



NRCS

District Conservationist's

Monthly Report - AUGUST 2026



District NRCS Field Office Staff

Lincoln Field Office - (402) 423-9683 ext.3

District Conservationist - Tom Cowan

Resource Conservationist - Don Treptow*

Soil Conservationist - VACANT as of 12/2025

Soil Conservation Tech. - VACANT as of 10/2024

Program Assistant - Rebecca Wusk

LPSNRD District Secretary - Connie Hansen

LPSNRD Resources Tech. - John Albert

LPSNRD Resources Tech. - Bridget McKinley

PF Farm Bill Biologist - John McClinton

Weeping Water Field Office - (402) 267-2025 ext.3

Resource Conservationist - Devin Heusinkvelt

Soil Conservationist - VACANT as of 10/2024

Soil Conservation Tech. - James Conradi

LPSNRD District Secretary - Shelly Nielsen

LPSNRD Resources Tech. - Lesli Lair

*Temporary Detail - 6/1/26 - 9/29/26

PERSONNEL/OFFICE

- The Lancaster and Cass County Service Centers are under normal operations.

LPSNRD LAND TREATMENT

- Weather and moisture conditions continue to be favorable for construction.
- Technicians and planning staff are:
 - Processing cost-share program projects (survey, design, staking, field visits, checkout, and payment processing).
 - Actively communicating with producers/landowners about cost-share program opportunities.
 - Providing non-costshare related technical assistance and design.
- LPSNRD currently has the following active (or completed) land treatment cost-share program applications:
 - Lancaster County (Lincoln Field Office)
 - 4 Fall 2026 Applications
 - 0 Fall 2026 Cover Crop Applications (Waiting until after August Board Meeting)
 - Cass County (Weeping Water Field Office)
 - 11 Fall 2026 Structural Applications
 - 0 Fall 2026 Cover Crop Applications (Waiting until after August Board Meeting)



USDA Programs and Conservation Technical Assistance

- Planning staff are performing contract maintenance, modifications, etc.
- Planning staff/Biologists are writing CRP contracts and completing CRP status reviews.
- Planning staff and technicians are developing general farm conservation plans.

UPCOMING/CURRENT EVENTS

- 9/7/26 - NRCS Offices closed for Labor Day Holiday

Tom Cowan
District Conservationist





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

TO: Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors

FROM: Will Inselman, Resources Coordinator

DATE: August 4, 2026

SUBJECT: Public Hearing – John and Dina Denton Property/Red Cedar WMA

At 10:00 AM on August 4th, the District held a public hearing on the acquisition of a property located in the Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 20, Township 14 North, Range 5 East of the Sixth P.M., Saunders County, Nebraska, adjacent to Red Cedar Wildlife Management Area.

No members of the public were present.

The hearing was closed at 10:15 AM.

Attached are copies of the public notice that was published in the Lincoln Journal Star and the notice to the landowners.

LEGAL NOTICE

The Lower Platte South Natural Resources District, a political subdivision of the State of Nebraska, hereby gives notice pursuant to Section 25-2504 R.R.S. 1943, that it will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, August 4th, 2026 at 10:00 A.M., in the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District conference room at 3125 Portia Street Place, in Lincoln, Nebraska concerning the fee title acquisition of private property in Saunders County, Nebraska.

The private property is located in the Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 20, Township 14 North, Range 5 East of the Sixth P.M., Saunders County, Nebraska.

At the hearing, the District will explain the nature of and the necessity for the acquisition, the reasons for selecting the sites, and the right of the owners to be represented by an attorney. The District shall hear and consider any objections from any person.

June 29, 2026

John and Dina Denton
94333 Henderson Road
Whitman, NE 69366

Dear John and Dina:

The Lower Platte South Natural Resources District has scheduled a public hearing concerning the fee title acquisition of the 4.03-acre property you own, described as:

A PARCEL OF LAND LOCATED IN THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 20, TOWNSHIP 14 NORTH, RANGE 5 EAST OF THE SIXTH P.M., SAUNDERS COUNTY, NEBRASKA, BEING DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 20; THENCE N00°18'17"W (SAUNDERS COUNTY LOW DISTORTION PROJECTION) ON THE EAST LINE OF SAID NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER, A DISTANCE OF 130.93 FEET TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF A TRACT OF LAND DESCRIBED IN DEED BOOK 150, PAGE 1159; THENCE N88°55'19"W ON THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID TRACT, A DISTANCE OF 1343.31 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID TRACT; THENCE S00°10'52"E ON THE WEST LINE OF SAID NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER, A DISTANCE OF 131.02 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER; THENCE S88°55'33"E ON THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER, A DISTANCE OF 1343.59 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING 4.03 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, LOCATED IN SAUNDERS COUNTY, NEBRASKA.

The public hearing will take place at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, August 4th, 2026, in the District conference room located at 3125 Portia Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.

You are welcome to attend, but it is not necessary for you to be there. The District is required by state statute to hold a public hearing before acquiring any interest in private property.

Please contact me at 402-476-2729 or winselman@lpsnrd.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Will Inselman
Lower Platte South NRD

Cc Red Cedar WMA

I recently had the chance to attend the 2026 Water and Natural Resources Tour through the Republican River Basin, held June 22-24 and put together by the Nebraska Water Center and Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District. We started and ended in Lincoln and stayed in McCook while on the tour. The tour partnered with the Frenchman Cambridge Irrigation District, Middle Republican NRD, and Upper Republican NRD to get a firsthand look at water management in southwestern Nebraska — a part of the state that faces some different pressures than we do here in the Lower Platte South, but plenty of familiar challenges too. The biggest takeaway for me was the technology at work: Frenchman Cambridge's automated canal system is a real departure from the manual gate operations most of us grew up with, and Middle Republican's Producer Connect dashboard, built on the AEM data they've collected across the district, gave us a good look at how subsurface geological data can sharpen management decisions. We also covered aquifer recharge projects and large water user management, and it was plain these districts are tackling long-term sustainability with the same seriousness we bring to it back home.

What stuck with me most was the reminder that water doesn't respect district lines — the same problems we're working through in the Lower Platte South show up, in one form or another, all across the state, and there's real value in seeing how neighboring districts are innovating to meet them. I came home with some good ideas, and a few new contacts I can call on down the road. I want to thank the Board of Directors of the Lower Platte South NRD for the opportunity to attend this tour — it was time well spent, and I'm glad to have represented our district.

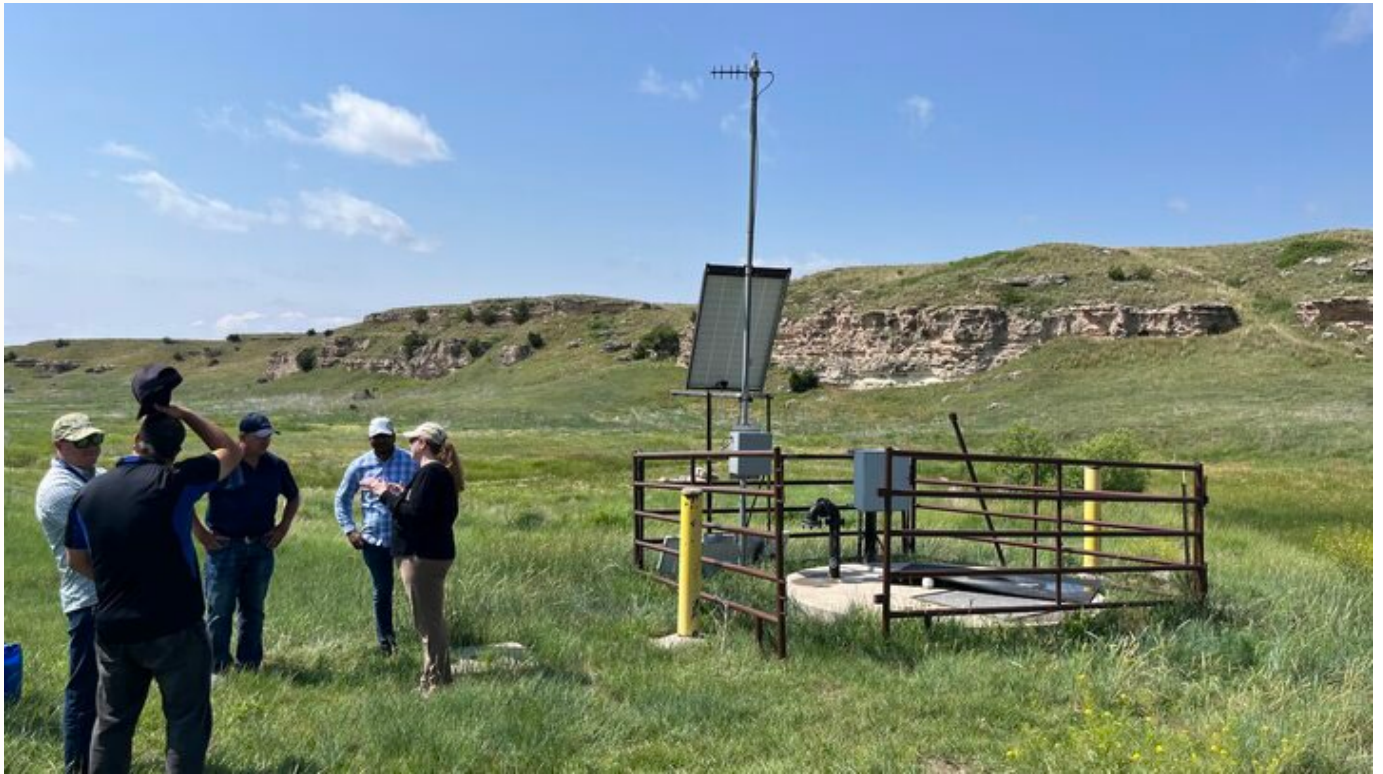
Submitted by Gary Hellerich

The article below, provided by the Nebraska Water Center sums up the tour from their perspective.

2026 Water and Natural Resources Tour held in the Republican Basin

by Ann Briggs, Communications and Program Specialist, Nebraska Water Center

July 24, 2026



The 2026 Water and Natural Resources Tour was held on June 22 through 24. Hosted by the Nebraska Water Center and Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District, the tour visited McCook, Curtis, and the surrounding areas to get an understanding of water use and management in the Republican Basin in Southwest Nebraska.

The tour kicked off on Monday, June 22, with a welcome dinner and an overview of the basin provided by Sam Capps of the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment. This

evening allowed the 50 tour attendees to meet one another and have a baseline understanding of the Republican Basin to help anchor the information they would receive in the following days.

On Tuesday, June 23, the tour began with Nebraska Extension's Ruby Collins and an overview of insect and invertebrate species common in southwest Nebraska. From there, Brad Edgerton from the Frenchman Cambridge Irrigation District showcased several of their irrigation and flood management structures and shared how agricultural water management differs across the state.

A tour attendee shared the value of the first-hand knowledge shared on the tour. "I was unfamiliar with ag water challenges and happenings in the Republican Basin and now I feel that I have a good idea of what is going on."

Jack Russell and the Middle Republican Natural Resources District hosted the tour for lunch and provided speakers and presentations on data collected through airborne electromagnetic (AEM) flight surveys and their Producer Connect dashboard.

From there, the group visited the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA) campus in Curtis and learned about the irrigation technology management program from Dan Stehlick. Many attendees shared this was their first opportunity to visit the campus in Curtis, and they were glad to see the campus and learn more about the hands-on programs offered at NCTA.

Tuesday's tour wrapped up with a visit to the Bureau of Reclamation office in McCook, where their staff provided an overview of water management in the Republican Basin and helped the tour understand how different organizations and states work together to manage the water.

On Wednesday, June 24, the tour explored the Upper Republican Natural Resources District. Led by Jasper Fanning and his team, the tour experienced Rock Creek State Recreation Area and Fish

Hatchery and aquifer augmentation projects. As Jasper Fanning put it, "If you need to get a line to heaven, it's a local call out here." The tour also visited Blackshirt Feeders to see how large water users manage resources in the Republican Basin.

The tour is held each year in a different region of Nebraska to provide an opportunity for water managers, producers, researchers, students, and local government to experience water and natural resources management throughout the state. By partnering with local experts and organizations, tour attendees gain insight into how each region manages their resources.

"It was so beautiful visiting the incredible water resources in Nebraska and learning from this whole experience," shared Pius Barungi, a research scholar at the West Central Research, Extension and Education Center who was awarded a student scholarship to attend the tour. "It was great to learn how this water is managed especially in the rainy and dry spells when volumes rise or go low."

The tour was made possible through partnership with the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment and sponsorships from HDR, the Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, Middle Republican Natural Resources District, Reinke, and Water Futures Partnership – Nebraska.