

## Water Programs Updates

Over 70 landowners attended the Water Programs updates held in Amherst and Kearney in March to address groundwater decline concerns in Sub-Area 9 of the NRD's Groundwater Management Program in northern Buffalo and Dawson counties. Groundwater levels in the area are down on average 12.39 feet since 1982 and have continually declined since 2001.

Lyndon Vogt, CPNRD general manager, made it clear that the decline needs to be stabilized.

"Our preference would be for you to pump less water," said Vogt. "It feels great to be here in front of you saying that the NRD wants to help you in whatever way we can whether it's through funding, educational opportunities, providing speakers, or technical advice; instead of saying we have to implement regulations right away."

Landowners received information on static groundwater levels, hydrologic studies of groundwater sustainability, and current groundwater studies from HDR Engineering, UNL, and Central Platte NRD staff.

Although the NRD would prefer that landowners reach the goal to stabilize the groundwater decline in the area on their own, if groundwater levels continue to drop over the next few years then regulations would need to be implemented. Participants said they were appreciative to have the opportunity to address the situation on their own instead of having to look at regulations right away. The CPNRD board will work with the landowners to determine opportunities available to move forward.

**A current groundwater level map can be found at: [cpnrd.org/groundwater-quantity](http://cpnrd.org/groundwater-quantity).**

## Noxious Weeds in CPNRD & Herbicide Treatment

Below are noxious weeds that commonly emerge in April within the Central Platte NRD, counties that saw infestations in 2018, and treatment recommendations.

**Musk Thistle** **Commonly Found:** Disturbed areas, pastures  
**Infestations:** Buffalo, Custer, Dawson, Frontier, Hall, Hamilton, Merrick, Polk, Platte  
**Treatment Period:** Fall, then following May with mowing in early July to set back any regrowth  
**Repeated Treatments Needed:** Yes, check treated area the following year for regrowth.



**Canada Thistle** **Commonly Found:** Disturbed areas, pastures  
**Infestations:** Buffalo, Dawson, Hall, Platte **Treatment Period:** May & June or October  
**Repeated Treatments Needed:** Yes, particularly in areas with heavy vegetative reproduction.



**Leafy Spurge** **Commonly Found:** Disturbed areas, pastures  
**Infestations:** Buffalo, Custer, Dawson, Frontier, Hall, Hamilton, Merrick, Polk, Platte  
**Treatment Period:** June/July flowering stage or October/November before first killing frost  
**Repeated Treatments Needed:** Possibly, check treated area the following year for regrowth.



**Purple Loosestrife** **Commonly Found:** Wetlands, lowlands, river banks  
**Infestations:** Along Platte River and close tributaries throughout District  
**Treatment Period:** June/July flowering stage or October/November before first killing frost  
**Repeated Treatments:** Possibly, check treated areas the following year for regrowth.



**Saltcedar** **Commonly Found:** Wetlands, lowlands, river banks, dry channels & islands  
**Infestations:** Along Platte River in Dawson County **Treatment Period:** June through October  
**Repeated Treatments:** Yes, check treated areas for regrowth/new sprouts the following year.



**Phragmites** **Commonly Found:** Wetlands, river banks, dry channels & islands  
**Infestations:** Along Platte River and close tributaries throughout District  
**Treatment Period:** May/June when 2-3 feet or September/October before first killing frost  
**Repeated Treatments:** Yes, check treated areas for regrowth/new sprouts the following year.



## Important Dates

- \* **June 1** Chemigation forms due
  - \* **June 21** CPNRD Flood Control Stroll @ Railside in downtown Grand Island. 4:30-6:30 p.m.
  - \* **September 1-March 1** Transfer applications for irrigated acres are accepted
  - \* **November 1-April 1** Tree & weed barrier orders accepted
  - \* **January - March** Chemigation training available
  - \* **January 1** Producers with Nitrogen Certification expiring on January 1 will receive a certification test to be completed and returned to CPNRD by March 31st.
  - \* **March 31** Crop Report forms due for Groundwater Management Program
- For details on any of these dates, contact CPNRD staff at (308) 385-6282**

### Board of Directors

- |   |   |
|---|---|
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| Brian Keiser, Gothenburg                | 7. Jerry Wiese, Grand Island              |
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 Dawson-Samantha Keith, Merrick-Sara Carlson  
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 Thirty Mile Irrigation District Technician: Mike Ostergard  
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 Water Resources Specialist: Dan Clement  
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**Nebraska's NRDs: Protecting Lives | Protecting Property | Protecting the Future**



Volume 22  
 No. 5  
 May 2019



# IN PERSPECTIVE NEWSLETTER

215 Kaufman Ave Grand Island NE

(308) 385-6282

[cpnrd.org](http://cpnrd.org)

## Communities Protected by Projects

The Flood of 2019 embodied the Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts' purpose to *Protect Lives, Protect Property, and Protect the Future*. Over 40 flood risk reduction projects have been built in communities throughout the Central Platte NRD to prevent flood water from damaging homes, businesses, and land.

As a result of these projects, the majority of the District from Gothenburg to Columbus, was protected by the cyclone bomb storm that hit the state in March.

In the western area of the District, the Buffalo Creek Watershed Structures protected Custer, Dawson, and Buffalo Counties. B-1 Reservoir, the largest of seven structures, was filled to capacity for the first time since it was built in 1983. B-1 held over 2,000 ac/ft of flood water. In 2006, the Kearney Northeast Project was completed. That project included channel improvements on the Wood River and detention cells that also helped protect the City of Kearney this year.

Two major projects protected the City of Grand Island. The Wood River Flood Risk Reduction Project in southern Grand Island was completed in 2004. The left bank levee system is 7.9 miles long and located on the north side of the Wood River. It protected 15,514 acres of residential, commercial, and industrial land uses; including 9,360 people and 3,919 buildings (3,655 residential). The right bank levee system is 4.7 miles long. Located on the south side of the Wood River. It protected an additional 1,337 acres of land consisting of mostly farmland.

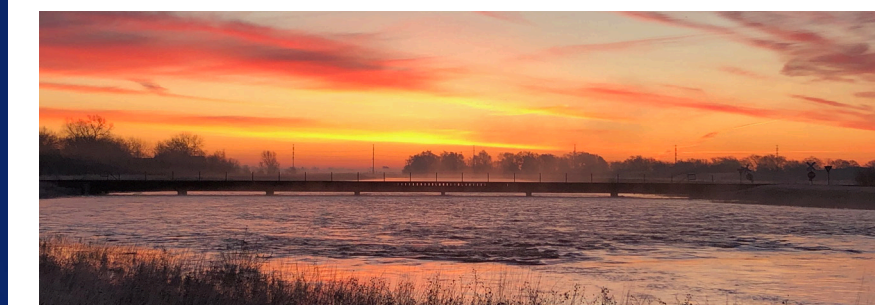
The Upper Prairie/Silver/Moores Project (near completion) held massive amounts of floodwater protecting 23,000 acres south of Hwy 2 and east of Hwy 281 in Grand Island. The project includes four dry dam sites, one levee, and detention cells that held 5,000 ac/ft of runoff; protecting 2,800 properties in western and northern Grand Island.

Projects in the eastern area of the District also worked as designed. The Warm Slough/Trouble Creek Project, completed in 1993, helped protect the entire watershed by reducing flooding caused by storm runoff into the Warm Slough, Dry Run, and Trouble creeks.

Lyndon Vogt, CPNRD general manager, said "Based on the flows that we saw, the communities in our District benefitted more from the projects than we had anticipated."



PCLU 4, one of four dams in Prairie Creek Watershed, located 15 miles west of Grand Island. The deepest area held 12 to 14 feet of floodwater near the dam.



CPNRD partners with local, state, and federal agencies to develop projects in areas that are prone to flooding issues. For more details on CPNRD's projects, visit [cpnrd.org/flood-control](http://cpnrd.org/flood-control).

(Left) Channel of Wood River Flood Risk Reduction Project at full capacity. Photo taken on Sunday, March 17, 2019.

## Flood Damage Assistance Available

- **Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)** Funds are available to plant severe weather damaged acres to cover crops this year if time doesn't allow for repairs and the planting of this year's cash crop. Cover crops work extremely well to help stabilize newly repaired areas in cropland and help address many different resource concerns. Applications are due June 21st at your local NRCS Field Offices.
- **Livestock Mortality Program (EQIP)** for producers who have suffered livestock losses due to the extreme weather events this spring. The program helps properly dispose of dead livestock in a safe manner. Proper disposal will help prevent impacts to water quality and other natural resources. The cutoff date is July 1st. Producers who haven't disposed of deceased livestock may apply at your local NRCS Field Office.
- **Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)** The Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides emergency funding and technical assistance to repair damaged farmland and rangeland by natural disasters. Emergency conservation practices available are debris removal, grading, shaping, or leveling land, restoring fences, and restoring conservation structures. Producers should call or stop by their local FSA county office to check on eligibility and the enrollment periods.
- **Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)** NRCS and EWP can provide technical and financial assistance for property threatened by excessive erosion and flooding. Each EWP project requires a local sponsor to apply for assistance, examples would be legal subdivisions of state or local government, including local officials of city, county & NRDs. Sponsors are needed to provide legal authority for repair work, obtain necessary permits, contribute funds/in-kind services, and maintain the completed emergency measures.

## Crop Reports & Chemigation Permits Due

The board of directors have asked legal counsel to contact six individuals who were issued cease and desist orders last year about potential penalties if they irrigate this crop season before getting into compliance with the NRD's Groundwater Management Program. The producers received cease and desist orders for failure to submit their 2018 Crop Report forms and/or Nitrogen management tests. Potential penalties for violation are fines from \$1,000 to \$5,000 per violation and/or a loss of irrigated acres, ineligibility for NRD cost-share programs, and restriction from transferring any irrigated acres.

**REMINDER: 2019 FORMS DUE** Crop report forms are due March 31<sup>st</sup> each year. Producers who have not submitted their 2019 Crop Report forms are encouraged to submit their forms right away. If forms are not received by harvest time, cease and desist orders will be issued.

**Starting in 2020**, producers who do not submit their forms by the March 31<sup>st</sup> deadline will receive a cease and desist order in April and would be subject to violations if they irrigate prior to submitting the forms.

**CHEMIGATION PERMITS DUE JUNE 1:** Current renewal permits expire on June 1st. Renewal permits can be issued without an inspection at a cost of \$20.00. Applications received after June 1<sup>st</sup> must comply with provisions for new permits, including a \$60 permit fee and a required inspection before the permit can be issued.

Once a system has been inspected, and a renewal application is sent in, the system will be inspected every three years if chemigating in the CPNRD. If changes are made to any part of the system, for example, a new pump or a new pivot, reinspection of that system is required.

Your CPNRD Contacts: Sandy Noecker & Tricia Dudley (308) 385-6282

## College Scholarships Awarded

Five students were selected to receive \$1,000 through the Ron Bishop-CPNRD College Scholarship Program for the 2019-2020 academic year. Students awarded scholarships are Klint Gill, Cozad; McKinley Harm, Gothenburg; Sage Williams, Eddyville; Juan Arellanes-Gallorzo, Grand Island; and Jason Line, Miller. Applications are ranked on natural resources major, essay, and applicants must be a junior, senior, or 5th-year college student.

Majors that qualify: Ag; Business Representative, Agronomist, Applied Science/Diversified; Biologist; Engineer; Civil, Mechanical, Chemical; Conservationist, Resources Management; Environmental Educator; Geographic Information Systems Specialist; Geology: Hydrologist, Hydrogeologist; Mechanized Systems/Soil & Water Conservation; Rangeland Management; Soil Conservationist, Water Resources Specialist.

Applications are due on April 15 each year and are available at: [cpnrd.org](http://cpnrd.org) under the Student|Teacher link or by contacting **Marcia Lee at (308) 385-6282 or email: [lee@cpnrd.org](mailto:lee@cpnrd.org)**.

## Scholarships for Summer Camps

Central Platte NRD provides \$100 scholarships for students to attend the following summer camps that focus on natural resources.

### ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL

Summer Orientation About Rivers (SOAR) Camp is a nature day camp where kids in grades 3-6 explore the Platte River and other local environments. There are two four-day sessions from July 8-11 and July 15-18. Prairie Plains Resource Institute sponsors the event with several organizations. SOAR days begin and end at the Aurora Middle School. Registration fee for the week-long program is \$150. Contact SOAR coordinator Jan Whitney, 402-694-5535 or visit [prairieplains.org/education/](http://prairieplains.org/education/)

**ACE Camp- Adventure Camp About the Environment** is hosted by Nebraska's 23 Natural Resources Districts and education partners. ACE Camp will be held June 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> for students who have completed 6th, 7th, or 8th grades at the State 4-H camp in Halsey, NE. Students will learn from experts in the fields of water, wildlife, forestry, weather, soils, range, and outdoor survival. Students will also have the option to experience tubing, hiking, fishing, zip line, and river activities. Contact Marcia Lee (308) 385-6282 or [lee@cpnrd.org](mailto:lee@cpnrd.org) or visit [cpnrd.org/Education](http://cpnrd.org/Education).

### HIGH SCHOOL

Nebraska Youth Range Camp to be held June 10-14 at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture in Curtis, NE. Students between the ages of 14-18 are eligible to attend. The camp offers experiences with rangeland management, wildlife, natural resources, leadership, and many outdoor activities. Students who attend this camp will be actively involved with field activities, lectures, hands-on experience, recreational leadership and team-building activities. Visit: [nesrm.org/YouthRangeCamp.html](http://nesrm.org/YouthRangeCamp.html).

To request more info or request a \$100 scholarship, contact **Marcia at (308) 385-6282 or [lee@cpnrd.org](mailto:lee@cpnrd.org)**.



**CAMP FOR MIDDLE SCHOOLERS!**  
**Sunday, June 16th to Wednesday, June 19th**  
**Four days of Outdoor Fun, Exploring and Learning at State 4-H Camp, Halsey, NE**

## Flood Control Stroll - June 21<sup>st</sup>



**FLOOD CONTROL STROLL**

Join us for an educational stroll through Railside District in downtown Grand Island to celebrate the Upper Prairie/Silver/Moores Flood Risk Reduction Project that helped protect the community during the March flood.

### How Does it Work?

Grab a wristband from Wave Pizza Company. Learn about the flood efforts at businesses as you stroll. The wristband will get you special discounts on meals and drinks at partner business locations.

Visit partner businesses for their "resilience- themed" menu item.

### Have a great time!

It goes without saying but enjoy yourself!

### Sponsors

Central Platte Natural Resources District  
City of Grand Island  
Hear Grand Island  
Railside Business Improvement District

Learn more at: [floodsafe-cpnrd.org](http://floodsafe-cpnrd.org)

## UNL Water for Ag Mail Survey

The UNL Water for Agriculture project, in collaboration with local agencies and organizations, is mailing short surveys to residents of the Central Platte Region about their views on local water and agricultural issues.

The project, funded by USDA's National Institute for Food & Agriculture, is a community-led effort to identify and respond to water and agricultural issues important to area residents in the Central Platte Region. This project is part of a national project designed to bring together researchers, technical experts, local partners, Extension professionals, and communities to foster community-led solutions to the water and agriculture issues most important to them. The goals are to:

- Work in cooperation with five community-led working groups in Pennsylvania, Nebraska, and Arizona; one of which is in the Central Platte Region.
- Assist these working groups in identifying and addressing the water and agricultural issues that matter most to area residents.
- Study the impact of the community-led engaged approach used with these working groups to work on water and agricultural issues.

The purpose of the mail survey is to identify the water and agricultural needs, concerns and priorities of those who live in the Central Platte Region. This survey will ask about views on quality of life, water quantity and quality issues, and programs and projects to address these issues.

The results of this research will help guide local leaders and the many partners working in your area as they identify key issues of concern and opportunities for action.

If you receive a survey, please complete it so that those leading local efforts can better understand the area's needs and concerns relative to water and agriculture. Your responses are completely confidential.

To learn more about these activities visit: [water4ag.psu.edu](http://water4ag.psu.edu).

### What is it?

Part concert. Part art walk.  
Part downtown adventure.

The Flood Control Stroll is a night on the town celebrating community flood resilience. Eat and drink out. Enjoy great music and art in the Railside Business Improvement District.

## FLOOD CONTROL STROLL

GRAND ISLAND, NE | JUNE 21 | 4:30 PM

📍 Railside District, Grand Island, NE

👤 All ages welcome

👣 Walk begins at Wave Pizza Company  
107 N Walnut Street



## Employee Spotlight - Courtney Widup

Courtney Widup has been employed by the NRD since 2018. Courtney collects data and conducts analysis for CPNRD's water quality and quantity programs, and provides GIS assistance for those projects. Currently she is coordinating the Central Nebraska Irrigation Project, which is a partnership between the NRD and The Nature Conservancy. Courtney enjoys working directly with local producers to implement irrigation management technologies.