



**LOWER PLATTE SOUTH**  
natural resources district

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## Memorandum

**Date:** February 11, 2026  
**To:** Directors  
**From:** Steve Herdzina, Water Resources Coordinator SH  
**Subject:** Water Resources Subcommittee Meeting Minutes – February 2026

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The Water Resources Subcommittee met on February 11, 2026, virtually on Zoom, at 5:30 pm, to receive an update on a non-action item. Subcommittee members present included Directors Jacobson - committee chair, Baker, Eagan, Hellerich, Peterson, Ruth, Schutz and Spangler. NRD staff present were David Potter, Steve Herdzina, Dick Ehrman, Maclane Scott, Drew Bullett, and Chris Barber. Others in attendance included Director Yoakum, and Steve Owen and Tim Zach, both of Lincoln Water. Director Jacobson called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm. A quorum was present for the meeting.

### **Update on City of Lincoln “Water 2.0” Project [NO ACTION]–**

Steve Herdzina, Water Resources Coordinator, provided an update on the City of Lincoln “Water 2.0” project. Information from Lincoln’s open houses, meetings with water districts in Cass County, and discussions with NRD staff was shared with the Subcommittee. Currently, the project is in the design phase and final determinations for operations have not been decided. It is anticipated that ground water from the Missouri River alluvial aquifer will be used in the future to supply water for this project. To date, no water well permit applications have been received by the District. The District also shared concerns and questions raised by a citizen group in Cass County and the District’s response. Generally, the concerns relate to the amount of water to be used for the project, the potential effects on current users, and the unknown availability of this water for Cass County water users. The District shared that until we receive permit applications for these wells, the current work being conducted is outside of our regulatory jurisdiction. Should the District receive well permit applications for this project, the City will be obligated to complete the requirements of the permit class they are applying for, likely to include extensive modeling and pump testing to demonstrate the project will not impose an adverse affect for other water users in the area. The District intends to stay in communication with the City for developments in the project to understand potential impacts and how those may relate to ground water decisions for the NRD. Additional details and history regarding the project were provided by Steve Owen. The Subcommittee discussed water diversions, anticipated water usage, timing of project, and data centers.

### **Staff Report – Upcoming GWMP Stakeholder Meetings [NO ACTION]–**

Steve Herdzina reminded the Subcommittee about the upcoming Ground Water Management Plan Revision Stakeholder Advisory meetings. The first meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-11:30, at the Elmwood Fire Hall. The second meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-11:30, at the LPSNRD office. Both meetings will have the same presentation.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm.

Enclosures

Cc: Bob Andersen  
Corey Wasserburger

**Water Quantity:**

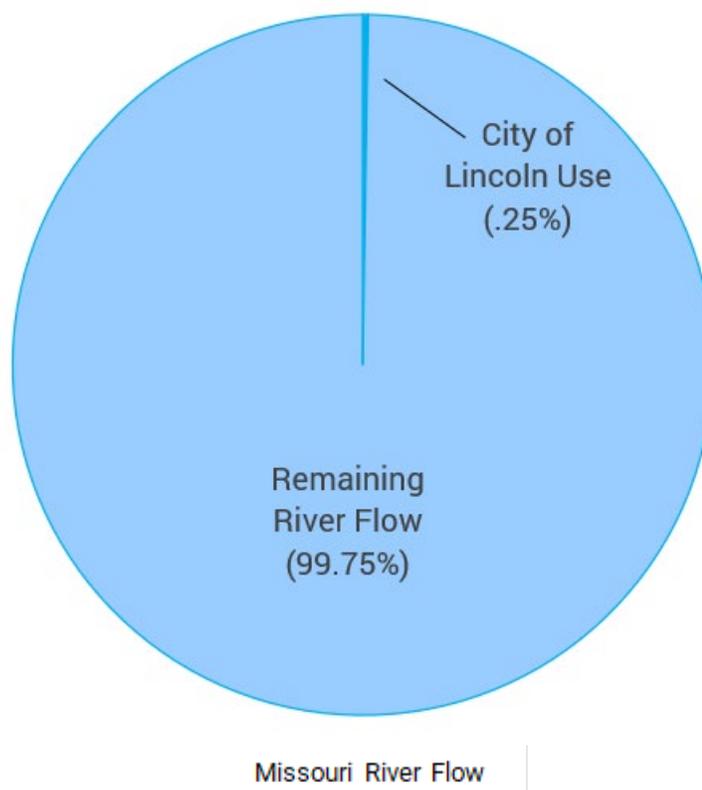
**Q: Why would a second source of water from the Missouri River to Lincoln be an important investment to Nebraskans?**

**A:** There are several ways a second water source can benefit Nebraskans. Some include:

- Offer opportunities to grow jobs, attract businesses, and increase revenue for Lincoln and the state while protecting future generations.
- Diversify Lincoln’s water sources to improve resiliency during drought/floods and potentially afford water opportunities to other communities.
- Protect farmers upstream of Lincoln’s existing Platte River wellfield during periods of drought by lessening the chance that Lincoln would exercise its water rights during a water scarcity emergency, thus providing assurance of water supply to agricultural producers along the Platte River.

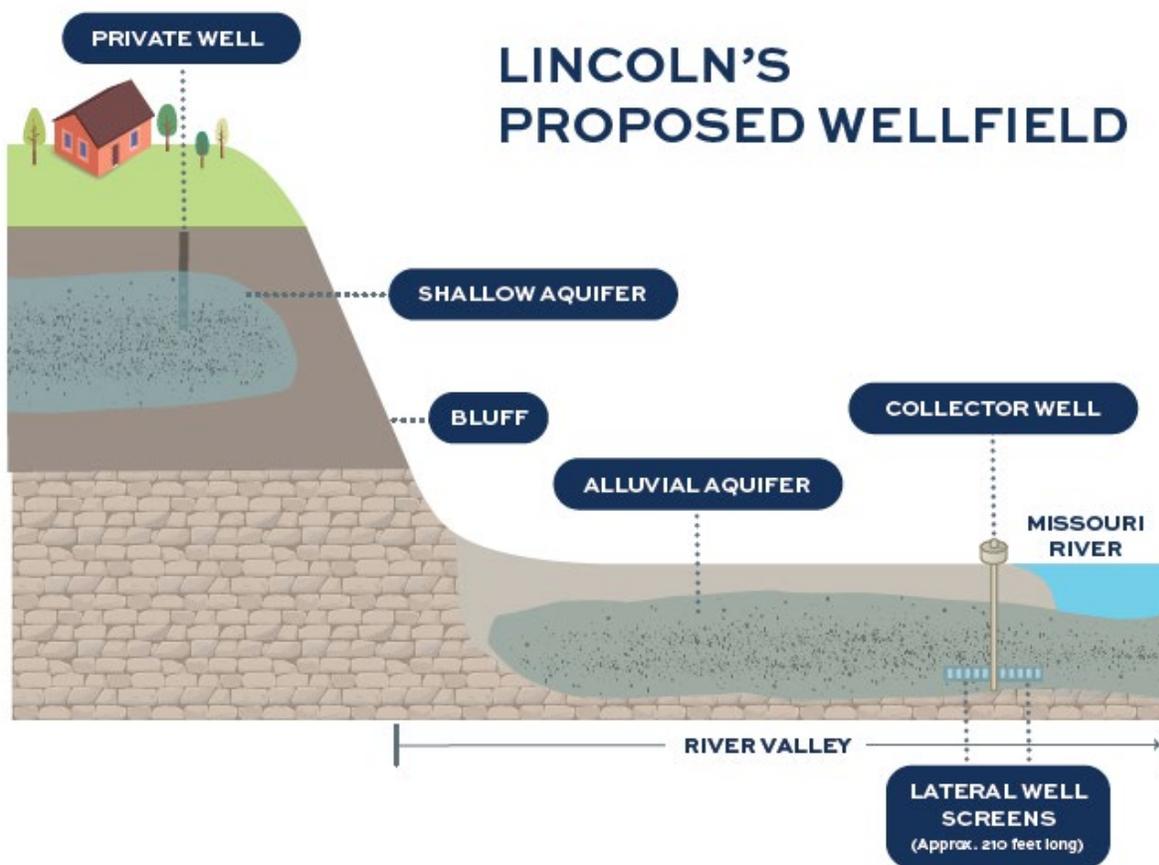
**Q: Will the amount of water the City of Lincoln proposes to draw from the Missouri River mean other communities have less water to meet their future needs?**

**A:** No. The Missouri River has abundant flow. Near the proposed wellfield, average daily flow is approximately 24-billion gallons per day. By 2025, the City of Lincoln wellfield is expected to use only 40 million gallons per day, which is less than one-quarter-of-one percent of the average river flow. This is illustrated in the chart to the right. Limiting impacts to neighboring communities was one of the central focuses of the Water 2.0 Advisory Council. See illustration below.



**Q: Will the Water 2.0 second water source project lower the water levels in my private well on my property?**

**A:** No. We want to reassure community members this project will not affect private wells. Private wells draw from shallow groundwater, typically about 50 feet deep, that is separated from the alluvial aquifer where the Water 2.0 wells will be located. Water 2.0 will rely on the Missouri River and a separated alluvial aquifer that is replenished by the Missouri River. During summer months, about 90% of the supply will come directly from the river and 10% from the aquifer. In winter, the mix shifts to about 70% river water and 30% aquifer water. The aquifer extends throughout the river valley and provides water without affecting private wells outside the wellfield. To confirm this, the City completed scientific modeling, which confirmed there will be no impact to private wells. See illustration below.



**Q: Will neighboring communities in the region eventually be able to receive water from the Water 2.0 project?**

**A:** At this time, the Water 2.0 project is being developed to serve the Lincoln community's future needs. Once the system becomes operational, which is anticipated in 2048, there may be opportunities for other communities to connect if they need additional water supply. Because each community's circumstances vary, any agreements would be considered on an individual basis at the time the system is available.

**Q: Will neighboring communities in the region be able to construct their own water projects to receive additional water from the Missouri River in the future if Lincoln is doing so now?**

A: Yes. The Missouri River has an abundance of water. Any individual, village, town, or city can proceed with their own water supply projects at any time.

**Q: Lincoln indicated that the second water source could possibly serve other communities in the region in the future. Would Lincoln have enough water for Cass County's water needs once the project is complete?**

A: Yes. Based on the current region population and capacity of the system being constructed, there will be sufficient capacity to serve the entire region.

**Q: Will individual property owners along the transmission main be able to tap into Lincoln's transmission mains for potable water consumption?**

A: No. The size of the transmission main makes it impossible to serve individual property owners. Once the system is operational in 2048, there may be opportunities for other communities to connect if they need additional water supply.

**Q: Is the Lincoln wellfield being designed for a capacity of 40 or 60 million gallons of water per day?**

A: The wellfield will be able to withdraw up to 40 million gallons of water per day through 2075.

**Q: How much water can flow through the transmission main?**

A: The water transmission main being proposed can serve a maximum flow capacity of 60 million gallons per day. A maximum flow would only be used for short periods of time when customers have high water usage.

**Q: Beaver Lake is approximately 3.0 miles from Lincoln's preferred wellfield site. Will this project lower water levels in Beaver Lake or impact the springs that feed into it?**

A: No. The lake is upstream from the proposed wells so there would be no impact to lake levels. There will also be no impact to surface water or ground water flow (springs) that feed Beaver Lake from construction of the treatment plant or water transmission main because the proposed facilities and water mains are located near the top of the ridge line. The water mains are shallow and in clay material which act as a barrier from the springs which are deeper and below the clay layers.

**Q: Lake Waconda is approximately 2 miles from Lincoln's preferred wellfield site. Will this project lower water levels in Lake Waconda?**

A: No. The bluffs to the west and the Missouri River to the south of the preferred site are barriers that separate the wellfield from Lake Waconda.

## **Project Construction:**

### **Q: Has the alignment for the water transmission main been finalized?**

**A:** While the overall alignment is considered to be final, adjustments may be made to avoid specific features on properties such as septic systems and wells. These modifications will be finalized in the coming months, and before the City of Lincoln begins to reach out to property owners to discuss purchasing easements. For the most part, the transmission main easement will be adjacent to the existing county road right-of-way.

Currently, the permanent easement is planned to be 50 to 60-feet in width. Additional temporary easements will also be required to facilitate the construction of the pipeline for equipment access, materials storage, and soil stockpiling. The water line can't be placed in the county or state road right-of-way because the normal width does not allow for the construction of the line. Also, construction near or in the county road would require road closures that would be inconvenient to residents and farmers.

### **Q: What is the project timeline?**

**A:** Efforts to complete the Water 2.0 second water source project, including the water transmission main to Lincoln are estimated to be completed by 2048.

### **Q: If construction to connect water transmission mains from the Missouri River to Lincoln won't begin for another 10 years, why are we talking about it now?**

**A:** Planning for a second water source takes time, and Lincoln is committed to be prepared while also communicating openly with the community well in advance. Construction of the Water 2.0 transmission water main from the Missouri River to Lincoln would not begin until about 2035. Water from the Missouri River won't be used until about 2048 when the wells, treatment facility and transmission main are completed.

### **Q: Will zoning changes be needed in Cass County for Water 2.0, and would those changes impact the entire County?**

**A:** Although zoning changes are not required for the Water 2.0 project, the City of Lincoln brought forward a proposed update to Cass County's existing agricultural zoning uses in the spirit of transparency and to initiate early community discussions. The current zoning already allows for utility infrastructure such as electric, communications, gas, fuel, and fertilizer lines, as well as pumping stations, substations, terminal facilities, tanks, and reservoirs.

The City's request was to ensure clarity among all that water treatment facilities, lagoons, and transmission mains are included in that list. This was done proactively, to ensure full community engagement in anticipation of future easement purchases in Cass County related to the project. At this time, the Cass County Planning Commission has tabled the request to allow for continued dialogue and community input. Based on the recommendation made by the planning commission, Lincoln is planning additional meetings with rural water systems and the Lower Platte South NRD.

**Q: The metal rods used for the field survey work are still in place. When will they be removed?**

**A:** The metal "rods" in question are called survey control points and need to remain in place. They were installed under permits obtained from Cass and Lancaster counties. These have been set at 1-mile intervals within county right-of-way and are not located on private property. The purpose of these control points is to aid in topographic surveys for the design and of the transmission main and for preparing easement boundaries and descriptions. The benefit of these control points is that they will be published as public information which provides accurate and consistent data for any future work in the area.

**Q: How deep will the water transmission main be installed?**

**A:** The water transmission main will typically be 5 – 8 feet below ground surface, which will not impact farming operations.

**Q: How wide will the easement be? Will there be temporary easements beyond the permanent easements?**

**A:** The actual width of the permanent easement has not been determined but it will likely be 50 to 60 feet in width. Additional temporary easements would be required at time of construction.

**Q: Will there have to be other structures or features above ground between the wellfield and Lincoln?**

**A:** Yes. There will be the need to locate air valves and drain lines that require small structures and access in the easement. Small pressure regulating stations and surge tanks are also common structures associated with large water transmission mains. These features will be determined during the final engineering design of the project. A pump station and above ground reservoir will likely be required near the point of connection with the City of Lincoln's water system.

**Q: Can I grow crops on top of the transmission main once constructed?**

**A:** Yes. Crops will grow on the top soil above where the transmission main is buried. Lincoln's experience with similar transmission mains from the Platte River wellfield indicate no impacts to farming once the areas is restored.

**Q: Will the City use eminent domain to acquire property including easements?**

**A:** The City works in good faith with property owners, even if the property is located outside of Lincoln. We are only proposing voluntary acquisition of easements at this time. Eminent domain is an option only used as a last resort if an agreement cannot be reached.

**Q: What is Lincoln intending to do with the waste discharge that comes from a water treatment plant?**

**A:** The residuals that remain after treating drinking water has beneficial uses for farmland. The residuals will be discharged to onsite lagoons and allowed to dewater and dry out. The inert materials that will remain, such as lime, allow it to be used for application on farm fields for pH adjustment.

**Q: How will the water treatment plant impact the views in the area where it will be built?**

**A:** Being a good neighbor to the surrounding community is important to the City of Lincoln. The water treatment plant exterior will be designed with an emphasis on blending in with the surrounding agricultural area, and the site will have landscaping and berms for visual screening. Once construction is completed, activity at the facility will be limited, with very little traffic entering and exiting the site. The facility would not generate any significant noise or light pollution, and any materials used in the water treatment process would be properly contained and stored.

**Q: There is a Native American burial site near the location where Lincoln wants to build its wellfield and treatment plant. Are you taking into account these types of critical features?**

**A:** Yes. A thorough evaluation of areas under consideration for these facilities has been conducted with the supervision of a former State of Nebraska archeologist working for the team hired by the City to conduct field surveys and investigate cultural interests. The City is aware of one Native American burial site near the proposed wellfield and treatment plant sites, and this project will not impact that location. The City is also performing additional archeological evaluations and asking property owners near the project route to provide insights on additional property features that are important for planning and design.

**History:**

**Q: When did Lincoln first publicly begin discussing this project with Cass and Lancaster counties?**

**A:** Because securing a second water source has regional benefits and impacts, Lincoln has been publicly discussing its intentions since as early as 2014 when the Water Facilities Master Plan included the possibility of that source being located near the Missouri River. Public discussion increased in 2022 with the Mayor's Water Source Advisory Council which was made up of 27 community members representing various interests. Over a 9-month period, the Advisory Council reviewed an initial list of 17 alternatives before narrowing the list to seven for further analysis. Various factors were considered in these reviews, and ultimately the recommendation was for Lincoln to seek a second water source near the Missouri River and to treat water near the source before transmitting it back to Lincoln. This alternative meets the capacity and reliability goals for a second source, as well as potentially supply treated water to other communities in Southeast Nebraska, including Cass and Lancaster counties, once the project is completed. Additional information about all of the alternatives considered can be found on the City of Lincoln's website at [lincoln.ne.gov](http://lincoln.ne.gov), search: Water 2.0. In addition to these public engagement efforts, Lincoln's efforts to secure water for the future was presented to multiple elected bodies, including at multiple hearings before the Nebraska Legislature as far back as 2021. Then on March 11, 2025, the Cass County Board approved a Right of Way permit for survey work for the water transmission line. And again, on July 14, 2025, a public hearing was held before the Cass County Planning Commission for a zoning clarification. The City held a public open house and presentation in Lancaster County on August 13, 2025 and in Cass County on August 14, 2025. On August 18, 2025, the Cass County Planning Commission tabled the zoning amendment request.

**Q: Have leaders from a variety of communities been included in the discussions about this project, especially those with a direct interest?**

**A:** Yes. The 27-member Water Source Advisory Council (referenced in a previous answer) included representatives from agricultural interests, the Nebraska League of Municipalities, Farm Bureau, a retired manager of the Lower Platte South NRD, and many others to ensure voices from across the region were at the table. This committee evaluated all available options for a new water supply in all four directions from Lincoln. Once the recommendation for the preferred alternative was determined to be the Missouri River, the City reached out to elected officials and residents in those communities. In August 2025, Lincoln sent letters to property owners along the proposed route of the water transmission main, and hosted two public open houses; one in Cass County and a second open house in Lancaster County.

**Q: What state or federal agencies oversee how water is regulated in Nebraska?**

**A:** Groundwater management is overseen by Natural Resources Districts (NRDs) throughout Nebraska. A property owner may construct wells on their property to withdraw water subject to any limitations imposed by the NRD. Restrictions are normally imposed by NRDs when groundwater within their jurisdiction becomes fully appropriated. The Lower Platte South NRD has not imposed limitations on future groundwater wells near the Missouri River.

Surface water is regulated by the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment. The water of every natural stream within the State of Nebraska, including the Missouri River, is declared to be the property of the public and is dedicated to the use of the people of the state, subject to appropriation. Nebraska is a “first in time, first in right” state relative to surface water meaning senior permit holders have rights over upstream permittees that are junior by permit date.

**Q: What permits are required to construct Lincoln’s proposed wells.**

**A:** The Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (NRD) has jurisdiction in the area of the proposed wellfield. The permit to install the wells would be issued by the NRD. Further permitting for the actual construction of the wells is completed through the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment.

**Q: How much will the Water 2.0 second water source cost?**

**A:** The Water 2.0 second water source is estimated to cost just under \$1 billion in 2025 dollars.

**Q: How did Lincoln come up with the transmission main route?**

**A:** The City used a robust process that considers a full range of factors and engineering constraints; utility, railroad, environmental and property impacts; operation, maintenance and security; and public and stakeholder input. The proposed route balances those factors along with benefits and cost. To review the proposed transmission main route, visit [lincoln.ne.gov/SecondWaterSource](http://lincoln.ne.gov/SecondWaterSource) and refer to the latest public open house materials.

**Q: What will determine the exact alignment of the transmission line including which side of the road it will be on?**

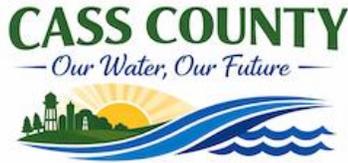
**A:** A lot of thought and research has gone into setting the preliminary route shown on the maps, but actual field survey work is required to set the exact alignment. Generally, the alignment is expected to be adjacent to the existing county ROW.

**Q: Will the City of Lincoln have to raise water rates to help pay for this project?**

**A:** Based on recommendations in the 2014 Water Facilities Master Plan, we will have a variety of funding sources through the project. We are working hard to secure funds in a variety of ways including securing Federal and State funds, bonds, while also reserving funds to help pay for a portion of the project, along with reviewing annual rate increases to assist. The City's consultant team is currently evaluating potential rate impacts using current cost estimates and various implementation schedules. Any rate increases are approved by the Lincoln City Council as part of budget process every two years.

**Q: How will I get information updates in the future?**

**A:** Please visit the City of Lincoln's website to review all updates at [lincoln.ne.gov/SecondWaterSource](http://lincoln.ne.gov/SecondWaterSource).



## **Annex A to LPSNRD website submission of Jan 12, 2026**

### **Ground Water Management Plan Update – 2026**

The following questions are offered in the same spirit as those used during the LPSNRD GWMP Update stakeholder meetings—to foster discussion, clarify assumptions, and better understand how major proposed infrastructure projects are evaluated within long-range groundwater planning.

#### **A.1 Public Review and Process Transparency**

During the September 10, 2024, Ground Water Management Plan (GWMP) stakeholder meeting, LPSNRD staff indicated that committee meetings would occur in the March–April timeframe, with a draft plan anticipated for review in approximately May 2025.

##### **Question:**

Will the draft GWMP update be made available for public review and comment prior to submission by the subcommittee to the LPSNRD Board of Directors for consideration and approval in 2026? If so, what form will that review take?

##### **Justification:**

We believe the GWMP update to be foundational in nature. Our coalition members, and others impacted by this plan, welcome the opportunity to participate in this public document’s development prior to submission for approval.

#### **A.2 Inclusion of Major Proposed Water Supply Projects**

The GWMP is described as a detailed, living document addressing district conditions, geology, water needs, and management programs. During the September 3, 2024 stakeholder meeting, questions were raised regarding alignment between the GWMP update and the City of Lincoln’s proposed Water 2.0 project, with the response noting that the GWMP update process began several years ago.

##### **Question:**

Will the 2026 GWMP update incorporate the anticipated impacts of the proposed Lincoln Water 2.0 wellfields and associated infrastructure? If not, what is the anticipated timing and mechanism for updating the GWMP to reflect a project of this scale, given that it is already in advanced planning and preliminary development stages, specifically

- land acquisition,
- test well development, and
- execution of ARPA funding.

**Justification:**

As stated in A.1, the GWMP is a foundational document that should anticipate, not react to, the impacts and effects of the Lincoln Water 2.0 pipeline.

**A.3 Relationship Between Identified Water Quality and Quantity Concerns and Regional Water Supply Planning**

The 2024 GWMP Annual Review identified multiple challenges related to water quality and quantity within central Cass County, including documented nitrate exceedances in areas such as Weeping Water / Otoe County RWD #3 and the designated Phase III Elmwood area. Water quality concerns have also been a recurring theme during GWMP stakeholder discussions.

**Question:**

As part of the GWMP update, has the District considered evaluating alternative potable water supply strategies for communities affected by persistent water quality concerns, including potential regional or interconnection-based approaches associated with the proposed Lincoln Water 2.0 project?

**Justification:**

Several of Cass County’s documented water quality and quantity challenges could potentially be addressed through participation in a regional water supply, and we believe this warrants consideration within the GWMP planning framework.

In testimony before the Legislative Appropriations Committee on October 20, 2023—subsequently followed by legislative action increasing the ARPA grant to the City of Lincoln to \$197.2 million—Ms. Elizabeth Elliott, Director of Lincoln Transportation and Utilities, stated:

“The nearly \$200 million state ARPA investment you supported the last two sessions is not just for Lincoln. It is a lifeline for our entire state. It offers Lincoln the additional water supply for its growing community, and it presents an opportunity for southeastern Nebraska communities to connect to a regional water supply. This, in turn, fuels economic development, creates jobs, attracts businesses, and increases revenue for the state. Many communities across the region are grappling with water issues, from quality concerns to water shortages. This summer, we witnessed mandatory water restrictions in several communities in our region. We have also been contacted by several regional communities as close as Waverly and as far away as Nebraska City expressing a desire to connect to Lincoln’s water supply.”

The proposed Lincoln Water 2.0 wellfield would involve groundwater withdrawals exceeding the combined pumping of all other wells within the LPSNRD (ref: 2024 GWMP Annual Review). Given the scale, stated regional intent, and public funding of the Lincoln Water 2.0 project, we believe it is reasonable for the GWMP update to acknowledge the project’s pending development and consider whether, and under what conditions, it could **contribute to addressing identified water challenges affecting communities within Cass County.**

## **A.4 Wellhead and Source Water Protection Planning**

The Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE) delineates Wellhead Protection Areas (WHPAs) for public water supply systems. The proposed Lincoln Water 2.0 wellfield is located within a hydrologically connected Missouri River alluvial aquifer and is expected to involve large-scale groundwater pumping.

### **Questions:**

As part of the GWMP update, we have the following questions regarding Commercial Water System Protection Areas (CWSPAs), using the terminology currently applied within the GWMP:

A.4.1 Will delineation of CWSPAs for the proposed Lincoln Water 2.0 wellfield occur prior to, or after, NRD well permitting decisions? If CWSPA delineation is not addressed as part of the current GWMP update, does the District anticipate updating the GWMP prior to consideration of well permits for this project?

A.4.2 How will affected landowners, counties, and local jurisdictions be notified and engaged in the CWSPA delineation process prior to final delineation and permitting decisions?

A.4.3 What time-of-travel assumptions are anticipated for CWSPA delineation (e.g., 20-year, 50-year, or other modeling standards)?

### **Justification:**

While the Lincoln Water 2.0 project remains in the planning and pre-permitting phase, the potential implications of CWSPA delineation for surrounding landowners and local jurisdictions have not yet been clearly articulated. Experience with existing Lincoln and Metropolitan Utilities District (MUD) wellfields along the Platte and Missouri Rivers demonstrates that wellhead protection areas can carry meaningful land-use and operational implications for agricultural producers and nearby communities. Accordingly, clarity regarding CWSPA timing, scope, and public engagement is an appropriate consideration within long-range groundwater management planning.

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### **Conclusion:**

These questions are offered to support informed discussion and exploration, consistent with the approach used during the GWMP update stakeholder process. Our intent is to better understand how major proposed water supply projects are integrated into long-range groundwater management planning and to engage constructively with the District on these issues.

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## LOWER PLATTE SOUTH natural resources district

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1. The anticipated schedule and next steps for the GWMP update,

Thank you for pointing out the lack of an anticipated schedule on the website. This was an oversight on our end. We are in the process of updating the website to include a more transparent timeline.

As for the update process, we have completed the first round of open houses and are currently between the second of three stakeholder meetings, with the next round scheduled for late February. After the next stakeholder's meeting, we will host an open house(s) (anticipated for March) to gather any additional feedback from the public before completing a draft plan document. This draft plan will then be submitted to various state agencies for review as required by state statute. At this time, the draft plan will also be available for public review. After the state review process, we will again host another stakeholder's meeting and round of open houses to present the final plan document prior to presentation to the NRD Board of Directors for adoption.

2. Whether consideration of large, proposed projects such as Lincoln Water 2.0 is within the scope of the current update, and

We do not intend to include specific individual projects, whether existing or proposed in the current update. The goal of the management plan is to create a framework that the District can use to broadly protect ground water resources for all areas of the District, while creating processes that provide a guide on how to make best decisions on future inquiries as we receive them. The updated plan will reference our well permitting process which is anticipated to be utilized on the City of Lincoln "Water 2.0" project. The District also has established Rules and Regulations which deal with more specific ground water instances, including well permit processes, designated management areas, variance requests, and other more specific information. All permitted wells within the Lower Platte South NRD are subject to the requirements established in the Rules and Regulations based on the size of the permit being applied for.

3. The appropriate timing and mechanism for providing organized, substantive input intended to support the District's groundwater planning objectives.

Please feel free to provide feedback as soon as it is ready. The best mechanism for this feedback would be a written document outlining the considerations you feel the District should be aware of. As with any public document, receipt of said feedback does not guarantee that it will be incorporated but the District values the feedback of its residents and wants to include them in this process. This feedback can be sent to the District directly, where it will be considered and shared with District staff and our contractor who is working with us to complete the Ground Water Management Plan update.

4. **Question:** Will the draft GWMP update be made available for public review and comment prior to submission by the subcommittee to the LPSNRD Board of Directors for consideration and approval in 2026? If so, what form will that review take?

Yes, once the draft document is complete, it will be available for public review prior to submission to the subcommittee and the Board. We anticipate making the complete document available on District websites. This expected public review period will coincide with the ongoing Agency review that is required by state statute. After receiving public and agency feedback, another round of open houses and stakeholder's meetings will be held to present the final document prior to presentation to the subcommittee and Board.

The review with the state agencies will involve submission of the complete draft document for comments/feedback. That is also the anticipated mechanism for public review.

5. **Question:** Will the 2026 GWMP update incorporate the anticipated impacts of the proposed Lincoln Water 2.0 wellfields and associated infrastructure? If not, what is the anticipated timing and mechanism for updating the GWMP to reflect a project of this scale, given that it is already in advanced planning and preliminary development stages, specifically
- land acquisition,
  - test well development, and
  - execution of ARPA funding.

Currently, the District has not received any well permits related to the Lincoln Water 2.0 project. If or when we receive these permits and prior to issuance of any permit approval, the District will require extensive aquifer testing, hydrogeologic analysis, and impact modeling on the aquifer and on current groundwater users based on publicly available information from Lincoln Water regarding anticipated water usage to comply with the permit requirements outlined in our Rules and Regulations. This type of modeling is the responsibility of the applicant to provide to the District prior to consideration of the permit. The current revision of the GWMP is still under development. The prior plan did mention future water needs and expected land use changes, and the current update will likely take a similar approach. As for the anticipated impacts of the proposed project, this would take the modeling mentioned above to demonstrate the potential impacts which the District requires of any applicant when they apply for a permit.

The GWMP update schedule has not yet been identified at this time. The goal is to incorporate new data as it is available from various sources. The District recognizes the need for more frequent updates to the plan and will be cognizant of balancing that with other needs and demands of the District.

6. **Question:** As part of the GWMP update, has the District considered evaluating alternative potable water supply strategies for communities affected by persistent water quality concerns, including potential regional or interconnection-based approaches associated with the proposed Lincoln Water 2.0 project?

The District does not have the authority to require the proposed Lincoln Water 2.0 project to supply water to other entities. The GWMP aims to provide a framework for the NRD to make decisions and provide a series of considerations or options to meet quality and quantity goals within our statutory authority and will include updated hydrogeologic information which may be helpful for communities affected with water concerns.

## 7. Questions:

As part of the GWMP update, we have the following questions regarding Commercial Water System Protection Areas (CWSPAs), using the terminology currently applied within the GWMP:

The District intends to clarify that our Community Water System Protection Areas (CWSPAs), are designated to match the existing delineated wellhead protection areas by the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment (NeDWEE) and use similar language in future to avoid confusion.

A.4.1 Will delineation of CWSPAs for the proposed Lincoln Water 2.0 wellfield occur prior to, or after, NRD well permitting decisions? If CWSPA delineation is not addressed as part of the current GWMP update, does the District anticipate updating the GWMP prior to consideration of well permits for this project?

This question would need to be answered by the NeDWEE as they are responsible for wellhead protection area designation.

The District does not know when we will receive any well permits for this project, but our current permit requirements outline the necessary steps required prior to issuing a well permit.

A.4.2 How will affected landowners, counties, and local jurisdictions be notified and engaged in the CWSPA delineation process prior to final delineation and permitting decisions?

This question would need to be answered by the NeDWEE as they are responsible for wellhead protection area designation. If a wellhead protection area is added in the future, the District would plan to incorporate that designation in the next revision of its GWMP.

A.4.3 What time-of-travel assumptions are anticipated for CWSPA delineation (e.g., 20-year, 50-year, or other modeling standards)?

This question would need to be answered by the NeDWEE as they are responsible for wellhead protection area designation. Currently, our 1995 GWMP identifies a 20-year time of travel but the District anticipates utilizing the best available information in future revisions of its plan and would therefore incorporate the best available data from NeDWEE for any wellhead protection area.