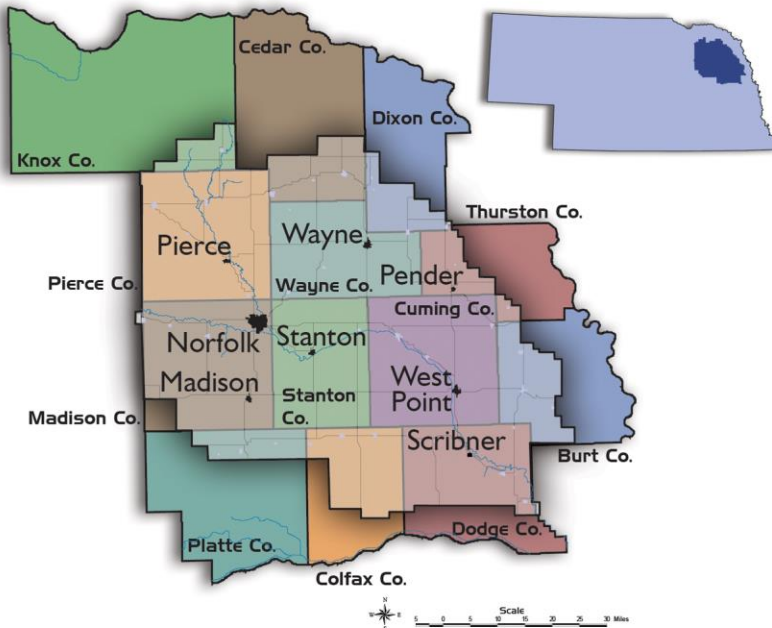


KNOW YOUR NRD



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

Summer 2015



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

Proposed Rural Water System will provide safe water to area

Proposed Rural Water System - South of Norfolk in the areas of Madison, Stanton, Platte, and Colfax Counties

The original Phase I area of the proposed rural water system (south of Norfolk) takes in Madison County between the Elkhorn River and the cities of Madison and Battle Creek plus an area of western Stanton County and a Highway 81 corridor between Madison and Humphrey. Phase II of the proposed system has expanded eastward and includes properties along Highway 91 between Humphrey and Clarkson and north to Highway 32. Boundaries of the project can be adjusted as more answers come from the feasibility study.

The LENRD has been awarded a Project Planning and Report Grant from the Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. This grant will be used to study the Phase II area. With this study, the area could be expanded and could possibly make the entire project more feasible.

Open Houses to explain the expanded project were held in Humphrey, Clarkson, and Leigh in the spring of 2015. If you were not able to attend one of the meetings and would like more information about the project or would like to fill out a survey, please contact Brian Bruckner at the LENRD office.

Rural Water Systems provide a clean, safe, source of water for

domestic uses, homes, businesses, and livestock operations. If you desire to have quality drinking water in your area, please contact the LENRD. Early signup is encouraged for the study to be successful.

If you missed one of those meetings and you would like to be included in the study, it is important that you contact the LENRD. The sign-up fee of \$100 will save you thousands when the project is built. If you do not sign-up and try to connect to the water system after it's built, the cost could range from \$5,000 to \$15,000. Contact the LENRD office in Norfolk at 402.371.7313.

“Reduce, Reuse, Recycle & Beyond” contest winners travel to Arbor Day Farm

On May 6th, a bus carrying 4th graders from Washington School in Norfolk traveled to Nebraska City to visit Arbor Day Farm! The trip was a reward



for Mrs. Heying's class, after they received 1st place in the "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle & Beyond!" contest sponsored by Nucor and the Lower Elkhorn NRD. The class developed a video, a recycling game, a comic book about recycling, and a recycling robot named Wall-E. The trip gave the students an

opportunity to experience the Tree Adventure at Arbor Day Farm and learn about trees and how important they are to our world!

LENRD rule change will help producers while continuing to protect groundwater

The Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District (LENRD) Board of Directors recently approved changes to the rules & regulations of their Groundwater Management Plan. The Board has been working with staff to modify the district's rules to allow development of small tracts of land, up to 35 acres, through the district's expedited variance process.

The new rule applies to producers who fall under either of two very specific categories. One scenario deals with discrepancies discovered with some approved standard variances and the other scenario deals with landowners who were caught in between the rule changes and, through no fault of their own, investments were made and they were not able to complete their irrigation plans.

Producers who feel they may qualify for a variance under one of the categories should contact the LENRD to apply. Cooperators will need to provide sufficient evidence that their scenario falls under the good cause variance umbrella.

LENRD General Manager, Mike Sousek, said, "The LENRD Board will continue to change and modify its groundwater rules and regulations in the future. These changes will be determined as better science becomes available or when new issues arise, so the district can further develop more comprehensive management plans. The goal of the LENRD is to promote groundwater development where it is sustainable, all while protecting current and future water users."

The new rule became effective on May 11th, 2015. To view the rules, please visit the LENRD's website at www.lenrd.org, or visit the office in Norfolk. The LENRD office is now open over the noon hour to better serve the public. You can also find us on Facebook & Twitter.

More LENRD Facts:

- The LENRD has distributed over 3.9 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 1,888,317 feet of weed barrier through the Conservation Tree Program, which equals approximately 357 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 1,000 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 new high capacity wells. Cost-share is available.

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 and
www.lenrd.org and follow us
on Twitter & Facebook!