



Nemaha Natural Resources District

Insight



Winter 2010



Windbreaks prove their worth this year.

Forestry Workshop Scheduled

The winter of 2009 no doubt has proven that a well designed windbreak can become invaluable to people, livestock, and wildlife. Find out more about the benefits of windbreaks, how to maintain or renovate an existing windbreak, and what pests and diseases are plaguing our trees at a free workshop on Wednesday, February 24.

Co-hosted by the Cooperative Extension and Nemaha NRD, presentations will feature speakers from the Nebraska Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Cooperative Extension, and NNRD. Plenty of time will also be allowed for questions from the audience.

No fee is required, but participants are asked to pre-register by calling the NRD office at 335-3325. The workshop runs from 9:30-Noon and will be at the Nemaha NRD's office located just east of Tecumseh on Highway 136.

NNRD Board to Fill 11 Seats in 2010

Over half of the Nemaha NRD's 21 elected director positions are up for re-election this year. The deadline has now passed for the incumbents to register their intentions, but non-incumbents still have until March 1 to file for one of the 11 positions.

NNRD directors are elected through the primary and/or general elections for terms of four years. Candidates must be registered voters. The Nemaha NRD is divided into 10 subdistricts represented by two directors, who are elected alternately in even numbered years. Directors meet monthly, as prescribed by law, and receive per diem, mileage, and reimbursement of expenses. Incumbents whose terms expire this year include:

Subdistrict	Current NRD Director	Subdistrict	Current NRD Director
1	Paul Weber, Firth	6	Jim Rush, Tecumseh
2	Dan Watermeier, Syracuse	7	Scott Kudrna, Auburn
3	Jim Wirth, Nebraska City	8	Don Siske, Table Rock
4	John Albrecht, Nebraska City	9	Ron Heskett, Nemaha
5	Duane Sugden, Sterling	10	Bruce Walker, Falls City

At-Large Lisa Beethe, Elk Creek

For more information or to obtain a candidate filing form, contact the Secretary of State's office in Lincoln (402) 471-2555, your local election commissioner/county clerk, or the NRD office (402) 335-3325. Completed filing forms must be mailed or delivered in person to the Secretary of State's office in Lincoln no later than close of business on Monday, March 1.

Discounted NNRD Park Permits

Though Iron Horse Trail Lake won't be open for business in 2010, park visitors still have three other Nemaha NRD facilities available for fishing and/or boating activities this year. And if you're going to be visiting Kirkman's Cove near Humboldt or Wirth Brothers Lake north of Tecumseh, don't forget to purchase your Nemaha NRD vehicle entry permit. (A permit is not required for Prairie Owl Recreation Area south of Dunbar.)

Annual vehicle permit stickers are available at a cost of \$10 only until April 1; after April 1 the price increases to \$12. You may also purchase a second permit at the same time for another vehicle you own at the rate of \$6. These permits are valid through December 31, regardless of the date of purchase and are required for all motorized vehicles entering the parks. For infrequent visitors to the parks, two-day permits are available at each park for \$5.

Annual permits may be purchased in person at our office during regular business hours (M-F, 8-4:30), by printing an application from our website (www.nemahanrd.org) and mailing it with your payment, or by calling our office (402-335-3325) to request an application. Gift certificates for annual permits are also available by contacting the NRD office.

March 1 is the Deadline for 2010 Tree Orders

If you still want to order conservation trees for spring planting, you'll need to act soon. March 1 is the last day to place your order. Several species of conifers, deciduous trees, and shrubs are still available, and all are priced at \$0.85 each, plus handling charges and sales tax. You must order in quantities of 25/ species, and prepayment is required. Seedlings are usually available in early-mid April and delivered to one of five locations in the District for you to pick up on a designated date.

Call the NRD today at 335-3325 for more information.

Construction Updates

Iron Horse Trail Lake Restoration

This project officially began in December, 2009, with Shanahan Bros. Construction mobilizing large construction equipment to the site. They have begun construction of a main sediment basin near the primary inlet to the lake. Dependent upon weather, Shanahan Bros. plans to work throughout this winter and complete construction of the sediment basin by May of 2010. A few of many remaining components of the project include removing 175,000 cubic yards of sediment from the main body of the lake, constructing several islands and jetties, and building a handicap accessible fishing pier. Because of the ongoing construction, Iron Horse Trail Lake will remain closed for the 2010 season.

Big Muddy Creek

Construction of two county road grade control structures located on the Johnson/Nemaha County line will begin soon. Plans call for two degrading bridges to be replaced with a double concrete box culvert and a triple corrugated metal culvert. Design of both structures includes raising inlet elevations three feet above existing channel bottoms to provide for needed grade control.

After nearly a year of negotiating with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, it appears that the NRD is getting close to securing a 404 permit that will allow construction to begin on the Ray Caspers road dam southeast of Johnson. Funding for projects in the Big Muddy Watershed is provided in part through a grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust.

Small Dams Cost-Share Projects

Dam designs for Randy Miller in Gage County and Ed Breuning in Pawnee County are underway. Construction of both structures is planned to begin this spring. As a reminder, the deadline for signing up for the NRD small dams program is June 1.

Water Program Updates

Chemigation

Producers planning to apply fertilizer or pesticides through an irrigation system are required by Title 195 to attend and pass a Chemigation Applicator Certification training session once every four years. Producers in the District who need to renew their certification will be notified by mail. Additional information on training dates throughout the state can be found at <http://www.deq.state.ne.us/Chemig.nsf/Pages/Chemig> and study materials at <http://nrec.unl.edu/chemigation.shtml>.

Flow Meters – Why Now?

Funding is still available through a grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust to help purchase flow meters for water wells pumping greater than 50 gpm within the District. The program will cost-share 50% of the cost of a new flow meter and installation, up to a maximum of \$500.

Flow meters allow the producer to know exactly how much water is being applied as well as the flow rate. As wells age, wear and tear decreases flow rates – a flow meter can identify a problem with the well, pump, or engine before major breakdowns occur. In addition, though meters are not required by law right now on high



Excavation of the sediment basin at Iron Horse Trail Lake.

Water Program Updates (Cont.) -----

capacity wells, should that change, grant funds would no longer cover the cost.

Funding is limited, and the grant expires this year. Application and approval are required prior to purchase. Contact the NRD office for more information, or log-on to our website (www.nemahanrd.org) and download the application from our Water page..



Buck Creek Dam On It's Way

With construction on the Buck Creek dam expected to start this spring, most of the focus of this project has been on obtaining the required 404 permit from the Corps of Engineers and finalizing bid documents. It is hoped that the permit will be approved within the next two months, which would allow work on the \$1 million project to begin. Construction should take 8-12 months to complete assuming that everything goes as planned. As part of the project, the NRD is working with Nemaha County to upgrade County Road 735 west of Peru by replacing aging bridges and bringing the road up to modern safety standards. A timetable for the road work has not been established. Funding for the Buck Creek dam has been secured through the federal PL566 program; however, the NRD is looking at additional funding sources to address some shortfall on the dam project proposed for Duck Creek.

Another major component of this project is the effort to get land treatment practices implanted above both dams to reduce sediment loading. Sedimentation reduces the storage capacity of a reservoir, and ultimately it will no longer protect the stream below the dam from sediment damage. To date 21 federal EQIP contracts have been signed as part of the project, which will help install \$1.8 million in conservation practices throughout the watershed. This will include 6 small ponds, 4 grade stabilization structures, 2000 acres protected by terraces, and 125 acres of filter strips. In addition to the EQIP dollars, funding for the installation of these practices is being provided by the Nebraska Environmental Trust and EPA's 319 Non-Point Source Pollution Program. Future signups are expected to increase those totals.

From the Manager's Desk → by Bob Hilske

2010 - A Busy Year for the Nemaha NRD

It is hard to believe that it has already been 10 years since everything was going to come to a standstill because of the new millennium. Remember wondering if your computer or digital clock was going to explode at midnight because it was not going to be able to handle the year 2000? As we shoveled our way into 2010, it was already proving to be a busy year for the District. Although an ice cream scoop may have been more appropriate, excavators removed the first load of frozen sediment from Iron Horse Trail Lake in December. Considering the weather, it is hard to believe the progress that has been made on that project. Cold weather has actually helped the contractor make great progress. I'm guessing when everything thaws out this spring, things may really get exciting. I'm hoping they joined AAA for the free towing service!

We are also getting ready to start work on the Buck Creek dam near Peru. It should take around a year to complete the 144,000 cubic yard dam that will result in a 42-acre lake. When thinking back over the history of the two projects, it is an amazing contrast of modern government. It has taken over 15 years to put together the plan and funds to construct the dam on Buck Creek; meanwhile, the whole Iron Horse project came together in two years. The dam is sort of like the quarterback on the football team – it gets all the attention while the other players often go unnoticed. In the case of the Buck and Duck Creek Watershed, our other player is the watershed management project. I'm pleased to see that after the first round of EQIP sign-ups we had 21 contracts approved for over \$1.8 million. This is going to help extend the life of our dams as well as provide direct benefits to landowners who are taking part in the program. The watershed project certainly deserves a post game interview.

These two projects represent over \$3 million in our budget this year. We used magicians, fairy dust, and shoehorns to make the budget work; and somehow, thanks to outside funding from entities such as EPA and the Nebraska Environmental Trust, we made it all fit. I'll admit we complain about agencies like EPA on occasion, but it turns out their money looks the same as everyone else's.

Muddy Creek is still going, and we hope to wrap it up this year. Scott, our Assistant Manager, assures me that we'll be able to officially rename the stream "Not as Muddy as it used to be Creek" by the end of the year! The Muddy Creek Project is a great example of how landowners, the NRD, and a county can work together to achieve a goal. Again we also owe gratitude to the Nebraska Environmental Trust and the EQIP program for helping to fund that effort.

To be honest because of all the projects underway, board meetings have been pretty short affairs. We aren't in the position to plan anything new for awhile or purchase new equipment. Rest assured that when we wrap up this round of projects, things will pick up as we plan for the future. Meanwhile, this is an election year; and if you are interested, it might be the time to get on board; the meetings are short and the rolls still as good as ever.

Grass Drilling Services from NNRD

For several years the Nemaha NRD has offered a custom, no-till drilling service to landowners who have small fields (25 acres or less) to be seeded. Available both in the spring and fall, the March 15 application deadline for the spring service is quickly approaching. In addition the NRD is capable of seeding a maximum of only 100 acres each season, so approvals are on a first-come, first-served basis.

Cost for the service is \$22/acre, but a \$100 minimum charge applies; and 100% of

the estimated cost of the service is payable in advance. Landowners must provide their own good quality seed. The no-till drill is strictly for custom drilling by the NRD, and it is not available for rent. However, a Miller grassland drill is available for rent at a cost of \$9/acre; a \$100 damage deposit is also required at the time of rental.

If you're interest in the NRD's drilling services, contact the office at (402) 335-3325.

NEMAHA NRD STAFF

Bob Hilske, Manager
Scott Nelson, Assistant Manager
Jane Kuhl, Administrative Assistant
Allison Caspers, Administrative Assistant
Lisa Bartels, Secretary
Chuck Wingert,
Water Resources Manager
Charlie Pierce,
Water Resources Technician
Steve Bartels, Field Representative
Mark McDonald, Field Representative
Vernon Speers, Jr., Field Representative
Aaron Stalder, Resources Specialist
Tomas Chalé Aké, Projects Crew Leader
Shawn Kreienhop, Resources Specialist

NRD STAFF IN NRCS OFFICES

Deb Kreienhop, Auburn
Glenda Bates, Tecumseh
Jim Masters, Syracuse
Amanda Hartman, Falls City
Kathy Harlow, Pawnee City

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Albrecht, Nebraska City
Lisa Beethe, Elk Creek (**Vice-Chair**)
Rob Bohling, Johnson (**Sec.-Treas.**)
Charles Duryea, Humboldt
Orval Gigstad, Syracuse
Ted Godemann, Falls City
Wayne Goering, Nebraska City
Lynn Heng, Nebraska City
Ron Heskett, Nemaha
Scott Kudrna, Auburn (**Chair**)
Jim Rush, Tecumseh
Don Siske, Table Rock
Mike Speece, Auburn
J. Duane Sugden, Sterling
Steve Sugden, Douglas
William Umland, Palmyra
Bruce Walker, Falls City
Dan Watermeier, Syracuse
Paul Weber, Firth
Tom White, Falls City
Jim Wirth, Nebraska City

NEMAHA NRD OFFICE:



62161 Hwy 136
Tecumseh, NE 68450
Phone: (402) 335-3325
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www.nemahanrd.org

Payments Available for Public Hunting Access

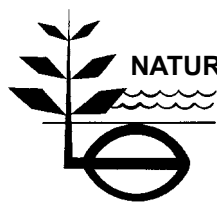
The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission's Open Fields and Waters Program is currently accepting landowner enrollment. Entering its second year, the program's response from landowners, hunters, and anglers has been positive. Over 37,000 acres are currently available for public hunting and fishing statewide, including 371 acres of ponds and 38 miles of streams.

Open Fields and Waters pays landowners who allow walk-in hunting and fishing to their enrolled property. Payment rates of up to \$12/acre are available for woodland habitats suitable for deer and turkey hunting. Additional payments are made for other habitats and for fishable ponds (\$250 first acre; \$40/acre after) and streams (up to \$500/mile). There are minimum eligibility requirements. A Commission representative will work individually with landowners to determine a specific payment rate per farm and any needed allowances.

Payment rates vary in the state based on population; Nemaha NRD is in the highest payment zone. Landowners should contact their nearest Commission office (Lincoln 402-471-0641) or pick up a program brochure at the NRD office for more information.

- Help Needed for Rainfall Measuring -

More volunteers are still needed to help measure rainfall for the NeRAIN program. To find out more about the NeRAIN program, logon to the NRD's website and click on the NeRAIN logo. If you're interested in volunteering, contact the NRD at (402) 335-3325.



nemaha

NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

62161 Hwy 136
TECUMSEH, NEBRASKA 68450

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February

- 16 Incumbent Filing Deadline
- 24 Forestry Workshop
@ Nemaha NRD (9-Noon)



March

- 1 Non-Incumbent Filing Deadline
Deadline for Ordering Seedling Trees from NNRD
- 2 Southeast Regional Envirothon, Beatrice
NRD Water Programs Conference, Kearney
- 6-10 NARD Washington, DC, Conference
- 9 Water Celebration @ Peru State College
- 11 NNRD Board meeting, Tecumseh (7:00 p.m.)

April

- 1 Deadline for Reduced Cost NNRD Park Permits
- 8 NRD Board Meeting, Tecumseh (8:00 p.m.)
- 22 Earth Day
- 25-5/2 Soil & Water Stewardship Week
- 30 Arbor Day (NNRD Office is Open)

The Nemaha NRD's **Insight** is a publication of the Nemaha Natural Resources District. Requests to be placed on the **Insight** mailing list and/or comments regarding information in this publication should be directed to Jane Kuhl, Administrative Assistant, 62161 Hwy 136, Tecumseh, NE 68450. Phone (402) 335-3325.

To receive this publication electronically, email us at nrrd@nemahanrd.org.