



**LOWER PLATTE SOUTH**  
natural resources district

3125 Portia Street | P.O. Box 83581 • Lincoln, Nebraska 68501-3581  
P: 402.476.2729 • F: 402.476.6454 | www.lpsnrd.org

## Memorandum

**Date:** April 10, 2026  
**To:** Directors  
**From:** Steve Herdzina, Water Resources Coordinator SH  
**Subject:** Water Resources Subcommittee Meeting Minutes – April 2026

The Water Resources Subcommittee met on April 9, 2026, at the NRD office, at 5:30 pm. Subcommittee members present included Directors Jacobson - committee chair, Baker, Eagan, Hellerich, Peterson, Ruth, Schutz, and Spangler. Board Chair Bob Andersen was present. NRD staff present were David Potter, Steve Herdzina, Maclane Scott, and Dick Ehrman. Others present were legal counsel Corey Wasserburger and Steve Owen and Tim Zach from the City of Lincoln. Director Jacobson called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm. A quorum was present for the meeting.

### **A. Consideration of Variance Request #019 [ACTION]–**

Steve Herdzina, Water Resources Coordinator discussed a received variance application from the City of Lincoln Transportation and Utilities. The City is currently installing a water pipeline from the Platte River to their treatment facility in Ashland. As part of the pipeline installation project, the water table elevation needs to be temporarily lowered to enable construction activities. The City is planning to install up to 123 dewatering wells, to be used in clusters of 6-8 wells at a time for 1-3 weeks per cluster. This project is underway in Papio NRD, and once the contractor for the City has completed their work on the East side of the river, they plan to begin activities in the Lower Platte South NRD. Typically, dewatering wells for this type of construction are installed without a permit from the NRD or the state as long as their use does not exceed 90 days. The wells are closer than 600 feet to existing wells at Willow Point Community. The City is requesting a variance to allow them to install and use the wells without the 600 foot spacing protection. They are also requesting to be exempt from some of the Class 5 well permit analysis, including the 72-hour pump test, the 20 impact study, and the quality testing. They have provided modeling that was reviewed by Staff indicating that their pumping activities are not expected to cause any adverse affects to nearby existing domestic wells at Willow Point. Finally, the variance process requires signed acknowledgement from adjacent landowners to the variance request. Due to the seasonality of Willow Point, the City is asking for a waiver from this requirement. The city has provided evidence of attempts to contact the adjoining landowners. Questions were answered by staff and by Steve Owen from the City of Lincoln. Owen also explained the reason for the variance request; citing the need for pipeline redundancy for future water demand protection and indicated that this site was chosen to meet the need of separation from existing infrastructure. Along with the variance request, the Subcommittee was also provided a report from the applicant on anticipated nearby well drawdown and a memo by Dick Ehrman (NRD Geologist) providing analysis of that drawdown report.

**It was moved by Hellerich, seconded by Baker, and unanimously approved by the Water Resources Subcommittee to recommend that the Board of Directors grant a waiver to the required signed acknowledgments from all adjacent landowners and well owners (Section P, Rule 1.f) and approve the variance from the City of Lincoln Transportation and Utilities for the Late Class 5 well permit specifically exempting the 72-hour pumping test requirement, the water quality sampling, and the 20-year hydrogeologic report (Section C, Rule 2.f.i.A.3-5) and allow them to locate this well within 600 feet of existing wells with the same or higher preference of use (Section C, Rule 10.a).**

**Motion Passed 8-0**

**B. Consideration of Late Class 5 Well Permit from City of Lincoln, Lincoln Transportation and Utilities [ACTION]**

Maclane Scott, Water Resources Technician presented a Late Class 5 well permit application for the City of Lincoln. This item is contingent on Item B being approved as the requirements of the Class 5 permit cannot be completed without the variance. Scott provided information that some of the wells have currently been drilled but not used and explained some conditions that the NRD could condition the permit with to ensure compliance with the application, including providing logs for each of the 123 wells, not installing more than 123 wells without contacting the District, and decommissioning the wells after project completion without applying for cost-share assistance from the District.

**It was moved by Eagan, seconded by Hellerich, and unanimously approved by the Water Resources Subcommittee to recommend that the Board of Directors grant preliminary approval for permit LPS-260475 and authorize the LPSNRD general manager the ability to issue final approval of LPS-260475, subject to identified conditions.**

**Motion Passed 8-0**

**Staff Report – Upcoming GWMP Open House Meetings [NO ACTION]–**

Steve Herdzina informed the Subcommittee about upcoming Ground Water Management Plan Revision Open House meetings. The first open house is scheduled for Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-10:30, at the LPSNRD Office and the second open house is scheduled for Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-7:30, at the Elmwood Fire Hall. Both meetings will have the same presentation.

Meeting adjourned at 6:19 pm.

Enclosures

Cc: Bob Andersen  
Corey Wasserburger



A

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## REQUEST FOR VARIANCE

**Landowner Name:** City of Lincoln Transportation and Utilities

**Address:** 2021 N 27th **Phone:** (402) 441-5925

**City:** Lincoln **State & Zip:** NE 68503

**Field Information:**

**Legal:** ¼, **Section** 32, **Township** N13, **Range** E10, Saunders **County**

**Groundwater Rules and Regulations:** **Section** C **Rule** 2F, 10

**Explanation of Variance Request (Use additional pages if needed):**

1. Request for variance from Section C, Rule 10(a) prohibiting new water wells within 600 feet of an existing registered water wall

2. Request for a waiver to Section P, Rule 1(f) requiring the variance request to include signed acknowledgement of notice by the adjoining landowners and water well owners

3. Request for variance from Section C, Rule 2(f)(i)(A)(3-5) requiring a 72-hour aquifer test water quality samples, and 20-year impact analysis.

(see attached for additional explanation)

Note that signature below includes both ownership and property rights by easement.

**Required Attachments:**

Aerial Photo (required)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	N
Map of Adjoining Landowners (Name and Addresses)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	N
Signed Acknowledgement of Notice by Adjoining Landowners / Well owners	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	N
Non-refundable \$500 Variance Request Fee	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	N

**Steve R. Owen** Digitally signed by Steve R. Owen  
Date: 2026.03.31 12:36:05 -05'00'

Landowner Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 03/31/2026

LPSNRD Use Only: LPSNRD Approval: _____ Date: _____
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## Explanation of Variance Request

1. Request for variance from Section C, Rule 10(a) prohibiting new water wells within 600 feet of an existing registered water well
  - a. The temporary dewatering wells near the Willow Point community will be in place from the time of drilling to decommissioning for longer than 90 days, however each well is intended to be in use for less than 90 days to dewater the pipeline excavation. A highly conservative analysis has been completed and is attached showing no adverse operational effects to the water availability or performance of the domestic wells within 600 feet.
  
2. Request for a waiver to Section P, Rule 1(f) requiring the variance request to include signed acknowledgement of notice by the adjoining landowners and water well owners
  - a. The City has taken great lengths to notify the adjoining landowners within the Willow Point community, including meeting with the Willow Point Homeowners Association, negotiating a specific agreement related to the dewatering operations, sending certified letters to all adjoining landowners and water well owners within 600 ft, and sending letters to all Willow Point residents at their listed mailing and site address. However, due to this community being a seasonal community with many of the residents not living on location year-round, this request to waive the acknowledgement requirement is to account for the possibility that some landowners and water well owners may not provide acknowledgement of notice.
  
3. Request for variance from Section C, Rule 2(f)(i)(A)(3-5) requiring a well log, water level measurement, aquifer test, water quality samples, and hydrogeologic analysis report
  - a. The temporary dewatering wells are intended to be in use for less than 90 days to dewater the pipeline excavation. Because of the temporary nature of the dewatering wells, many of the application requirements are not applicable, specifically:
    - i. Section C, Rule 2(f)(i)(A)(3) requires a 72-hour aquifer test. A 72-hour aquifer test was not performed as this type of test is used to determine the long-term production of a permanent well. As these wells are not permanent, it was not necessary to determine the long-term production capacity.
    - ii. Section C, Rule 2(f)(i)(A)(4) requires water quality samples to be collected at the end of a 24-hour pump test. Because the purpose of these well is to dewater a pipeline excavation, water quality samples are not necessary to verify the quality of the groundwater source. Furthermore, a dewatering discharge permit has already been obtained from the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment.
    - iii. Section C, Rule 2(f)(i)(A)(5) requires a hydrogeologic analysis report considering the impact of the proposed withdrawal on current groundwater users and a minimum twenty (20) year impact on the aquifer. Because these dewatering wells are not permanent and will be decommissioned after their intended use, a twenty-year impact is not necessary.



Willow Point

**Legend**  
Proposed Transmission Main

Received  
APR 1 2026



**LOWER PLATTE SOUTH**  
natural resources district

**PRELIMINARY WELL CONSTRUCTION PERMIT**  
**LOWER PLATTE SOUTH NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT**

1. Fill out #'s 1-10 on the attached Water Well Permit Application.
2. Sign below and submit to the District.

I, Steve Owen \_\_\_\_\_ (print name) acknowledge that I have received and read the guidance document, aquifer test procedures, and the water well permit classes flow chart. I also acknowledge this Preliminary Well Construction Permit is for constructing a well to gather the required information to complete a Water Well Permit application. I also acknowledge that approval of this Preliminary Well Construction Permit by the District does not assure me that I will receive a Water Well Permit, and I understand there is one year to complete the Water Well Permit application.

**Steve R. Owen**  
Digitally signed by Steve R. Owen  
Date: 2026.03.31 12:37:17 -05'00'  
Signature

03/31/26  
Date

NRD – Preliminary Well Construction Permit site inspection by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Inspector

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Preliminary Well Construction Permit Approval

LPS-260475  
Preliminary Permit Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
General Manager

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

APPLICATION FOR A LATE PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT A WATER WELL IN THE LOWER PLATTE SOUTH NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

GROUND WATER RESERVOIR PERMIT FORM

- 1. PERMIT CLASS (indicate one) Class I (< 50 gpm < X < 1000gpm and < 250 acre-feet/ year) Class II (> 1000gpm and/ or > 250 acre-feet/year) Class V (≥ 500 acre feet/year) Is this well intended to pump salt water for a beneficial use? ( ) Yes ( ) No If Yes, then application will be considered for a Salt Water Well Permit 2. IS THIS PERMIT FOR A SERIES OF WELLS? (X) Yes ( ) No If Yes, how many wells? 123

DNR & NRD USE ONLY Permit No. LPS-260475 Reg. No.

3. NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT: City of Lincoln, Lincoln Transportation and Utilities Phone ( ) -

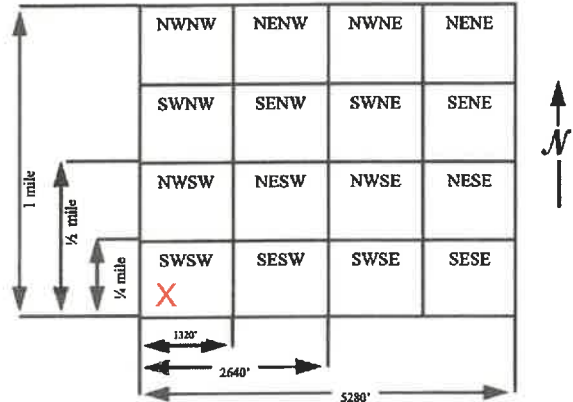
4. NAME AND ADDRESS OF WELL DRILLER: Steve Seliga 6414 S. 84th St Omaha, NE 68127 Phone (402) 331 - 5000

- 5. PURPOSE OF WELL (indicate one) ( ) Public Water Supply ( ) Irrigation\* ( ) Domestic ( ) Livestock (X) Dewatering (over 90 days) ( ) Geothermal ( ) Monitoring ( ) Aquaculture ( ) Industrial \*Irrigation on lands in Remaining Area shall mean ground water pumped to apply to plants on one or more acres of land. ( ) Recovery ( ) Other

6. IDENTIFY THE LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED WELL: Saunders County, Township 13 North, Range 10 East, Section 32

The box at the right represents one square mile, (section). Indicate with an "X", the proposed location of the well. Outline the proposed water use area, if water is to be used outside the above written legal description, give legal description of water use area, Township North, Range East, Section

The well will be located 410 feet from the North/South section line, and will be 190 feet from the East/West section line.



If possible mark (with a flag) the well site in the field

- 7. COMMINGLED, COMBINED, CLUSTERED, OR JOINED WELLS: Will the proposed well be connected to another well(s) or be used to supplement an existing water use from another well? ( ) Yes ( ) No If yes, list registration numbers of other well(s)

8. IRRIGATION WELLS: How many acres will be irrigated? Type of irrigation system: ( ) Center Pivot ( ) Gravity ( ) Other (specify) Will Fertilizer, Chemicals or Animal Waste be applied through the system? ( ) Yes ( ) No

9. REPLACEMENT AND ABANDONMENT WELL INFORMATION: Is this a replacement well? ( ) Yes ( ) No Registration number of well to be replaced: Well to be replaced was last operated 20 Replacement well is feet from the original well. Will new well water the same tract of land or provide water for the same use as the decommissioned well? ( ) Yes ( ) No

10. SPECIFICATIONS OF INTENDED WELL AND PUMP: Approximate date when construction will begin: August 13th, 2025 Estimated total well depth 50 feet. Estimated water well capacity: 800 gallons per minute Pump column diameter: 6 inches. Well casing diameter: 12 inches.

DO NOT BEGIN CONSTRUCTION UNTIL AN APPROVED PRELIMINARY WELL CONSTRUCTION PERMIT FORM IS RETURNED TO THE LANDOWNER

See Other Side

11. I certify that I am familiar with the information contained in this application, and its restrictions, rules and regulations and that to the best of my knowledge and belief such information is true, complete and accurate. The necessary supporting material, under the district's Groundwater Rules and Regulations (Section B), is attached for the well permit class to which I am applying. A copy of the Groundwater Rules and Regulations is available upon request.

This form must be completed in full and be accompanied by a non-refundable \$50.00 filing fee (payable to the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District). Forward this application and filing fee to Lower Platte South Natural Resources District, P.O. Box #83581, 3125 Portia Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68501-3581. Please take the time to fill out the information correctly. An incomplete or defective application will be returned by the District, with 60 days being allowed for resubmission. All permits shall be issued by the District with or without conditions attached, or denied no later than 30 days after receipt of a complete and properly prepared application pursuant to §46-736.

Date: 03/31/26 Signature of Applicant: Steve R. Owen Digitally signed by Steve R. Owen Date: 2026.03.31 12:40:45 -05'00'

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Denied: \_\_\_\_\_ Reason for Denial Attached \_\_\_\_\_ NRD Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

**PERMIT RESTRICTIONS & TERMS**

1. *Water well permits are required prior to completing construction and use of the water, if construction and use of the water well is commenced prior to obtaining a permit, a late permit must be obtained from the District along with a \$250.00 application fee.*
2. Any person who, on or after August 13, 1996, commences or causes construction of such a water well for which the required permit has not been obtained, or who knowingly furnishes false information regarding such permit, shall be guilty of a Class IV misdemeanor pursuant to §46-602.02 and §46-613.02.
3. Prior to construction of a water well, a water well contractor shall take those steps necessary to satisfy himself or herself that the person for whom the well is to be constructed has obtained a permit pursuant to §46-602.
4. No irrigation or industrial water well or water well of any other public water supplier shall be drilled within 1,000 feet of any registered water well of any public water supplier; No water well of any such public water supplier shall be drilled within 1,000 feet of any registered irrigation or industrial water well; No irrigation water well shall be drilled within 1,000 feet of a registered industrial or within 600 feet of a registered irrigation water well; No industrial water well shall be drilled within 1,000 feet of a registered irrigation or industrial water well pursuant to §46-609 and §46-651. These spacing requirements shall not apply to water wells owned by the same person. Any person may apply to the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources for a special permit to drill a water well without regard to the spacing requirements pursuant to §46-653.
5. This permit does not register the water well with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources. All water wells are required to be registered by the water well contractor constructing the well with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources within 60 days after the water well is completed pursuant to §46-602.
6. A replacement water well is one which replaces an abandoned water well that has been operated within the last three years, and is constructed to water the same tract of land as the abandoned water well which is being replaced. As of August 13, 1996 replacement wells **DO** need a permit from the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District. If a water well is being replaced it must be properly abandoned according to state guidelines. A copy of these guidelines are available from the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District.
7. If the water well is not constructed and equipped within a one year period from the date of approval, a new water well permit is required.
8. Water wells may not be drilled within 50 feet of a stream bank without first getting a surface water right for that stream from the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources pursuant to §46-637.
9. Permits are not required for test holes, temporary dewatering wells with an intended use of less than 90 days, or a single water well designed and constructed to pump (yield) 50 gallons per minute or less pursuant to §46-656.29 in a Groundwater Reservoir and a single water well designed and constructed to pump (yield) 20 gallons per minute or less in the Remaining Area (See Section B of the District's Ground Water Rule & Regulations)
10. The issuance by the District of this permit or registration of a water well by the Director of the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources pursuant to §46-602 shall not vest in any person the right to violate any rule, regulation, or control in effect on the date of issuance of the permit or the registration of the water well or to violate any rule, regulation, or control properly adopted after such date.
11. All wells permitted after March 31, 2008 must be equipped with a NRD approved flow meter (See Section C, Rule 1 of the District's Ground Water Rules & Regulations)
12. All applicants for a water well permit shall, as a condition of the permit, agree to cooperate with the district, at its request, in ground water monitoring activities to include water level measurement and water quality sampling (See Section B, Rule 7 of the District's Ground Water Rule & Regulations)

COMMENTS / RESTRICTIONS / TERMS \_\_\_\_\_

LOWER PLATTE SOUTH NRD PO BOX #83581 3125 PORTIA STREET  
LINCOLN, NE 68501-3581 PHONE (402) 476-2729 www.lpsnrd.org