



PUBLIC NOTICE

October 15, 2024

The Lower Platte North Natural Resources District (LPNNRD) has scheduled a Public Hearing at the Cobblestone Inn & Suites located at 2218 Colfax Street, Schuyler NE. This hearing will begin at 7 pm on Thursday November 14, 2024. The purpose of this hearing is to hear comments regarding moving Sections 31-36, Township 18 North, Range 2 East, Sections 31-34, Township 18 North, Range 3 East, Sections 1-26, Township 17 North, Range 2 East and Sections 1-22 and 28-30, Township 17 North, Range 3 East from Groundwater Quality Phase Three to Phase Four.

The criteria for this change are outlined in LPNNRD's Groundwater Management Area Rules and Regulation, dated June 15, 2018. The Groundwater Rules and Regulations are available upon request at the Lower Platte North NRD office by regular mail at 511 Commercial Park Road, P O Box 126, Wahoo, NE 68066, by phone at 402-443-4675, or on our website at www.lpnnrd.org

Hearing Documentation:

The Lower Platte North Natural Resources District (District) will be conducting a hearing on November 14, 2024, for the purpose of implementing a Water Quality Phase 4 Management Area within the Schuyler-Richland Phase 3 Water Quality Management Area. The Board will be following the rules and regulations outlined in the District Groundwater Rules and Regulations (June 15, 2018).

The following describe the details of the Rules and Regulations being proposed:

Section I Groundwater Quality Management Area - Phase Four

Rule 1 Phase Four Criteria

When levels of nitrate-nitrogen exceed 15.01 parts per million, or levels of other human induced non-point source contaminants exceed 100% of the MCL or LHAL, a Phase Four area will be declared. Within the same aquifer; boundary setting for Phase Four Areas will be initiated when: water quality analytical results within a minimum 9 square mile area are at identified trigger levels for a minimum of 2 sampling events. The area must contain a minimum of 10 registered wells and contaminant trigger levels must be exceeded in over 50% of the wells. When irrigation wells are not available, other wells may be used. Initial investigation by the District will be to determine if the contamination is a result of point-source or non-point source pollution. If non-point source pollution is found to be the reason, more intensive investigation for boundary setting will ensue. If a Wellhead Protection Area should be established due to non-point source pollution, the District may set boundaries that are less than 9 square miles. After the establishment of a Phase Four Area, if non-point source contamination levels should decline, two consecutive sampling events below the trigger levels are needed before the Area could be placed in Phase Three, Phase Two or Phase One.

- **The criteria for the boundary have been met, which includes sections with human induced non-point source contaminants exceeding 100% of the MCL concentration of uranium.**

Rule 2 Continuation of Phase One, Two and Three Rules

A continuation of Phase One Rules as defined in Section E, Rules 1-6, Section F, Rule 2, Phase Two Rules as defined in Section G, Rules 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10 and 11, Phase Three Rules as defined in Section H, Rule 4.

- **A 2-step reporting process for Phase 4 reports with March 15th for soil samples and District nitrogen recommendations with a December 15th deadline for reporting actual yields and nitrogen applications.**

Rule 3 Fertilizer Application On All Soils

Split application of commercial nitrogen fertilizer is required with 80 pounds maximum applied before May 1.

- **Encouraging split applications and utilizing the manure credit.**

Rule 4 Nitrogen Recommendations

Nitrogen applications must not exceed District Recommendations. Application data may be required to verify the amount of nitrogen that is applied to the field(s) within the management area.

- **The District will utilize the nitrogen recommendation formula that has been used since the management area was established. Emphasis will be given on correct soil sampling protocols and realistic yield expectations when calculating nitrogen recommendations.**
- **The District will require soil samples down to 36 inches but recommendations can be made on 0-8 and 8-24 results if deep soil types are not realistic.**

Rule 5 Well Metering

Flow meters are required on all high capacity wells.

- **All high capacity irrigation wells of 50 gallons per minute (GPM) or greater will require a properly installed District approved flow meter.**
- **Water Use report is required annually with nitrogen report**

Rule 6 Acre-Inch Allocations

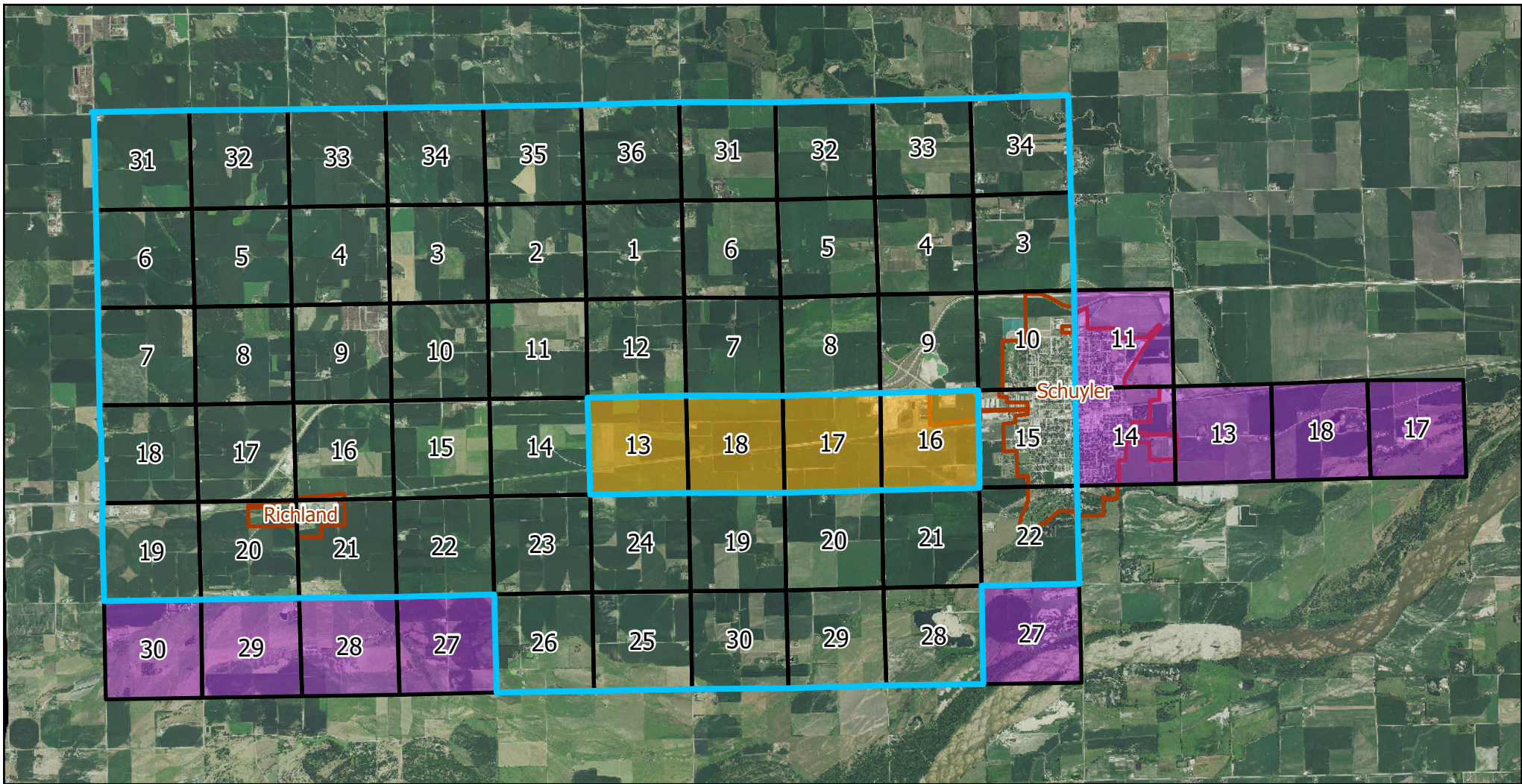
A rolling acre-inch allocation, in 3-year increments, will be put into place by the District and will be based on the aquifer subarea, crop planted, irrigation distribution system, percent decline of the aquifer, water use of the aquifer, climatic conditions, net corn crop requirements, and discretionary factors.

- **The District will collect 3 years of water use information from all of the producers within the Phase 4 area and then consider if an allocation should be implemented.**

Rule 7 Staff Assistance

NRD Staff will work directly with individuals on Best Management Practices. Staff may spot check fields before May 1 by collecting a soil sample to monitor Rule 3.

- **Staff will work with producers to implement a Nutrient/Irrigation Agreement or a Nitrogen Reduction Incentive**



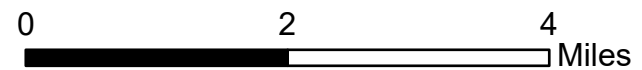
- Proposed Phase 4
- Phase 4 Uranium*
- Phase 3
- Sections
- City Boundaries

Proposed Phase 4 Management Area

*Average uranium concentration in 4 sections is 40.7 ppb (6 samples).

Nitrate samples in proposed phase 4 area

Year	Above 15.01	Samples	> 15.01	Avg
2019	20	47	43%	14.1
2020	29	58	50%	16.7
2023	48	80	60%	17.4



Created January 2024 by LPNNRD
 NAD 1983 StatePlane Nebraska FIPS 2600 (US Feet)
 Data: LPNNRD Imagery: NRCS

