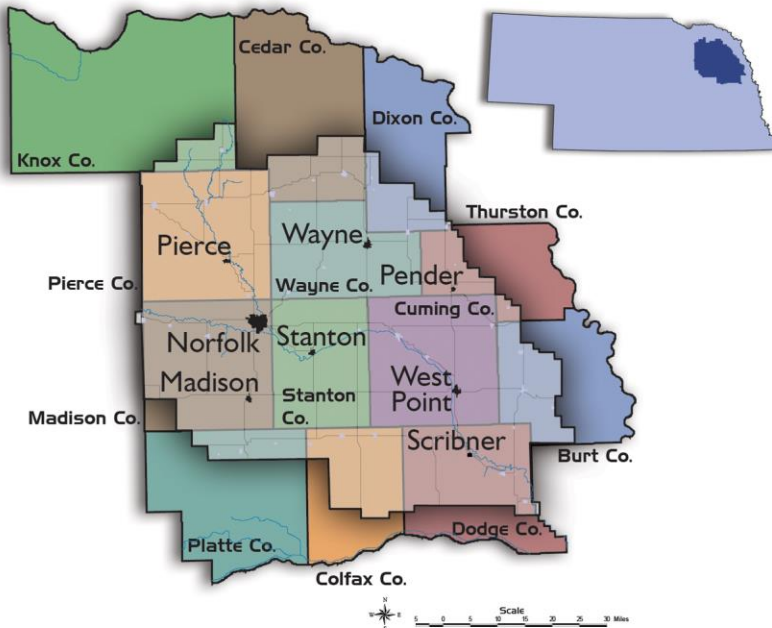


# KNOW YOUR NRD



Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts  
Making the Good Life Better Since 1972

Summer 2016



LOWER ELKHORN NRD

## LENRD QUICK FACTS:

The Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District (LENRD) serves the people in all or parts of 15 counties in northeast Nebraska, and is governed by a 15 member Board of Directors elected by the people of the district.

### Our Mission:

“Strive to improve the quality of life for all citizens of the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District by promoting and demonstrating sound methods of stewardship which conserve, develop and manage all natural resources.”

Protecting Lives - Protecting Property - Protecting the Future

## Flow meter cost-share available

**FLOW METERS:** All irrigation wells in the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District (LENRD) will need a district approved flow meter installed by **January 1, 2018**. The LENRD has received a grant from Nebraska's Water Sustainability Fund (WSF), administered by the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission, to assist landowners with the expense of this requirement.

At their August board meeting, the LENRD Board of Directors voted to allow producers who installed meters at any time after November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015, to be eligible for the cost-share dollars. This is a change to the original

policy. Therefore, cost-share is now available for producers who have installed flow meters on their irrigation wells on or after **November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015**, or for producers who have yet to install their flow meters.

The LENRD will provide financial support of \$500 per flow meter. Application for the flow meter cost-share can be completed by visiting your local NRCS office or the LENRD office in Norfolk.

LENRD water resources manager, Brian Bruckner, said, “These incentives are available for producers on a first-come, first-served basis. The maximum

payment that a producer can receive is \$5,000 per year for irrigation practices.”

Nebraska's Natural Resources Commission approved nearly \$11.5 million in projects through the WSF, with \$900,000 being awarded to the LENRD for water and soil conservation. The LENRD will provide a match of \$600,000. This will allow the district to have \$1.5 million available for cost-share assistance on irrigation flow meters.

The LENRD has cost-share available for 3,000 meters. Producers are encouraged to apply at their local NRCS office or the LENRD office right away.

# Improving the Quality of Life

## A lower tax levy approved for fiscal year 2017

The 2017 fiscal year budget for the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District (LENRD) was approved by the board of directors at their August 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The tax request for 2017 is \$4,390,132. The budget of all expenditures shows a 10.5% decrease of over \$1 million from last year, due to the grant funding secured by the district.

The estimated levy based on the property tax request is 2.401 cents per \$100 of valuation, a decrease of 0.2% from the fiscal year 2016 levy of 2.406 cents per \$100 of valuation. For example, if a person owns a \$100,000 house, the taxes owed to the LENRD would have been \$24.06 in 2016, and will be approximately \$24.01 in 2017.

The funds received by the LENRD are returned to the citizens of the district, through projects, programs, and studies across all or parts of 15-counties in northeast Nebraska. Some of these conservation benefits include: water quality and quantity programs such as groundwater management, flood control, and nitrate management; as well as erosion control, cost-share to landowners who apply for conservation practices, recreation areas and trails, urban recreation and community forestry programs, and many other benefits that protect our natural resources.

LENRD general manager, Mike Sousek, said, "We are working together to create a budget that not only addresses our 12 responsibilities, but that also focuses on improving the quality of life for the citizens across our district. We are doing more with less, by focusing on efficiencies and streamlining processes to protect our natural resources for the benefit of everyone."

## Scrap tire recycling day is the largest this year

On August 19<sup>th</sup>, a free scrap tire collection was held in West Point at the Cuming County Fairgrounds. Thirty-three volunteers from the local sponsoring agencies were on hand to help unload the tires. 345 loads of tires were collected in 4 1/2 hours, making the collection the largest 1-day event this year, according to Champlin Tire Recycling of Concordia, KS.

Champlin Tire Recycling will process the tires collected during the event. This processing includes repair and retread of salvageable casings, reclamation of tires meeting used tire specifications, and the production of park benches, picnic tables and feed bunks. All other tires will be shredded and stored in Kansas for future projects.

The 10 county collection area included Burt, Colfax, Cuming, Dakota, Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy, Stanton, Thurston and Washington counties.

Funding for this free collection is provided through a grant from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality. Sponsors for the event were: The Lower Elkhorn

NRD, Papio Missouri River NRD, the Loess Hills RC&D Council, the City of West Point, Cuming County, and the Nebraska Extension in Cuming County.



## More LENRD Facts:

- The LENRD has distributed over 4 million trees to customers across our 15 counties.
- 72 road structures have been constructed since 1972 to replace old, worn out bridges.
- The LENRD has sold 1,946,907 feet of weed barrier through the Conservation Tree Program, which equals approximately 369 miles.
- Rural Water Systems provide a reliable supply of quality drinking water to a large number of rural customers and small communities. The LENRD has worked with various local, state, and federal agencies to provide area and regional water supply systems for people across the district. The Logan East Rural Water System (Oakland) - reaches over 1,200 customers. The new Wau-Col Regional Water System (Wausa-Coleridge) was dedicated on August 11, 2012.
- The LENRD requires the installation of a flow meter on all high capacity irrigation wells.

Concerned about your natural resources? So are we. Give us a call or stop by our office. We have programs to fit both urban and rural lifestyles. Our staff and directors are here to serve you - we're your *local* voice for natural resources management.



Find out more about  
Nebraska's NRDs at  
[www.nrdnet.org](http://www.nrdnet.org) and  
[www.lenrd.org](http://www.lenrd.org)