

Little Blue Natural Resources District
Master Plan 2019



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INTRODUCTION

In 1969 the Nebraska Legislature acted to establish the natural resources districts and gave broad legislative authorities for the protection and management of many of our natural resources in the hands of local conservation leaders.

This Master Plan is presented by the Little Blue NRD staff and board in accordance with Nebraska Statute 2-3276, in order to highlight past accomplishments, describe current programs and projects, outline potential challenges and opportunities, and to chart a viable course of action for the next ten years.

VISION STATEMENT

The Little Blue Natural Resources District (NRD) will be recognized as the leader in natural resources policy and management based on sound science.

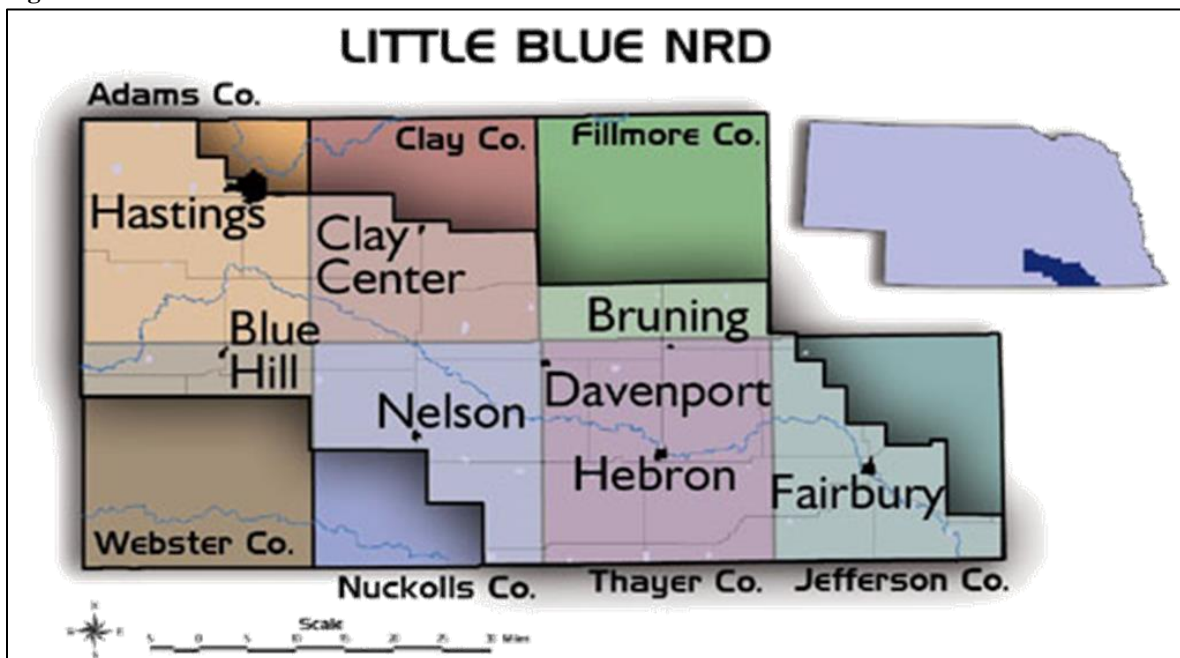
MISSION

To provide leadership in the promotion and enactment of cost-effective programs and projects that preserve and protect natural resources for all future uses.

LOCATION

The Little Blue is one of the 23 Natural Resource District's in Nebraska. It lies in the south-southeast area of Nebraska and encompasses the eastern 90% of the Little Blue River Basin (see figure 1). All or parts of seven counties make up the Little Blue District: Thayer 24.02%, Jefferson 13.34%, Fillmore 6.00%, Clay 13.49%, Nuckolls 16.6%, Webster 6.00%, and Adams 20.44% Counties. The total area of the Little Blue District is approximately 1,537,280 acres.

Figure 1: Little Blue Natural Resources District.



HISTORY

In July 1972, over 150 watershed conservancy districts, soil and water conservation districts and other local resources agencies merged into 24 natural resources districts (now 23 due to the merger of Papio NRD and Middle Missouri Tributaries NRD into the Papio-Missouri River NRD in 1989). These NRDs, divided along watershed boundaries, are a unique feature of Nebraska's approach to water and soil stewardship.

The Little Blue NRD lies in the southeast part of the state along the Kansas border (Figure 1). The Little Blue NRD covers all or part of seven counties and is governed by a 17-member board of directors who are elected by the people of the District.

The Nebraska Legislature gave the NRDs statutory authorities to carry out their mission. They were granted a local property taxing authority to carry out the development, protection and management of the resources in their respective areas. As stated in Nebraska Statute 2-3229:

“The purposes of natural resources districts shall be to develop and execute, through the exercise of powers and authorities granted by law, plans, facilities, works, and programs relating to (1) erosion prevention and control, (2) prevention of damages from flood water and sediment, (3) flood prevention and control, (4) soil conservation, (5) water supply for any beneficial uses, (6) development, management, utilization, and conservation of ground water and surface water, (7) pollution control, (8) solid waste disposal and sanitary drainage, (9) drainage improvement and channel rectification, (10) development and management of fish and wildlife habitat, (11) development and management of recreational and park facilities, and (12) forestry and range management.”

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Soil and water conservation programs have been of primary importance in the Little Blue NRD since the creation of the districts. In recent years, water quantity and quality issues have also come to the forefront as the Board of Directors seek to balance the environmental needs with protective measures. Physical and social needs of district patrons have increased the demand for recreational opportunities, wildlife protection and natural areas.

What challenges exist for the future? The Little Blue Natural Resources District staff and board must be well informed, properly trained and equipped, and very versatile in programming to carry out the many responsibilities given to them. The district will need to be assertive in proven management techniques, yet open to non-traditional approaches to resource development. Practices and programs must be effective yet economically achievable. Budgetary stresses will remain as tax payers continue to demand services but resist local property tax increases. Aggressive efforts to secure outside grants and assistance will help assure that public demands can be met within local budget constraints.

Environmental problems in urban settings continue to challenge resources managers and the NRD must be willing to cooperate with urban leaders to identify reasonable and cost-effective solutions. Bold leadership is necessary to confront issues which threaten to impair the long-term protection of our resources. Such things as water quality and quantity protection, highly erodible land development, chemical and fertilizer management, soil erosion, endangered species, and the proper disposal of waste products will continue to require time and resources from the local district.

Improving soil health will become more important as agricultural producers seek ways to maximize production with fewer inputs and less environmental impacts. Although holistic resources management might be an ultimate goal, it is unlikely that widespread adoption of holistic practices will occur in the short-term. Education and demonstrations are key components of practices adopted by producers.

The Republican and Platte River issues hold lessons and solution for future resources managers. With both environmental and political issues on the table near the fringes of our boundaries, the District must remain well informed and involved. We must be diligent in evaluating management options, proactive in dealing with resources problems, and willing to make difficult decisions to avoid mistakes which many negatively impact the resources.

Following are the goals and objectives which have been established to provide direction for Little Blue NRD leadership for the coming ten years:

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Little Blue NRD has identified 6 major goals for the coming 10 years. They are listed as follows with the objectives and activities recorded in conjunction with each goal.

GOAL 1:

MAINTAIN AND PROTECT GROUNDWATER RESOURCES AND PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES FOR BENEFICIAL USES.

- **Objective**
 - Ongoing development and implementation of a comprehensive water management plan.
 - Operate and maintain existing rural water supply projects
 - Develop a systematic process for evaluating the feasibility of potential water supply projects
 - Assist communities with wellhead protection
 - Identify potential sites for new developments
 - Maintain integrity and functionality of existing structures
 - Strive toward Compact compliance concerning the Blue River Compact
- **Activities**
 - Groundwater level monitoring and data collection
 - Initiate comprehensive hydrogeologic investigations to fill data gaps
 - Develop a dedicated monitoring network
 - Conduct groundwater quality monitoring and track trends
 - Promote new water resources technologies and tools
 - Offer education and technical assistance
 - Assist with proper decommissioning of water wells
 - Enforce irrigation runoff rules and regulations
 - Investigate opportunities for enhancing groundwater recharge
 - Management staff will oversee rural water systems
 - Develop and implement standard operating procedures
 - Complete GPS locations of all facilities
 - Develop Archview database for all facilities linked to GPS locations
 - Change out 10% of existing meters per year on old system

- Provide technical assistance for wellhead protection activities
- Respond to public concerns
- Seek opportunities for multiple benefit projects
- Evaluate alternative measures to enhance water storage
- Seek measures to augment stream flow for multiple benefits
- Inspect, repair and maintain existing structures

GOAL 2:

CONTINUE SOIL CONSERVATION AND SOIL HEALTH EFFORTS

- **Objectives**
 - Identify soil conservation problems
 - Propose remedies for problems
 - Encourage producers to optimize soil productivity
- **Activities**
 - Develop and administer programs aimed at reducing erosion problems
 - Encourage landowners to use conservation practices
 - Promote conservation tillage and proper residue management
 - Support Federal government conservation programs
 - Provide specialized conservation equipment
 - Administer the District's Erosion and Sediment Control Program
 - Promote no-till farming practices
 - Promote soil health (balanced soil nutrients, organic matter, and soil tilth) to reduce many soil management problems and sustain productivity

GOAL 3:

STORM WATER MANAGEMENT TO IMPROVE WATERCOURSES AND DRAINAGE WAYS TO REDUCE FLOODING AND FLOOD DAMAGES

- **Objectives**
 - Promote, sponsor and construct flood control projects
 - Promote practices which reduce runoff and increase infiltration
 - Reduce damage to lives and property from flood waters
 - Promote cleaning of debris from watercourses
 - Assist in management of man-made drainage ways
 - Encourage the use of buffer strips
- **Activities**
 - Encouraging and promoting a philosophy of retaining water on the land where it falls
 - Study watersheds for technically, economically, and environmentally sound projects
 - Promote landowner implementation of conservation practices
 - Provide cost-share for private flood control projects
 - Investigate alternative actions for the protection of property from flooding
 - Examine possibilities for road dams as alternatives for bridge replacements
 - Participate in hazard mitigation projects to protect the public and property
 - Educate the public on flood damage reduction measures
 - Promote and publicize the value of existing flood control structures
 - Monitor flood events, property damages and identify benefits of structures
 - Provide assistance to citizen groups and governmental agencies through Urban Conservation
 - Establish historical documentation of storm events and impacts

1. Record rainfall events and distribution (NeRAIN)
 2. Secure aerial photos of flood events to document extent of flood impacts and the value of flood control structures at work.
- Encourage clearing of stream channels of detrimental obstructions which impede flows
 - Introduce a bank stabilization program to restore and protect stream banks and riparian areas adjacent to water courses
 - Promote practices which reduce stream bank erosion and channel degradation
 - Maintain district drainage projects

GOAL 4:

PROMOTE PUBLIC EDUCATION FOR CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES AWARENESS

- **Objective**
 - Strive toward achieving a more knowledgeable public
- **Activities**
 - Serve as an advisory agency to other agencies, entities and officials on natural resources matters
 - Conduct annual water resources conference
 - Develop interactive user friendly web-site
 - Continue to utilize the Mass media by writing news releases and public service announcements to inform the public about conservation endeavors
 - Continue to make available “Out of the Blue” newsletter
 - Continue to develop youth awareness with programs within the school system
 - Assist teachers with information in local and state conservation education programs
 - Make information available to the general public about the programs of the District
 - Sponsor youth programs and contests
 - Through technical and financial assistance support Outdoor Classrooms.
 - Provide scholarships and educational grants to students, 4-H and FFA youth.
 - Keep the public informed of new and current research data relating to District activities
 - Educate the public on the hazards of improper disposal of solid waste and promote wise disposal practices
 - Continue to host High School Contests
 - Sponsor field demonstrations and educational workshops
 - Continue awards programs for outstanding contributions to the conservation movement
 - Provide resources material at county fair booth promotions and trade shows
 - Be active in the formulation of resources legislation and keep representatives informed of District activities
 - Utilize other newsletters with agencies throughout the district by asking them for space for certain events
 - Develop educational material and events at our recreational sites

GOAL 5:

PROMOTE RANGE MANAGEMENT, VEGETATION MANAGEMENT, AND NOXIOUS/INVASIVE WEED MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- **Objective**
 - Encourage range and pasture health
 - Assist in identification and eradication of invasive vegetation
- **Activities**

- Educate producers and provide assistance for short- and long-term pasture planning
- Assist landowners with specialized pasture management practices
- Promote and assist in removal of invasive vegetation on grazing lands
- Provide grass seeding equipment for establishment of range and pasture resources
- Cooperate with weed control authorities to educate the public on invasive species
- Investigate and identify invasive species problem areas and assist in control measures

GOAL 6:

ENHANCE RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES, RECREATION AREAS, AND WILDLIFE HABITAT

• Objectives

- Continue to administer programs for wildlife habitat protection and establishment
- Develop programs and practices which enhance habitat for wildlife
- Manage District lands and lakes for optimum fish and wildlife production
- Protect and restore wetlands
- Maintain and improve existing parks and facilities
- Identify potential recreation sites and opportunities
- Aid communities
- Promote cleaning of debris from watercourses
- Assist in management of man-made drainage ways
- Encourage the use of buffer strips

• Activities

- Fulfill obligations for WHIP and WILD NEBRASKA for existing habitat improvement contracts
- Create and implement programs and practices which are attractive to landowners, beneficial to wildlife and give priority to environmentally sensitive areas
- Carry out Nebraska Buffer Strip Program contracts
- Promote Corners for Wildlife program with Pheasants Forever
- Promote Controlled Burns for producers to enhance wildlife habitat lands
- Develop resource management plans for each district owned property
- Reduce sedimentation and pollution which pose threats to our lakes
- Cooperate with landowners and agencies in the protection, restoration and management of wetlands, with the highest priority given within the Rainwater Basin
- Support and assist in securing long-term wetland easements
- Provide and promote the wetland disk for wetland management
- Provide quality maintenance of existing recreational facilities
- Publicize and promote the District's recreational opportunities
- Promote our public use areas as outdoor classrooms and natural areas
- Examine possibilities for recreation developments associated with other district projects
- Cooperate with law enforcement agencies and adjacent landowners to control misuse of District areas and prosecute for the destruction of District property
- Discourage acts of vandalism
- Develop new areas for recreational sites when feasible and in the public interest
- Be open to new recreational opportunities and ideas
- Cooperate with local entities to develop trails
- Provide technical and financial assistance for communities to enhance park and recreation facilities through the districts Urban Park and Recreation Assistance Program

- Provide opportunities for volunteers and organizations to participate in construction or cleanup projects at the NRD recreation areas
- Encourage clearing of stream channels of detrimental obstructions which impede flows
- Introduce a bank stabilization program to restore and protect stream banks and riparian areas adjacent to water courses
- Promote practices which reduce stream bank erosion and channel degradation
- Maintain district drainage projects

PREVIOUSLY COMPLETED MAJOR PROJECTS

Recreation Projects

YEAR(S)	PROJECT
1975	Prairie Lake Recreation Area, Archery Range
1976	Roseland Lake and Wildlife Area
1977	Buckley Recreation Area & Golf Course
1984	Bruning Dam and Public Use Area
1990-99	Liberty Cove Recreation Area, Arboretum
1997-98, 2002-03	Hastings Trails, Lake Hastings
2007	Hebron Trails
2008	Lone Star Recreation Area
2016	Prairie Lake Improvements
2017	Prairie Lake Tree Removal
2018	Buckley Recreation Area Tree Clean-Up

Flood Control Projects

YEAR(S)	PROJECT
1972-75	32-Mile Creek Watershed Project
1974	Hoelting/Kohmetscher
1976	Hebron Road Dam
1980	Hubl Road Dam
1981	MARC Dam
1983-85	Balls Branch Land Treatment Critical Watershed Project
1987	Crystal Springs Flood Protection Levy
1991	Hastings Northwest Project
1990-20**	Little Sandy Creek Watershed Project

Urban Projects

YEAR(S)	PROJECT
1984, 1986, 1993	Deshler Drainage Project
1987	Strang Drainage Improvement Project
1989	Heartwell Park Dam
1991-93	Good Samaritan Village Drainage
1993	Crooked Creek Golf Course Drainage

1995	Hubbell Drainage Improvement
1998	Juniata Drainage Improvement
1999-2000	Hastings College Drainage
2008	Heartwell Park CDS Units
2009	Hastings Chautaugua Park Drainage Tube Extension

Water Quality Projects

YEAR(S)	PROJECT
1979	Hastings Effluent Study
1981-84	Groundwater Recharge Studies at MARC Dam
1991-2000	Mid-Nebraska Water Quality Program
1993-1998	Buckley Creek Clean Lakes Study
2007*	Groundwater Hydrochemistry in Jefferson & Thayer counties

Water Quality Sub-Areas

YEAR EST.	SUB-AREA
1990	Superior/Hardy
1999	Bruning
2002	Deshler/Byron/Ruskin
2002	Fairbury
2005	Clay/Nuckolls
2012	Carleton/Davenport/Shickley
2012	Hastings Wellhead Protection
2015	Kennesaw/Prosser

Water Quantity Projects

YEAR	PROJECT
1976-79	Little Blue Public Water Project
1982	Adams County Water Study
1998	Little Blue Public Water Project South
2003	Platte River COHYST Study
2008*	Blue Basin Groundwater Model

***Denotes Joint County Projects**

Other Joint County Projects

- Participant in South Central Nebraska LiDAR Mapping Project
- Manage the Nebraska Rain Assessment Information Network (NeRAIN)
- Partner with city of Hastings and Army Corps of Engineers to clean-up and re-use contaminated water on the Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD)

PROGRAMS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

WATER MANAGEMENT

The Little Blue NRD is helping to secure our future through local leadership responsibilities to protect groundwater from overuse and pollution.

The LBNRD has developed a groundwater management plan to protect our precious resource. State law has given NRD's a variety of regulatory tools to deal with contamination, shortages or user conflicts.

The LBNRD encourages water stewardship by providing financial assistance to producers for irrigation management, well decommissionings and best management practices (BMPs) to protect water.

The Superior-Hardy Groundwater Quality Sub-area was the first such area declared in Nebraska. The area is regulated by both the Little Blue and Lower Republican NRDs. The plan was to address the nitrate problems located in southern Nuckolls County. Approved in 1990, the plan utilized a variety of educational programs and BMPs with a goal of reducing non-point nitrate contamination.

The entire LBNRD was declared a Water Quality Level I Management Area on July 1, 1996, which emphasizes education on water and fertilizer management.

The purpose of establishing a sub-area is to focus management efforts and education in an attempt to halt and/or reverse contaminant trends. The LBNRD currently has eight sub-areas within its boundary. (see figure 2)

Sub-area 1: Superior-Hardy. Created in 1990. 20,480 acres. Shared jurisdiction with Lower Republican NRD.

Sub-area 2: Bruning. Created in 1999. 12,800 acres.

Sub-area 3: Fairbury. Created in 2002. 21,120 acres.

Sub-area 4: Deshler/Byron/Ruskin. Created in 2002. 58,880 acres.

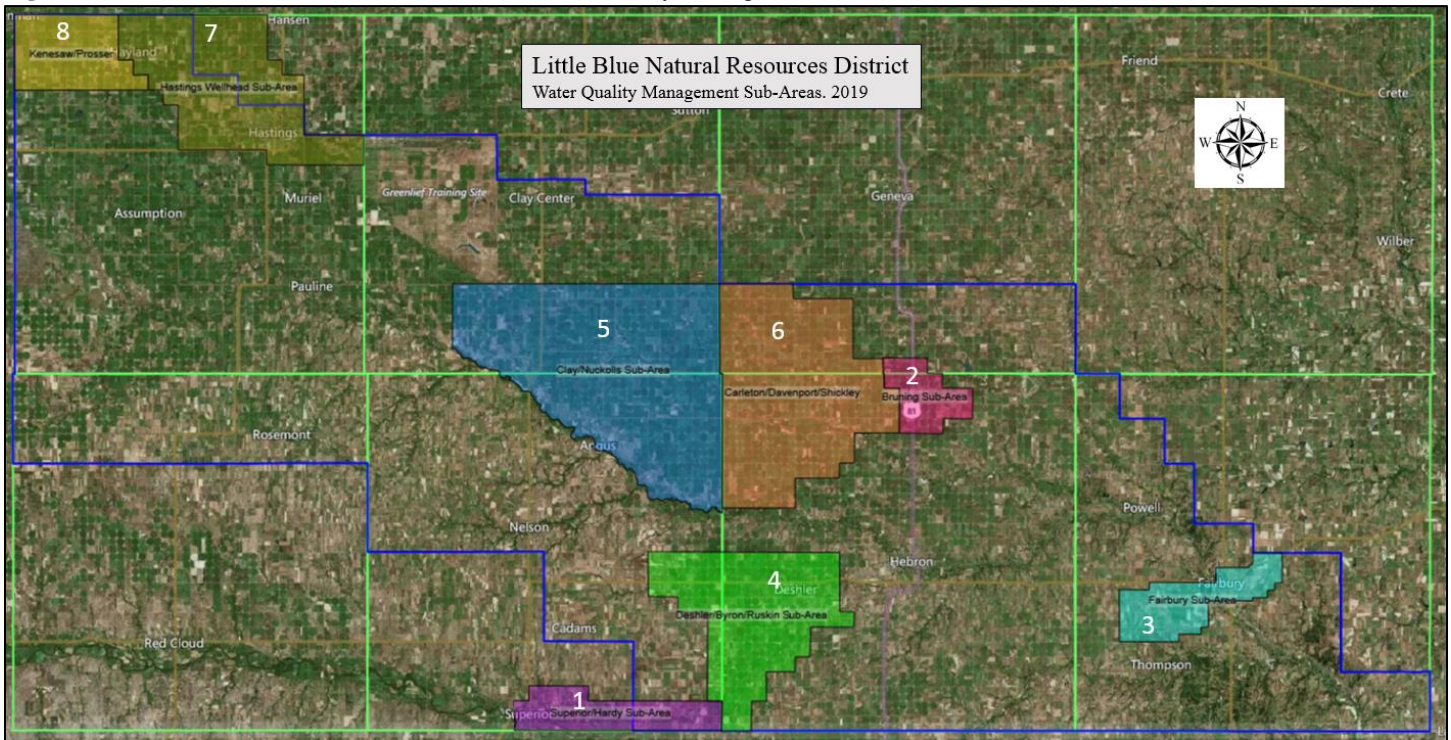
Sub-area 5: Clay/Nuckolls. Created in 2005. 117,120 acres.

Sub-area 6: Carleton/Davenport/Shickley. 86,400 acres. Created in 2012.

Sub-area 7: Hastings Wellhead Protection Area. Created in 2012. 60,800 acres. Shared jurisdiction with Upper Big Blue NRD.

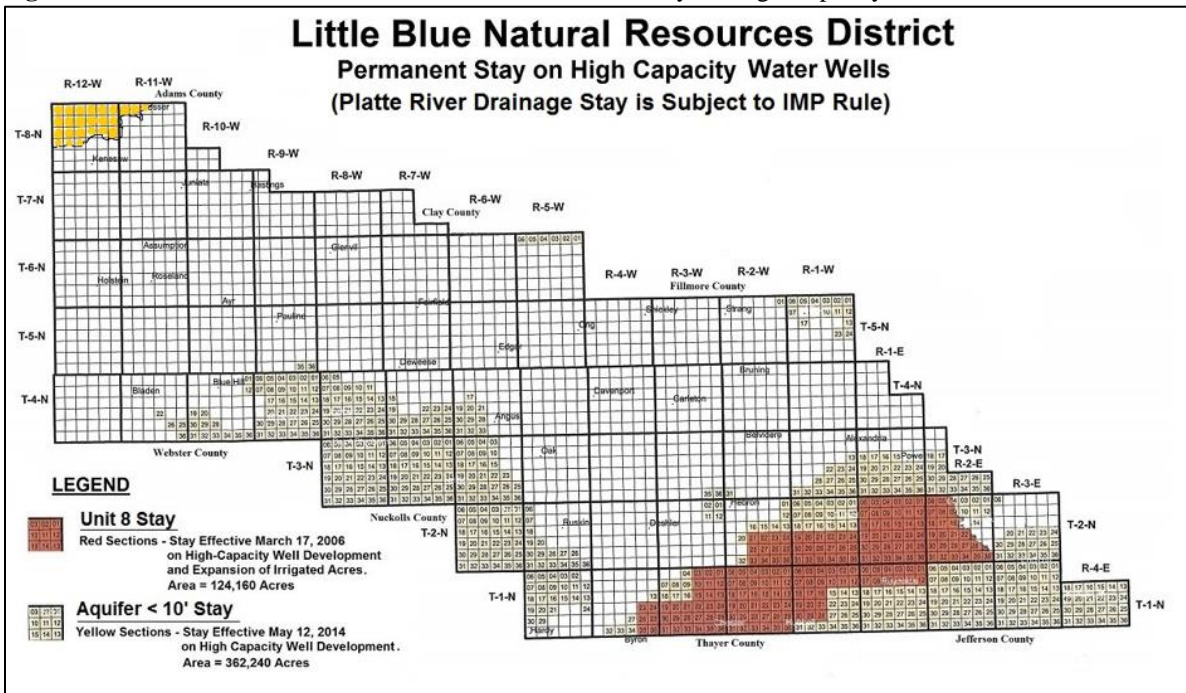
Sub-area 8: Kennesaw/Prosser. 24,320 acres. Created in 2015.

Figure 2: Little Blue Natural Resources District Water Quality Management Sub-Areas.



In 2006, the LBNRD initiated a stay on instillation of new groundwater wells, or series of wells, that produce 50 gallons/minute or more and on new irrigated acres in an area designated as *Water Quantity Sub-area 8* (124,160 acres, see figure 3). Owners of irrigated lands in the sub-area were required to certify the irrigated acres by March 17, 2007. There is also a stay in the district where the aquifer is less than 10 feet in depth (362,240 acres, see figure 3).

Figure 3: Little Blue Natural Resources District Permanent Stay on High Capacity Wells.



Groundwater contamination from point and non-point sources is a concern throughout the entire district. The LBNRD offers water sampling services and cost-share for the proper decommissioning of abandoned wells according to state law. Since 1983, the LBNRD has assisted in properly abandoning 1,972 wells (see figure 4)

Figure 4: Wells decommissioned in the Little Blue NRD since 1983, by county.

LITTLE BLUE NRD	WELLS DECOMMISSIONED
COUNTY	1983-2019
Adams	591
Clay	319
Fillmore	150
Jefferson	231
Nuckolls	234
Thayer	396
Webster	51
TOTAL	1972

The LBNRD is not only a water guardian but also a water supplier. The LBNRD operates two rural projects in the southeastern part of the district (see figure 5).

The Little Blue Public Water Project North was developed in 1978 and serves over 255 domestic, livestock, and business hookups in eastern Thayer and west and central Jefferson counties, including the villages of Gilead and Gladstone. Water is purchased from the city of Fairbury and piped through 127 miles of buried pipelines to provide service. The water tower is located just south of Gladstone. The project is financially self supporting and operates on water sales income and hookup fees from the customers. The north project operates on an annual budget of approximately \$130,000. Annual water sales have been about 30 million gallons.

The Little Blue Public Water Project South was developed in 1998 and serves over 146 domestic, livestock, and business hookups in southern Jefferson county (Nebraska) and northwestern Washington county (Kansas). Like the north project, water is purchased from the city of Fairbury and piped to customers through 125 miles of pipeline. The water tower is located in the village of Gilead. The south project operates on an annual budget of approximately \$135,000. Annual water sales have been about 20 million gallons.

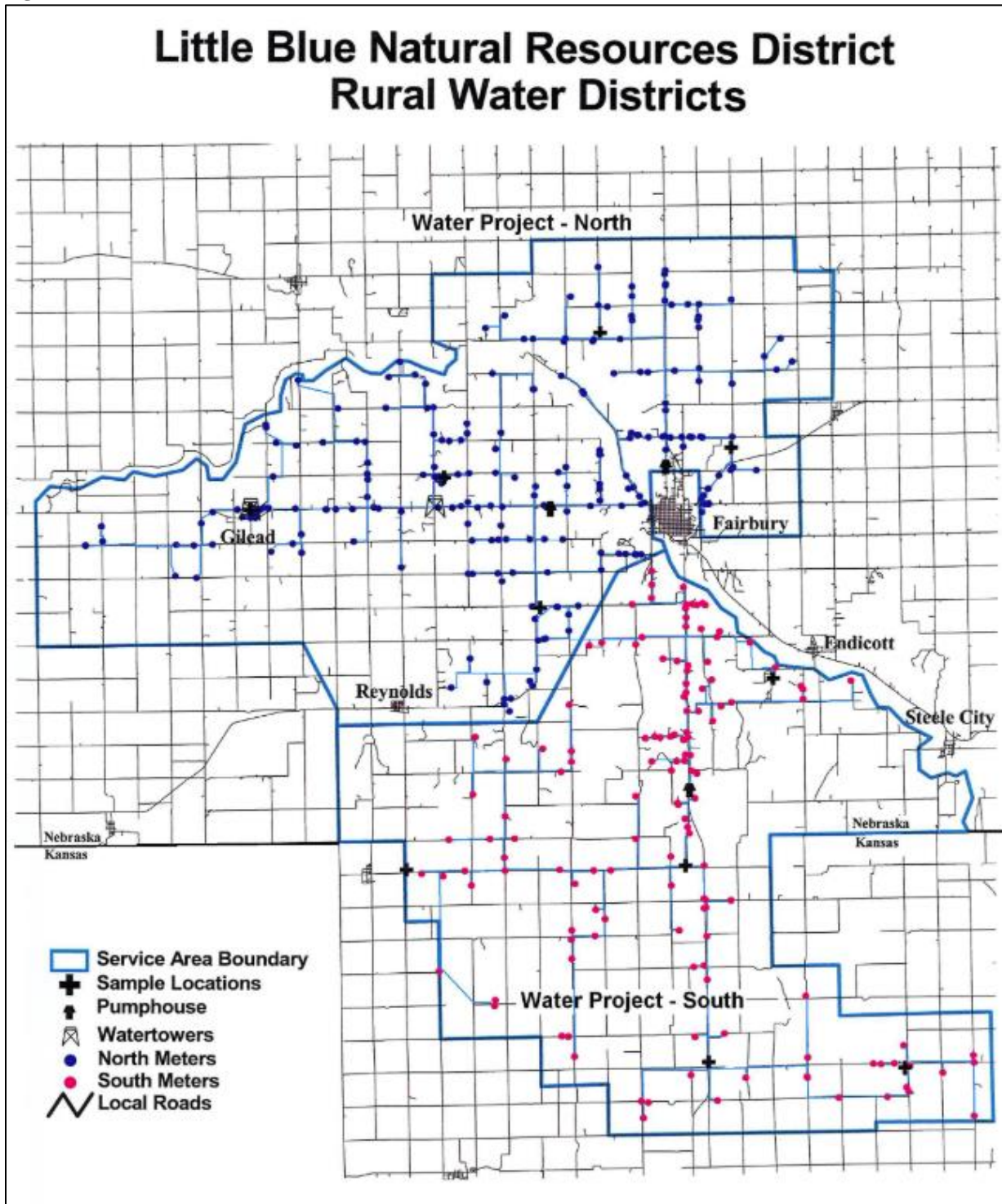
Lastly, on July 30th, 2015, the Little Blue NRD submitted a letter of intent to the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources to develop a voluntary Integrated Management Plan (IMP). The IMP serves as a road map for jointly managing hydrologically connected groundwater and surface water in the District for the short term and the long term. It further serves as a framework which enables the District and the Department to coordinate management actions and monitor groundwater and surface water in order to better protect water resources for future generations. After consulting with a Stakeholder Advisory Committee and several years of debate and information gathering, the IMP was approved by the Board of Directors in July of 2019, and went into effect on August 15th, 2019.

FLOODWATER CONTROL AND SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT

The LBNRD offers a cost-share program for private dams and road structures. Public benefits include flood control, sediment and erosion control, water conservation, increased groundwater recharge, beneficial use of impounded water, and fish and wildlife enhancements. The NRD has also been active in the development of flood control projects in designated watersheds listed below:

Watershed	County	# of Dams	Acre Feet of Flood Storage
32-mile Creek	Adams	7	9,713
Bowman Springs	Thayer	7	3,201
Buckley Creek	Jefferson	6	3,621
Big Blue Sandy Creek	Clay and Fillmore	2	13,596
Little Sandy Creek	Fillmore and Thayer	3	583
Liberty Creek	Webster	1	558

Figure 5: Little Blue Natural Resources District Rural Water Districts.



CONSERVATION EDUCATION

Our goal is sustainability and to ensure our resources are viable far into the future. That's the primary reason that youth education programs are a high priority for us. With the future generation's vision and spirit toward a cleaner environment our future resource management holds great promise.

The Little Blue NRD also strives to inform and educate the public on our values, and programs and practices for conservation. We are continually addressing new legislation, rules and regulations, and programs that affect everyone in the Little Blue NRD.

The following are the youth educational activities we provide:

- Outdoor Classrooms
- Water and Earth Jamboree
- 4-H and FFA Scholarships
- Teacher Workshop Scholarships
- Poster contest
- Land Judging
- Range Judging
- Envirothon
- Earth Festival
- Free Trees on Arbor Day and other selected date

The following are ways we communicate with the public:

- Field demonstrations
- Community Meetings
- Producer Trainings
- Tours
- Newsletters
- Radio
- Brochures
- County Fairs
- Club and Organization Presentations
- News Releases
- Trade Shows
- NeRAIN
- Conservation Awards
- Board Meetings

SOIL CONSERVATION

The Little Blue NRD provides technical and financial assistance to landowners looking to prevent erosion and promote soil health.

Available cost-share programs:

- Buffer Strip Program
- Tree Program

WILDLIFE HABITAT AND TREES

Trees are a part of our future. They provide wildlife habitat, reduce soil erosion, enhance water quality, save energy costs, help clear the air and add beauty to our homes and farmsteads.

Trees for farmsteads, forestry, field and livestock-area shelterbelts require plans. The NRD or your local NRCS Office will meet with you to discuss what you want to achieve by planting trees. A plan will be developed with the varieties of trees/shrubs needed, the number of species and the proper spacing for the desired purposes.

The trees are two-year old bare root seedlings and are approximately 12 to 18 inches tall. The seedlings are available in the spring with a variety of species offered, including cedars, pines, hardwoods and shrubs. For the best selection, placing orders in the fall and winter months are recommended.

LBNRD offers both “handplant” and “machine plant” trees. Handplant trees can be purchased in smaller quantities, but they must be planted by the purchaser. Tree-planting machine rental is available. For larger plantings, the NRD will machine plant the varieties. The District offers cost-share for windbreaks that are over 100 plants and are designed according to NRCS specifications.

Cost-share is also available for tree renovations. Producers can receive funding to remove the old windbreak if they are signed up for the practice before removal begins.

RECREATION

Several Little Blue NRD projects have been developed for multiple public purposes, such as flood control, recreation, trails, and other recreational uses. The LBNRD responds to urban problems and issues by developing and improving urban parks for recreation, drainage improvements, and streambank stabilization projects.

The LBNRD currently maintains six recreation and wildlife management areas and assists the village of Ayr to manage 1 additional recreation area. They are listed as follows:

1. Lone Star: Located in the northeast part of the district in section 12 of Township 5 North, Range 1 West in southeastern Fillmore county. There are 160 acres of public land and 75 acres of water. Amenities include 14 electrical camper pads, a boat ramp, 2 shelters, a fishing pier, and a playground.
2. Liberty Cove: Located in the central-western part of the district in section 35 of Township 4 North, Range 9 West in northeastern Webster county. There are 260 acres of public land and 36 acres of water. Amenities include 8 electrical camper pads, 2 shelters, a boat ramp, playground, and an arboretum.

3. Buckley Creek: Located in the southeastern part of the district in section 10 of Township 1 North, Range 1 East in southwestern Jefferson County. There are 98 acres of public land and 20 acres of water. Ammenities include 4 electrical camper pads, shelters, nine-hole sand green golf course, and playground.
4. Prairie Lake: Located in the western part of the district in section 31 of Township 7 North, Range 10 West in central Adams county. There are 160 acres of public land and 36 acres of water. Ammenities include an archery range, restrooms, and grills.
5. Bruning Dam: Located in the eastern part of the district in section 35 of Township 5 North, Range 2 West in southern Fillmore county. There are 240 acres of public land and 115 acres of water. Ammenities include fishing, trapping, restrooms, waterfowl and upland game hunting.
6. Roseland Lake: Located in the western part of the district in sections 20 and 29 of Township 7 North, Range 11 West in central Adams county. There are 118 acres of public land and 66 acres of water. Ammenities include fishing, hiking, waterfowl and upland game hunting.
7. Crystal Lake: Located in the western part of the district in sections 27 and 28 of Township 6 North, Range 10 West in central Adams county. There are 33 acres of public land and 5 acres of water. Ammenities include 20 electrical campsites, 50 additional non-designated campsite, 2 shelters, restrooms, and a playground. This recreation area is jointly managed with the village of Ayr.

FINANCE AND BUDGET

The Little Blue NRD's fiscal year begins July 1st of each year. The annual budget is funded primarily through property taxes and is supplemented with state and federal funds and reimbursements, customer charges for products, some property rents, rural water operational activity and other miscellaneous incomes.

Expenditures are mostly dependent on projects and construction—when larger projects or programs require budgeted funds, the Board has raised the levy adequately to cover needed expenditures. When project and program needs for the year are not as great, the levy has normally been reduced. The Board has not maintained a significant reserve or sinking fund for future efforts.

The Little Blue NRD has a legislative general fund levy authority of 1.98 cents per \$100 of property valuation in Fiscal Year 2019. The previous 10-year range has been between 1.8 cents and 3.0 cents with an average levy of 2.4 cents (see figures 6-10).

Figure 6: LBNRD valuation history.

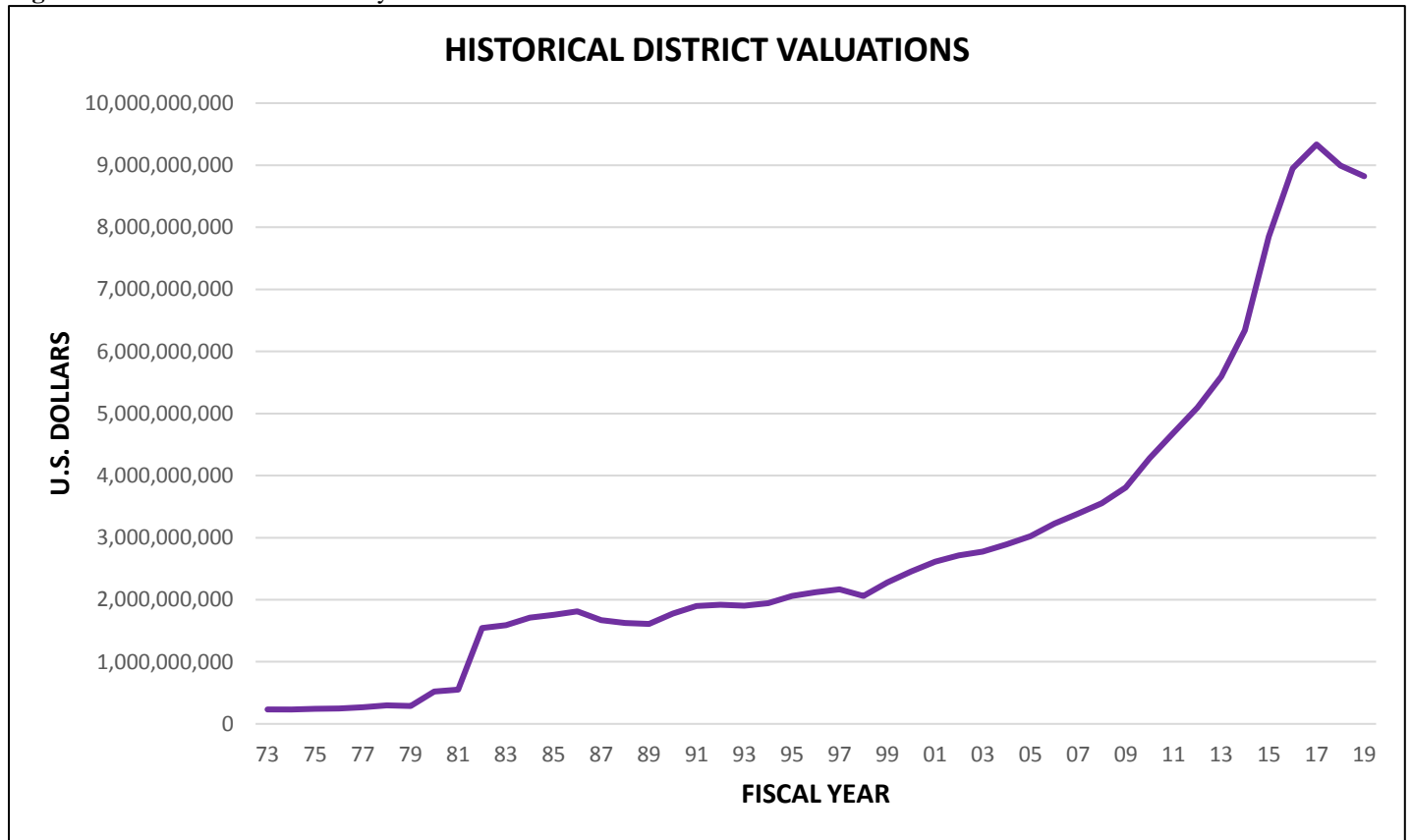


Figure 7: LBNRD levy history.

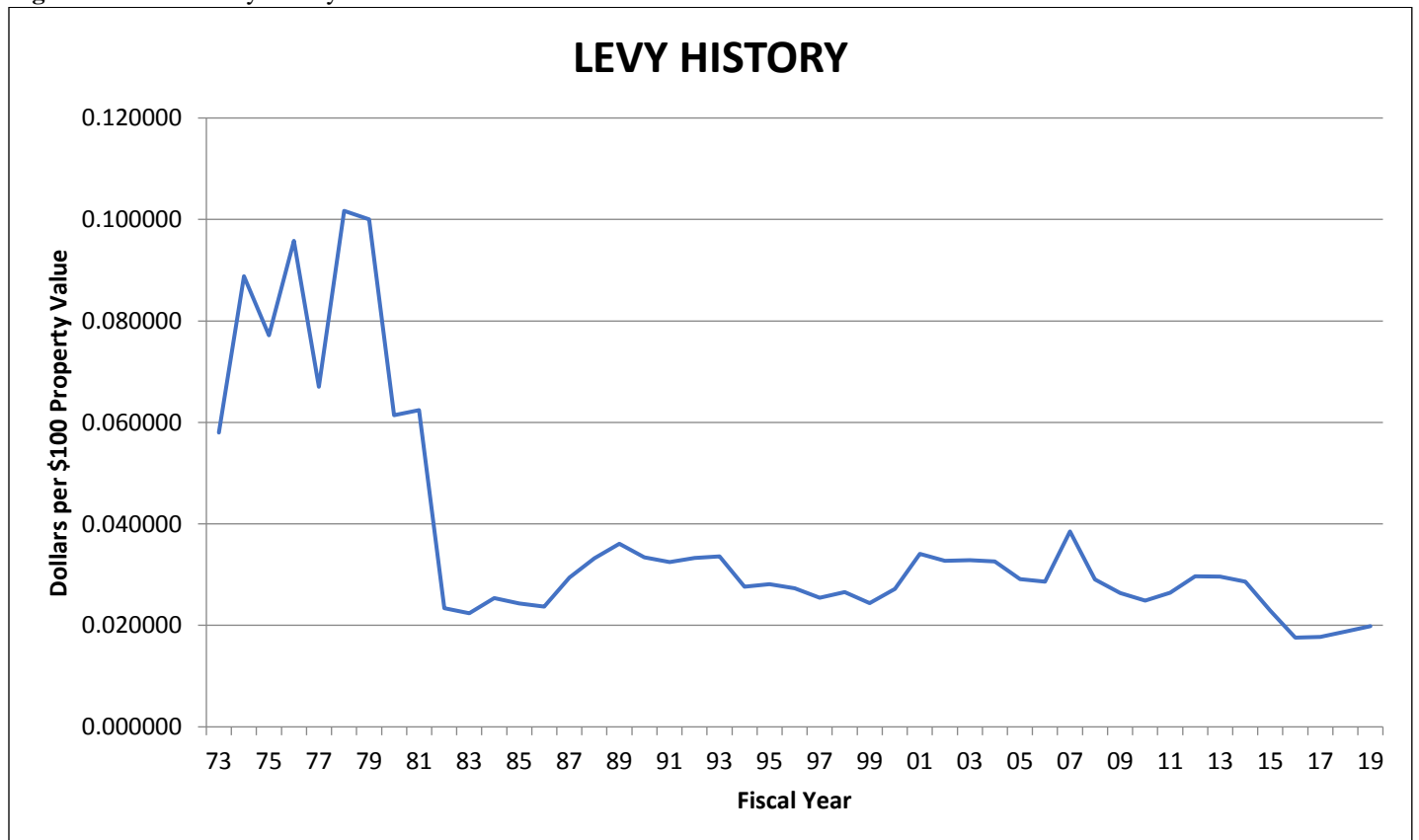


Figure 8: LBNRD budget history.

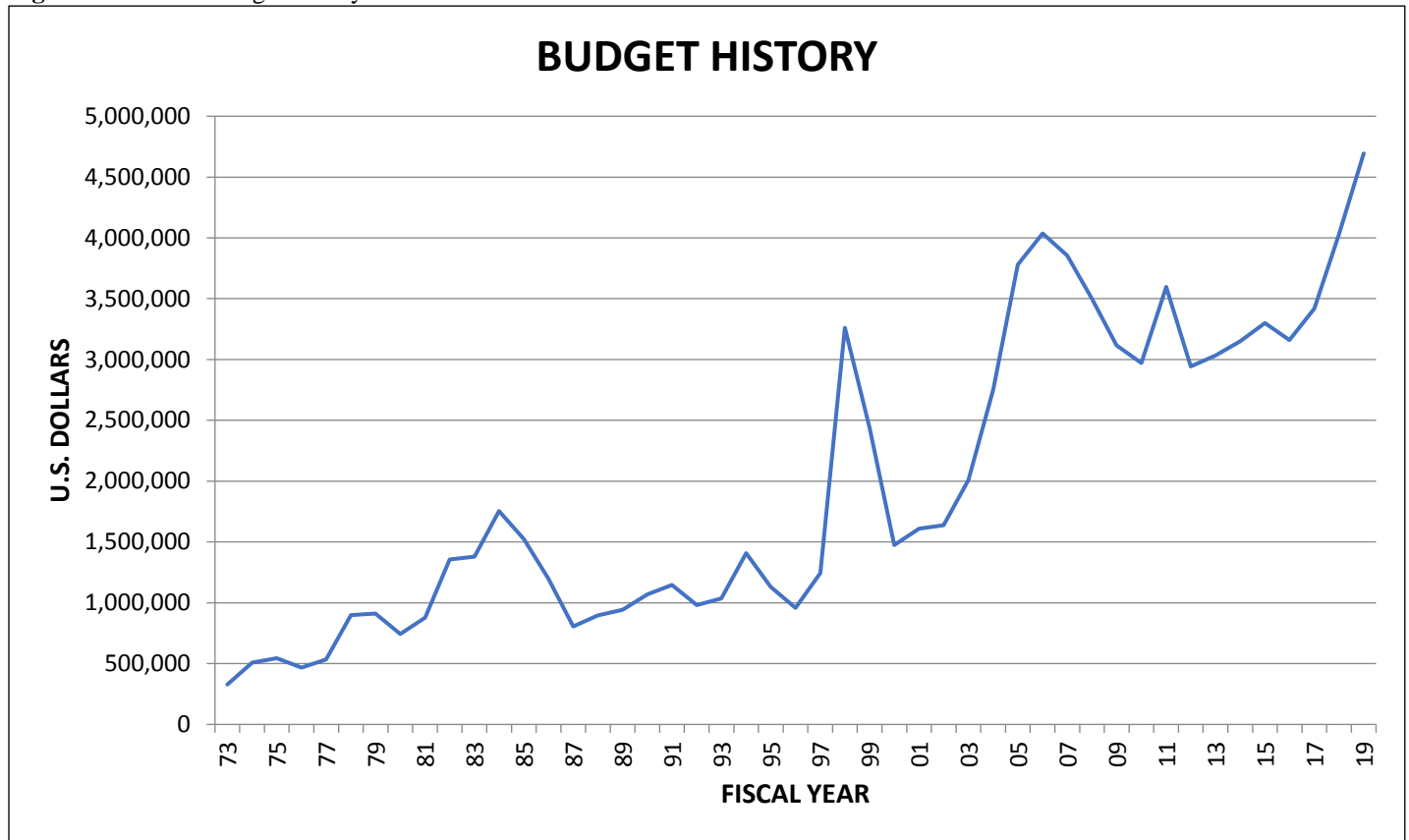


Figure 9: LBNRD tax requirement history.

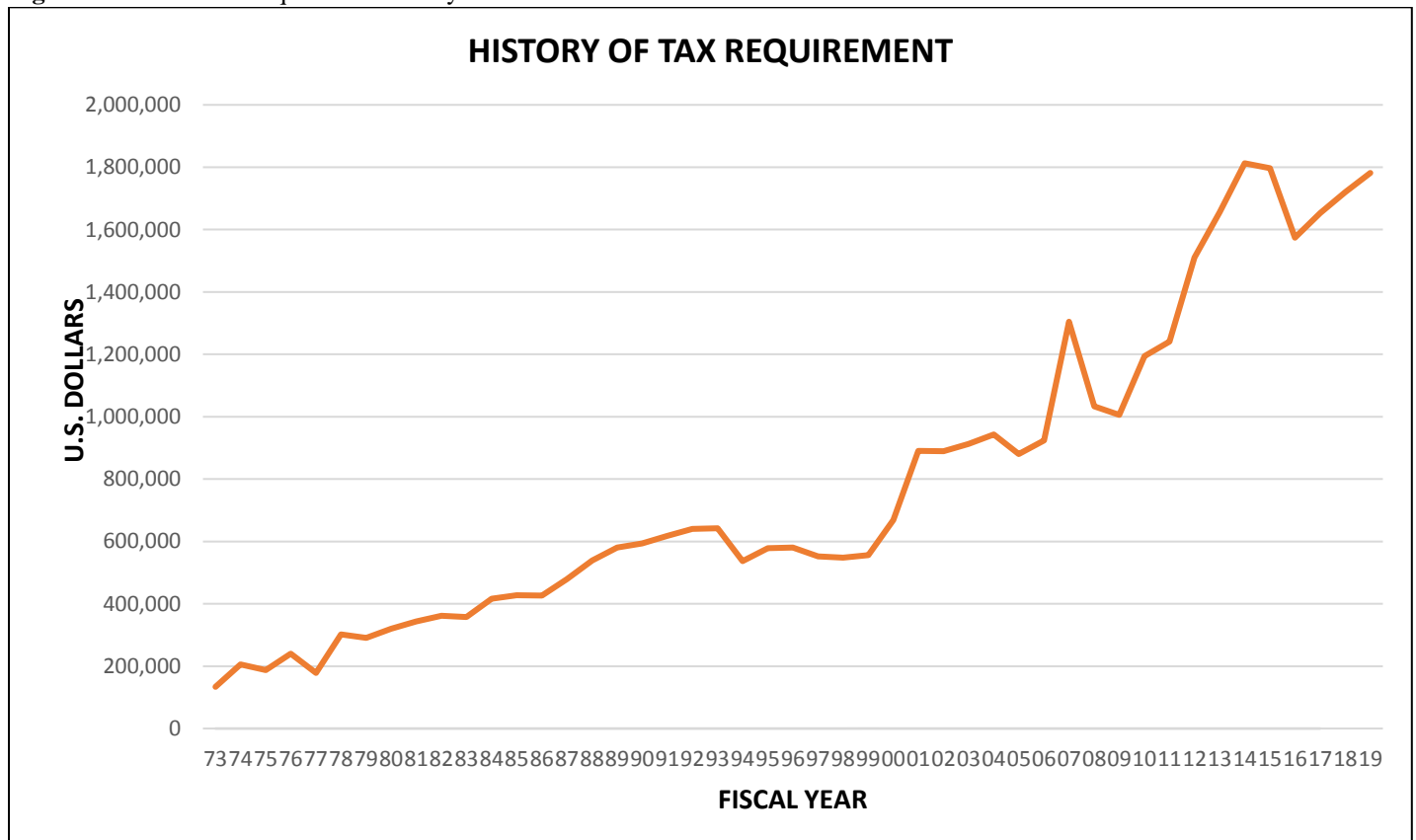


Figure 10: Fiscal year 2019 district valuation by county.

LAND AREA			VALUATION -- FY 2019	
County	Square Miles	Percent of District	Total (US Dollars)	Percent District Total
Adams	488	20.3%	\$3,099,136,216	35.1%
Clay	328	13.7%	\$1,100,057,816	12.5%
Fillmore	144	6.0%	\$534,863,552	6.1%
Jefferson	323	13.4%	\$1,031,354,119	11.7%
Nuckolls	398	16.6%	\$831,859,945	9.4%
Thayer	577	24.0%	\$1,906,580,363	21.6%
Webster	144	6.0%	\$316,909,596	3.6%
Totals	2402	100.0%	\$8,820,761,607	100.0%

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2020)

The board of directors is elected to protect and preserve a broad scope of natural resources within the district. The Little Blue Natural Resource District is governed by a 17-member board of directors, locally elected from 8 sub-districts and one At-Large position (See figures 11 and 12).

<u>Subdistrict</u>	<u>Name/Location</u>	<u>Delegate Positions</u>
1	Mason Hoffman, Roseland	Secretary
1	Robert Trausch, Juniata	
2	Warren Brakhahn, Hastings	
2	Charles Rainforth, Hastings	
3	Zach Hollister, Hastings	
3	Everett Kellogg, Hastings	
4	Kevin Kissinger, Glenvil	
4	Jesse VonSpreckelson, Clay Center	
5	Lyle Schroer, Lawrence	
5	Warren Taylor, Glenvil	
6	Lyle Heinrichs, Shickley	
6	Steve Shaw, Edgar	
7	Alan Wiedel, Hebron	Vice-Chairman
7	Joseph Hergott, Hebron	
8	Bill Glenn, Fairbury	
8	Jay Meyer, Daykin	Treasurer
At-Large	Marlin Kimle, Kenesaw	Chairman

Figure 11: Little Blue Natural Resources District Election Subdistricts, 2020

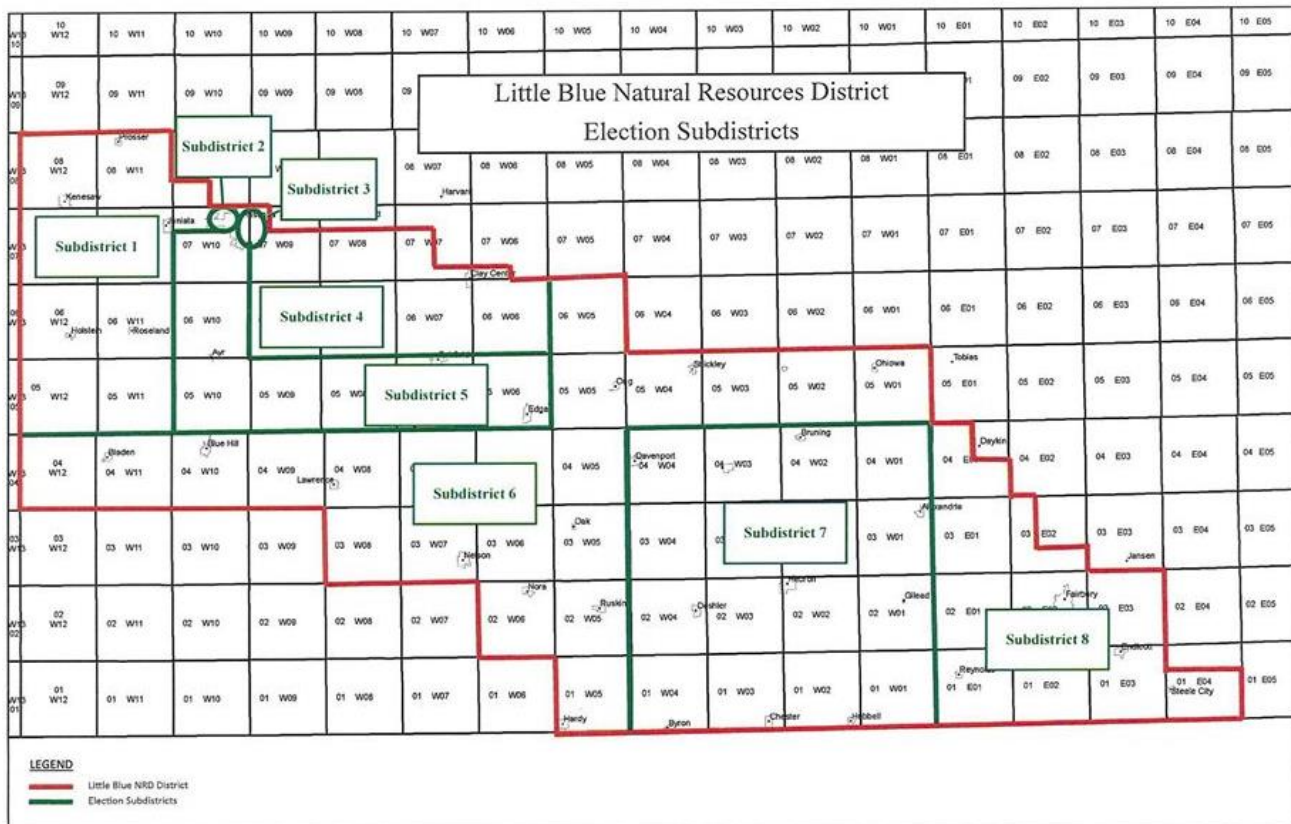
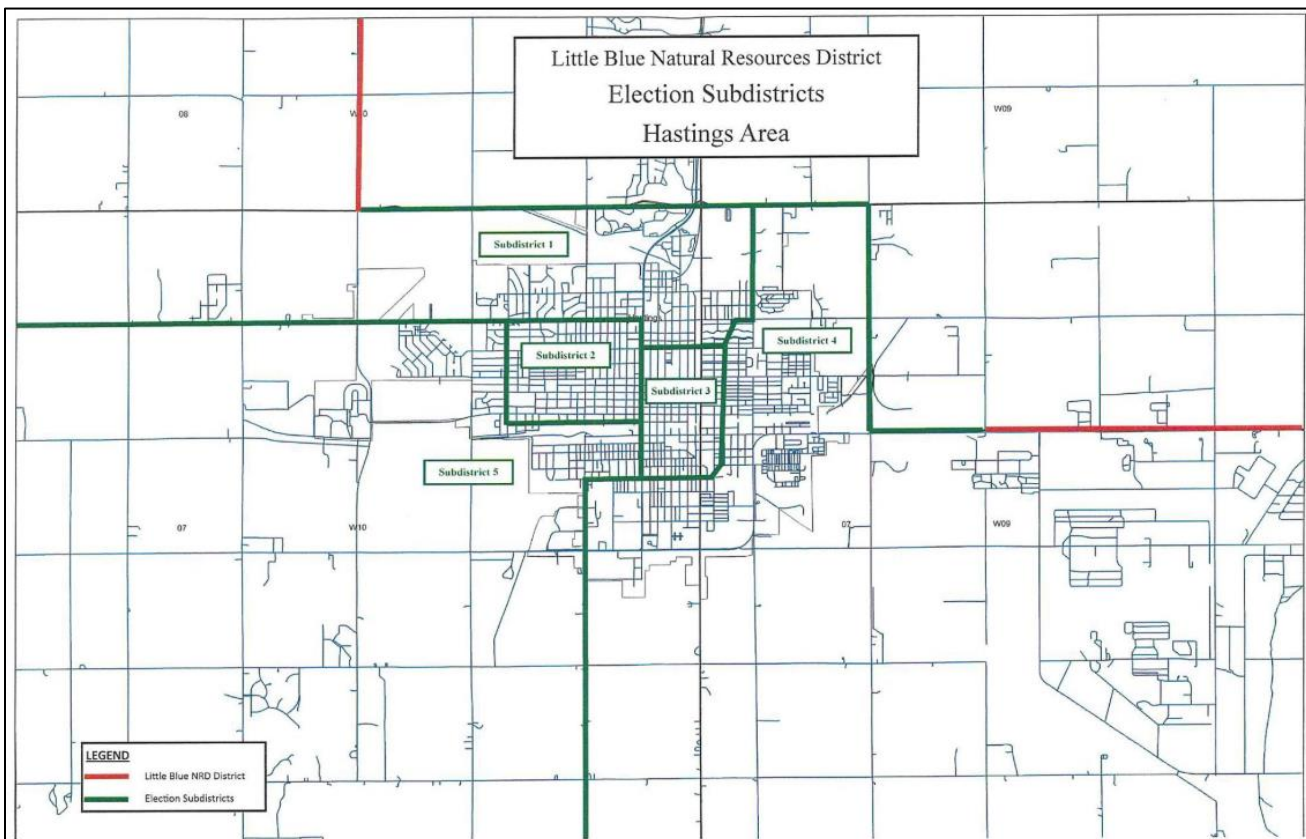


Figure 12: Little Blue Natural Resources District Election Subdistricts, Hastings Area, 2020



STAFF

MAIN OFFICE

TITLE	NAME
General Manager	Kyle Hauschild
Assistant Manager	Tyler Goeschel
Project Manager	Kevin Orvis
Administrative Secretary	Marie Herbek
Operations Supervisor	Kent Thompson
Resources Technician	Jed Bergen
Water Resources Technician	Jim Oltmans
Database Specialist	Alicia Epps
Natural Resources Coordinator	Erika Brinegar
District Secretary	Mandy Klipp
Media and Communications Specialist	Heidi McClintock

NRCS FIELD OFFICE

TITLE	NAME
Adams County NRCS Secretary	Robin Leichty
Clay County NRCS Secretary	Allyson Peshek
Jefferson County NRCS Secretary	Paula Schultz
Thayer County NRCS Secretary	<i>Vacant</i>
Nuckolls County NRCS Secretary	<i>Vacant</i>
Fillmore County NRCS Secretary	Sylvia Jividen
Webster County NRCS Secretary	Lynetta Snelling

NRD/NRCS FIELD TECHNICIAN

TITLE	NAME
NRCS Technician	Christine Zabokrtsky

RURAL WATER PROJECTS

TITLE	NAME
Rural Water Manager	Kevin Orvis
Rural Water Superintendent	Bruce Dux
Rural Water Clerk	Paula Schultz

LITTLE BLUE NRD BOARD & STAFF

OCTOBER 1, 2019



**LITTLE BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

AUDITOR

GENERAL MANAGER
Kyle Hauschild
General Administration
Budgeting Duties
Planning & Plan Formulation
Project Development
Legislative Activities
Personnel Management

LEGAL COUNSEL

ADMINISTRATION SECRETARY
Marie Herbek
Human Resources
Bookkeeping and Audit
Accounts payable
Water Projects Bookkeeper
Payroll & Tax Reporting
Computer Data

PROJECT MANAGER
Kevin Orvis
Rural Water Project Admin.
Admin. Of Groundwater Quantity Plan
Static Water Level Measurements
New Well Permits
Well Decommissioning Program
Groundwater Studies
Groundwater Field Activities

ASSISTANT MANAGER
Tyler Goeschel
Administration of Groundwater Quality Plan
Groundwater Quality Programs
Data Management & Tech. Systems
Project Development Support
Planning, Budget, & Finance
Computer Program Management
Livestock Waste Permits Review

RURAL WATER SUPERINTENDENT
Bruce Dux
Project Maintenance
Water Sampling/Compliance
New Hookups
Customer Assistance
New Construction Oversight

WATER PROJECT CLERK
Paula Schultz
Water Project Collections
Accounts/Reports
Correspondence

WATER RESOURCES TECHNICIAN
Jim Oltnans
Chemigation
Water Sampling
Ultrasonic Meter Testing
Operator BMP Promotion
New Meter Certification

NRCS SECRETARIES
Robin Leichty,
Paula Schultz, Allyson Peschek
NRCS Administrative Services
Secretarial, Computer, Databases
Filing and File Management
District Services Orders
District Cost-Share Apps & Forms
Office Activity Reports

DISTRICT SECRETARY
Mandy Klipp
Secretarial
Receptionist
Typing and Filing
Database Entry
Accounts Receivable

NRCS/NRD TECHNICIAN
Chris Zabokrtsky
All Technical Services
Conservation Practice Layout

OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR
Kent Thompson
Tree Planting Program
Wildlife Habitat Programs
Buffer Strip Programs
O & M of Projects
O & M of District Lands
Recreation and Trails
Building Maintenance
Equipment Maintenance
Vehicle Maintenance
District Supplies Inventory

DATABASE SPECIALIST
Alicia Epps
Database Development
Database Maintenance
Database Troubleshooting

MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST
Heidi McClintock
Public Communications
Website Administration
Social Media
District Information Programs
Educational Activities
Scholarships & Awards
Fairs, Home Shows, Displays
NeRAIN Coordinator

RESOURCES TECHNICIAN
Jed Bergen
Chemigation Inspections
Water Sampling
Nitrate & Pesticide Analysis
Meter Maintenance
Groundwater Dept. Inventory
Ultrasonic Meter Testing

**WATERSHED/DATABASE
COORDINATOR**
Erika Brinegar
Watershed Plan Implementation
Groundwater Recharge Projects
Cost-Share Programs
Wellhead Protection Activities

PART-TIME WORKERS
Janitorial Services
Operations and Maintenance
Tree Planters
Recreation Area Maintenance

**Protecting lives,
Protecting property,
Protecting our future.**

**Little Blue Natural Resources District
P.O. Box 100
Davenport, NE. 68335
402-364-2145**