

LOWER PLATTE SOUTH NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

JUNE 2025

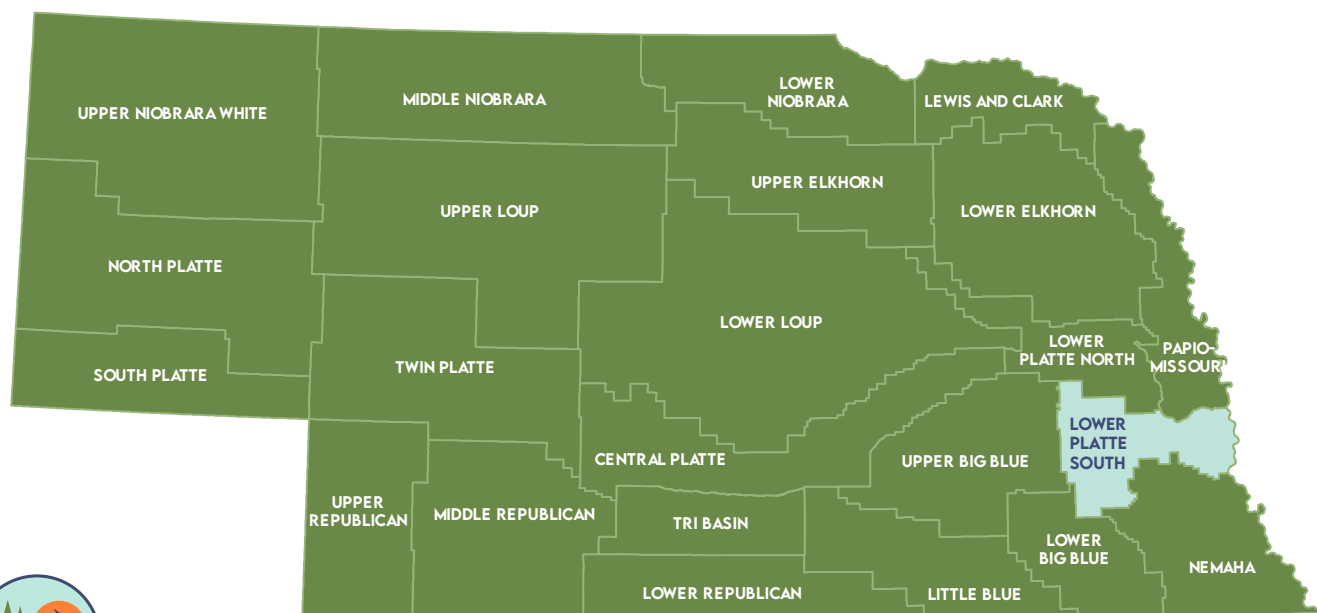
Thank you for joining us today! The purpose of this meeting is to explore why ground water management planning is important to you and how it affects your health, livelihood, environment, and recreational activities.

WHAT IS A NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT?

Unique to Nebraska, Natural Resources Districts (NRDs) were established in 1972. They have the responsibility to conserve, protect, and manage natural resources within defined river basin boundaries.

WHAT IS THE LOWER PLATTE SOUTH NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT?

The Lower Platte South NRD (LPSNRD) is one of 23 NRDs and is made up of multiple counties in southeastern Nebraska. It consists of approximately one million acres and 350,000 residents. The district covers both rural and urban areas and is governed by a 21-member, elected Board of Directors. The LPSNRD has many programs to help constituents protect and preserve our natural resources.



LOWER PLATTE SOUTH
natural resources district

WHAT IS A GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN AND WHY DO WE NEED IT?

Nebraska law requires each of the state's 23 NRDs to have an active and operational Ground Water Management Plan. The LPSNRD Ground Water Management Plan was developed in 1995 with a Ground Water Management Plan Annual Review of related activities each year. This Ground Water Management Plan will be a detailed, living publication with information about the district, its geology, needs related to ground water, programs, and plans. Key data and information will be refreshed periodically. This document guides the management of both the water quantity and quality in the district.

Ultimately, the goals of the ground water management plan are:



Describe the resources available



Describe the current demands and contamination levels of the resources



Define the methods that the NRD will use to oversee the sustainable use of ground water resources

HOW DOES THIS AFFECT ME?

The Ground Water Management Plan covers both water quantity and quality and affects each person within the district. Water quality has a large impact on public health. If contaminants go unmonitored in ground water, they may cause health issues. LPSNRD monitors for contaminants such as nitrates, pesticides, arsenic, etc. and is aware of emerging contaminants such as PFAS, sometimes known as "forever chemicals".

PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS

Nitrates are the most common non-point source pollutant in Nebraska and come from the breakdown of organic material in soils, waste, and chemical fertilizers. Maximum contaminant limit for the Safe Drinking Water Act is 10 parts per million. This may lead to health problems.

RECREATION/ECONOMIC CONCERNS

Ground water quality and quantity can have a significant effect on recreation as well as the local economy. Poor ground water quality can affect local wildlife and aquatic life, lead to harmful algal blooms, and create unsafe conditions for activities like boating, swimming, and fishing. This can also affect tourism in local communities.

When ground water levels drop below sustainable levels, it can affect various aspects of the economy, including irrigation for agriculture, municipal uses such as pools and lawn watering, industrial operations, and drinking water supplies.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?

Dick Ehrman

Water Resources Coordinator

dehrman@lpsnrd.org

402-476-2729

lpsnrd.org/ground-water-management-plan



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