

**LOWER ELKHORN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
PUBLIC HEARING**

601 East Benjamin Avenue

Norfolk Nebraska

7:30 p.m. – Thursday, October 15, 2015

1. Public Hearing Relating to Proposed Amendments to the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District Groundwater Management Plan
 - a. Enter District's Exhibits
 - b. Receive Evidence and Testimony from the Public

Dates to Remember:

October 22 – Board Meeting – Norfolk, 7:30 p.m.

f. Groundwater management area description.

A groundwater management area can address groundwater quantity and/or groundwater quality issues. Nonpoint source nitrate-nitrogen groundwater contamination was the reason for the establishment of the management area that is described in this section. The management area, however, will also address other nonpoint source contaminants and groundwater quantity depletions in order to achieve the district's Reservoir Life Goal (see page 5).

The groundwater management area will address both groundwater quantity and quality issues, and the management area will include the entire district. The description of groundwater quantity management begins on page 101; the description of groundwater quality management begins on page 105.

There are two district-wide requirements of the groundwater management area: 1) wells designed to pump more than 50 gallons per minute must be permitted by the district prior to well construction, and 2) flow meters must be installed on all active irrigation wells.

Under the management area, the district will be geographically and/or stratigraphically divided into subareas. These subareas are called Action Levels for groundwater quantity management, and Phases for groundwater quality management. An area will be placed into a subarea according to the conditions in that area. For example, an area may be placed into a certain Action Level if the groundwater levels have dropped (a groundwater quantity problem), or it may be placed into a certain Phase if groundwater in the area is contaminated (a groundwater quality problem).

The district will require the use of corrective actions within subareas. Different actions will be required in different subareas according to the conditions in that subarea. Areas with groundwater level or contamination problems will have different requirements than areas without those problems. In this way, the actions that the district will require will be specific to the problem being solved. Groundwater levels and groundwater contaminant concentrations (as well as other criteria) have been established by the Board of Directors that will 'trigger' the designation of a subarea for quantity and/or quality management. A subarea's designation can be changed if conditions in that area change.

The controls required for the groundwater management area are described on the following pages. ~~One requirement will be uniform throughout the district: new wells will need to be permitted by the district in accordance with §46-659.~~

A detailed description of the groundwater quantity portion of this groundwater management plan begins on page 101. When a problem is detected by the groundwater quantity monitoring program, Action Level 1 will be triggered and