

October 2018

Out of the Blue NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE

SUMMARY RULES	Pg 2
WATER QUALITY	Pg 3
LIME TALK	Pg 3
POLLUTION	Pg 4
TIRE RECYCLING	Pg 4
NRD IN THE FIELD	Pg 4
BUDGET	Pg 5
DIR. NOMINEES	Pg 6-9
EARTH JAMBOREE	Pg 10
UPCOMING EVENTS	Pg 10
ONNEN HONORED	Pg 11
ORVIS ANNIVERSARY	Pg 11
NEW FACES	Pg 11
CONTACTS	Pg 12

DEADLINES FAST APPROACHING!

With the combines running full bore and the leaves turning their brilliant, fall colors; let these small changes serve as reminders that your certified irrigated acres and pumpage reports are due very soon.

PUMPAGE REPORTS - DECEMBER 31, 2018

According to the Groundwater Management Rules & Regulations adopted by the Little Blue NRD Board of Directors, "All agricultural water users, including recreational, fish & wildlife users, shall report to the District the groundwater withdrawal from each high-capacity water well he or she controlled for the calendar year on or before December 31, of each year."

Pumpage reports were mailed from the Davenport office at the beginning of September to all operators within the district. These reports should look familiar to most. A noticeable change to the report this year is the lack of need to fill in the type of crop grown. The acres associated with each flow meter from the prior year should already be available for reference. All operators should need to do is check for information accuracy on the data provided, fill in the acres irrigated in 2018 and then enter the flow meter's end reading. Then simply send the report back into the Little Blue NRD.

CERTIFIED IRRIGATED ACRE REPORTS - JANUARY 1, 2019

New Groundwater Rules & Regulations adopted by the Board of Directors become effective on September 15th and state the following:

"Chapter 2.9.5 - Failure to certify existing irrigated acres by January 1, 2019 will preclude a groundwater user from receiving an allocation at such time as allocation is mandated."

Contact us if you are uncertain whether your irrigated acres have been completed, we'd be glad to confirm their completion! Remember they must be signed by the landowner or other legal entity to be considered complete. Just sending in your FSA Form 578s does not mean you have completed your report. To avoid long wait times, the district asks that you do not wait until December to submit these reports to us. Appointments are available for those seeking assistance.

If you have not received either of these reports & own or operate irrigated ground within the Little Blue NRD - contact us immediately!

2018 & 2019 OPERATOR TRAINING

DEC 6 - FAIRBURY
DEC 13 - DESHLER
DEC 20 - HASTINGS
JAN 10 - EDGAR
JAN 17 - SHICKLEY

SUMMARY OF NEW RULES & REGS

The Little Blue NRD Board adopted new rules on August 14, 2018 which make significant changes to groundwater triggers, procedures for allocations of groundwater, future development limitations and water quality program requirements. The following is a summary of the new rules.

PERMITS

- All well permits will be scored using the tools developed with the Hydro-Geologic Study to determine the potential for well capacity, and for potential impacts to soils by erosion.

- Conditions may be applied to the well permit based on the score received in the process.

Regulations in Marginal Aquifers ("Very High-Risk Areas" – (Maps can be found on our website)

- No more than one well may be installed per 80 acres in the "Very High-Risk" areas.

- Applicants for proposed wells in High-Risk and Very High-Risk Areas must apply for a pre-permit to have the aquifer scored.

- If the score falls below 100 points, the rules below apply.

- Operators with well sites receiving a score of 100 points or less must prove that the aquifer can develop and maintain a productive well. The proposed well must be installed and test pumped for a 24-hour period between August 1 and September 30 and must have a continuous metered output of at least 400 gpm throughout the 24-hour test pump period, verified by the NRD staff.

- If the well fails to meet the test, it must be decommissioned or may be registered only as a domestic or livestock well and equipped with a pump that will not pump over 50 gpm.

STAY ON WELL DRILLING

- A stay on new high-capacity water wells and the expansion of irrigated acres will occur immediately upon the announcement that the allocation trigger is met the first year.

- Expansion of irrigated acres may be permitted if converting to a more efficient system at the Board's discretion; however, no additional allocation would be granted for such acres.

- A stay was placed on lands in NW Adams County which contribute to stream depletions of the Platte River.

ALLOCATIONS

- The new groundwater quantity trigger is one foot (1') below 2016 spring water level. (*Current water levels are .32 foot from that trigger!*)

- Water levels must remain below the allocation trigger level for two consecutive years before the allocation is triggered. However, the allocation would occur immediately that year.

- Two natural water quantity hydrologic units (sub-areas) make up the district. A map can be found on our website. Monitoring data and allocation triggers are exclusively applied based on the boundary of these two areas.

- The initial allocation for agricultural producers would be twelve inches (12") per acre per year for a five-year allocation period, or sixty inches (60"); with a one-time 5" account balance granted per certified acre in the first allocation period. That totals 65" in all per acre for the 5-year period.

- Up to eight inches (8") of unused allocation would be allowed to be carried over into the next allocation period.

- A combining of allocations could only occur if tracts are under the same ownership and management, lie adjacent to each other and are served by an interconnected irrigation system

- Allocations would be suspended when water levels rise to three feet (3') above the allocation trigger level and are above that level at the end of the allocation period.

ENFORCEMENT OF IRRIGATION RUNOFF REGULATIONS

Complaints of improper irrigation runoff may be filed by any person or NRD representative for activities which exhibit the waste of groundwater, or the accumulation of water on lands of another person who causes visible damage or nuisance. The NRD will conduct inspections of alleged violations and work toward the remedy of the violations or file a cease and desist order with the courts.

For a complete list of Groundwater Rules & Regulations, please visit our website at <http://littlebluenrd.org/rules-regulations/>.

WATER QUALITY RULE CHANGES

- Pre-plant anhydrous ammonia may not be applied before November 1st.
- Pre-plant liquid and dry forms of nitrogen fertilizer may not be used before March 1st without obtaining a permit from the NRD, and reporting required information to the District.
- No fall nitrogen fertilization may be applied to sand, sandy loam, and loamy sand soil types before March 1st.
- Soil samples of 0" to 8" and 8" to 24" are required district-wide for every 80 acres of land where corn, sorghum or forage sorghum will be planted in the subsequent crop year. Soil sampling is required each year, and sample records should be kept.
- When 60% of the District's monitoring wells in an area indicate that groundwater nitrate levels exceed 7 ppm, the District will establish a Level II water quality subarea which requires the following actions:
 - o Initial operator reports to determine the extent of farm operations and management;
 - o Operators must establish a Demonstration Field and implement the following activities for that field:
 - o One deep and one shallow composite soil residual nitrate test is required for each 40 acres increment of Demonstration Field size;
 - o Operators are required to adhere to a licensed laboratory's fertilizer recommendations based on the soils test.
 - o Irrigation scheduling is required on the Demonstration Field.
 - o Year-end reporting of all Demonstration Field farm/fertilizer activities provided to the NRD;
- When 60% of the District's monitored wells in an area indicate that groundwater nitrate levels exceed 10.0 ppm, the following actions are required:
 - o All measures above;
 - o Fall applications of commercial nitrogen fertilizer are prohibited before March 1st unless an inhibitor is used;
 - o Soil samples are required in all fields.
 - o All available nitrogen credits calculated in soil fertility recommendations and required adherence to laboratory fertilizer recommendations on all fields.
 - o Irrigation scheduling required on all irrigated fields.
 - o Operators are required to maintain records of all crop and field data. The NRD will select operators at random to submit the required annual reports.

LIME TALK | Donnie Engelhardt

When thinking about lime applications for the upcoming year, what considerations do you take when making those decisions?

Donnie Engelhardt, Assistant Manager with the Little Blue NRD, would like to offer you a few helpful tips to help guide your lime application process.

- Small particle size (around 500 mesh) will show faster results than the larger sized lime particles.
- It's essential to understand the nutrient makeup of your lime. Obtaining an analysis will help you determine if the lime is the right selection for your operation.
- The two most critical components to test for in your lime are Magnesium and heavy metals. Calcitic Lime is high in Calcium and low in Magnesium. Dolomite Lime is high in Magnesium and Calcium. Understanding which limes to apply to your fields that best meet your needs is crucial.
- Often, we think because our PH is high, we do not need lime. I would encourage you to not only look at PH as a lime indication but to look to meet a minimum of 68% Calcium on your base saturation. Just because your PH is high, there still can be a need for calcium.

If you'd like to learn more about lime and the way it can affect your soil and bottom line, please contact Donnie Engelhardt, dengelhardt@littlebluenrd.org

THE FEDERALLY MANDATED MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL FOR NITRATES IN MUNICIPAL WATER SUPPLIES IS 10 PPM. THE AVERAGE NITRATE READING WITHIN WATER QUALITY SUBAREAS THROUGHOUT THE LITTLE BLUE NRD IS 12.785 PPM. FOR THESE REASONS, THE BOARD HAS ISSUED NEW RULES TO EFFECTIVELY REDUCE THE NITRATE LEVELS IN OUR AQUIFERS AND DRINKING WATER.

POLLUTION | Electronic Recycling

TRAILBLAZERS RC & D

The Trailblazers Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) located in Red Cloud spearheaded the electronic waste collection efforts through grants secured with the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality. Little Blue NRD recycled 90,834 pounds that could have otherwise been thrown into landfills!

According to a report conducted by the Consumer Electronics Association in 2013, the average American household uses about 28 electronic products such as personal computers, mobile phones, TVs and electronic readers (e-readers). The EPA reports that in 2015, Americans generated 3.09 million tons of obsolete electronic products. Sadly only 12.5% of "e-waste" is recycled. Those "e-waste" products left in the landfills pose a severe threat to our environment as they often contain hazardous materials such as mercury, which can cause adverse reactions to the environment. Old television sets, as well as CRT (cathode ray tube) monitors, contain approximately 4 to 8 pounds of lead, a neurotoxin. Improper disposal means these toxic substances can leach into the ground.

Fortunately for the Little Blue NRD, we were able to prevent 45 tons of e-waste from hitting area landfills through the grant put together by the Trailblazers RC&D and submitted to the Nebraska DEQ. These collection events are scheduled every other year within the Little Blue & Lower Republican Natural Resources Districts.

Several agencies worked together to make this particular effort a success:

- Little Blue NRD
- Lower Republican NRD
- Trailblazers RC&D
- Nebraska DEQ
- Harlan County Commissioners
- Franklin County Supervisors
- Webster County Commissioners
- Nuckolls County Commissioners
- Clay County Supervisors
- Fillmore County Supervisors
- Thayer County Commissioners
- Various FFA chapters &
- Multiple volunteers!

The Little Blue NRD would like to congratulate all those involved in having such a successful event!

TIRE RECYCLING | **OCTOBER 26**

Hebron - 8 am to 11 am

Geneva - 8 am to noon

Clay Center - 8 am to noon

NRD IN THE FIELD | **Kevin Orvis**

Harvest brings hustle and bustle to the fields - not only for farmers, but for NRD staff as well!

RURAL WATER PROJECTS

Little Blue NRD employees might be spotted frequently stopping around the Fairbury area in the next couple weeks. Year-end readings are being gathered and compared to previous readings submitted by customers along the Rural Water Projects routes. While employees are out at the meters, they are observing for any leaks or repairs needing to be made to ensure no water is being lost along the route. Repairs will be made as required.

FALL STATIC WATER LEVELS

Fall static water levels are currently being taken. NRD employees will measure the depth of the observation wells within the district. After all observation well data has been obtained, staff will then gather the data from the loggers located in the dedicated wells. Kevin Orvis, project manager for the LBNRD, will then compile the data for public inspection. These levels should give the Board as well as district residents a good idea of what spring levels will read. The Board based its trigger levels on spring static water levels, so we will be keeping a close eye on these readings. As these fall static water levels become available, we will post them on our website.

FLOW METER MAINTENANCE

The LBNRD implemented a maintenance program for irrigation flow meters in 2016. There are four service areas that the NRD rotates through once every four years. This year will be the far western part of the district from Hastings southward. Tri-City Meters of Alda, Nebraska was once again awarded the contract for this fall's meter maintenance program. Each flow meter will be pulled from the pipe, have the bearing housing re-greased, and then reinstalled with a new gasket and silicone caulking. This work will be completed from September to December 2018.

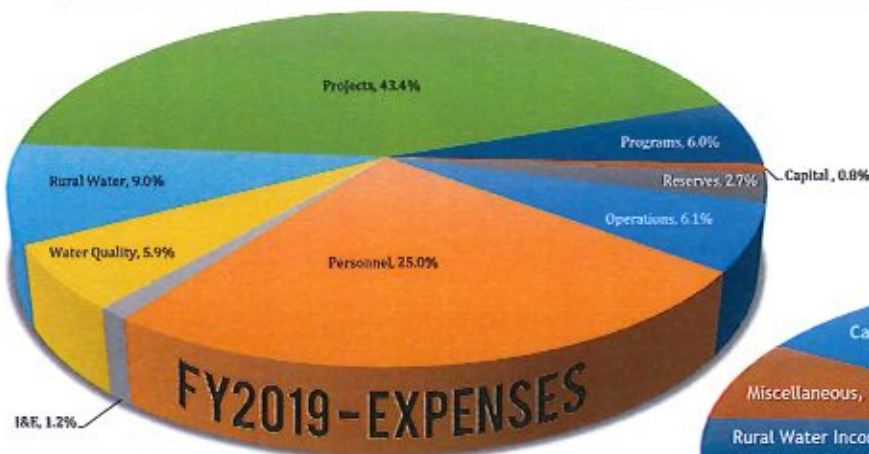
FISCAL YEAR 2019 BUDGET APPROVED | Board of Directors

Board approves \$4.6M budget for Fiscal Year 2019.

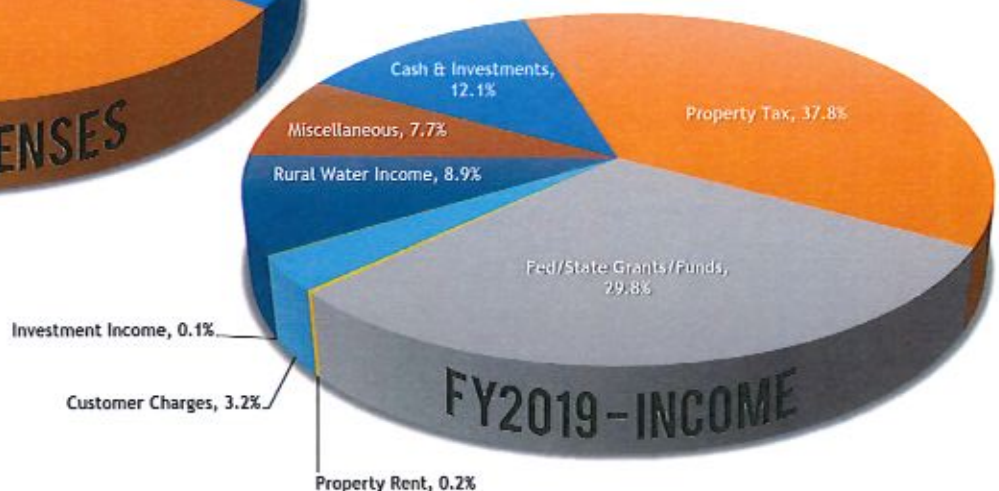
The Little Blue NRD Board approved the FY 2019 budget at their August 14th meeting. The budget of \$4,567,683 in expenditures includes the two self-supporting rural water districts, the Little Blue Public Water Projects North and South, with expenditure budgets of \$221,702 and \$199,257 respectively. Key projects included in the budget are the Sand Creek Groundwater Recharge Project near Holstein, Oxbow Reconnection Projects for groundwater recharge near Davenport and Ayr, the rehabilitation of the Crystal Lake Recreation Lake near Ayr and new trails in Hebron. Several farm dams are in line for construction in FY 2019, as well as land treatment throughout the district and focused support for conservation work under the Big Sandy Creek Water Quality Initiative. The District is also providing financial support for community water system studies and improvements in Hastings, Fairbury, and Hebron. The District continues to assist with flow meter inspections and repairs, well decommissioning of old, hazardous water wells, and water monitoring activities. One new activity for which grants are being sought from the Nebraska Environmental Trust and the State of Nebraska is a deep vadose soil sampling program to understand better the movement of soil nitrates which contribute to groundwater contamination.

Little Blue NRD also continues to maintain existing watershed dams and dikes, public lands and recreation areas which protect property and opportunities to enjoy the good life of Nebraska. The District uses funding provided through the Nebraska Department of Agriculture to support surface water quality and wildlife habitat through a buffer strip program.

Based on the approved general budget, the total tax requested is \$1,781,869 making the mill levy \$0.019384 per \$100 of valuation. This compares to the levy for the fiscal year 2018 of \$0.018516 per \$100 of valuation. A homeowner with a \$200,000 valuation would pay \$38.77 in taxes to support the conservation projects, programs, and operations of the Little Blue NRD. The District's maximum general property tax levy is \$0.045 per \$100 of valuation; leaving Little Blue NRD well under this cap.



For more information about the approved budget, visit our website!



STAY CONNECTED!

FIND US



Board of Director Nominees

NOMINEES BY SUBDISTRICT

Subdistrict 1

Randy Uhrmacher - Hastings
Robert Trausch - Hastings

Subdistrict 2

Warren F Brakhahn -
Hastings

Subdistrict 3

Zachary Hollister - Hastings

Subdistrict 4

Kevin Kissinger - Glenvil
John Kluver - Fairfield

Subdistrict 5

Matthew Spencer - Blue Hill
Warren Taylor - Glenvil

Subdistrict 6

Lyle Heinrichs - Shickley
Timothy L. Else - Belvidere

Subdistrict 7

Joe Hergott - Hebron
Macaulay Mumm -
Alexandria

Subdistrict 8

Bill Glenn - Fairbury

At Large

Marlin Kimle - Kenesaw
Kerwin Elting - Davenport

Be sure to vote on
November 6th!

Little Blue Natural Resources District has contacted all candidates who are running for office in the 2018 election season. All candidates received the same questions. The following is merely a compilation of their answers. If there is a particular question you would like to ask a candidate, we urge you to contact the candidate directly.

The Little Blue NRD's programs and policies are directed by a seventeen-member, locally elected, Board of Directors. The public selects these directors for a four-year term of office. Elections are held on even-numbered years with the terms of office staggered so one-half of the Board Members are elected at one time.

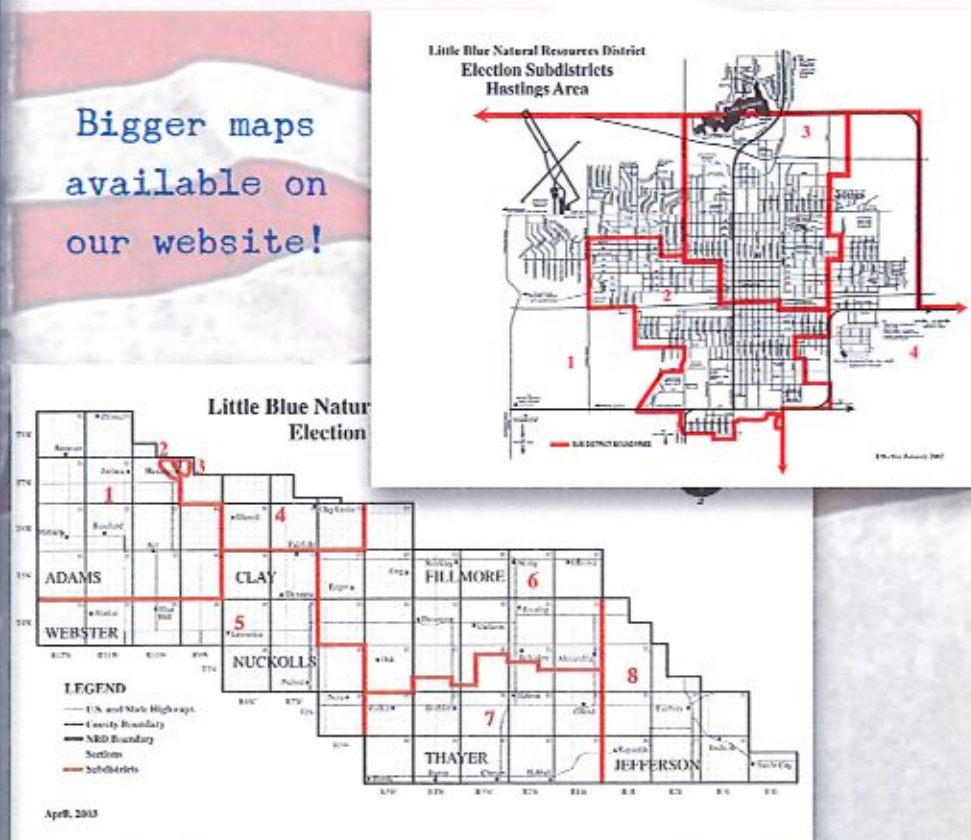
The Board's vision is to be recognized as a leader in natural resources policy and management based on sound science with a mission to provide leadership in the promotion and enactment of cost-effective programs and

projects that preserve and protect natural resources for all future uses.

Board members carry a tremendous responsibility on their shoulders. Some of their duties are to set policies and priorities for the district, provide guidance for the manager and manage employees, serve as representatives of both rural and urban interests, and to work to serve for the common good instead of personal gain.

The Board meets monthly on the second Tuesday of the month at the NRD headquarters in Davenport, Nebraska.

Bigger maps
available on
our website!



Board of Director Nominees

DISTRICT 1

RANDY UHRMACHER - HASTINGS

Randy is a life-long Hastings native and has been a farmer his whole life. He has served on the NeCGA for 12 years, two of which he served as chairman, and on his church council for three years.

Randy wishes to serve on the Little Blue NRD Board of Directors so he can "help assure the quality and quantity of our water and to make sure future generations continue having the same opportunities as we do with irrigation and livestock production." He believes the most critical conservation issue for the district is to have an adequate supply of clean water for domestic use.

Randy has served on the LBNRD board since 2011 and currently serves as the Board Chairman and has held that position since 2016. Randy also has served on the Water Resources & Legislative committees, both for five years.

ROBERT TRAUSCH - JUNIATA

Robert was born and raised in the Hastings area and is currently a retired farmer after 52 years. After graduating from St. Cecilia, he received a B.S. in business at UNL and then served as a Photo Interpreter in the Nebraska Air National Guard (a photo reconnaissance wing of the U.S. Air Force. He

is a member of the Knights of Columbus and his church council for many years.

Robert's interest in serving on the Little Blue NRD Board of Directors would be "to help determine how to fairly allocate both our surface and underground water resources for both domestic use and irrigation throughout our NRD, taking into consideration the differences in annual rainfall, and difference in depth and recharge (if any) of the aquifer."

He believes that if he were elected, he would do his best to present the interests of all the patrons within the LBNRD.

DISTRICT 2

WARREN F BRAKHANN - HASTINGS

Warren did not submit a survey back to the Little Blue NRD. Warren has served on the Little Blue Board of Directors for the last ten years, since 2009. Warren has served on the Executive committee as Treasurer for three years. He has also served the Water Resources & Research & Education committees for six years. He also has served on the Projects & Planning for four years and the Legislative committee for three years.

DISTRICT 3

ZACHARY HOLLISTER - HASTINGS

Zach Hollister is a 4th generation farmer who was born and raised in the Hastings area. Zach possesses an Associated Degree in Agribusiness and since his graduation has been a full-time irrigated farmer. He has served on the Agricultural Board at Central Community College in Hastings.

Zach believes that by serving on the Little Blue NRD Board of Directors, he could help protect the ground and resources that Nebraska has to offer that make his job [farming] possible. He believes that these resources make Nebraska unique and profitable.

Zach feels that with his personal farming experience along with four generations of family experience, he can face changes and evolve with the farming industry. He thinks that this adaptability would make him a valuable asset to the board.

DISTRICT 4

KEVIN KISSINGER - GLENVIL

Kevin Kissinger did not submit a response to the questionnaire provided. Kevin currently has served on the Board of Directors

(continued onto page 8)

Board of Director Nominees

since 2015. He also has served on the Water Resources committee for four years and the Research & Education committee for three years.

JOHN KLUVER - FAIRFIELD

John Kluver was born in Hastings and currently lives in the Fairfield area where is farms. John has served on the Fairfield N/S Coop Board for eight years and the Rural Fire District board. He is a member of the American Legion and serves as their Adjutant and is also part of the Fairfield Community Club.

DISTRICT 5

MATTHEW SPENCER - BLUE HILL

Matt Spencer is originally from Sargent, Nebraska but moved to Blue Hill several years ago. He has worked for Hornady Manufacturing Company for thirteen years and oversees corporate regulatory compliance. Matt has a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Studies from Chadron State College with a Chemistry minor. Matt currently serves on the Little Blue Board of Directors, since 2015. He sits on the Water Resources, Research & Education and Projects & Planning committees.

Matt is interested in continuing

his service to the Little Blue Board of Directors because "I believe that it's important to utilize our resources at a sustainable rate. It's also important to maintain an available rural economy. The board is tasked with trying to balance these concerns, and I want to contribute to the process. I am not beholden to interests on either side of the issue, and I think that places me in a position to make impartial decisions."

WARREN TAYLOR - GLENVIL

Warren Taylor was raised north of Naponee, Nebraska but currently resides near Glenvil. He has been an owner/operator of his farm for the last twenty years. Warren has previously served on the Clay County 4-H Council for five years and served as the Treasurer for St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Glenvil for six years.

Warren is interested in serving on the board to bring new ideas. He believes that "no-till and cover crops should be used more to protect our water resources." He states the most important conservation issue for the Little Blue NRD is "the more efficient water use district-wide."

He also states, "Water management now and in the future will on the minds of everyone in the district."

DISTRICT 6

LYLE HEINRICHS - SHICKLEY

Lyle Heinrichs did not submit a survey back to the Little Blue NRD. Lyle has served on the Board of Directors for 24 years, since 1995. He has served on numerous committees including ten years on the Water Resources committee, two years on the Projects & Planning Committee, twelve years on the Legislative committee. He has also served for fourteen years as the Board Representative to the Nebraska Association of Resource Districts.

TIMOTHY ELSE - BELVIDERE

Tim Else is a Thayer County native and has served on the Little Blue Board of Directors during a vacant seat in 2016. He has owned and operated his diversified family farming operation for the last 35 years. Tim possesses a Bachelor's of Science degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Nebraska.

When asked why Tim is interested in serving on the board, he wrote, "I am very concerned about the long-term viability of our aquifer, not only in quantity but also quality, and want to make sure board policies in the future address those concerns."

DISTRICT 7

JOE G. HERGOTT - HEBRON

Joseph G. Hergott has been a life-long Thayer County resident. Joe worked as a salesman for NC+ Hybrids for 46 years but currently is retired. He serves as the Adjuvant for the American Legion and has served on that board for over 40 years. He also has served on the Little Blue NRD board for 38 years and has served as the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission for twenty years.

Joe would like to continue to serve on the board so he could ensure "the sustainability of our resources." Joe states, "I have a lot of experience with conservation due to mostly dryland farming. I also have free time to help with NRD duties since I am retired."

MACAULAY MUMM - ALEXANDRIA

Macaulay Mumm also did not submit a survey to the Little Blue NRD. Macaulay is a rural resident of Hebron. He farms with his father near Alexandria.

DISTRICT 8

BILL GLENN - FAIRBURY

Bill Glenn resides on a farm in Jefferson County and currently is an irrigated and dryland farmer. Bill graduated from Kansas State University with a Bachelor's of Science in Agronomy. Previous employment included a Soil Scientist with the USDA (1966-1980) and self-employed soil consultant (1980-1988).

Bill has been serving since 2000 on the Jefferson County Planning & Zoning commission and the Alexandria Fire Protection District. He was previously on the Teton County Conservation District in Wyoming (1992-1998).

Bill states, "People have diverse interests, and any resources issue can be important at the moment. In the big picture, water quantity and quality are widely important. Soil conservation on inadequately protected highly erodible land is also important."

AT LARGE

MARLIN KIMLE - KENESAW

Marlin Kimle is an Adams County native, born & raised in the Kenesaw area. He currently works for Dutton Lainson in their shipping and receiving department, but continues his love of farming on the side. Marlin's thirty years of farm experience have taught him one thing for certain: "Once a farmer, always a farmer."

Marlin has served on the Kenesaw School board since 2013 and as their vice-president since 2016, has served as the chairman of the Kenesaw Rural Fire since 2011, has been the treasurer of the Adams & Webster County Corn Growers since 2005 and is a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Kenesaw. Marlin has been a board member of the Little Blue NRD since 2011 and currently serves as the Vice-Chairman for the past three years.

Marlin would like to continue serving on the board to "ensure the future of our most precious resource, water." He'd also like to see the projects and water structures that have been started, completed. Marlin feels that maintaining our aquifer and water levels is the most critical natural resources issue for the people of the district.

Marlin feels he would be an asset to the board as he "tries to maintain an open mind and listens to both sides before making decisions."

KERWIN ELTING - DAVENPORT

Kerwin Elting has been a self-employed dryland and irrigated farmer from the Davenport area for forty-three years. Kerwin currently is serving as the Treasurer of St. Peter's Lutheran Church for the past two years. He also has served as the President of the Farm Bureau for eight years and served on the Board of Education for nine years.

Kerwin stated, "I have a strong interest and stake in protecting the aquifer's water quality and maintaining a viable water supply for current and future generations." He feels that the most important issue for the district is protecting water quality. "To maintain a balance between the use of our continually recharging aquifer and maintaining the aquifer for future generation's use."



October 2018 - Out of the Blue

EARTH JAMBOREE | Elysabeth Kierl

Approximately 538 students from seventeen different schools located throughout the Little Blue District came to the Clay Center Fairgrounds to learn more about the world around them at the 2018 Earth Jamboree held on September 18 & 19.

Students rotated through eight, twenty-five-minute sessions that included: Science on the Farm, Wild Tracker, Amazing World Under Our Feet, Junk Art, Wild World of Pest Management, Chemical Look-Alikes, Treasure Hunt & Environmental Jeopardy.

Students participated in a Junk Art contest. They used junk collected by event staff to work as a team to create works of art. The groups submitted their masterpieces to be judged by teachers and event staff.

According to the majority of teacher feedback surveys, the favorite session was the Wild World of Pest Management. Students got excited as they came face to face with hissing cockroaches, snakes, and even a flying, fake

mouse. Larry Schultz and Ron Seymour with Nebraska Extension taught the kids about the pests of the world from weeds to rats and how to deal with them in real life situations.



Multiple agencies came together to make this event a success: the Nebraska Extension, the Nebraska Game & Parks, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, and the Little Blue Natural Resources District.

This year's Junk Art winners were Mr. Gallant of Harvard & Mrs. Faimon of Red Cloud. They received \$50 gift cards to purchase school supplies.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Office Closed · Veteran's Day	Nov 12
Regular Board Meeting	Nov 13
VIMP Joint Stakeholders Meeting	Nov 19
Office Closed · Thanksgiving	Nov 22
Operator Training · Fairbury	Dec 6
Operator Training · Deshler	Dec 13
Operator Training · Hastings	Dec 20
Operator Training · Edgar	Jan 10
Operator Training · Shickley	Jan 17



"Flower Garden"
Team Harvard - Mr. Gallant

"Beach"
Team Warriors - Mrs. Faimon





ONNEN HONORED FOR SERVICE | RWBJV

Mike Onnen, Little Blue NRD general manager, was honored at a recent Rainwater Basin Joint Venture Management Board meeting for his nearly 30 years of service with the group. He began serving on the Technical Committee in 1989 prior to the formal organization of the RWBJV, and was appointed by NARD in 1992 as their representative to the JV Management Board. The RWBJV was established under the aegis of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP), an international agreement to restore and protect North American waterfowl populations through conservation efforts. The JV continues to do some great work in South-Central Nebraska, providing assistance to landowners in wetland management, restoration and protection. It has been instrumental in seeking win-win situations for landowners who own those hard to manage wetland basins.

STAFF UPDATES

Congratulations to Kevin Orvis for celebrating 25 years with the Little Blue NRD. Thank you for your hard work and dedication!

DISTRICT SECRETARY | Mandy Klipp

Mandy Klipp joined the Little Blue NRD team in late August!



Mandy Klipp joined the Little Blue NRD team in late August!

A warm, new, smiling face will be greeting Little Blue NRD visitors as they walk in the door. Mandy Klipp, a resident of the Tobias area, is married to Andy and has two older children. Her oldest attends college, and her youngest is a

senior in high school. Her spare time is spent attending school activities such as football and volleyball and enjoys socializing with friends and family.

Mandy's duties with the Little Blue NRD include not only normal secretarial functions but also she will be helping Alicia Epps with entering data into Beehive.

"I look forward to working with everyone involved with the Little Blue NRD and getting to know the farmers in the area."

RESOURCES TECHNICIAN | Kayla Jesse

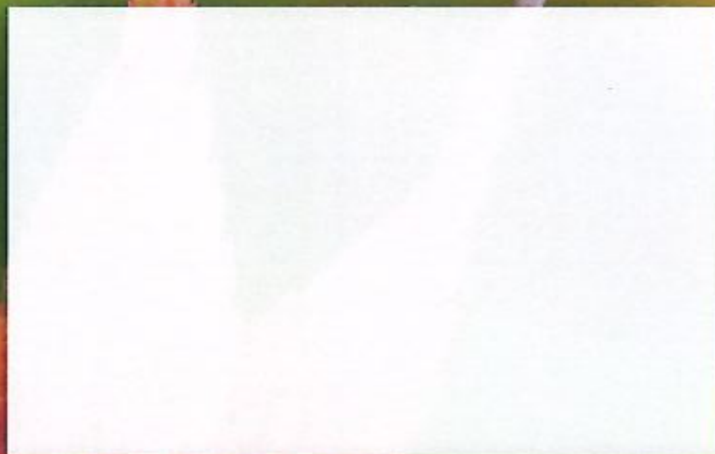
New resources technician, Kayla Jesse, is excited to join the Little Blue NRD team!

Kayla Jesse and her husband and their dog, Ruby, reside in Bruning. Cole, her husband, works at Mid-America Feedyard.

Kayla was born and raised on a grain farm in North-western Iowa. She graduated college from NCTA in Curtis, NE with a degree in Veterinary Technology.

Even though Kayla has worked primarily in the livestock industry, she is excited to be part of the conservation and natural resources division. She says livestock, farming, and conservation all come to crossroads and all play a vital role to make the world thrive. In her free time, Kayla enjoys the outdoors, riding horses, refinishing furniture and visiting family back home.





"Little Blue Natural Resources District is an Equal Opportunity Employer & Provider."

The Little Blue NRD's Out of the Blue is a publication of the Little Blue Natural Resources District. Requests to be placed on the Out of the Blue mailing list and/or comments regarding information in this publication should be directed to Elysa Kierl, Media & Communications Specialist, 100 East 6th Street, PO Box 100, Davenport, NE 68335.

LITTLE BLUE STAFF

Michael Onnen — General Manager
Donnie Engelhardt — Assistant Manager
Mandy Klipp — District Secretary
Marie Herbek — Administrative Secretary
Kevin Orvis — Project Manager
Kent Thompson — Operations Supervisor
Kayla Jesse — Resources Technician
Jim Oltmans — Water Resources Technician
Jed Bergen — Water Resources Technician
Elysa Kierl — Media & Communications Specialist
Dylan Long — Watershed Coordinator
Alicia Epps — Database Specialist

FIELD OFFICES

Adams County NRCS Secretary—Robin Leichty
Clay County NRCS Secretary—Allison Peshek
Fillmore County NRCS Secretary—Sylvia Jividen
Jefferson NRD/NRCS Technician—Christine Zabokrtsky
Jefferson County NRCS Secretary—Paula Schultz
Nuckolls County NRCS Secretary—Patsy Ord
Thayer County NRCS Secretary—Melanie McPherson
Webster County NRCS Secretary—Lynetta Snelling

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sub-District 1: Mason Hoffman, Roseland
Sub-District 1: Randy Uhrmacher, Hastings
Sub-District 2: Warren Brakhahn, Hastings
Sub-District 2: Charles Rainforth, Hastings
Sub-District 3: Edward Fleharty, Hastings
Sub-District 3: Everett Kellogg, Hastings
Sub-District 4: Kevin Kissinger, Glenvil
Sub-District 4: Jesse VonSpreckelsen, Clay Center
Sub-District 5: Matt Spencer, Blue Hill
Sub-District 5: Lyle Schroer, Lawrence
Sub-District 6: Lyle Heinrichs, Shickley
Sub-District 6: Steve Shaw, Edgar
Sub-District 7: Joseph Hergott, Hebron
Sub-District 7: Alan Wiedel, Hebron
Sub-District 8: Jay Meyer, Daykin
Sub-District 8: Gene Thomas, Fairbury
Member At Large: Marlin Kimle, Kenesaw

RURAL WATER PROJECTS

Project Manager — Kevin Orvis
Rural Water Supervisor — Bruce Dux
Clerk — Paula Schultz