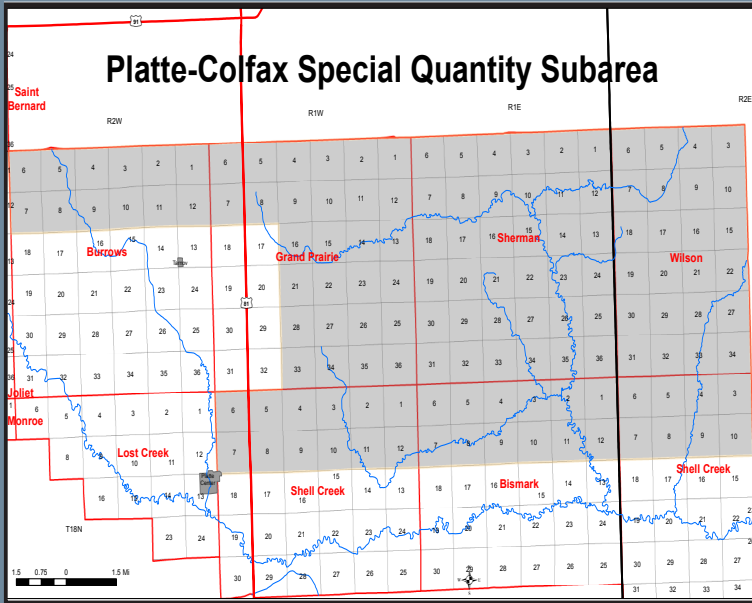
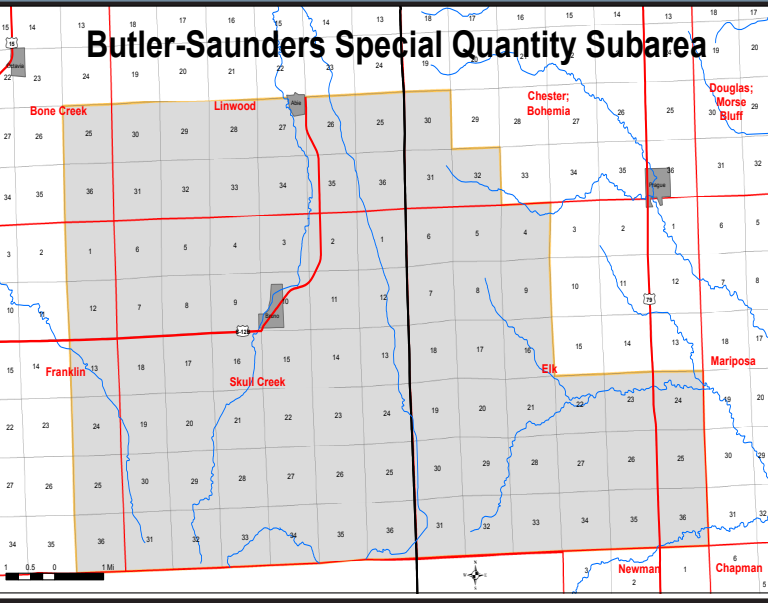


# District Addresses Needs of Special Areas

**Quantity**  
There are two Special Quantity Subareas that have been established in the Lower Platte North NRD due to large pressure drops in the aquifer in mid-summer when many irrigation wells are running at the same time. This causes shallower wells to run short on water and in some cases even irrigation wells. SQS #1 includes 86 square miles of Butler and Saunders Counties and SQS #2 includes 132 square miles of Platte and Colfax Counties. It is required for all irrigation users in these areas to install flow meters and to report water usage. Requirements for approved propeller and magnetic flow meters can be found on the NRD website. Water usage reports are due November 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. The current water allocation is set at 27 acre inches over a 3 year rolling allocation. In the SQS #2 area, producers are encouraged to submit applications for flow meter cost share prior to March

1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. Funding after that date is questionable.  
  
During 2016, the Lower Platte North NRD area benefitted from above average precipitation throughout the district. According to the High Plains Regional Climate Center, the Lower Platte North NRD was one of the best areas for rainfall in Nebraska. Increased moisture provided less need for irrigation use this past summer.  
  
**Quality**  
The Lower Platte North NRD developed the Phase II Groundwater Management Areas in 2003 near Bellwood and in 2004 in the Richland to Schuyler area. These areas were established due to high levels of nitrates in the groundwater. In 2016, the Richland-Schuyler area entered Phase III, and 10 sections on the northern edge of this area became a Phase II area as well, due to increasing nitrate levels.  
  
It is not ideal for these areas to continue to increase. The NRD recog-

nizes the difficulty to manage these elevating nitrate levels due to the depth to groundwater only being 5 to 10 feet and fairly sandy soils. Precipitation rates in the area are partially responsible due to heavy rains moving nitrates quickly to the aquifer in one year. To fight this dilemma, producers are encouraged to chemigate properly and spoon feed chemicals to crops rather than administering all during preplant.  
  
New chemigation applications may be submitted at any time and cost \$60 per site. Renewals are \$30 per site and must be submitted by June 1st. Failure to renew by the deadline will lapse any current permits and new permits will be required. Chemigation sites must be inspected by NRD staff before permits are approved. Producers wishing to chemigate are required to attend chemigation certification classes and pass a written exam. These classes are led by UNL extension educators. Please contact your local extension office for details about Spring 2017 chemigation certification classes.



Western/Sarpy Clear Creek  
Levee Project Progress  
**Pages 1-2**

In Memory of  
Clint Johannes  
**Page 3**

Tree Orders  
Now Available  
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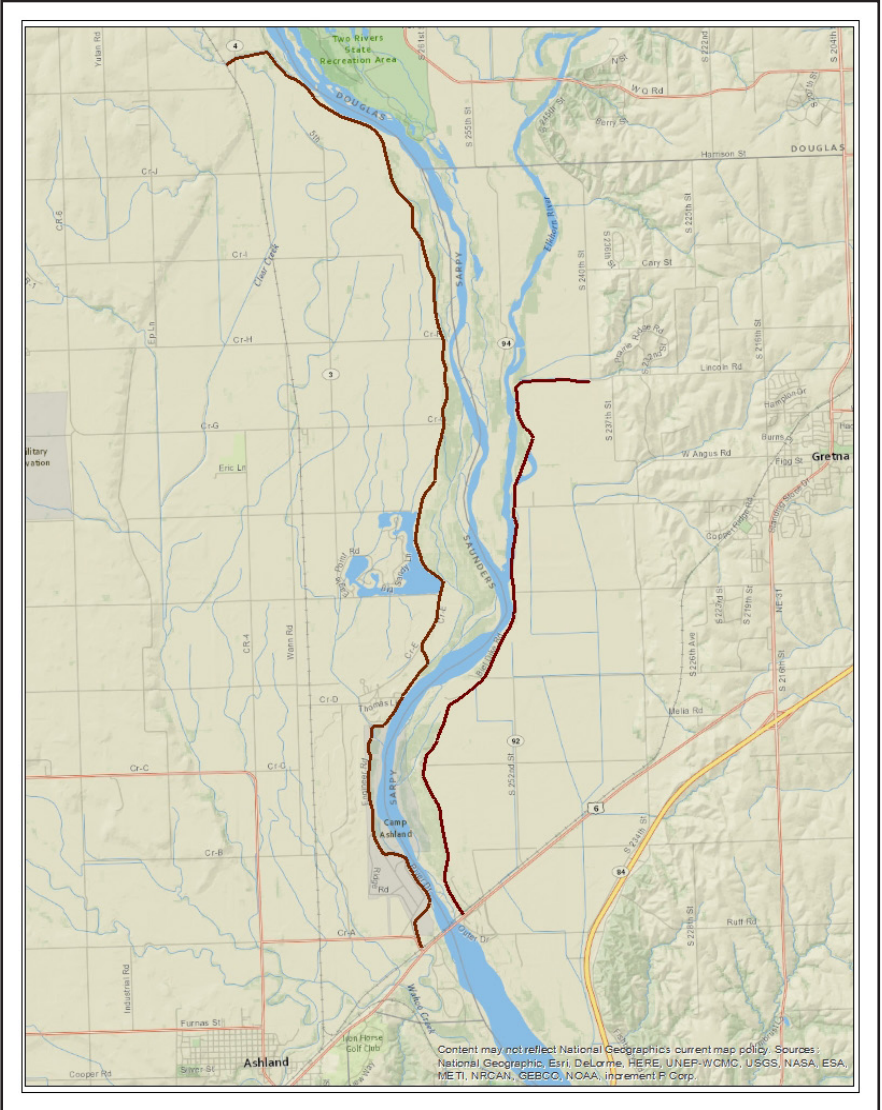
Groundwater  
Management  
Areas  
**Pages 4**

Lower Platte North Natural Resources District  
Winter 2016-2017

## NRDs Complete Finishing Touches on Joint Project Western Sarpy/Clear Creek Levee

A collaborative project that brought together several entities to address flooding issues is nearing completion after more than a decade of development. In 1993, flooding due to ice jams in the Lower Platte River caused millions of dollars of damages and hardships to many Nebraskans. This flooding closed Interstate 80 for over two days and Highway 6 for over six months. Lincoln Water System was in peril as there was only one main connecting the well fields to the treatment plant in service, and this line was exposed to flowing floodwater. Governor Ben Nelson pushed for a solution to ensure this catastrophe would not repeat in future years.

In typical Nebraska fashion, a partnership was formed including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Lower Platte North, Lower Platte South, and Papio-Missouri River NRDs. The Corps's feasibility study identified the problem as weak sand levees located on both sides of the Platte River that would fail during ice jam events. Failure of the levee on either side of the river would allow water to escape the system and leave no opportunity to float the ice downstream to elevate the ice jam.





Lower Platte North NRD  
Board & Staff

Board Member.....	Subdistrict
Lon Olson, Fremont (Vice Chair) .....	1
Bob Clausen, Fremont .....	1
Frank Pollard, Fremont .....	2
Chuck Folsom, Fremont.....	2
Dave Saalfeld, North Bend.....	3
Larry Fiala.....	3
Terry Sobota, Schuyler.....	4
Matt Bailey, Schuyler .....	4
Mark Seier, Newman Grove .....	5
John Hannah, Columbus (Chair).....	5
Joe Birkel, David City (Secretary).....	6
Robert Hilger, David City (Treasurer).....	6
Donald Kavan, Morse Bluff.....	7
Ryan Sabatka, Weston .....	7
Jim McDermott, Colon .....	8
Jim Gibney, Wahoo .....	8
Don Veskerna, Ashland.....	9
Robert Meduna, Wahoo .....	9
Gene Ruzicka, North Bend .....	at large

Staff Member.....	Position
Larry Angle .....	Water Resources Manager
Kelly Bartek.....	NRD/NRCS Technician
Tyler Benal .....	O & M/Rural Water Specialist
Jill Breunig .....	Administrative Manager
Duke Dokulil .....	O & M Specialist
Eric Gottschalk.....	Rural Water Manager/ Projects Coordinator
Bob Heimann.....	O & M Manager
John Miyoshi .....	General Manager
Tom Mountford .....	Assistant Manager
Russell Oaklund.....	Water Resources Specialist
Dave Odvody .....	Recreation Facilitator
Mitch O'Reilly .....	O & M Specialist
Chris Poole .....	GIS Specialist
Karen Rezac.....	Secretary/Bookkeeper
Bret Schomer .....	Watr Resourcs Specialist
Desirae TePoel .....	I & E Specialist

NRD/NRCS Field Office Assistant.....	County
Susie Leu .....	Butler County
Patty Holmberg .....	Colfax County
Luz Schafersman .....	Dodge County
Marla Milliken.....	Saunders County

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Project Completion continued from Page 1

Federal authorization for the project was secured in 2000 and the list of partners expanded to include the Nebraska Army National Guard, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources and the Clear Creek Dike and Drainage District. The planned project would rebuild the six mile Western Sarpy Levee located in Sarpy County and 9.5 miles of Clear Creek Levee located in Saunders County.

The project was completed in 2016 at a total cost of over \$42 million. Close to one-half of the cost was funded by federal sources, with the non-federal funding being split between the State and the three NRDs. According to John Miyoshi, General Manager of the Lower Platte North NRD, the toughest portion of the project was to

secure the necessary federal funding that came in small increments over a 15 year time line. Key to receiving these funds were; Senator Ben Nelson, Senator Mike Johanns (Mayor of Lincoln in 1993) and Nebraska Congressmen; Doug Bereuter, Lee Terry and Jeff Fortenberry.

After years of planning, designing, and development, the Western Sarpy/Clear Creek Levee Project is at the final stages. With construction officially complete, an Operations & Maintenance Manual is in the process of being finalized. The hard work and collaboration of those involved with this project is an example of true commitment to protecting lives, protecting property and protecting the future.

Dodge County Welcomes  
New Staff

The Dodge County NRCS Field Office in Fremont welcomes a new addition to the staff. In October, Luz Schafersman began her role as the NRD/NRCS Field Office Assistant. She previously worked for the FSA and the Cleary Building Corp. Luz lives on a farm with her husband and toddler and is excited to be a part of assisting farmers and landowners at the NRCS Field Office.



Influential Director Leaves Mark on District  
In Memory of Clinton Johannes  
1938-2016

Clint Johannes, from Richland, Nebraska, left an incredible legacy at the Lower Platte North NRD. Clint began his 25 years of service and leadership in 1991, serving Subdistrict 4 as a Director on the LPNNRD Board of Directors. He had the third longest tenure of any active board member.

During his involvement, Clint served actively in multiple leadership roles. He served a Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary on the LPNNRD Board of Directors, as well as participated in the Water, Personnel, and Executive Committees. His contributions to several projects included the Antelope Valley Project (Lincoln), Lake Wanhoo/Sand Creek Environmental Restoration Project (Saunders County), the Western Sarpy/Clear Creek Project (Saunders & Sarpy Counties), and the Shell Creek Levee Project (Schuyler).

In addition to his participation with the Lower Platte North NRD, Clint also served as the Chairman of the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD), Chairman of the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission and as the Nebraska representative on the National Association of Conservation Districts Board (NACD). He was also actively involved with the Nebraska Envirothon contests. Clint was appointed by the Governor to serve on the original Nebraska Water Policy Task Force, which worked to assist the passing of LB 962 that is the foundation of our modern state water laws. Clint also chaired the State Water Funding Task Force, which culminated with the passage of LB 1098.

Clint was a district field engineer for the Nebraska Public Power District for 36 years. He left NPPD to join Nebraska Generation & Transmission. In 2005, Clint formed his own consulting company, Johannes & Associates.

The LPNNRD recognizes not only 25 years of commitment, but also the immense impact that Clint Johannes had on local, state, and national levels while serving as a LPNNRD Director.



Plan Ahead for  
Spring Today!

Ready to start thinking about spring? Tree orders are now available. The Lower Platte North NRD has over three dozen varieties of trees and shrubs available to choose from.



Trees can be purchased as handplants for .82 cents each or as machine plants for \$1.45 each. Two variety packages are also available with some of the most popular species in eastern Nebraska. The Small Acreage Package and Wildlife Package are \$52 each and include quantities of ten of five different species.

Orders can be placed online at [www.lpnnrd.org](http://www.lpnnrd.org) or by calling the NRD office at (402) 443-4675