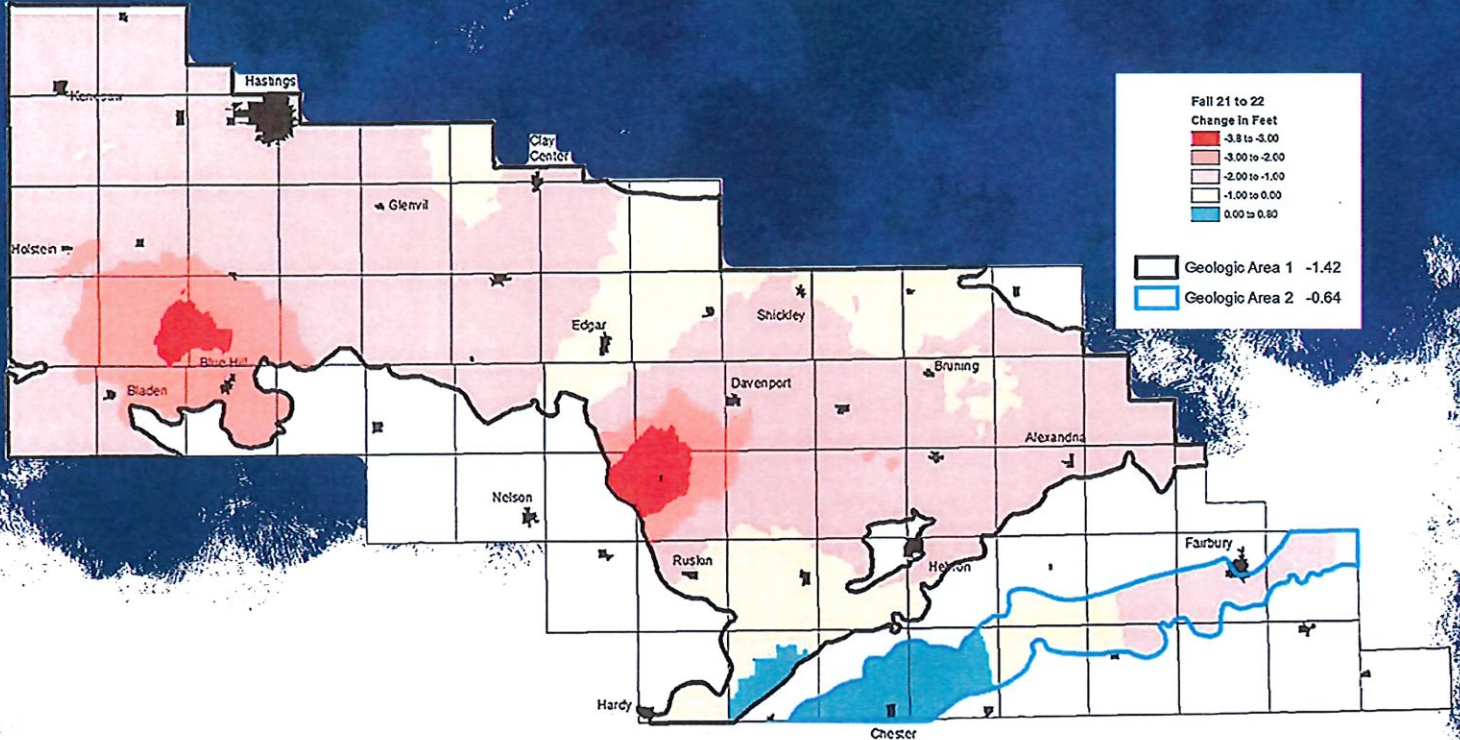


Out of the Blue

Newsletter for Little Blue Natural Resources District

Winter 2022/2023



2022 Fall Static Water Levels by: Kevin Orvis

Fall 2022 water levels show a decline in both Geologic Area 1 and 2. Area 1 being a weighted average decline of -1.42 and Area 2 a weighted average decline of -.64. Most of the geographic area of the District saw an average decline from -1.00 to -2.00 feet. There were clusters of wells around Chester that experienced average rises between 0 to 1.00 feet.

This year so far has seemed very dry, but the fall decline of -1.42 feet has 5 other years that were greater. In 2012 there was a drop of -2.44 feet! However, spring levels are the numbers used for the District's graph depicting the rise or decline of the water table. But every spring following these 5 years of decline did record spring levels that were lower, and it seems unlikely that spring 2023 levels will be up.

Although the areas of decline around Blue Hill and Oak really stand out, the well with the single largest decline was a drop of -6.60 feet found in an alluvial well along the Little Blue River at Fairbury. A well just west of Chester did record a rise of 2.50 feet.

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- Water Levels | Pg. 1
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- Tree Sales | Pg. 3
- R-O Funding | Pg. 3
- Pumpage Report | Pg. 3

CONNECT WITH US

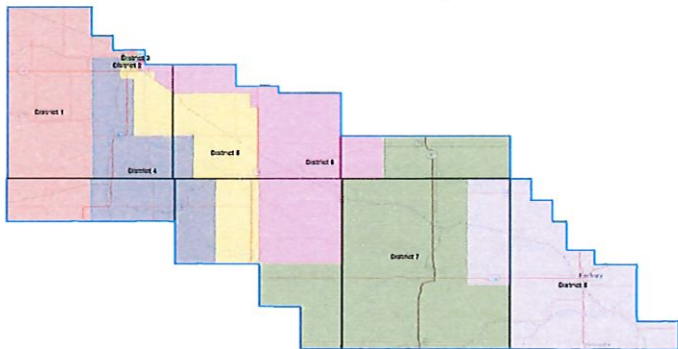
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2022 Election Results

by: Jessica Hedges

The Little Blue NRD's programs and policies are directed by a seventeen-member, locally elected, Board of Directors. The public selects these directors for a four-year term of office. Elections are held on even-numbered years with the terms of office staggered so one-half of the Board Members are elected at one time. The Board meets monthly on the second Tuesday of the month at the NRD headquarters in Davenport, Nebraska. The 2022 election results are listed below by subdistrict:



Sub District 1, Glen Bonifas – Glen Bonifas, of rural Roseland, NE was elected for Subdistrict 1. Glen owns and operates a farm outside of Roseland.

Sub District 2, Brent Hoops – Brent Hoops has served on the board of directors since September 2020, when he was appointed to fill a vacancy. Brent is an Army veteran and owner of Good Earth Farms, his commercial soybean and corn operation, near Hastings, Nebraska.

Sub District 3, Glen Bredthauer - Glen Bredthauer was originally appointed to the Board of Directors in February 2022. From Hastings, NE, Glen grew up on his family's farm south of Ord. It was there, he learned that if you take care of the land, it will take care of you.

Sub District 4, Warren Taylor - Warren Taylor retains his seat, which he has held since January 2019. Warren Taylor was raised north of Naponee, Nebraska but currently resides near Glenvil. He has been an owner/operator of his farm for the last twenty years. Warren believes that "No-till and cover crops should be used more to protect our water resources."

Sub District 5, Aaron Paus – Aaron Paus has served on the Board of Directors since September

2022 and is now elected for a full term. Aaron runs a family-operated crop production farm near Fairfield. He has 3 decades of experience with irrigated production. Aaron said, "I am honored and appreciative that I have been asked and considered to be part of this opportunity."

Sub District 6, Vacancy - If you are interested in filling the position, please contact Tyler at the NRD Office. 402-364-3712

Sub District 7, Alan Kenning – Alan Kenning has served on the Board of Directors since February 2022. Alan Kenning is the son-in-law of Joe Hergott, a former long-term board member. He has had countless conversations with Joe about his work with the NRD over the years. He is a farmer and cattleman, so he understands the importance of soil and water in our lives.



Sub District 8, Bill Glenn – Bill Glenn has served on the board since January 2019. Bill Glenn resides on a farm in Jefferson County and currently is an irrigated and dry land farmer. Bill graduated from Kansas State University with a Bachelor of Science in Agronomy.

At Large, Russell Ochsner – Russell Ochsner is from Roseland, NE. He has attended LBNRD Board meetings for over 12 years. He is interested in LBNRD Board Meetings because it deals with a major asset of the area, water. Proper stewardship of natural resources is important. He currently serves on his church board, and has served on several other boards including co-op, township and the stakeholders board for this LBNRD. He realizes we need to be proper stewards of water. "Whether it's here at Roseland or at Fairbury, one size does not fit all."

Tree Sales

by: Erika Brinegar

Producers should start contacting local NRCS offices to get tree plans completed as soon as they can. Please do some research on tree species to choose what best fits your situation.

The producer must do adequate site preparation in the fall AND spring if they want cost-share on windbreaks.

It is recommended to elongate the slits in the weed barrier in the third year after the weed barrier has been installed to prevent girdling.

Go to: <https://littlebluenrd.org/forestry/tree-program/> for more information under "Helpful Documents" or Contact your local NRCS office or Kathy at NRD for more information.



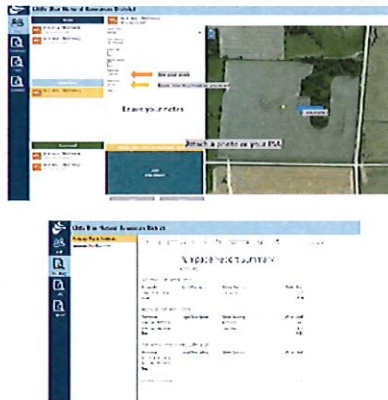
Online Submission for Reports

by: Alicia Epps

GUESS WHATS NEW!

You now have the opportunity to report your water usage on-line, even on your phone! You can see your certified acres, water usage, attach a photo, or not worry about the mail and see your pumpage report summary as soon as the readings are verified. **THIS IS NOT MANDATORY, JUST A CONVENIENCE, IF YOU CHOOSE TO USE IT!**

Just email aepps@littlebluenrd.org if you are interested in signing up.



IS YOUR WATER SAFE TO DRINK?

IF YOUR DRINKING WATER TEST LEVELS ARE ABOVE 10 PPM OF NITRATE YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR A REBATE ON A REVERSE OSMOSIS SYSTEM TO REMOVE NITRATE FROM YOUR PRIVATE WELL

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

PRIVATE WELLS MUST BE REGISTERED WITH THE NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Check if your well is registered:



For well registration information visit: <https://dnr.nebraska.gov/>

Water well registration instructions:



GET YOUR WELL TESTED BY THE STATE LABORATORY
Request a test kit:



Request a test kit: <https://www.nebraska.gov/dhhs/water-test-kits/private.html>

GET A COST ESTIMATE FROM A LICENSED PLUMBER FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A REVERSE OSMOSIS TREATMENT DEVICE CERTIFIED BY THE AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARDS INSTITUTE

FUNDING AMOUNT: UP TO \$4,000 PER SMALL TREATMENT INSTALLATIONS VIA REBATES

Notice: maintenance is not reimbursable under the reverse osmosis rebate program

APPLICATION PERIOD OPENS JANUARY 1, 2023
RANKING WILL BE BASED ON CONCENTRATION OF NITRATE



For more information visit: <http://de2.ne.gov/>

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Resources.

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

Jan

Jan 2nd: New Years Day (Office Closed)
Jan 10th: LBNRD Board Meeting
Jan 16th: Martin Luther King Jr Day (Office Closed)
Jan 23-25th: NARD Legislative Conference

Feb

Feb 14th: Regular Board Meeting
Feb 14th: Valentine's Day
Feb 20th: President's Day (Office Closed)

Mar

Mar 1st: School Tree Order Deadline
Mar 6th: Scholarship Deadline
Mar 12th: Daylight Savings Time Begins
Mar 14th: Regular Board Meeting
Mar 15th: Tree Order Deadlines
Mar 17th: St. Patrick's Day

Apr

Apr 1st: April Fool's Day
Apr 7th: Good Friday
Apr 9th: Easter
Apr 11th: LBNRD Board Meeting
Apr 28th: Arbor Day (Office Closed)





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Erika Brinegar - Natural Resources Coordinator
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Jim Oltmans - Water Resources Technician
Tim Hecke - Natural Resources Technician
Lucas Slieter - Operations Technician

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Jefferson County NRCS Secretary - Paula Schultz
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Thayer County NRCS Secretary - Jessica Hynek
402-768-6228
Webster County NRCS Secretary - Lynetta Snelling
402-746-2268

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sub-District 1: Mason Hoffman, Roseland
Sub-District 1: Robert Trausch, Juniata
Sub-District 2: Brent Hoops, Hastings
Sub-District 2: Courtney Luebben, Hastings
Sub-District 3: Jessi Hoeft, Hastings
Sub-District 3: Glen Bredthauer, Hastings
Sub-District 4: Lyle Schroer, Lawrence
Sub-District 4: Warren Taylor, Glenvil
Sub-District 5: Jesse VonSpreckelsen, Clay Center
Sub-District 5: Aaron Paus, Fairfield
Sub-District 6: Steve Shaw, Edgar
Sub-District 6: Lyle Heinrichs, Shickley
Sub-District 7: Alan Wiedel, Hebron
Sub-District 7: Alan Kenning, Hebron
Sub-District 8: Bill Glenn, Fairbury
Sub-District 8: Jay Meyer, Daykin
At Large: Marlin Kimle, Kenesaw

"Little Blue Natural Resources District is an Equal Opportunity & Provider."

The Little Blue NRD's Out of the Blue is a publication of the Little Blue Natural Resources District. Requests to be placed on the Out of the Blue mailing list and/or comments regarding information in this publication should be directed to Jessica Hedges, Media & Communications Specialist, 100 East 6th Street, PO Box 100, Davenport, NE 68335.