

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION

In partnership with the Nebraska Natural Resources Conservation Service, the NRD's Soil & Water Conservation Program provided cost-share funds to landowners to construct terraces, waterways, and a variety of other conservation measures.

WATER QUALITY & QUANTITY

The NRD continued its efforts to safeguard vital groundwater resources through quality and quantity monitoring programs, irrigated acre certification, nitrogen and water conservation training classes, abandoned well plugging, chemigation system inspections, and more. In 2017, LPNNRD utilized information from the AEM (airborne electromagnetic) flights to examine water issues in the Special Quantity Subareas. Information from these flights will be available at operator training sessions throughout the winter months.

RURAL WATER SYSTEMS

The NRD's rural water systems – one connecting Bruno and David City and the other connecting Colon and Wahoo – finished their twelfth year of operation in 2017, providing Bruno and Colon residents with safe, clean drinking water.

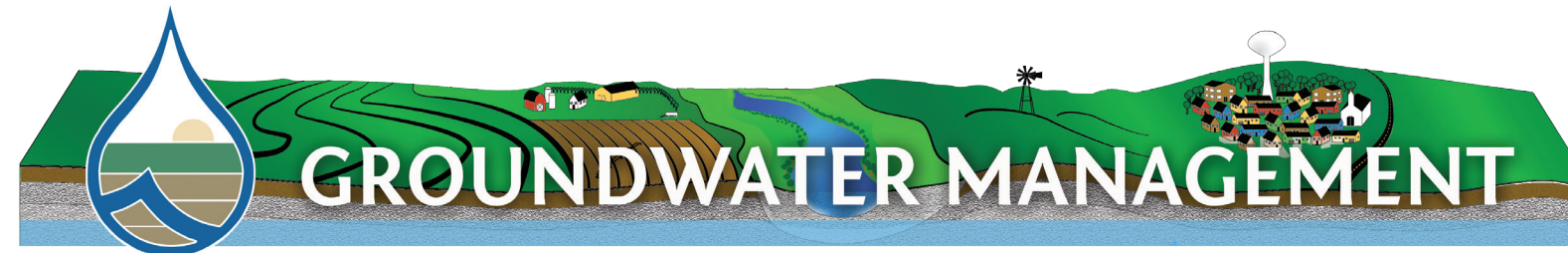
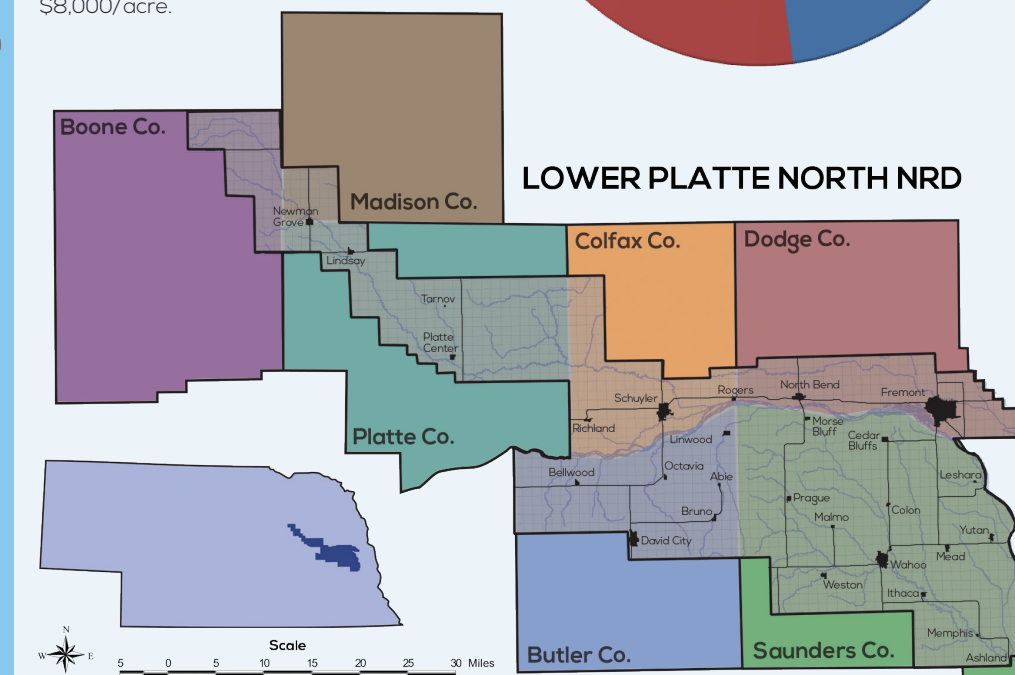
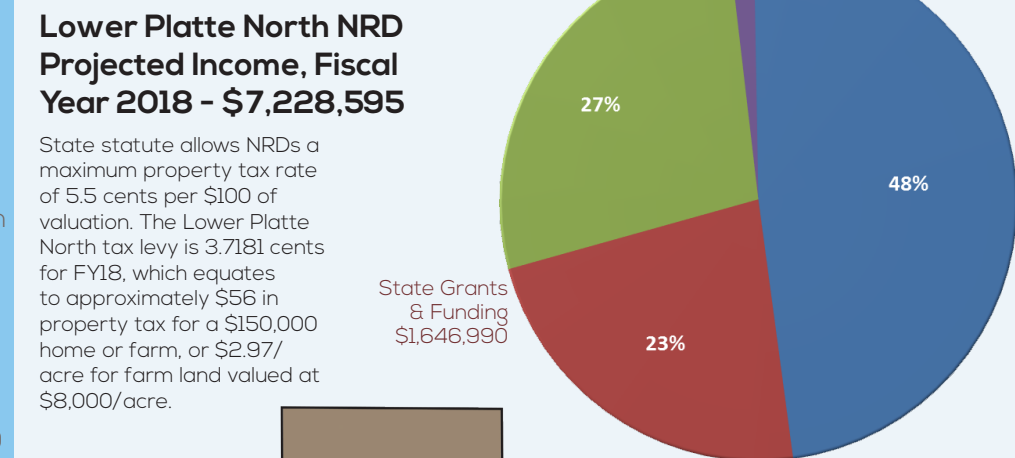
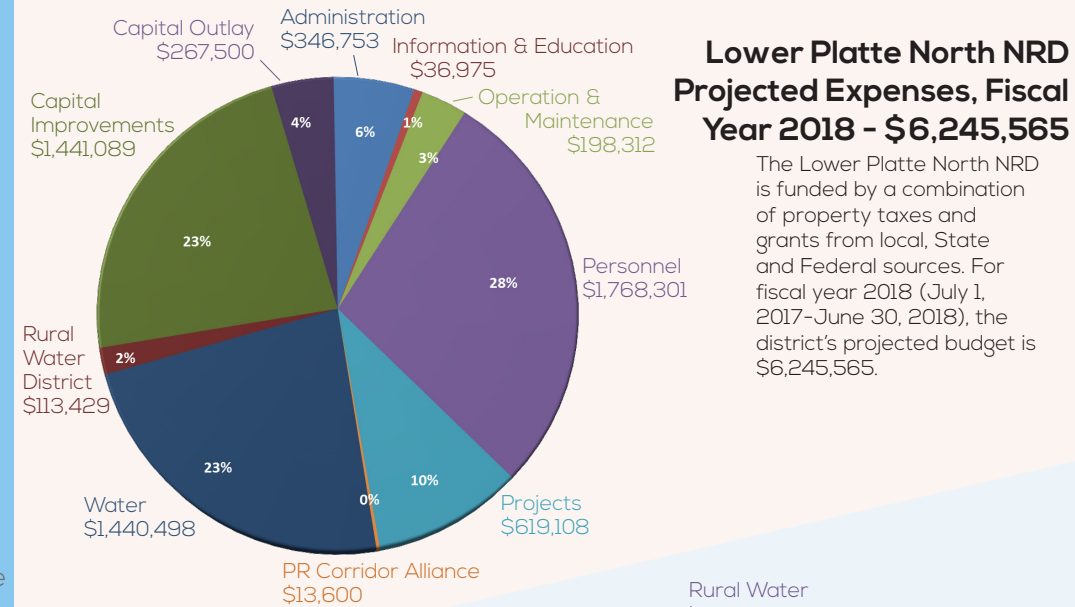
TREE PLANTING

The NRD sold approximately 10,000 trees to cooperators across the district in 2017. The district also donated tree seedlings to students at the NRD's Spring Conservation Sensation and for Arbor Day. Since 1972, more than 880,000 trees have been planted through this program.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Over 1,100 elementary, middle, and high school students participated in NRD educational activities and programs in 2017, including the Spring Conservation Sensation, Soil and Water Stewardship Week, and classroom presentations and activities.

Annual Report 2017



Chemigation Policy Updates

In January, the Lower Platte North NRD adopted revised Chemigation Rules & Regulations. The revisions include changes in fees, emergency permit policies, and violation policies.

Deadlines

Permits must be received, by the LPNNRD office, by 4:30 pm on June 1 or postmarked June 1. After that date, permits will expire and the producer must apply for a new or emergency permit.

Inspections

All applications for new permits must be inspected by LPNNRD staff prior to approval. Renewal permits are inspected every 3 years. Should a permit lapse, a new permit application is required.

Emergency Permits



NEW FEES FOR CHEMIGATION

(for full text of chemigation rules & regs, visit www.lpnnrd.org)

- **New Permit:** \$90
- **Renewal Permit:** \$30
- **Special Permit:** \$60
- **Emergency permit:** \$300

The NRD has two working days (Monday through Friday, not including state and federal holidays) to review emergency permits and issue or officially deny the application. Those who chemigate prior to official approval will be considered in violation.

Violation Policies

The LPNNRD approved updates to the Chemigation Violation Policy in January of 2018 to

address inappropriate chemigation practices. Chemigating without a valid permit and not having the correct safety equipment will be considered serious violations. Changes to the policy allow NRD staff the authority to request system(s) in violation to be immediately shut down. NRD staff will work closely with the appropriate county attorney or the LPNNRD attorney to address chemigation violations.

NITROGEN & WATER MANAGMENT CERTIFICATION CLASSES

The Lower Platte North NRD has scheduled 12 Nitrogen & Water Management Certification Classes in 2018 for producers needing NRD Certification.

Upcoming Classes

- February 27th- 9:30 am
- March 13th- 9:30 am
- March 20th- 7:00 pm
- March 22nd- 3:00 pm & 7:00 pm

For a complete schedule of Nitrogen & Water Management Certification Classes and UNL Extension Chemigation & Pesticide Trainings, please visit www.lpnnrd.org or call the NRD at (402) 443-4675.

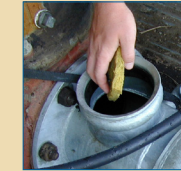
A presentation featuring the information and data gathered by the 2016 AEM helicopter flights over the Special Quantity Subareas will meet the qualifications for certification and will be held on Thursday, March 22nd at 3:00 pm at Columbus Ag Park.



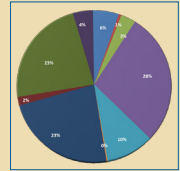
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Lower Platte North Natural Resources District
Winter 2018

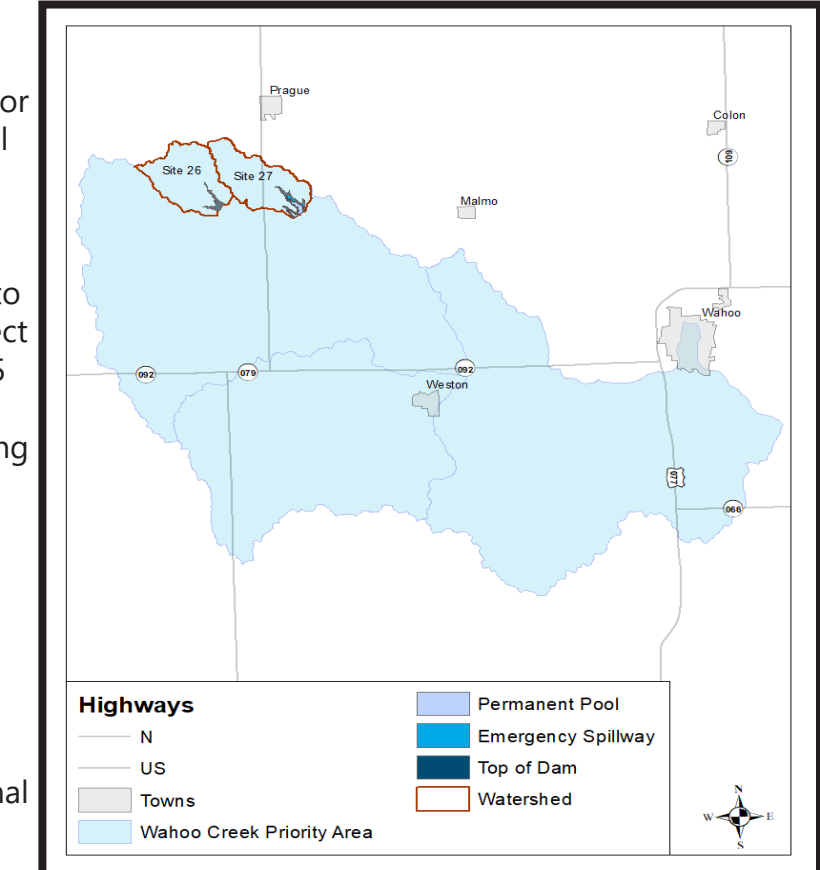
\$5.3 Million Project Underway Wahoo Creek Watershed Project Begins Design Phase

The Lower Platte North NRD Board of Directors has approved work to begin on the initial stages of a collaborative project in the Wahoo Creek Watershed. This \$5.3 million project includes the development of dam sites 26 & 27. In partnership with Saunders County, site 26 is a planned floodwater reduction dam to be built on the road, replacing an old bridge in need of repair. Site 27 is a proposed floodwater reduction dam approximately one and three quarters of a mile to the east of site 26.

The project was created in response to the Watershed Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that was completed in 1998, identifying the importance of the structures' development to enhance water quality, reduce sedimentation & scour, flood damage reduction, enhance fish & wildlife habitat, improve economic conditions, and provide recreational opportunities.

The Lower Platte North NRD

collaborated with FYRA Engineering for the successful approval of state and federal grant applications to provide project funding. \$1.5 million in federal funding has been approved from NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service) through the RCCP (Regional Conservation Partnership Project) program. \$2.3 million in grant funding has been awarded from the NWSF (Nebraska Water Sustainability Fund). The additional \$1.5 million in costs will be a local share.



The Wahoo Creek Watershed Site 26 & 27 Project began in September 2017 as a five-year project, with construction completion anticipated by 2022. A Public Scoping Meeting was held

Lower Platte North NRD
Board & Staff

Board Member	Subdistrict
Lon Olson, Fremont	1
Kelly Thompson, Fremont	1
Frank Pollard, Fremont (Secretary)	2
Bill Saeger, 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	5
Joe Birkel, David City (Chair)	6
Robert Hilger, David City (Treasurer)	6
Donald Kavan, Morse Bluff	7
Ryan Sabatka, Weston	7
Jim McDermott, Colon	8
Alex Kavan, Wahoo	8
Don Veskerna, Ashland	9
Robert Meduna, Wahoo	9
Gene Ruzicka, North Bend (Vice-Chair)	at large

Staff Member	Position
Daryl Andersen	Water Resources Manager
Kelly Bortek	NRD/NRCS Technician
Tyler Benal	Water Resources Specialist
Jill Breuing	Administrative Manager
Will Brueggemann	Water Resources Technician
Duke Dokulil	O & M Technician
Sean Elliott	Projects/Rural Water Manager
Eric Gottschalk	General Manager
Bob Heimann	O & M Manager
Tom Mountford	Assistant Manager
Russell Oakland	Water Resources Specialist
Dave Odvody	Recreation Facilitator
Mitch O'Reilly	O & M Technician
Chris Poole	GIS Specialist
Karen Rezac	Dept/Admin Assistant
Bret Schomer	Water Resources Specialist
Desirae TePoel	Information & Education Specialist

NRD/NRCS Clerks	County
Susie Leu	Butler County
Patty Holmberg	Colfax County
Luz Schafersman	Dodge County
Marla Miliken	Saunders County

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Project Underway continued from Page 1

on December 7, 2017 to discuss project specifics. Prior to the public meeting, the Lower Platte North NRD worked with many agencies to outline the most effective process for the project.

NRCS funding has been approved for additional planning and design on the remaining eight structures of the Wahoo Creek Watershed, which will be underway later this year.

New Faces
2017 Brings Many New Faces to the NRD

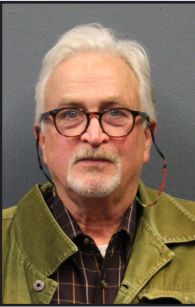
Directors

The Lower Platte North NRD has had a recent change in representation from four



subdistricts during 2017. Kelly Thompson is a new director, representing subdistrict 1. Kelly lives in Fremont, NE and has been working with his family's business, Thompson Construction, Inc. since 1980. He is a professional civil engineer and is co-founder of Civil Solutions, a professional engineering consulting firm. As a director, Kelly brings construction knowledge and engineering experience to the board.

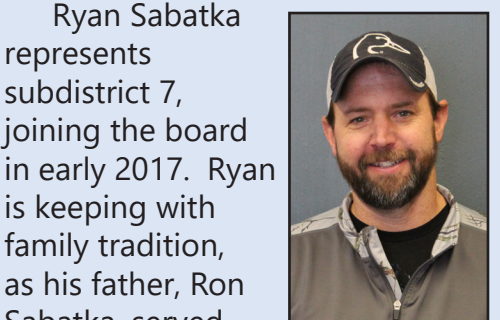
Bill Saeger joins the board, representing subdistrict 2. He resides in Fremont, NE, where he was a middle school science teacher for 15 years. Bill has 3 years experience as a Soil Scientist for Conservation and Survey Division in Colfax County.



He was previously on the City of Fremont Planning Commission for 15

years. Bill brings advocacy and experience in natural resources conservation to his role as a director.

Subdistrict 8 is represented by new director, Alex Kavan. He is the owner and operator of Kavan Farms Partnership since 2007, and is an Irrigation Service Technician for E & R Irrigation. Alex and his family live in Wahoo, NE. Alex brings extensive knowledge of irrigation practices and agricultural experience to his position on the LPNNRD Board of Directors.



Ryan Sabatka represents subdistrict 7, joining the board in early 2017. Ryan is keeping with family tradition, as his father, Ron Sabatka, served as an LPNNRD Director for 39 years. Ryan and his family live near Weston, NE. He began steadily farming in 1993, with crop rotations of corn and soybeans. Ryan utilizes no-till farming and has approximately 60% of his land in terraces. Ryan brings first-hand experience in the success of effective conservation practices and agriculture as



Ryan Sabatka

a director on the LPNNRD Board of Directors.

Staff

In 2017, the Lower Platte North NRD welcomed three new employees to the district. Daryl Andersen began his role as the Water Resources Manager in Spring of 2017. Daryl has a bachelor's degree in Agriculture Education. Before coming to the LPNNRD, Daryl was the Water Resources Specialist at the Little Blue NRD for 20 years. Daryl and his wife reside in Wahoo where they enjoy spending time with their family and dogs.

Will Brueggemann joined staff as a Water Resources Technician in Summer 2017. Will is a familiar face to the district as he completed an internship with the LPNNRD in Summer 2016. Will



Daryl Andersen

recently graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a bachelor's degree in Agriculture Economics. Will lives in Omaha and is excited to get back to his family roots in agriculture.

Sean Elliott has a history with the Lower Platte North NRD, and the district is happy to welcome him back as the Projects/Rural Water Manager. Sean was an LPNNRD intern during the Summer of 2007 and the Sand/Duck Creek Resources Technician from 2007-2009. Previously, he was the Saunders County NRCS Soil Conservation Technician for seven years. Sean is a Wahoo native, where he currently lives with his wife and four children.



Sean Elliott



Will Brueggemann

NRD Remembers
Dedicated Director

In Memory of Bob Clausen
1953-2017

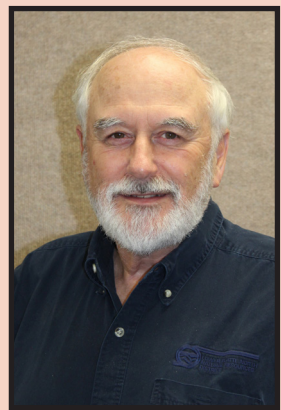
Bob Clausen represented subdistrict 1 on the Lower Platte NRD Board of Directors for five years (2012-2017). During this time, Bob was very dedicated to the district and representing the constituents in his Fremont subdistrict. He was the LPNNRD representative for LARM (League Association of Risk Management) and was an alternate representative for the NARD (Nebraska Association of Natural Resources Districts) Board of Directors. Bob also served as Secretary for the LPNNRD Board of Directors and was an active member of the Operations, Education, Rural Water committee and the Projects committee. In the Fall of 2017, Bob announced his resignation from the Board of Directors. The Lower Platte North NRD recognizes Bob's 5 years of commitment and service to the district and involvement on the local and state level as a dedicated LPNNRD Director.



30 Years of Water Conservation
Water Resources Manager Retires

In Spring of 2017, Larry Angle retired from his position as the Water Resources Manager at the Lower Platte North NRD. Larry began his career with the district in September of 1987.

For three decades, Larry provided leadership to numerous



water quality and quantity initiatives in the district. He oversaw the establishment of the LPNNRD Groundwater Management Area

(GWMA) in 1997 to monitor groundwater issues as they arise. He also participated in a comprehensive groundwater study of over 1 million acres in the LPNNRD in collaboration with Olsson Associates and the Department of Natural Resources. The hydrogeologic study defined areas where groundwater resources needed more effective management practices based on the aquifer extent and hydrogeologic characteristics. Some colleagues across the state also recognize Larry as the originator of the geological term, "pocket aquifer".

Larry was very involved on the state and

national level in water conservation. He was a part of the advisory committee for the NRD Water Programs Conference in Nebraska since it began in 1995. Larry also played a key role as a member of the Groundwater Management District Association (GMDA). He held many positions in the association, including President in 2016, and represented Nebraska on the GMDA Board for numerous years. Larry dedicated thirty years of hard work, leadership, and knowledge to the Lower Platte North NRD.

NRD Changes Leadership

General Manager Retires After 33 Years

John Miyoshi served the district as the Lower Platte North NRD General Manager for 33 years until his retirement in September of 2017. John is well known for his conservation advocacy and charismatic leadership in the natural resources profession.

John played a key role in developing partnerships on the local, state, and federal level to manage numerous projects in eastern Nebraska for soil conservation, flood damage reduction, water quality and quantity, and was instrumental in helping NRDs across the state in the development and use of GIS systems.

Under John's guidance, the Lower Platte North NRD has seen the success of many major projects within the district. These projects include the Sand Creek Environmental Restoration Project, a \$42 million project that developed Lake Wanahoo and seven additional upstream dams and related wetland enhancement. Other major collaborative projects include the Western Sarpy/Clear Creek Flood Protection Levee Project, the Merlin England Flood Control Project, the Schuyler 205 Shell Creek Levee Project, and establishing two rural water projects for the areas of Bruno and Colon.



John Miyoshi

has led to many accomplishments in natural resources conservation efforts.

Eric Gottschalk brings over 17 years of experience and commitment to natural resources conservation to his new role as General Manager of the Lower Platte North NRD. His experience includes involvement in multiple LPNNRD departments including; Operations & Maintenance, Projects, Information & Education, Rural Water, & Water.

Eric began working at the NRD in April of 2000 as the Projects Coordinator. He changed positions and began his dual role as the Rural Water Manager/Projects Coordinator in February of 2015. Eric worked closely with land owners in the district and collaborated with NRCS to coordinate cost-share opportunities and land conservation programs. He also managed the rural water systems connecting Bruno to David City and Colon to Wahoo.

John's enthusiastic leadership and skills in building strong relationships and partnerships on the local, state, and national level

ABOUT THE LOWER PLATTE
NORTH NRD

The Lower Platte North Natural Resources District, based in Wahoo, covers parts of seven counties in east-central Nebraska. There are 23 NRDs in Nebraska, charged with developing and protecting the state's natural resources.

In pursuing this mission, the districts often partner with landowners and other government agencies, such as the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The Lower Platte North NRD is governed by 19 locally-elected directors from nine subdistricts, and employs 15 full-time staff members (see current listing of NRD directors and staff on page 2). The district is funded by a combination of property taxes and grants from local, State and Federal sources.

Get more info on the NRD and our projects and programs at www.lpnrd.org.



Eric Gottschalk

Eric graduated from Bellevue University with a degree in Business Management. Eric and his family live in Wahoo, NE where they also own and operate Gottschalk's Athletic, a screen-printing apparel business.