

Winter 2020

Volume 3



NEWSLETTER

Twin Platte Natural Resources District (TPNRD)
Protecting Lives, Protecting Property, Protecting our Future

HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

Every five years the TPNRD is required to update the TPNRD Hazard Mitigation Plan for the communities and counties in the Twin Platte District, including Lincoln, McPherson, Arthur, and Keith Counties. A current Hazard Mitigation Plan is required for federal funding assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the event of a natural disaster. **Since 2007, Nebraska and FEMA have required that a Hazard Mitigation Plan be developed within NRD boundaries.**

TPNRD received a grant from FEMA to update the plan. The TPNRD will be working with communities and counties within the district, and JEO Consulting Firm, to carefully piece this updated plan together which is to be completed by April 2021. There will be public meetings throughout the process of updating the plan, where the public can bring any concerns or ideas. The public will be invited to attend the kick-off meetings beginning March 2020. The dates and location of the meetings will be posted in the newspaper and on the TPNRD website and Facebook page.

Do you ever wonder what will happen in the event of a natural disaster in your town?



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Natural Resources
District

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(@NrdTwin)

(308) 535-8080

2019 DATES:

GiSC Open Houses:

Jan. 13th- Arthur
Jan. 14th- Hershey
Jan. 14th- Sutherland
Jan. 15th- Brady
Jan. 16th- Ogallala
More details on page 2

Public Board

Meetings:

Upcoming Board Meetings:
Jan. 9th - 3:00 PM CT
Feb. 6th - 3:00 PM CT
Second Thursday of every
month located on the
second floor of the Great
Western Bank



MEET THE STAFF:

Glen Bowers is the Water Programs Field Coordinator for the TPNRD. Glen has been employed at TPNRD for over 28 years. His duties include water programs, data collection, cost share programs, ground water, and surface water. Glen designed the water trailer made out of recycled materials. This trailer is used as an educational tool and provides a hands on experience for youth to understand the flow of water, and ground water in Nebraska. Glen is often out in the field testing water quality and quantity.

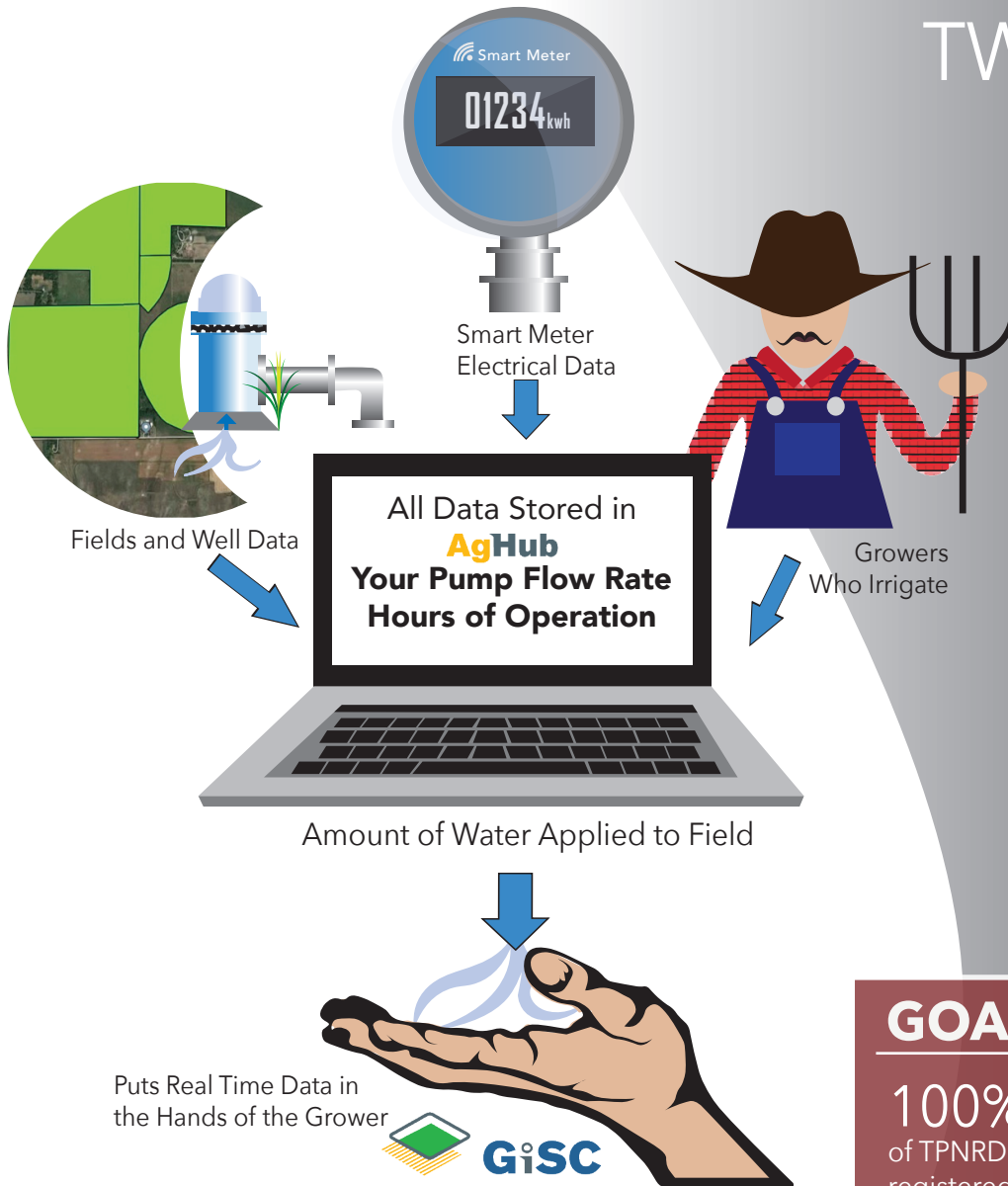
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Award Winners
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Renewable
Energy
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TWIN PLATTE NRD WATER DATA PROGRAM



Why are we utilizing this program?

-To gather accurate data for ground water models, reduce water use, prevent regulations

Who does this program apply to?

-Growers who irrigate

How do I sign up?

-Register at:

tpnrd.aghub.coop/register

-Come to an open house near you or stop into the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Office and we will help you sign up

Have a question?

-Give us a call at
(308) 535-8080



GiSC OPEN HOUSES

Arthur:

Jan. 13, 2020
Arthur Courthouse
10am-1pm **MT**

Sutherland:

Jan. 14, 2020
Sutherland Village
Office
1:30pm-4:00pm **CT**

Ogallala:

Jan. 16, 2020
Driftwood Restaurant
9:30am-12:00pm **MT**

Hershey:

Jan. 14, 2020
Hershey Fire Hall
9am-11:30 am **CT**

Brady:

Jan. 15, 2020
Brady Community
Center
9:30am-12:00pm **CT**



GOAL

100%
of TPNRD Irrigators
registered for GiSC

CURRENT

20%
of TPNRD Irrigators
registered for GiSC



NRCS: Alternative to Cedar Tree Windbreaks

Photos courtesy of NRCS



Shelter for livestock can influence the success of calving in a livestock operation. Protection from the wind and snow is not always readily available from natural topography or living windbreaks. A livestock shelter structure is a windbreak constructed in a "V" configuration that will create protection from snow and minimize snow in the crux of the "V." The sides of the "V" should form a 90-degree angle and the point should be built facing into the prevailing winter winds. This will cause snow to be diverted around the ends of the barrier and form drifts away from the

sheltered area. A livestock shelter structure is an alternative to planting living shelterbelts that consist of eastern red cedar. The Twin Platte Natural Resources District no longer provides financial assistance for planting eastern red cedar because of encroachment on native rangeland. Installing a windbreak needs to come with the end goal in mind. Contact your local USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service office for technical and financial assistance.



TPNRD 2019 CONSERVATION AWARDS

Jensen Ranch: Tree Planting Award

Jensen Ranch has a long history of excellence in conservation, having planted over 2,800 trees in the past 16 years. The planting of trees as windbreaks in the sandhills serve many purposes and have endless benefits to the land as well as the livestock. The ranch operation currently covers 10,360 acres in Arthur and Grant Counties. The first tree planting was done in the 60's, but came with many complications as there was no weed barrier when the trees were planted. This site was not ac-

cessible to water and seemed to take forever for the trees to grow into a usable protection for the livestock. The annual replant program finally re-established and is now a very impressive windbreak that works efficiently. Since then, the Jensen's have designed and planted four more plantings with the weed barrier and the success rate has greatly improved. The protection that these windbreaks provide and the wildlife that inhabits them have made the efforts very much worthwhile.



Star Cattle Company Co. Grassland Conservation Award

Over the years the Star's have been able to slowly expand their operation and diversify with fertile Platte Valley farmland and lush hay meadows. They have utilized the North Platte River accretion grounds and tree groves for calving cows and backgrounding calves. As a company they have also invested in productive pastures as opportunities arose. One of the most beneficial and beautiful pastures has been the ground along the Birdwood Creek. Range management is always a prior-

ity for the operation, never wanting to overgraze the highly utilized areas. The goal is always keeping the grasslands healthy for years to come. Working with the USDA-NRCS on EQIP projects allowed Star Cattle Company to implement rotational grazing on each of its ranges in the last six years. To help increase efficiency, water lines were dug, numerous tanks installed, additional wells drilled, as well as many fence lines adjusted as needed. This would not have been attainable in such a short time frame without their assistance.



Board of Directors

Dennis Schilz (Chairperson)
Joe Wahlgren (Vice-Chairperson)
Jerry Weaver (Secretary)
Jim Meisner (Treasurer)
Eric Brown
David Colvin
Eric Hansen
Robert L Petersen
Shane Storer
Jake Tiedeman
Bob Wiseman

Public Board Meetings are on the second Thursday of every month located on the second floor of Great Western Bank Center, 111 South Dewey Street, North Platte, NE.

Lease Proposal for Renewable Energy on the NCORPE Property

NCORPE, the Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement Project, is a joint project formed by an interlocal agreement between the Upper Republican NRD based in Imperial, the Middle Republican NRD based in Curtis, the Lower Republican NRD based in Alma, and the Twin Platte NRD. The NCORPE Board of Directors is currently considering a renewable energy project on the NCORPE property. The project could include solar panels and/or wind turbines. For more information on the renewable energy project being considered, contact Kyle Shepherd, NCORPE General Manager, at (308) 534-6752 or kshepherd@urnrd.org.

Want Electronic Updates?

Please call the office at (308) 535-8080 and provide us with your name and email address so we can send you electronic updates and newsletters for you to be in the know on the go.

TPNRD Staff

Kent O. Miller, P.E.....General Manager
Dave Slattery.....Conservation Programs Coordinator
Bill Carhart.....Grasslands Stewardship Coordinator
Glen Bowers.....Water Programs Field Coordinator
Ann Dimmitt.....IMP Manager
Phil Heimann.....GIS Manager
Sydney Norris.....Communications & Media Coordinator
Amy Oberst.....Administrative Assistant
Jan Brestel.....Field Office Secretary, North Platte NRCS
Nick Coffey.....Range Programs Tech, North Platte NRCS

All photos and graphics/design layout by Sydney Norris

This newsletter is an official publication of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District. If you have any questions, comments, suggestions, or would like to be placed on our mailing list, please feel free to submit them to:

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TWIN PLATTE
NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

