assistance is available for tree purchases and planting, drip watering systems (new plantings), and fabric mulch (new plantings). The SPNRD will pay up to 50% for labor and material to establish a windbreak, reducing the landowner's cost for an averaged-sized project to less than \$250.00.

The Community Forestry Program provides funding to urban homeowners, neighborhood groups, villages and cities. Cost share funding is 50% of the actual approved costs for labor and material to plant or remove existing trees.

The applicant's share can come from private funding, community grants, the community's budget, or in many cases, donated labor.

For the Community Forestry Program, the maximum annual contribution by the District is \$2,500.00 for individual private property owners and \$5,000.00 for public property owners.

Our Tree Order Form and a "Conservation Trees for Nebraska" booklet are available on our website and at the office. The booklet is a great resource which provides tree/shrub descriptions, indicates the vegetative zones, average height, and the suggested row spacing.

For additional information about our tree programs, tree care and cost share opportunities contact Chris Kaiser, Natural Resources Conservationist, at 308-254-2377, visit [spnrd.org/forestry](http://spnrd.org/forestry) or stop by 551 Parkland Drive in Sidney, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - Noon and 1 - 5 p.m. Thank you for helping us plant trees!



## YEARS OF SERVICE RECOGNITION



During the SPNRD Board of Directors meeting, Dec. 12, 2023, Chairman Halligan recognized Chris Kaiser and NaManet Keller for their years of service.

Kaiser was recognized for 15 years of service. Chris is our Natural Resources Conservationist. He manages Oliver Reservoir Recreation Area and the SPNRD Tree Program, monitors and reports ground water levels, and assists with our cost share programs.

Keller was recognized for 10 years of service. NaManet is the District Secretary/Bookkeeper. She is responsible for accounts receivable, cost share reporting, records management and assists the entire staff with projects.

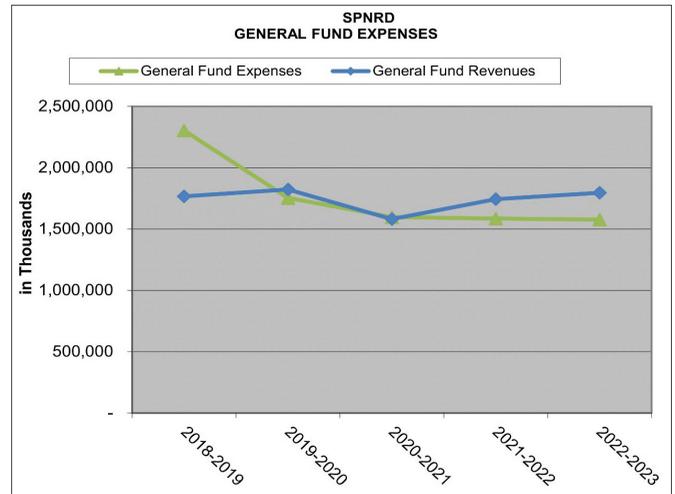
Both Chris and NaManet are invaluable! Congratulations and thank you for your efforts and dedication to the District and its residents.

# FISCAL YEAR 2023 AUDIT

The SPNRD 2023 Audit Report was presented by Julia Peetz, CPA, Rauner & Associates, P.C. Julia reviewed various items in the audit and facilitated discussion. She commented on the total net position which was up 6.04% from last year. Peetz concluded the financial statements were accurately reported and encouraged the Board to continue reviewing the monthly treasurer's reports. Several comparison graphs and charts (including the chart on the right) were provided and discussed during the board meeting.

The general fund chart shows expenses have declined from Fiscal Year 2019.

Please contact Galen Wittrock at (308) 254-2377, or any board member with questions.



## STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

### \$500 SPNRD CONSERVATION SCHOLARSHIP



We are excited to announce our 2023-2024 Scholarship program. It is never too early to get started!

Applicants must be a District resident (Kimball, Cheyenne, or Deuel counties), a graduating high school senior pursuing a major in a Natural Resources, Environmental or Agricultural field of study, and attending (full-time) an accredited school in the State of Nebraska.

Deadline is Wednesday, May 1, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. For more information and to access the application, visit [spnrd.org](http://spnrd.org). Select Education and scroll to the "\$500 Conservation Scholarship Application" button.

### CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

#### ACE CAMP

(Students who have completed 6th, 7th, or 8th grade)

**JUNE 23-26, 2024**

**KAMP KALEO IN BURWELL, NE**

#### YOUTH RANGE CAMP

(Students 14-18 years of age)

**DATE & LOCATION - TBD**

Please check [facebook.com/NebraskaYouthRangeCamp](https://facebook.com/NebraskaYouthRangeCamp), [nesrm.org/YouthRangeCamp](https://nesrm.org/YouthRangeCamp) or [spnrd.org/education](https://spnrd.org/education)

It's that time of year! The SPNRD offers camp scholarships to students who reside in Kimball, Cheyenne, and Deuel counties. We are sponsoring two camps this summer: Adventure Camp about the Environment (ACE) hosted by Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts and Youth Range Camp hosted by the Nebraska Section - Society for Range Management.

Both camps offer an opportunity for students to visit a new place and enjoy a wide range of outdoor activities (field trips, swimming, tubing, nature hikes, etc.) while learning about plants, animals, and conservation.

ALL students are encouraged to apply. To access the camp scholarship application, visit [spnrd.org/education](https://spnrd.org/education). Deadline is Wednesday, May 1, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. Information brochures will be added to our website, please stay tuned!

### NATURAL RESOURCES DAY \* MAY 6, 2024 \* LODGEPOLE VALLEY YOUTH CAMP IN SIDNEY

Fourth grade teachers and students in Kimball, Cheyenne and Deuel counties are invited to attend. This annual event is hosted by ESU 13 and South Platte NRD.

If you have any questions, please call our office at 308-254-2377 or email [yhruska@spnrd.org](mailto:yhruska@spnrd.org).



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**PIPELINE**  
 NEWSLETTER

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**Visit [spnrd.org](http://spnrd.org)**

This is an official publication  
 of the South Platte Natural  
 Resources District.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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|------------------|------------|
| Kathryn Narjes   | Chair      |
| Chris Meyer      | Vice Chair |
| James C. Johnson | Secretary  |
| Bill Halligan    |            |
| Timothy Maas     |            |
| Marc Sprenger    |            |
| Larry L. Rutt    |            |

**PLANT A TREE THIS SPRING!**  
**SEE PAGE 2**

**SPNRD STAFF**

|                   |                                     |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Galen Wittrock    | General Manager                     |
| Ryan Reisdorff    | Assistant Manager                   |
| Don Davis         | Administrative Manager              |
| NaManet Keller    | District Secretary/Bookkeeper       |
| Travis Glanz      | Water Resources Specialist          |
| Chris Kaiser      | Natural Resources Conservationist   |
| Tyler Sanders     | Water Resources Coordinator         |
| Michelle McMillen | NRCS/NRD Field Office Secretary     |
| Yolanda Hruska    | Information & Education Coordinator |

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