

# IN THE LOUP

## NRD Grants 1,996 Acres Of New Irrigation

Applications for a total of 1996.28 new irrigated acres in the North Loup River and Beaver Creek Sub-Basins were approved by the Lower Loup Natural Resources District Board of Directors in the fall of 2016.

NRD General Manager Leon “Butch” Koehlmoos said that there were 65 applications for new irrigation; 35 in the North Loup River Basin and 30 in the Beaver Creek Basin. He said that the total number of acres requested in the combined basins was 4,943.05. Koehlmoos said the average application requested 74

acres and the average application ranking was 255 points.

At their meeting in October, the Lower Loup NRD Board of Directors unanimously approved a motion to okay all applications that ranked 230 points or above. This meant approval of 20 new irrigated acres applications in the North Loup River Basin and 11 applications in the Beaver Creek Basin. There were 1,227.3 new acres approved in the North Loup and 768.98 in Beaver Creek.

LLNRD Assistant General Manager Russell Callan said applications for new irrigation were ranked using criteria approved by the Lower Loup NRD Board when irrigated acres had been previously granted.

The criteria included the stream depletion factor, the status of groundwater and surface water, the type of acre being developed, the number of acres being developed, and the soil classification. The potential for new irrigation development in 2018 will be determined later this year.

## Two New Directors Elected To LLNRD Board

The November 2016 General Election saw the addition of two new members to the LLNRD Board of Directors. The two represent the Columbus/Platte County area, Chad Podolak in Subdistrict 8 and Bob Bauer in Subdistrict 9. Podolak is an Account Manager at Nebraska Public Power District and Bauer is Environmental Manager at Archer-Daniels-Midland Company.

Nine Directors were re-elected to the Board. The returning Directors are Jim Adams in Subdistrict 1, Alan Petersen in Subdistrict 2, Jim Nelson in Subdistrict 3, Randy Kauk in Subdistrict 4, Matt Lukasiewicz

in Subdistrict 5, Cliff Loseke in Subdistrict 7, and Darwin Anderson in Subdistrict 10.

Jerry Smith ran a write-in campaign to regain his Subdistrict 6 seat and Beth Boesch in Subdistrict 9 was

re-elected to a two-year term after being appointed to the Board in 2015. Each of the Directors’ new terms began in January, 2017.



*Chad Podolak and Robert Bauer, new members of the LLNRD Board*

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# Rasmussen Honored For NARD Service

After 24 years of service, Lower Loup NRD Director Dean Rasmussen of North Loup has ended his run as the NRD's representative to the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD) Board of Directors.

Rasmussen asked to not be re-appointed to the NARD Board and was replaced by Jim Eschliman of Ericson. Virgil Gellermann of Columbus will continue to serve as the alternate to the NARD Board. The NARD is the trade association

for Nebraska's 23 Natural Resources Districts.

Rasmussen continues to represent the Lower Loup NRD's Subdistrict 4, covering southern Valley, western Greeley, northeast Sherman and northwest Howard Counties. He has been on the LLNRD Board of Directors since the NRD system began in 1972.



*Dean Rasmussen (with wife, Cookie) was honored by NARD for 24 years of service.*

# Tree Care Workshop At LLNRD Is March 2nd

The Lower Loup Natural Resources District will be the site of one of the 2017 Tree Care Workshops, which will be held statewide February 28 to March 22.

The workshops are for public works employees, tree board volunteers,

arborists, and others who work with community trees.

The workshops will showcase the many benefits community trees provide and ways to both care for and use them. A new feature this year will be demonstrations of how

wood from dead and dying trees can be utilized instead of hauled away and burned.

The Ord workshop will be held March 2nd at the NRD headquarters at 2620 Airport Drive. For more information, visit <http://nfs.unl.edu>.

# Bids Opened For Davis Creek Phase II Work

The second phase of work at Davis Creek Recreation Area is set to begin this spring. Bids for the project, which will include an RV dump station, a boat ramp, and additional parking, were opened on February 7, 2017.

There were 6 bidders for the project, with the low bid coming from Rutjens Construction Inc. of Tilden. Rutjens combined base bid amount was \$694,407.20. The bid was more than \$30,000 below the engineer's estimate of \$725,000 for

the project. The Lower Loup NRD Board of Directors was expected to consider the bids at their meeting on February 23, 2017.



*Davis Creek Recreation Area shower house*

The first phase of expansion and renovation work was completed last fall and included new camper pads with electrical service, a shower house and restrooms.

The NRD is also considering the hiring of camp hosts for the recreation area during the spring and summer to monitor and maintain the area, located about six miles south of North Loup in Valley County.

# A Message From The Manager

Welcome to another edition of In the Loup. We have found our exceptional newsletter is a great way of getting the word out to constituents on happenings within our NRD and I appreciate that you are taking the time to read about our activities.

At our January Board of Directors meeting, the LLNRD had the distinct honor to recognize former State Senator Kate Sullivan for her

eight years of dedicated service in the Nebraska Legislature, representing the constituents of District 41. Senator Sullivan has been a good friend to the Lower Loup NRD helping to preserve the state's natural resources over the years. Senator Sullivan carried the legislation that allowed the transfer of Pibel Lake to the NRD and her award was a way of thanking her for the support and assistance she has given us over the years. Thanks Kate, for all you have done for conservation and for the State of Nebraska.



*LLNRD General Manager  
Leon "Butch" Koehlmoos*



*Former State Senator Kate Sullivan is congratulated by General Manager Leon Koehlmoos (left) and Board Vice-Chairman Jim Eschliman.*

I also want to report that the NRD Board of Directors has acted to start charging a modest camp site fee for our Davis Creek Recreation Area. With the addition of 42 new camping pads with electrical hook ups, and having 25 primitive sites available

to the public for camping, the Board has set daily camping fees at \$19/day for full service sites and \$6/day for the primitive sites. A camp site reservation system will be set up for 50% of all camping sites at Davis Creek sometime this spring. Non-reserved sites will be paid for at a drop box. Please stay on the alert for information on when this service will become available. Entrance to the park and boating areas will remain free to the public.

## Progress Made On Hazard Mitigation Plan

Work on the Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Lower Loup Natural Resources District has passed the 50 percent complete mark. The plan, which covers counties, communities, and other local government entities, is being created to identify potential hazards, determine a community's vulnerability, and develop a hazard mitigation strategy. The activities and projects that make up that strategy are then identified.

The Lower Loup NRD contracted with JEO Consulting Group to lead the project. JEO staff is currently collecting and compiling data for the plan from the communities, counties and other entities participating in the program.

When complete, the plan will be forwarded to the participants and the public for review. The process should begin in the spring.

Once participant and public review is complete, the HMP is sent to the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency and then on to the Federal Emergency Management Agency. With FEMA approval, each county or community who adopts the plan is eligible to seek grant funding for various mitigation projects, such as flood control efforts, emergency warning equipment, and other emergency needs.



2620 Airport Drive  
Ord, Nebraska 68862

Phone: 308-728-3221  
Fax: 308-728-5669  
E-mail: larrys@llnrd.org  
www.llnrd.org

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Nebraska's NRDs . . .  
Protecting Lives, Protecting  
Property, Protecting the Future.

\*\*\*\*\*EGRWSSSEDDM\*\*\*\*\*  
POSTAL PATRON

# Conservation Tree Sales Continue Into April

SPECIES	NUMBER	SPECIES	NUMBER	SPECIES	NUMBER
<b>CONIFERS</b>		<b>HARDWOODS</b>		<b>SHRUBS</b>	
Red Cedar		Hackberry		Cotoneaster	
Ponderosa Pine		Honey Locust		Common Lilac	
Austrian Pine		Hybrid Cottonwood		Chokecherry	
Colorado Blue Spruce		Native Cottonwood		Nanking Cherry	
Jack Pine		Silver Maple		American Plum	
Black Hills Spruce		Black Walnut		Skunkbush Sumac	
South Western White Pine		Catalpa		Sand Cherry	
Norway Spruce		Red Oak		Caragana	
Scotch Pine		Bur Oak		Buffaloberry	
Rocky Mountain Juniper		Black Cherry		Elderberry	
		Kentucky Coffee Tree		American Hazelnut	
		Swamp White Oak		Midwest Crabapple	
		American Elm		Amur Maple	
				Golden Currant	
				Manchurian Apricot	
				McKenzie Black Chokeberry	
				Red Osier Dogwood	
				False Indigo	
				Dwarf Russian Almond	
				Northline Serviceberry	
				Gray Dogwood	
				Woods Rose	
				Villosa Lilac	

Conservation tree sales are underway for planting this spring. Seedlings are 95 cents each and are sold in bunches of 25. Contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service office in Ord, Burwell, Broken Bow, Albion, St. Paul, Spalding, Fullerton or Columbus. Forster Rich Woollen or LLNRD Conservation Technicians can assist when you call (308) 728-3221.

2620 Airport Drive  
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(308) 728-3221  
www.llnrd.org

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Town, Nebraska, Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number

Species must be ordered in lots of 25  
(95 cents per seedling)  
Order online at www.llnrd.org