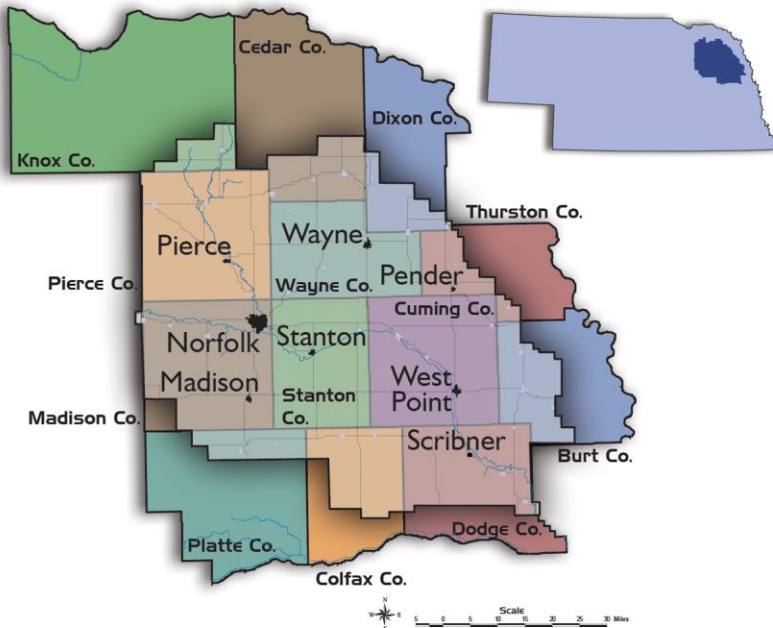


# KNOW YOUR NRD



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

Fall 2018



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:

“Striving 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

## LENRD approves a lower tax levy for fiscal year 2019

The 2019 fiscal year budget for the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District (LENRD) once again calls for a lower tax levy.

The operating budget was approved by the board of directors at their August 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting with a tax request of \$4,272,728. The budget of all expenditures shows a 6.39% decrease of \$451,300 from last year.

The estimated levy, based on the property tax request, is 2.314 cents per \$100 of valuation, which is a slight decrease from the fiscal year 2018 levy of 2.327 cents per \$100 of valuation. For example, if a person owns a \$100,000 house, the taxes owed to the LENRD would have been

\$23.27 in 2018, and will be approximately \$23.14 in 2019.

LENRD General Manager, Mike Sousek, said, “It’s becoming more difficult to continue decreasing the tax levy year after year. This is the 7<sup>th</sup> year in a row for a decrease in property tax asking. Last year, we reached a historic low with the lowest tax levy in 45 years. Even with the 0% increase this year, we are expanding our public awareness of our 12 responsibilities and have more projects and programs on the table to meet the challenges of natural resources management head on.”

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.

A copy of the budget documents can be found at:

[www.lenrd.org/funding-budget/](http://www.lenrd.org/funding-budget/)

# Improving the Quality of Life

## Sign-up before October 3<sup>rd</sup> for new irrigated acres

Farmers within the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District (LENRD) boundaries, will have an opportunity to apply for new irrigated acres for 2019.



The LENRD board voted, at their August meeting, to allow up to 2,500 acres of new groundwater irrigation development in the Hydrologically Connected or 10/50 Area, and to allow up to 2,500 acres of new groundwater irrigation development in the Non-Hydrologically Connected or

Non 10/50 Area under the district's standard variance process.

LENRD Assistant General Manager, Brian Bruckner, said, "The board voted to allow for the approval of standard variances district-wide, from areas that fall within the top five Potential for Development categories as provided on the Classification 4 Map provided by Flatwater Group."

Bruckner added, "The board suggested an annual limit on the amount of groundwater withdrawal from wells associated with approved variances, determined by board policy, which is subject to future modification if conditions warrant. In addition, a minimum soil score of 90 must be met for any standard variance to be considered for approval."

The board established a sign-up period to receive applications for Standard Variances. The district will receive applications for standard variances between **September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018**. Contact the LENRD for more information or visit: [www.lenrd.org/latest-news/](http://www.lenrd.org/latest-news/)

## Flow meters required for all wells designed to pump more than 50 gallons per minute

Do you own an active high capacity water well? All public water supply, commercial, industrial, and livestock wells designed to pump more than 50 gallons per minute are required to have an approved flow meter installed. The ruling became effective on May 26, 2017. The Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District (LENRD) also requires the flow meters to be installed on these wells by **January 1, 2019**. Limited cost-share funds are now available. Contact the LENRD to apply.

Assistant General Manager, Brian Bruckner, said, "These high-capacity wells in the district join irrigation wells in the requirement to have flow meters installed. All irrigation wells were required to have flow meters installed by **January 1, 2018**."

LENRD General Manager, Mike Sousek, said, "This makes the groundwater management rules more equitable across the district. If your well pumps more than 50 gallons per minute, you will need a meter installed." Sousek added, "This will be a benefit in the long run. When a drought hits, especially a multi-year drought, it affects everyone."

The LENRD has a list of approved flow meters and certified installers on their website: [www.lenrd.org/flow-meters](http://www.lenrd.org/flow-meters)

Contact Austyn Houser, LENRD Water Resources Technician, for more information at 402-371-7313.

## 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 2,042,165 feet of weed barrier through the Conservation Tree Program, which equals approximately 386 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 LENRD requires the installation of a flow meter on all high capacity wells, pumping more than 50 gallons per minute.
- The LENRD Board of Directors held a public hearing on August 23, 2018, to receive public input on the goals and objectives of the Integrated Management Plan to protect our groundwater.

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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.

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