

Water Committee Meeting
Thursday, October 1, 2026 9:30 AM
Lower Platte North NRD Office
1616 County Road 17
Wahoo, NE 68066

1. REGULATORY

1.A. GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT AREA

1.A.1. Variance Request in the Hydrologically Connected Area (Limited Development Area)

There are 12 variance applications for consideration in the Hydrologically Connected Area (HCA, blue area). Of these, 11 meet the 300 minimum score and qualify for approval, for a total of 647.63 acres and depletion of 70.24 AF (Acre Feet) of depletion. The HCA (blue) area is allowed 200 AF of depletion on an annual basis. The attached spreadsheet includes scoring, depletion and ranking for committee review.

1.A.2. Well Permit Program

Valley View Golf Course applied for a new well in S34-T17N-R8E—Saunders County. Attached is a map showing where this well would be drilled.

The Committee felt that conditions should be set on this well because of the vicinity of the domestic wells. If interference occurs, staff would contact the golf course for a solution as stated in the conditions. Well permit conditions attached below.

1.A.3. Cost Share Programs

The Nebraska ONE RED program was announced during Husker Harvest Days and provides incentives to help farmers try new technologies and participate in voluntary conservation and farm-management practices. To be eligible, farmers must be growing corn, soybeans, sorghum, or canola and have at least 80 cumulative acres in an eligible area, which includes:

- Wellhead protection/source water protection areas
- NRD Phase 2 areas or higher
- Certified groundwater irrigated acres
- Wahoo Creek NWQI area

Enrollment opens in October. NRD staff will be preparing communication materials to promote the program within the district. Attached is some promotional information from DWEE.

1.B. CHEMIGATION

For 2026 we have 4 renewals and 0 new permit applications for a current total of 4. Inspections for 26 new permits and 214 renewal permits have been completed.

1.C. GROUND WATER QUALITY

RO Unit Cost Share

Julie Bideaux - 1 RO Unit & Well Registration - \$1,091.92 & \$240
Dean Novak - 2 RO Units - \$2,400
Tyler Benal - 1 RO Unit - \$1,200
Jeff Anderson - 1 RO Unit & Well Registration - \$1,200 & \$240

Our RO program requires application approval prior to purchase and installation of equipment. Tyler's application was received after purchase and installation of equipment. Tyler was unaware that the cost share was offered at 8ppm for a nitrate sample. As the states RO tax credit applications start at 10ppm. His wife was pregnant at the time, he was more concerned about clean water for his family rather than cost-share assistance. We recommend accepting his application as Tyler has provided all of the appropriate documentation.

2026 Water Sampling Maps

Attached is a map of our 2026 statewide network nitrate sampling. Staff is working on additional maps that will be provided to the board.

Water Sampling Kits

Nitrate result letters will be mailed next week to our phase area producers.

1.D. Special Quantity Subareas

There are two invoices from Spheros. One is the final invoice for the scoring sheets/quantity area project in the amount of \$1,854. The second is an invoice for continued model construction and calibration of the SQS Groundwater Model in the amount of \$10,102.25.

2. GROUND WATER PROGRAMS

2.A. LOWER PLATTE NORTH NRD GROUND WATER STUDIES

2.A.1. Phase Area Update

The LPNNRD has \$44,286.35 remaining in the WSF Grant, which provides a 60% cost share. Staff asked WSF for a scope change, which was granted on 9/29/2026.

With the scope change, LPNNRD is permitted to use grant funds to purchase vadose zone sampling equipment and to extend the reverse osmosis (RO) cost share throughout the district for water that tests above our cost share program's 8ppm nitrate requirement.

2.B. Longitude 103 Migration

Data was migrated from Phoenix to Longitude 103's HydroData and ProducerConnect software on 9/14/2026. There are many data issues, such as missing entities, phone numbers, incorrect water usage, and more. Longitude 103 proposed a re-migration of data to correct issues, which should occur 10/2/2026. Staff have created a postcard, email, website landing page, job aid, and video to announce the changes and provide instructional material to help producers with reporting.

In-person training is planned for the following dates, times, and locations:

Date	Time	Location
11/10/2026	9:00 AM- 12:00 PM	Lake Wanahoo Education Building, Wahoo, NE
11/12/2026	10:00 AM- 2:00 PM	Schuyler Library, Schuyler, NE
11/16/2026	4:00 PM- 7:00 PM	Lake Wanahoo Education Building, Wahoo, NE
11/17/2026	3:00 PM- 6:00 PM	Ag Park, Columbus, NE
11/19/2026	1:00 PM- 4:00 PM	Dodge County Extension Office, Fremont, NE

2.C. AI Model

In the July water committee, the committee asked staff to provide additional information on the inputs, outputs, and value of an AI model before progressing to RFQs and RFPs.

Suggested Scope and Uses of AI Model:

- Estimate potential water use given climatic conditions
- Effects of current/future irrigation demand on groundwater levels
- Effects of adding one or more wells, particularly on well interference
- GUI/dashboard for the board and public

Suggested inputs:

- Weather network data (precip, temp, ET)
- Monitoring well transducer records
- Spring/Fall water level measurements
- Flow meter readings
- Well construction/registration records
- Airborne electromagnetic (AEM) resistivity survey data
- Soil physical properties
- Land use, cover, slope
- Actual evapotranspiration

Suggested outputs:

- Groundwater-level response to pumping/recharge changes
- Streamflow response to pumping/recharge changes
- "Optimal" district-wide pumping/recharge balance
- Potential water use given climatic conditions (dry/wet year demand forecast)
- Effect of adding one or more new wells / well interference
- Interactive GUI to tweak parameters (dry/wet year, more/less pumping)
- Public/board-facing visual dashboard

Value of the AI Model:

- Utilization of existing data (weather, monitoring wells, AEM, etc...)- \$20,000 annually
- Routine analysis (permits, scenarios, allocations)- \$15,000 annually
- Risk mitigation(litigation)- \$5,000 annually
- **TOTAL-** \$40,000 annually

2.D. DECOMMISSIONED WELL PROGRAM

2.D.1. Well Estimates/Pre-Plug

Well Owner	Type of Well	Cost Share Estimate	County
UNL	I	\$1,250	Saunders
Mehaffey Farns LLC	I	TBD	Dodge

2.D.2. Plugged Wells

new wells has been reviewed and approved for decommissioning since the last Committee meeting.

Well Owner	Type of Well	Cost Share Estimate	County

3. SURFACE WATER PROGRAMS

3.A. STATE LAKES, FOR THE WEEK OF

This week's beach HAB and bacteria results are now posted on the DWEE web page ([Current Health Alerts and Sampling Results For This Week](#)).

Big Indian (11A) and Cub Creek Lakes will remain on Health Alert.

Wirth Brothers Lake has tested high for *E. coli* this week.

There are **2** beaches on Health Alert this week.

Current Lakes on "Health Alert"			
Lake	County	Microcystin (ppb)	Sample Date
Big Indian Lake (11A)	Gage	8.7	9/14/2026
Cub Creek Lake	Jefferson	15.66	9/14/2026

When a lake exceeds 8 ppb of microcystin it will be placed on Health Alert. If a lake is under a Health Alert, signs will be posted recommending people avoid full body contact activities such as swimming, wading, skiing, jet skiing, etc.

There is 1 beach with *E.coli* testing above 235 colonies/100 ml.

Lakes with High <i>E.coli</i> Bacteria			
Lake	County	<i>E.coli</i> (MPN)	Sample Date
Wirth Brothers Lake	Johnson	397	9/14/2026

When *E. coli* bacteria levels test above 235 colonies/100 ml a Health Alert is not issued. However, conditions are at a higher risk to human health when swimming. Considering the more rapid changes in bacteria conditions, signs are not posted with these higher levels. Although, we want people to be aware of beach conditions and use their own judgment as to whether they use a listed water body.

Well, another season of Beach Watch has come to an end.

4. Other

4.A. 2027 GMDA Conference

Mark your calendars for the next Groundwater Management District Association (GMDA) conference, which will be held February 2-4, 2027 in Savannah, Georgia. It would be great to have a member of the water committee attend with staff.

4.B. Rules and Regulations Updates

Staff are reviewing the Groundwater Management Area Rules and Regulations, and working on a draft with updates. Staff would like to dedicate some time to review the rules and regulations with the committee during each committee meeting, and schedule a Board of Director's Retreat in early 2027 to workshop the rules and regulations. Staff is seeking feedback on the order of topics to review, and a tentative date for a board of director's retreat.

Key topics would include rules and regulations around:

- Groundwater quality
- Groundwater quantity
- Variances
- Well Permits
- Chemigations

NRD Variance ID	Applicant	County	Section	Township	Range	Range Dir	Application Type	Area (Acres)	Ranking Score	Acre Feet Depletion
LPN-V-026-0690	Richard & Kathleen Eller	Butler	18	15	1	E	Expansion	31.89	527.5	3.39
LPN-V-026-0687	Kristine Kosch	Platte	15	19	2	W	New Well	40	518.24	2.47
LPN-V-026-0687	Kristine Kosch	Platte	14	19	2	W	Expansion	30.7	513.64	1.87
LPN-V-026-0688	Luke Beckman	Boone	2	22	6	W	New Well	160	498.88	4.01
LPN-V-026-0679	Scott Rosenthal	Platte	13	19	3	W	Expansion	80	492.12	4.52
LPN-V-026-0683	Alex Kavan	Saunders	31	17	7	E	Expansion	15	482.5	2.40
LPN-V-026-0684	Andy Lubker	Saunders	11	16	7	E	Expansion	30	474.8	5.26
LPN-V-026-0686	Justin Kavan	Saunders	2	16	6	E	Expansion	51	474.12	8.55
LPN-V-026-0689	Nick Hines	Saunders	28	17	6	E	Expansion	65	453.66	12.96
LPN-V-026-0682	Joe Birkel	Butler	23	16	2	E	New Well	74.34	380.72	11.59
LPN-V-026-0685	John Hobza	Saunders	23	17	5	E	New Well	69.7	353.72	13.21
HCA Acres: 647.63									HCA Acre-Feet Depletion: 70.24	

Denied Variance:

LPN-V-026-0681	Barta Farms	Butler	21	17	4	E	Expansion	116.98	252.04	24.85
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Platte River

County Road 112

Riverview Rd.

Deborah Dr.

Susan Dr.

Douglas Dr.

Riverview Rd.

Antelope

Eagle Dr.

Valley View Golf Course

Ponderosa Dr.



Lower Platte North NRD (LPNNRD)

Well Permit Request Conditions for LPN-026-XXXX for Valley View Limited Partnership Irrigation Well in SE1/4, NE ¼, Section 34, T17N, R8E of Fremont.

- Well Permit will be reviewed annually and if this irrigation well is causing well interference with nearby well owners such as declining groundwater energy levels in the aquifer either during static or pumping conditions, the well permit can be suspended.
- Approved Lower Platte North NRD Flow meter must be properly installed according to manufactures specifications. In addition, installation must meet all the conditions as specified on the LPNNRD approved list of flow meters.
- Annual reporting of flow measurements submitted to the LPNNRD by December 15th every year.
- The well pump and irrigation system will be allowed to run anytime in any 24-hour period.
- Domestic/stock well users need to contact well drillers/pump installers to determine if the irrigation well is causing conflict before other actions are taken.
- Allow LPNNRD access at reasonable hours to conduct water sampling & water level measurements.

Signature by owner _____ Date _____

Owner contact information _____

Signature by NRD Board Chairman _____ Date _____

ONE RED

Ag Data Bank & Grants Program

A New Opportunity for Nebraska Farmers

Your Land. Your Plan. Your Data.



Why Join ONE RED?

- \$2,000 upfront payment
- Equipment & technology funding
- FREE Carbon Intensity (CI) Score
- Better nitrogen & water management
- Improved long-term profitability & resilience
- Voluntary program — no required changes to your operation

What You Can Access

- Ag Data Bank
 - Annual payments for sharing basic operational data
 - Get insights to help guide future decisions
- Grants Program
 - Per-acre bonuses
 - \$3,000 water management
 - \$10,000 ONE RED voucher incentive
 - Helps pay for:
 - Precision ag tools
 - Equipment upgrades
 - Water & nutrient management improvements
 - Technology for emerging ag markets

You Own Your Data

- You keep full ownership and control
- Only aggregated info is shared- no individual records
- Participation is your choice every step

ONE RED
YOUR LAND  YOUR PLAN

ONE RED Ag Data Bank & Grants Program

Your Land. Your Plan.

For Corn, Sorghum, Soybean, and Canola Farmers

This program is limited to the first 7,500 farmers!

ONE RED Ag Data Bank

Open in
October

Last season's information needed to enroll:

- Location, yield, expected yield for next season
- Cover crop use
- Type of tillage
- Total applied nitrogen information (including a plan for next season)
- Applied water

Receive a **\$2,000** bonus when you apply to the Data Bank with a **\$1,000** payment **each year** following the initial enrollment.

ONE RED Grants Program

Open in
January

Apply to the Grants Program with your expected nitrogen plan and receive up to **\$10,000** more for use in the categories below plus an additional **\$ per acre** bonus!

An additional **\$3,000** for irrigators to use for water management!



CORN NITROGEN MANAGEMENT

OR

ADVANCED NUE

Advanced Nitrogen Use Efficiency (NUE) that is ≤ 1.0

\$15/ACRE

IMPROVED NUE

Nitrogen Use Efficiency (NUE) that improves more than 15%*
Relative to baseline*

\$15/ACRE



SOIL HEALTH

New ground cover (cover crops)*

New adoption of reduced tillage practices*

Within 3 years*

\$15/ACRE



EQUIPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

NITROGEN MANAGEMENT

Equipment
Technology
Models/sensors
Subscriptions
and more!

REIMBURSEMENT

WATER MANAGEMENT

Telemetry meters
Center pivot upgrades
Auto irrigation & moisture tech
and more!

REIMBURSEMENT



$$\text{NUE} = \frac{(\text{Applied N} + \text{Credited N})(\text{lbs./acres})}{(\text{Grain Yield (bushel/acre)})}$$

ONE RED

YOUR LAND  YOUR PLAN

Frequently Asked Questions

Why should I enroll?	To increase profitability and improve water/nitrogen management. A win-win for you and Nebraska! Farmers who enroll will receive a Carbon Intensity (CI), Nitrogen Use Efficiency (NUE), and Water Use Efficiency (WUR) Scores that could be monetized with additional markets.
What is needed to enroll in the Data Bank?	A ONE RED Ag Data Bank application, W-9, and a signed agreement.
What data is required in the ONE RED Data Bank application?	Farmer and operator name, field location, and acreage. Last seasons yield, total applied nitrogen information (amount, application time, inhibitor use, manure information), what tillage style was used, how much water was applied, and if cover crops were used- were they grazed. Next seasons anticipated nitrogen plan and yield.
What is needed to enroll in the ONE RED Grants Program?	An application with your expected nitrogen plan (soil, manure, and water samples from each field, if applicable). Soil samples should follow NRD requirements. If no NRD soil sample requirements are established, a composite sample of no less than 24 inches per field is needed. Soil and water samples should be taken during the current or previous crop season.
How will my data be used? Who could see my data?	Farmer data will not be shared without farmer consent. Only aggregated county data will be shared for grant compliance.
What crop types are eligible? What if I implement crop rotations?	Corn, Soybeans, Sorghum, and Canola are eligible in all ONE RED Programs. Soybeans, Sorghum, and Canola crops are not eligible for NUE, but those fields are still eligible in the soil health and equipment/technology grants for that cropping season.
What programs can be stacked with ONE RED?	NRD and State programs are stackable. Certain federal programs may also be Stacked. Check with program providers. Cost shares received for equipment from other federal, state, and local sources should be utilized first. Reimbursements will be based on actual costs.
What methods can be used calculate applied water?	Applied Water can be calculated by meters, hours and pump rates, or apps.
How long does the program last?	ONE RED funding goes through the 2029 growing season.
Are there acre restrictions or limits?	Paid enrollment is limited to 1,000 acres, per farmer, with a minimum of 80 cumulative acres that required to be in a water quantity or quality management area (all acres that are certified to irrigate, NRD phase 2 or higher, wellhead protection, and source water protection areas.
How much funding is available for a farmer?	Sign up has an enrollment Bonus of \$2,000 and \$1,000 for each additional year of data Submitted through 2029 (Max of \$5,000). Farmers are then eligible for an additional \$10,000 to spend in the Grants Program through 2029, plus a per acre bonus (\$2 for dry land and \$5 for irrigated)! Farmers that irrigate will receive an additional \$3,000 to measure water. Funding ranges from \$17,000 to \$23,000 for farmers with maximum acres in all three years!

ONE RED Ag Data Bank & Grants Program

Your Land. Your Plan.

For Corn, Sorghum, Soybean, and Canola Farmers

★ This program is limited to the first 7,500 farmers! ★



Do you have at least **80 cumulative acres** in a Water Quantity or Quality Management Area?



**CHECK
HERE!**



Enroll in the ONE RED Ag Data Bank!
(Max of 1,000 acres per farmer operation)

ONE RED Ag Data Bank

**Open in
October**

What you need to enroll:

- ✓ Application
- ✓ W-9/ACH
- ✓ Signed agreement



Last Season's Information:

- Location
- Yield
- Cover crop use (Y/N)
- Type of tillage
- Applied water
- Total applied nitrogen information

\$2,000 for
successfully
enrolling the
first year!

\$1,000 for
each year
after!

Next Season's Information:

- Expected yield
- Anticipated applied nitrogen



You get to pick
the Approved
Service Provider
that you work
with!



Get paid for
what you're
doing!

ONE RED

YOUR LAND  **YOUR PLAN**

You'll get a
free nitrogen
use efficiency
score for every
field enrolled!



You still own
your data!



Frequently Asked Questions

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ONE RED is building on the strengths of Nebraska agriculture by supporting voluntary, producer-led efforts.

ONE RED
YOUR LAND  YOUR PLAN

Your Land. Your Plan.

The ONE RED Ag Grants Program meets you where you are at in your operation!



Are you using technology such as fertilization- reducing your nitrogen applications?



Reduced nitrogen applications can get you \$15/acre for improved NUE



Are you in an existing cover crop program (CSP)?



Get paid an additional \$15/acre for Soil Health



Are you measuring your irrigation water?



Get additional money to upgrade your measurement system with real time or pay for the subscriptions

ONE RED

YOUR LAND



YOUR PLAN





September 9, 2026
Invoice No: 36006

Invoice Total:	\$10,102.25
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Daryl Andersen
Lower Platte North NRD
511 Commercial Park Road
Wahoo, NE 68066-0126

Please Remit To:
Spheros Environmental
1221 Auraria Pkwy
Denver, CO 80204
(303) 455-9589
billing@LREwater.com

Invoice Email: dandersen@lpnnrd.org
Project No.: R26-00072-00
Project Name: LPNNRD SQS GW Model

Professional Services through August 29, 2026

Task 0001 Expand USC Model

Professional Personnel

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Glose, Thomas	31.00	195.00	6,045.00	
Hume, David	1.50	265.00	397.50	
Mohr, Jonathan	1.75	217.00	379.75	
Totals	34.25		6,822.25	
Total Labor				\$6,822.25
		Total this Task		\$6,822.25

Task 0002 Calibration/Scenarios

Professional Personnel

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Libra, Jon	20.50	160.00	3,280.00	
Totals	20.50		3,280.00	
Total Labor				\$3,280.00
		Total this Task		\$3,280.00

Total this Invoice	\$10,102.25
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September 9, 2026

Invoice No: 36004

Invoice Total:	\$1,854.00
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Daryl Andersen
Lower Platte North NRD
511 Commercial Park Road
Wahoo, NE 68066-0126

Please Remit To:
Spheros Environmental
1221 Auraria Pkwy
Denver, CO 80204
(303) 455-9589
billing@LREwater.com

Invoice Email: dandersen@lpnnrd.org
Project No.: 536-LPN00-07
Project Name: LPNNRD Scoring Sheets Quantity Areas

Professional Services through August 29, 2026

Task 1 Scoring Sheets

Professional Personnel

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Hume, David	1.75	265.00	463.75	
Sopiwnik, Roscoe	2.50	250.00	625.00	
Totals	4.25		1,088.75	
Total Labor				\$1,088.75
		Total this Task		\$1,088.75

Task 2 Revised Criteria for Est. Quantity Mngmt

Professional Personnel

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Hume, David	1.25	265.00	331.25	
Mohr, Jonathan	2.00	217.00	434.00	
Totals	3.25		765.25	
Total Labor				\$765.25
		Total this Task		\$765.25
		Total this Invoice		<u>\$1,854.00</u>
