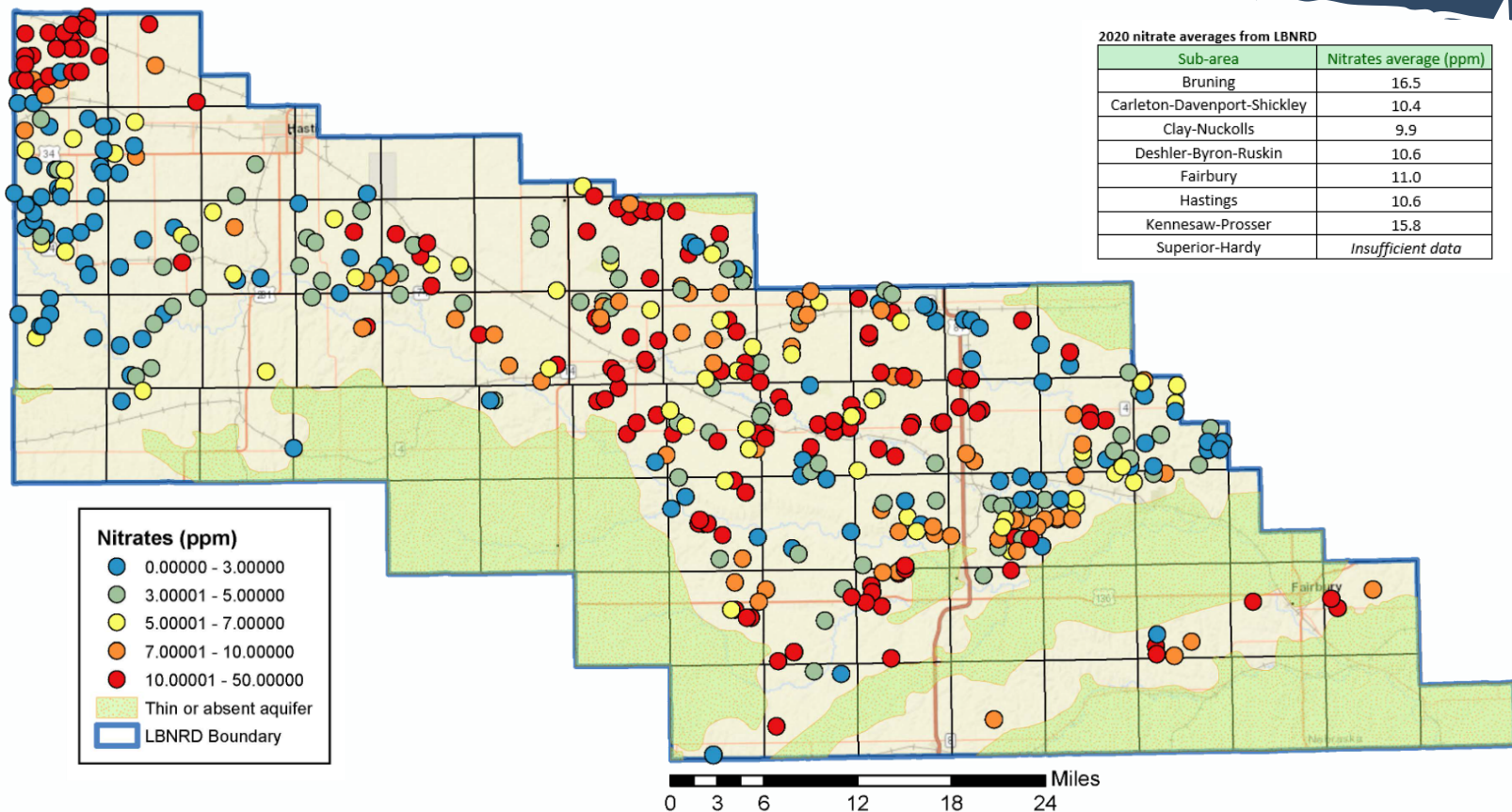


Out of the Blue

Fall 2020

The Little Blue Natural Resources District Newsletter



SUMMER 2020 WATER QUALITY TESTING FOR NITRATES IN LITTLE BLUE NRD

Tyler Goeschel | Assistant Manager

The Little Blue Natural Resources District (LBNRD) was hard at work taking water samples for nitrates this past summer. All told, we took over 450 samples from irrigation wells, with a few duplicates thrown into the mix.

If one of your wells was one we tested, you received a post-card from us telling you your well's nitrate reading.

Nitrates are up from the previous year in the majority of the LBNRD, except for the Deshler-Byron-Ruskin, and Hastings sub-area, which both saw slight decreases. Long-term trends, however, are still going up throughout the entire district.

You can find the average nitrates in each of our sub-areas in the table above.

Outside of the sub-areas, nitrates averaged 5.5 parts per million (ppm), well below the maximum contaminant level of 10 ppm as set by the EPA, which is great news!

A select lucky few around the Fairbury and Alexandria area received full "irrigation suitability" tests on their wells, which included additional information such as total soluble salts, pH, hardness, and an analysis of eight nutrients, aside from nitrates alone.

Thank you for your cooperation, as always, and I hope your harvests are bountiful!

If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact Tyler at 402-364-2145 or tgoeschel@littlebluenrd.org.

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FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET APPROVED

Kyle Hauschild | General Manager

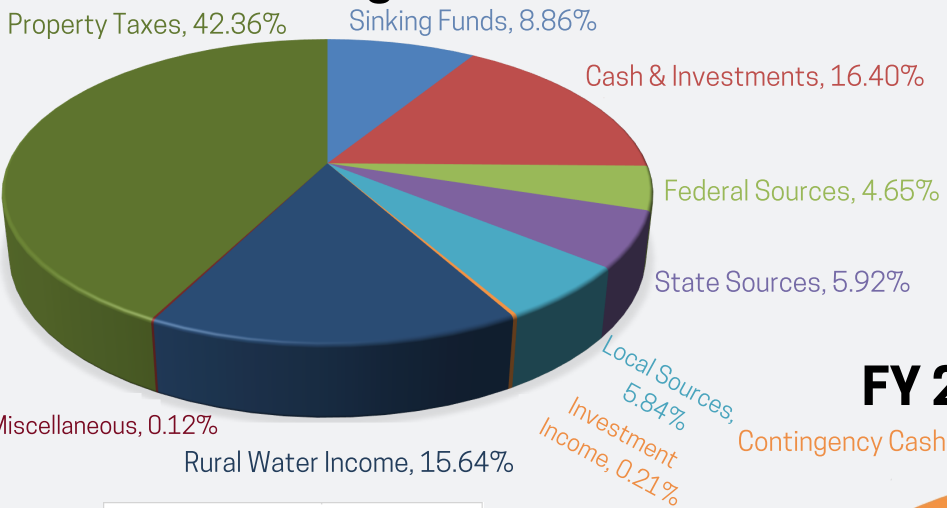
The Little Blue NRD Board of Directors approved the 2020-21 fiscal Budget of \$4,152,345 at the August 10th Board meeting, down from \$4,266,793 the previous year. This budget includes the two Rural Water Districts operated by the Little Blue NRD, the North Project with a budget of \$369,443, and the South Project with a budget of \$346,491.

A few highlights of the Little Blue NRD budget are studying to improve the drainage around the Kenesaw area and improve the recreational opportunities at Prairie Lake Recreation Area, located southwest of Hastings. The NRD is also working with multiple agencies and communities around the district to complete the third Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). The intention is to provide cost-share for drainage projects and finding new drinking water sources.

The Little Blue Water projects, both North and South, intend to look for a new water source in the next few years. Staff is working with USDA Rural Development to attain funding through grants and loans.

At the September 17th board meeting, the Board of Directors approved the 20-21 tax levy of .022387, which is lower than the levy of .025470 from the 19-20 budget. These levies are based on \$100 valuation. Therefore, a homeowner that owns a \$150,000 home would pay \$33.58 to the Little Blue NRD for the 20-21 fiscal year.

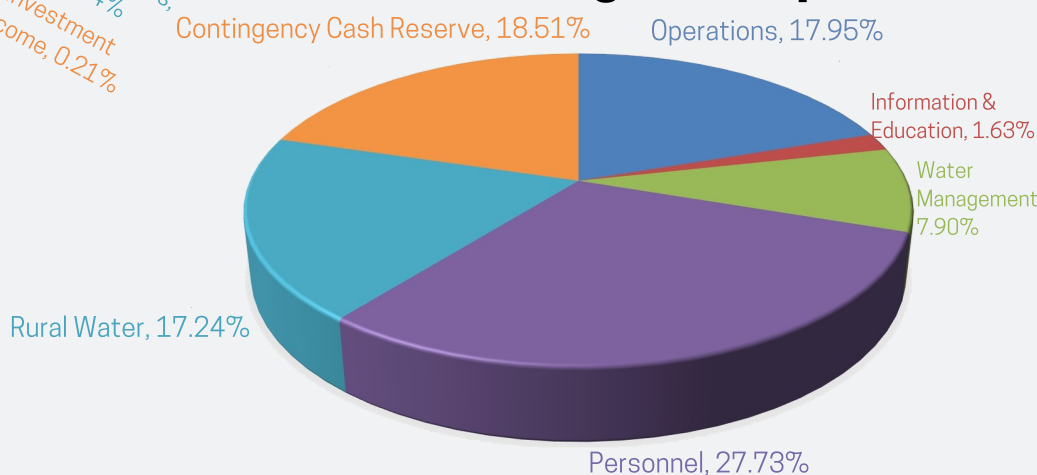
FY 2021 Budgeted Income



Fiscal Year 2021 Budgeted Income	
Category	U.S. Dollars
Sinking Funds	\$405,530
Cash and Investments	\$750,754
Federal Sources	\$213,013
State Sources	\$271,029
Local Sources	\$267,243
Investment Income	\$9,500
Rural Water Income	\$715,934
Miscellaneous	\$5,300
Property Taxes	\$1,938,768
Total	\$4,577,071

Category	U.S. Dollars
Operations	\$745,313
Information and Education	\$67,750
Water Management	\$327,833
Personnel	\$1,151,318
Rural Water	\$715,934
Contingency Cash Reserve	\$300,000
Sinking Funds and Interest	\$75,500
Projects/Programs	\$768,697
Total	\$4,152,345

FY 2021 Budgeted Expenses



New Faces to the Little Blue NRD



Kathy Boysen
Administrative
Assistant

Welcome Kathy Boysen, the newest addition to the Little Blue NRD staff in Davenport. She is the new administrative assistant for the district. When calling the office now, you will hear Kathy's voice.

Kathy grew up in rural eastern Iowa and went on to graduate from Iowa State University. She has spent the past 26 years living and playing in Utah.

While living in Salt Lake City she was able to explore many of the scenic places of Utah and the surrounding states.

She enjoys to go hiking, biking, golfing and just being outdoors. She is happy to be back in the Midwest and to be a part of the team at Little Blue NRD.



Brent Hoops
Board of Director
Subdistrict 2

The Little Blue Natural Resources District Board of Directors appointed Hastings, Nebraska resident, Brent Hoops, to the vacant subdistrict number two position on September 18th. Brent is an Army veteran and owner of Good Earth Farms, his commercial soybean and corn operation, near Hastings, Nebraska.

Calendar

October

- 12 | Office Closed for Columbus Day
- 13 | Water Resources Committee Meeting, Davenport, 6:15pm
- 13 | Board Meeting, Davenport, 7pm
- 27 | Where would we BEE without pollinators poster contest deadline | For area students K-12th grade | Submit via mail or email, lbncrd@littlebluenrd.org

November

- 10 | Board Meeting, Davenport, 7pm
- 11 | Office Closed for Veteran's Day
- 26 | Office Closed for Thanksgiving

December

- 8 | Board Meeting, Davenport, 7pm
- 10 | Operator Training | Nelson Auditorium | 9-Noon
- 25 | Office Closed for Christmas
- 31 | Pumpage Reports Due (Reports were mailed out Sept 8 & 9th, call the office and ask for Alicia if you didn't receive yours or if you have questions.)
- 31 | Superior-Hardy Subarea Soil Samples Due

Board of Director Candidates

Subdistrict 1

Mason Hoffman
-Roseland

Subdistrict 2

Write-in candidate

Subdistrict 3

Russ Hall-Hastings
Jessi Hoeft-Hastings

Subdistrict 4

Jesse VonSprecklesen
-Clay Center

Subdistrict 5

Steve Shaw- Edgar

Subdistrict 6

Lyle Schroer-Lawrence

Subdistrict 7

Alan Wiedel-Hebron

Subdistrict 8

Jay Meyer-Daykin

*Be sure to vote
November 3rd.*

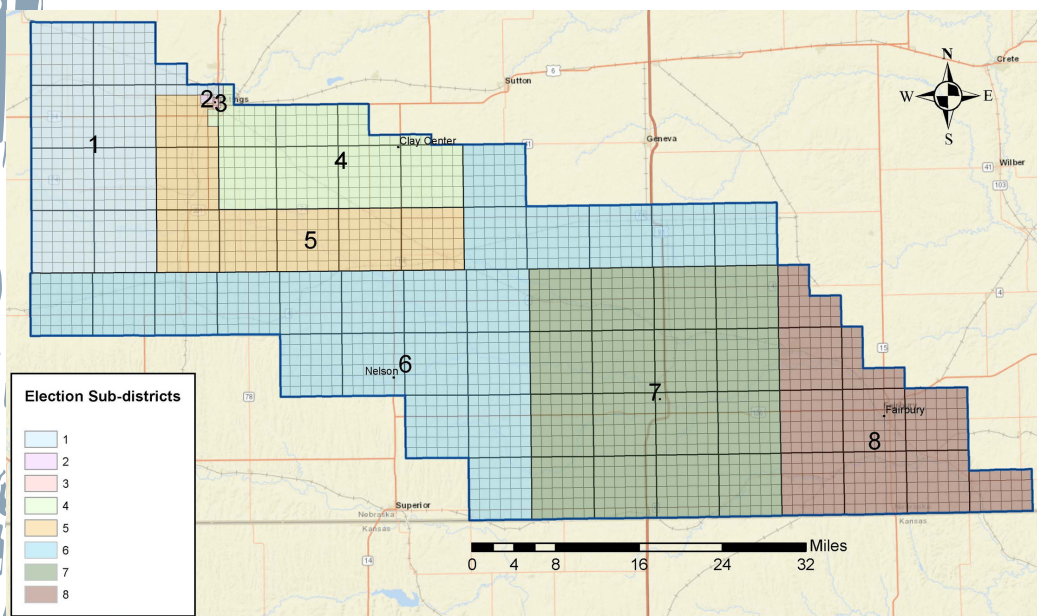
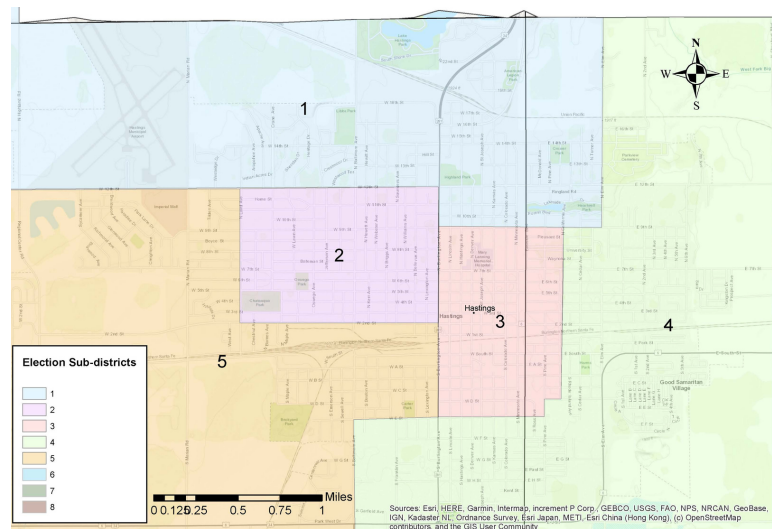
The Little Blue Natural Resources District's programs and policies are directed by a seventeen-member, locally elected Board of Directors. The public selects these directors for a four-year term of office. Elections are held on even-numbered years with the terms of office staggered, so one-half of the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

Larger
maps
available
on our
website.





Russ Hall | Subdistrict 3 | Hastings

Russell F. Hall is a resident of Hastings and has lived there for 18 years. He first came to Nebraska in 1991 from Colorado. He loves Nebraska's wide-open spaces and productive land! Russ has four school-aged children and is employed by the US Post Office at Grand Island. "While I'm not a farmer, I have many farmer friends and have spent time in their homes and fields," said Hall. "I appreciate the challenges they face in trying to raise good

crops and care for their land," Hall added. "The Midwest frank and honest manner and hospitality have always appealed to me."

In addition Hall has studied environmental science and water and wastewater technology.



Jessi Hoeft | Subdistrict 3 | Hastings

Jessi Ensign Hoeft is a Nuckolls County native and now lives in Hastings with her Husband, Nathan. After moving back to the area in 2012 they opened up the first full scale production brewery the area had seen in 100 years. First Street Brewing is located in Downtown Hastings and they invite you to the tap room to discuss all kinds of community topics over a beer or Ensign kombucha.

"Abundant water sources for all kinds of Nebraska industries, quality recreational areas and clean drinking water is something I care about," said Hoeft. "I look forward to learning more and helping the Little Blue NRD move forward and keep the water flowing."

Jessi also serves on the board of directors for The Hastings Community Foundation and The University of Nebraska Food Processing Center in Lincoln.

Recycling Update

Heidi McClintock | Media & Communications Specialist

The Little Blue NRD would like to thank our wonderful communities and residents who participated in the 2020 recycling events throughout our district. Without your support, we wouldn't be able to keep our district as clean as we do.

Also, the Little Blue NRD and Trailblazer Resource Conservation and Development received grants to make all the 2020 collection events happen. We would like to recognize The Nebraska Environmental Trust and Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy for helping us fund these collection events.

And last but not least, a big shoutout to all the volunteers who worked diligently to make these events happen. Without all the support from everyone involved, we wouldn't be able to help our local communities and the environment.

For the 2020 Tire Collection, Thayer County collected 196 tons of tires, and Clay County collected 216 tons of tires.

For the seven Household Hazardous Waste collection events held throughout the Little Blue NRD and Trailblazer RC&D districts, a total of 29 barrels of paint was collected, one barrel of florescent bulb grindings, eight barrels full of miscellaneous liquids like 2-4D, round up and anti-freeze, over 1,500 pounds of batteries and over 1,200 gallons of used oil.

For the electronic collection events, over 139,000 pounds of electronics were collected.

Again, thank you to all involved; it wouldn't have been such a great success without you! And thank you for keeping our district clean and helping save our natural resources.



LITTLE BLUE STAFF

Kyle Hauschild - General Manager
Tyler Goeschel - Assistant Manager
Marie Herbek - Office Administrator
Kathy Boysen - Administrative Assistant
Alicia Epps - Database Specialist
Heidi McClintock - Media & Communications Specialist
Erika Brinegar - Natural Resources Coordinator
Kent Thompson - Operations Supervisor
Kevin Orvis - Project Manager
Jed Bergen - Resources Technician
Jim Oltmans - Water Resources Technician

FIELD OFFICES

Adams County NRCS Secretary—Vacant
402-462-5412
Clay County NRCS Secretary—Allyson Peshek
402-762-3569
Fillmore County NRCS Secretary—Sylvia Jividen
402-759-4017
Jefferson NRD/NRCS Technician—Christine Zabokrtsky
Jefferson County NRCS Secretary—Paula Schultz
402-729-6134
Thayer County NRCS Secretary—Jessica Hynek
402-768-6228
Webster County NRCS Secretary—Lynetta Snelling
402-746-2268

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sub-District 1: Mason Hoffman, Roseland
Sub-District 1: Robert Trausch, Juniata
Sub-District 2: Brent Hoops, Hastings
Sub-District 2: Charles Rainforth, Hastings
Sub-District 3: Warren Brakhahn, Hastings
Sub-District 3: Everett Kellogg, Hastings
Sub-District 4: Kevin Kissinger, Glenvil
Sub-District 4: Jesse VonSpreckelsen, Clay Center
Sub-District 5: Steve Shaw, Edgar
Sub-District 5: Warren Taylor, Glenvil
Sub-District 6: Lyle Schroer, Lawrence
Sub-District 6: Lyle Heinrichs, Shickley
Sub-District 7: Joseph Hergott, Hebron
Sub-District 7: Alan Wiedel, Hebron
Sub-District 8: Jay Meyer, Daykin
Sub-District 8: Bill Glenn, Fairbury
Member At Large: Marlin Kimle, Kenesaw

RURAL WATER PROJECTS

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

"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 Heidi McClintock, Media & Communications Specialist, 100 East 6th Street, PO Box 100, Davenport, NE 68335.