



LONG RANGE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Fiscal Year 2026
July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026

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Introduction

The Nebraska Unicameral in 1978 passed LB 783 (Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943, sections 2-3201 through 2-3261) which changed the formal planning process of natural resources districts. LB 783 eliminated the comprehensive “One- and Six-Year Plan” and established requirements for three types of planning. It outlines planning of resources development, management, utilization and conservation as one of the purposes of natural resources districts.

2-3229. “The purposes of the natural resources districts shall be to develop and execute, through the exercise of powers and authorities contained in (this act), plans, facilities, works and programs relating to:

1. erosion prevention and control,
2. prevention of damages from flood water and sediment,
3. flood prevention and control,
4. soil conservation,
5. water supply for any beneficial uses,
6. development, management, utilization, and conservation of groundwater and surface water,
7. pollution control,
8. solid waste disposal and sanitary drainage,
9. drainage improvement and channel rectification,
10. development and management of fish and wildlife habitat,
11. development and management of recreational and park facilities, and
12. forestry and range management.”

2-3276. “By August 1, 1979, each natural resources district shall prepare and adopt a **master plan** to include but not be limited to a statement of goals and objectives for each of the purposes stated in section 2-3229. The master plan shall be reviewed and updated as often as deemed necessary by the district, but in no event less often than once each ten years.”

2-3277. “Each district shall also prepare and adopt a **long-range implementation plan** which shall summarize planned district activities and include projections of financial, manpower, and land rights needs of the district for at least the next five years and the specific needs assessment upon which the current budget is based. Such long-range implementation plan shall be reviewed and updated annually.”

2-3278. “Each district shall also prepare and adopt any individual **project plans** as it deems necessary to carry out projects approved by the district.”

46-709. “Each district shall maintain a **groundwater management plan** based upon the best available information and submit amendments to such plan to the Director of Natural Resources for review and approval.”

The Lower Elkhorn NRD’s original groundwater management plan was adopted by the board of directors in December of 1985, and approved by what was then the Nebraska Department of Water Resources in 1986. On January 1, 1997, the board established a district-wide groundwater management area. The plan was revised in 1996, 2015 and 2016.

The Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District (LENRD) Master Plan, Groundwater Management Plan and Long Range Implementation Plan include the responsibilities, policies, goals and objectives of the district based on the responsibilities, policies, goals and objectives of the district in concurrence with the responsibilities assigned to the district by the legislature in section 2-3229. **This Long Range Plan is the implementation plan for all district programs and projects.**

The “Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Strategy” developed by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) – formerly the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission (NRC) – is another important document that complements the Lower Elkhorn Master Plan, Groundwater Management Plan and Long Range Implementation Plan. This Strategy was developed in the mid-1980s as a cooperative effort of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and DNR. An Executive Committee composed of representatives from agencies with natural resources responsibilities directed the effort. This committee included the State Conservationist of NRCS, a representative from the Governor's Office, the Executive Director of the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts, the Director of Cooperative Extension (UNL), the Director of Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), a representative from the Farm Services Agency (FSA), a representative from the State Policy Research Office and the Director of Nebraska Department of Agriculture. This high degree of interaction between agencies created an identification with and a commitment to the Strategy.

The Strategy is a dynamic body of ideas, facts, agreements, and recommendations for guiding the course of future conservation activities. An update of the Strategy was published in 1990. The Action Plan is a supplement to the 1990 Update. It contains the action items identified by cooperating federal and state agencies and natural resources districts. These actions were formulated to revise, redirect or expand on activities that will fulfill the goals of the Strategy. Lower Elkhorn NRD goals and objectives are acting to meet the Strategy's goals and objective.

Information from the current Nebraska State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is extremely helpful in developing a general guideline for future recreation activities for the NRD. SCORP, developed by Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, relates outdoor recreation needs of the people of the state to the resources base. Specifically, it makes recommendations to apply for grants from available federal, state and potential funding sources (i.e. Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund) for state and local projects.

The goal of leadership in natural resource matters can be accomplished through the cooperative preparation and review of local, state, and federal plans and programs with the overriding considerations of public welfare and the quality of living, both now and in the future. While exerting a position of leadership, the district has cooperated and worked closely with the following agencies since 1972:

Local Governments

City and County Governments
Norfolk Sanitary Improvement Drainage District
Pheasants Forever

State Agencies

Agricultural Research Service
Department of Natural Resources
Game and Parks Commission
Department of Environment & Energy
UNL - Conservation and Survey Division
Nebraska Forest Service
Northeast Research and Extension Center

Federal Agencies

Farm Services Agency (FSA)
Rural Economic Community Development (RECD)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Corps of Engineers
U.S. Geological Survey
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D)
Environmental Protection Agency
Rails to Trails Conservancy

This plan was developed with the following agencies, who work closely with the NRD on various projects:

Nebraska Department of Natural Resources. The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is the state agency responsible for surface water management, flood control, soil and water conservation, watershed protection, flood plain management, long-range water resources planning, and maintenance of a natural resources data bank. In carrying out these responsibilities the DNR maintains a close working relationship with the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District. The DNR administers a total of five Staff Requested which provide financial assistance for various natural resources purposes with the NRDs being the primary recipients of the Staff Requested. The Lower Elkhorn NRD has received assistance from all five of these Staff Requested. The DNR's data bank includes a variety of information on natural resources that can be accessed readily in several formats by NRDs and other users. Through the flood plain management program and the National Flood Insurance Program the DNR provides nonstructural flood damage reduction programs for communities throughout the NRD. The DNR also provides technical, legal, planning and administrative support as needed.

The LENRD consults with the Norfolk Division of the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) daily. Two department employees have been located within the LENRD offices since 1977. Considerable department guidance and reinforcement has been given to the LENRD in carrying out the district's responsibilities and strategies. The LENRD and DNR employees work together on the state's water resource matters.

Nebraska Game & Parks Commission. The mission of the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission (NG&PC) is stewardship of the state's fish, wildlife, park, and outdoor recreation resources in the best long-term interests of the people and those resources. Partnerships with other government natural resources agencies (such as the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District [LENRD]), private individuals, and other conservation organizations facilitate accomplishment of many of NGPC's assigned responsibilities and fulfillment of its mission. Successful partnerships, such as the long-standing partnership between LENRD and NGPC, are based on communication and coordination at all levels in jointly finding solutions and opportunities in natural resources management issues. The Habitat Partners Section of the Wildlife Division of NGPC continues to serve as the primary contact for LENRD on beneficial natural resources projects. Technical expertise, cost-sharing, and other services based on sound land stewardship are available to all individual and organized constituencies.

UN-L Conservation & Survey Division. The Conservation & Survey Division of the University of Nebraska provides technical expertise and support to the LENRD for the conservation of groundwater quantity and quality (Goal D) and education of the public (Goal I). Through formal cooperative agreement, the CSD is developing groundwater level and groundwater quality databases, providing GIS training, and restructuring the NRD groundwater monitoring programs to provide more detail of the groundwater flow system in a cost effective and timely manner. The CSD also provides on-call technical support and assists the NRD with education programs.

UN-L Northeast Research and Extension Center. The LENRD has been a long-time supporter of research and extension activities concerning nitrate and groundwater protection. There are also strong links between the NRD forester and the UN-L forester and their programs in each of the agencies, along with significant support from the Nebraska Forest Service. Educational programs on soil conservation and water quality for children and youth are often joint efforts between the two agencies.

Resource Conservation & Development Councils. The Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) program services are provided through local RC&D councils. These councils are made up of volunteer representatives from local sponsoring units of government or other groups. Council areas cover two or more counties that share similar economic, community and natural resource conditions. RC&D councils explore local needs and opportunities, and then plan projects to address them. Councils draw upon a number of public and private sources for funding, technical expertise or other input. Councils also appoint committees to advise on specific natural resource areas, such as recreation or agriculture, and to carry out projects. RC&D coordinators work with councils to help plan activities and provide direct assistance on council projects. The LENRD continues to partner with the RC&Ds and helps sponsor various RC&D projects and events.

Natural Resources Conservation Service. The mission of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is to provide our customers with the best possible technical assistance to conserve, sustain, and improve our natural resources. Locally, NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to the LENRD and its private individuals and organizations to help accomplish the goals of the individuals, district, state, and NRCS. A strong partnership with the LENRD has been developed through the establishment of cooperation, mutual goals, and an open line of communication. The current NRCS Work Plan is a part of the LENRD long-range plan, which helps coordinate goals, document accomplishments and strengthen our partnership.

This plan was developed in cooperation with NRCS. This long range implementation plan and future plans will be developed jointly with NRCS and will replace the NRD/NRCS Multi-Plans used in the past.

All NRD/USDA programs and services are available without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.

Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District Board Policy

Policy statements are needed both by the NRD Board and by the management staff to operate in a consistent manner over a given period. Whereas the geographic boundaries of the Natural Resources Districts have been set, policy statements can be looked upon as defining the "action" boundaries of the district, including identification of activities the NRD will not participate in. Policies facilitate the decisions of the Board and the management staff, helping each to maintain continuity and assist in the development of clear thinking.

Policies may be either specific or very general. They can deal with the financial aspects of the NRD, they may be expressions of support for cooperation with other entities of government or they may be purely administrative in nature. The end objective of policies within the context of this document is to serve as a basis for developing specific plans and programs and then as a means of checking such plans and programs against policy statements.

The Board will review the Board Policies each year early in the planning process as it prepares the Long Range Implementation Plan for the upcoming year. Board Policies will be used to assist directors in selecting goals and objectives for the new Long Range Implementation Plan.

A. SOIL CONSERVATION

To attain 100 percent land treatment to control soil and wind erosion.

1. Develop and implement programs which encourage landowners to establish soil conservation practices. Modify the existing land treatment program to include participation with as many landowners as possible. This includes funding of the District's Conservation Cost Share Program, Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program, Road Structure Program, Urban Conservation Assistance Program, and the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program. For further information refer to the Long Range Plan for the current year.
2. Encourage the federal and state governments to develop and fund soil conservation and water quality programs on a special project or critical area basis.
3. Encourage proper land management (Best Management Practices - BMP) and improved farming practices, such as conservation tillage, crop rotation, terracing, vegetative practices, and/or structural control, as needed, on all lands to prevent wind and water erosion of topsoil.
4. Ensure adequate permanent cover (grass and trees) on all Class VI and VII land.
5. Encourage local Natural Resources Conservation Service personnel to develop at least one special project and/or road structure in their area each year, and to be ready should funding become available. Encourage the cooperation of county and city governments in this objective.
6. Cooperate with local units of government to implement necessary erosion control practices, as needed, on all industrial development, residential development, road construction, and other non-agricultural development sites.

B. LAND USE

Utilize all land within the District for its most suitable purposes, with consideration given to conserving the resources and their continued productivity for future generations.

1. Support efforts throughout the district to determine the proper use of all land resources through both scientific processes and public desires.
2. Each acre shall be utilized within its capability and treated according to specific needs in accordance with technical guidelines determined by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the district.
3. Encourage a more efficient growth within the corporate limits of the communities consistent with sound ecological, sociological, and physiological principles prior to allowing new urban developments in rural, unincorporated agricultural areas.
4. Encourage the protection and conservation of agricultural land resources through farm practices that minimize or eliminate damage to the land.
5. Encourage efforts to coordinate all matters of land resource planning between all local units of government, including mutual review of all plans and projects having land resources impact.
6. Encourage all local units of government to carry out land resource planning and necessary controls.

C. FLOOD CONTROL

To reduce flooding and flood damages to acceptable levels, while making the best use of flood plain land.

1. Support the delineation of flood plains in all rural and urban areas and encourage state and local units of government to accelerate this process.
2. Encourage local units of government to accelerate the delineation process with the ultimate goal that all flood plains in the district be under management practices.
3. Encourage flood plain management as a necessary step in creating the proper balance between structural and non-structural methods of flood protection.
4. Encourage the use of flood plains for appropriate park and recreation use through recreation open space planning, acquisition, development, and preservation.
5. Consider on a project-by-project basis sharing the costs of consulting services in connection with flood plain delineation and park and recreation planning where other local government also agrees to share such cost.
6. Create a greater awareness of flood plain problems and potential solutions through local planning, educational, and informational programs.
7. Sponsor flood control projects and projects which include flood control benefits. This would include USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service PL 566 projects and large multipurpose projects.
8. Support local government agencies in developing a greater awareness of flood plain problems and potential solutions through increased media coverage, advertising of incentive programs, and conducting relevant public hearings.

D. STREAMBANK STABILIZATION

Provide administrative assistance to landowners and local entities of government in solving streambank erosion problems.

1. The district, together with appropriate agencies, will advise landowners of management practices useful in minimizing streambank erosion.
2. Review landowner plans for structural projects and advise them of proper procedures to complete these projects.
3. Assist landowners in working with state and federal agencies to obtain appropriate permits and secure Staff Requested when available.
4. Assist local entities in working with state and federal agencies to obtain technical assistance, required permits and/or Staff Requested to protect property and improvements.
5. Consider on a case-by-case basis cost-sharing with other local government entities on design and construction of streambank erosion projects which are necessary to protect public property or improvements.

E. CHANNELIZATION

Limit channelization projects to those necessary for flood control and bank stabilization.

1. The district may authorize or cooperate on a channelization project when such a project is part of or will benefit a recognized and properly designed flood control or bank stabilization project.
2. The district will discourage creek or river straightening or shortening projects within the district's boundaries.
3. Consider applications or requests for channelization project approval and funding, on a case-by-case basis.

F. STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

To assist local governments in correcting stormwater management problems.

1. Encourage local units of government to assume sponsorship of all municipal stormwater management projects.
2. Consider applications or requests for stormwater management project approval and cost-sharing on a case-by-case basis.
3. Require that local units of government seeking district approval or cost-sharing demonstrate that the project will have sufficient feasibility studies, designs, and cost estimates provided by reliable consulting firms, state, or federal agencies. Further, require that such local units of government be responsible for obtaining necessary land rights, easements, and permission to survey, and will assume and be liable for all operations and maintenance costs after project completion.

G. GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

Provide an adequate supply of acceptable quality groundwater to forever fulfill the reasonable groundwater demands within the district for domestic, municipal, agricultural, industrial, wildlife, and other uses deemed beneficial by the district board of directors.

1. Establish a baseline of data and monitor trends in groundwater quality and quantity.
2. Improve groundwater conservation practices.
3. Protect and improve groundwater quality.
4. Develop integrated management and supply augmentation measures.
5. Cooperate with the Cooperative Extension Service to develop and provide educational materials to promote public support for and participation in management of groundwater resources.
6. Minimize pumping conflicts.
7. Protect municipal and domestic groundwater supplies.
8. Obtain funding for groundwater management activities through district tax levy authorities; obtaining Staff Requested through state and federal agencies; and pursuing cost-share Staff Requested with various agencies.
9. Administer the management of groundwater consistent with legislative authorization of the Nebraska Groundwater Management and Protection Act (Section 46-701 through 46-756 of the Nebraska Statutes), sound hydrologic budgeting, and the desires of local groundwater users.
10. Enforce rules and regulations developed for improper irrigation water runoff (Administrative Policy 10).
11. Provide necessary staff and other assistance where necessary to carry out an effective groundwater management program.
12. Assist in the planning and development of domestic water supplies where requested by local units of government or citizen groups.
13. Consider cost-sharing, on a project-by-project basis, of necessary feasibility studies to determine solutions where critical domestic water supply problems exist.
14. Encourage BMP use to protect and efficiently manage ground and surface water, soil fertility, and energy.

H. DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF SURFACE WATER

Manage surface water for flood control, recreation, conservation, irrigation, water supplies and wildlife protection.

1. Encourage soil conservation practices, especially on a critical area or special project basis, to improve water quality in the streams and lakes within the district.
2. Develop surface water projects for flood control, recreation, conservation, irrigation, water supplies, and wildlife protection.
3. Encourage and support state and federal legislation to promote surface water projects.
4. Fund, on project-by-project basis, feasibility studies of surface water projects in cooperation with available state and federal technical and financial resources.
5. Determine surface water project priorities consistent with the greatest long-term benefits.
6. Develop management agreements for surface water projects with affected units of local government and encourage such governments to assume the management operation and replacement responsibilities connected with these projects.
7. Develop projects to protect and improve surface water quality.
8. Assure that approved trans-basin diversion projects are designed for preservation of the integrity of environmental systems in both the donor and recipient basins.

I. TRANSBASIN DIVERSION OF WATER

Assure that any plans for trans-basin diversion of water are well engineered with consideration given to the needs of each basin.

1. Consider feasibility studies for inter-basin water transfer projects at such time and place as in-basin water resources no longer meet the reasonable needs to fulfill the beneficial uses.
2. Support inter-basin water transfer projects based on local needs and desires, combined with sound economic engineering and environmental principles.
3. Consider the relative balance between water shortage and excessive demand as an essential principle in the development of inter-basin water transfer projects.
4. Assure that approved trans-basin diversion projects are designed for preservation of the integrity of environmental systems in both the donor and recipient basins.

J. POLLUTION CONTROL - AIR, SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL, SANITARY DRAINAGE

To minimize the misuse and pollution of our natural resources, to fully protect and enhance the quality of air, surface water, and groundwater (that comes in contact with solid waste disposal, and sanitary drainage) within the district's boundaries.

1. Support the implementation of water quality plans which integrate programs to control both point and non-point discharges, recognizing the best role for district involvement.
2. Encourage regional efforts toward managing solid waste including collection and disposal for all citizens.
3. Encourage the recycling of solid waste products where economically feasible by private and public entities. Encourage the sound planning and development of solid waste disposal sites consistent with criteria for maintaining high standards of water quality and land use.
4. Encourage municipalities to ensure the best methods for proper development and operation for waste disposal of public and private sanitary drainage systems.
5. Encourage and promote information and education programs regarding pollution.
6. Consider financial assistance for the development of parks and recreation facilities where reclaimed land is the final product of landfill operations.

K. SOIL SURVEY

Utilization of completed soil surveys to their maximum potential by citizens of the district.

1. Inform and educate citizens of the district of the value and proper use of completed modern soil survey.

L. FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT

To instill a sincere appreciation of the value of wildlife in the public; attain a good balance of wildlife habitat to cropland while preserving and conserving existing fish and wildlife species for the benefit of future generations.

1. Discourage practices by public entities and individuals that result in the unnecessary destruction of permanent vegetation and trees.
2. Stress programs such as the Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (Refer to Development Plans and Programs) that offer a financial incentive to landowners to provide wildlife cover.
3. Encourage farming practices that leave crop residue for cover.
4. Discourage draining wetlands or farming other marginal areas that serve as important wildlife habitat.
5. Support water quality programs which will improve surface water areas so they will support desirable fish species.
6. Provide technical and administrative assistance regarding fish and wildlife habitat to private landowners and local entities.
7. Encourage citizens of the district to utilize federal legislation or programs which offer incentives to create or enhance wildlife habitat.
8. Provide information and education programs related to fish and wildlife that will promote and enhance district programs.
9. Encourage land use regulations that enhance sound fish and wildlife habitat practices.
10. Discourage unnecessary mowing and spraying of roadsides.
11. Recognize the importance of minimum stream flow to enhance fish and wildlife habitat.

M. RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

To ensure that citizens of the district have adequate recreation opportunities for health and relaxation.

1. Develop outdoor recreation and assist municipalities in their development of outdoor Recreation projects that are deemed to have aspects of conservation, flood control, or water supply -- with proper land use and environmental concerns.
2. Offer municipalities the "Recreation Area Development" program to fund up to 50% of the local cost to establish, develop, or improve recreation areas.
3. Preserve selected areas of historic, educational, archaeological, and scenic value associated with district projects.

N. FORESTRY AND PASTURE MANAGEMENT

To promote the planting and conservation of trees and work to educate the public on the importance of managing trees and pasture to obtain full value of these resources.

1. Encourage cooperators in the district to plant and manage trees for quality woodlands, windbreaks, wildlife habitat, Christmas trees, and firewood.
2. The district will provide reasonably priced trees, planting, and spraying services with district crews or by contracting with private enterprises.
3. Encourage the preservation and maintenance of existing woodland plantings by working with the Federal Conservation Reserve Program, promoting other legislative benefits to landowners.
4. Protect and restore selected areas of native vegetation to assist efforts in soil conservation, flood control, and management of wildlife habitat.
5. Expand tree plantings that provide benefits to the point that more acres are planted than are consumed. These plantings would provide multiple benefits such as living snow fences, windbreaks, and increasing the aesthetic value of the location.
6. Provide information and education programs promoting Best Management Practices to properly conserve and efficiently utilize our range and pasture resources.
7. Provide native grass drills to landowners in the district for the purpose of new or reseeding on set-aside acres in conjunction with federal farm programs or any other lands that need critical treatment.
8. Encourage new or existing research programs by appropriate agencies related to grass and pasture management.

O. INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

To ensure public awareness of the district's responsibilities, programs, projects, and goals, and to increase public concern for the proper management and conservation of our natural resources.

MASTER PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal A: Conserve Soil

Objectives:

1. Complete 80% of remaining treatment needs (1985 base) by 2010 and reduce soil loss on all lands to T by 2028.
2. Construct or cooperate with county governments to construct 3 grade stabilization structures in place of old, dangerous bridges each year.
3. Accelerate land treatment in specified areas to protect the land within a specified watershed, at least 75 percent of watershed down to T, ultimately protecting current and future LENRD water projects.
4. Utilize all land within the district for its most suitable purposes, with consideration given to conserving the resources and their continued productivity for future generations.
5. Assist landowners and local entities of government in solving streambank erosion problems.

Goal B: Flood Control and Prevention of Damage from Flood Water and Sediment

Objectives:

1. Protect existing improvements from flood water.
2. Utilize flood prone land for improvements not damaged by flooding.
3. Sponsor or cooperate on projects which include flood control benefits.

Goal C: Stormwater Drainage Improvements

Objectives:

1. To assist local units of governments in correcting stormwater drainage problems.

Goal D: Conserve Groundwater Quantity and Quality

Objectives:

1. Monitor groundwater to detect changes, trends, or problems.
2. Improve groundwater conservation practices through education and information dissemination.
3. Assist agricultural producers in proper irrigation and agrichemical usage.
4. Protect municipal and domestic groundwater supplies.
5. Increase our general knowledge of the hydrogeologic characteristics of the district.

Goal E: Develop and manage surface water

Objectives:

1. Develop surface water projects consistent with local desires for flood control, recreation, conservation irrigation, water supplies, and wildlife protection.

Goal F: Establish and Preserve Fish and Wildlife Habitat

Objectives:

1. Establish and preserve fish and wildlife habitat on private lands.

Goal G: Provide adequate outdoor recreation opportunities within the District

Objectives:

1. Develop multipurpose projects which include outdoor recreation facilities.
2. Assist other entities in development of outdoor recreation facilities.
3. Preserve selected areas of historic, educational, archaeological, and scenic value associated with district projects.

Goal H: Promote the Planting and Conservation of Trees

Objectives:

1. Stimulate tree planting on private lands for all beneficial purposes.

Goal I: Information and Education

Objectives:

1. To ensure public awareness of the district's responsibilities, programs, projects and goals, and to increase public concern for the proper management and conservation of our natural resources.

Long Range Plan-Milestone Chart

<u>Month</u>	<u>Activity</u>
October	■ Board evaluation of projects and programs accomplishments ■ The Committee of the Whole reviews board policy, evaluates goals and objectives, and develops/presents new goals and objectives to the board ■ Every 2 to 5 years the board conducts a Conservation Needs Assessment and develops a Strategic Plan (master plan) taking into consideration all legal requirements and the plans of all agencies and partners ■ Staff contacts all agencies and partners for input for the next fiscal year ■ General Manager and staff develops or revises planning pages
November	■ Get input from other agencies ■ Receive input from Department of Natural Resources ■ The Committee of the Whole and staff develops new programs to meet the goals and objectives (November through April) ■ Develop/revise planning pages
December	■ Get input from other agencies ■ Develop/revise planning pages
January	■ Get input from other agencies ■ Develop/revise planning pages
February	■ Get input from other agencies ■ Develop/revise planning pages
March	■ Develop/revise planning pages
April	■ Develop/revise planning pages
May	■ Draft of Long Range Plan submitted to budget subcommittee and executive board for budget and manpower needs review ■ Develop LERWS and Wau-Col budgets
June	■ Draft of Long Range Plan and budget submitted to budget subcommittee and executive board for budget and manpower needs review ■ Budget subcommittee and executive board review final draft of budget ■ The Committee of the Whole and staff will review all agencies and partners and make any changes needed
July	■ Board action to recommend presenting the plan and budget at public hearing
August	■ Public hearing on plan and budget ■ Approve plan together with new fiscal budget
September	■ General Manager and staff proofread plan ■ Print Long Range Implementation Plan and submit to the Office of Policy and Budget, DNR, NRCS and NG&PC by October 1.

The Lower Elkhorn NRD Long Range Implementation Plan includes long range objectives and individual action items for the current fiscal year and the next five fiscal years, based on the master plan responsibilities, goals and objectives.

The majority of this plan is a breakdown of the long range objectives into specific action items, which include the financial needs and staff time requirements for each item. Each page is first identified by the subcommittee responsible for that objective and the individual staff member responsible for carrying out the action item and then followed by the descriptions of the long range plan goal, objective and action item.

The budget line item for each action item is listed under the current fiscal year “Staff Requested” section and references the specific line item in the NRD budget document.

Abbreviations used in the Long Range Plan:

Agency Abbreviations

C&S - Conservation and Survey Division, UN-L
Co. Bd. - County Board
Corps - U.S. Corps of Engineers
DWEE - Department of Water, Environment, Energy

DOH - Department of Health
DOR - Department of Roads
EPA - Environmental Protection Agency
EXT - Cooperative Extension
FSA - Farm Services Agency
FWS - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
NG&P - Nebraska Game and Parks
LCNRD - Lewis & Clark Natural Resources District
LENRD - Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District
LERWS - Logan East Rural Water System
NEREC - Northeast Research and Extension Center
NFS - Nebraska Forest Service
NRCS - Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRWA - Nebraska Rural Water Association
NSDD - Norfolk Sanitary Drainage District
Park Bds - Village or City Park Boards
RC&D - Resource Conservation & Development
RECD - Rural Economic & Community Development
USACE - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USGS - U.S. Geological Survey
Wau-Col - Wau-Col Regional Water System

Staff Abbreviations

GM - General Manager
AGM - Assistant General Manager
PM – Projects Manager
WRS - Water Resources Specialist
WRT - Water Resources Technician
WCS - Water Conservation Specialist

GIS - GIS Specialist
I&E - Information & Education Specialist
RAS - Maskenthine/Pilger/Maple Creek Recreation Area Superintendent

NRT - Natural Resources Technician
Adm. Asst. - Administrative Assistant
PC - Programs Coordinator
GC - Grant Coordinator
OA - Office Assistant
LERWS-M - Logan East Rural Water System Manager
LERWS-A - Logan East Rural Water System Assistant
LERWS-S - Logan East Rural Water System Financial Secretary
PA - LENRD/NRCS Programs Assistants
CA - Conservation Aids
CP – Conservation Planner
GMAS – Groundwater Management Area Specialist
Other - All others not included above

PARTNERSHIP WORK PLAN

**for the
Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District**

Fiscal Year 2026

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GOAL A: Conserve Soil

C. Becker

Objective: *Complete 80% of remaining treatment needs (1985 base) and reduce soil loss on all lands to T by 2028.*

Action Item Summary: Conservation Cost-Share and Lands for Conservation Programs

Strategy: Continue funding the District's Conservation Cost-Share Program and Lands for Conservation. Continue administration of the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program. Administer Bazile Management area Grant and Willow Creek Watershed Grant Cost-Share Funds.

Target Date (Ending Date): Ongoing

Funds - Staff Requested: \$565,000

Reimbursements: \$239,500 - Grant

<u>Year</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
FY '26	A. Continue Conservation Cost-Share and Lands for Conservation Programs	LENRD DWEE	July-June	\$290,000
	B. Promote and Cost Share Bazile Groundwater Management Area Best Management Practices	LENRD NRCS	July- June	\$125,000
	C. Promote and Cost Share Willow Creek Best Management Practices	LENRD NRCS	July- June	\$150,000
	E. Design and layout terraces and dams.	NRCS		
	F. Work with cooperators in promoting structures (terraces, underground outlets, sediment basins, etc.)	NRCS		
	G. Write news articles or radio ads promoting terrace construction and the availability of cost-share assistance from FSA, NRD, and NSWCP.	LENRD NRCS		
	H. Gather documentation on cost-shared practices to develop good average cost data for use in the Cost-share Docket.	LENRD NRCS		
	I. Promote the Lands for Conservation Program to spread the construction season through the year for structural practices by letter, radio tapes, FSA newsletter, news releases (2/county) and personal contacts.	LENRD NRCS		

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| J. Continue incentives for landowners to participate in the federal Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) | LENRD
NRCS |
| K. Continue Local Working Group to develop EQIP priority areas, practices, and resource concerns. | LENRD
NRCS |
| L. Develop incentives to encourage landowners to use management practices to protect their land. | LENRD
NRCS |
| M. Promote soil health education. | LENRD |

FY '27-'30 Continue funding from FY '27 - FY '30

\$708,000
(Per Year)

Staff Member Contributing to this Goal: Projects Manager, Programs Coordinator, Grant Coordinator
Program Assistants

GOAL A: Conserve Soil

C. Becker

Objective: *Complete 80% of remaining treatment needs (1985 base) and reduce soil loss on all lands to T by 2028*

Action Item Summary: Erosion and Sediment Act

Strategy: As mandated by State law, enforce the Erosion and Sediment Act as it applies to rural areas in the district. Process Erosion and Sediment Act program complaints utilizing proper regulations in cooperation with NRCS technical definitions and methods.

Success Criterion: Attempt to resolve complaints between landowners to the best of our ability, following rules and regulations.

Target Date (Ending Date): Ongoing

Funds - Staff Requested - \$0.00

<u>Year</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
FY '26	A. Evaluate the site of the complaint to determine whether a violation is occurring.	LENRD NRCS	July-June	
	B. Work with the violator (cooperator) to develop a basic conservation plan ("T") for the land contributing to the problem.	NRCS	July-June	
	C. Provide technical assistance to the landowner in order for him to implement the conservation plan chosen.	NRCS	July-June	
	D. Monitor compliance with the conservation plan by the violator (landowner).	LENRD NRCS	July-June	
	E. A.D. 569 (violation of FSA regulation)	NRCS LENRD	July-June	
FY '27-'31	Continue			

Staff Member Contributing to this Goal: Projects Manager

GOAL B: Flood Control and Prevention of Damage from Flood Water and Sediment

Objective: *Protect existing improvements from flood water*

Action Item Summary: Flood Control and Prevention Projects

Strategy: Participate with other local, state, and federal entities in the planning, design, and construction of projects which control flood waters and protect existing improvements

Success Criterion:	1	West Point Levee Accreditation
	2	Watershed Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) projects for Battle Creek, Maple Creek and North Fork Elkhorn Watersheds
	3	Willow Creek Dam
	4	Winslow Property Acquisition
	5	McKenzie Dam Principal Spillway Renovation
	6	
	7	

Target Date (Ending Date): Ongoing

Funds - Staff Requested: \$5,136,000

Reimbursements: \$1,365,000 – Grant

\$51,000 - Community

\$1,537,000 – Sinking Fund

<u>Year</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
FY '26	A. West Point Levee Accreditation \$1,273,000 withdrawal from Sinking Fund	LENRD		\$1,273,000
	B. Battle Creek Watershed Plan Development Reimbursement: \$1,001,000 from WFPO Grant \$1,000,000 transfer to Battle Creek Sinking Fund	LENRD NRCS Battle Creek		\$2,076,000

	C. Maple Creek Watershed Reimbursement: \$338,000 from WFPO Grant Reimbursement: \$51,000 from the Community \$100,000 transfer to Maple Creek Sinking Fund	LENRD NRCS	\$551,000
	D. North Fork Elkhorn River Watershed Plan Reimbursement: \$26,000 from WFPO Grant \$475,000 transfer to Sinking Fund	LENRD NRCS	\$501,000
	E. Willow Creek Dam \$250,000 – Artesian Pressure Mitigation \$26,000 – Floodplain Development Plan	LENRD	\$276,000
	F. Winslow Property Acquisition – Demolition Project		\$110,000
	G. McKenzie Dam Principle Spillway Renovation	LENRD	\$75,000
	H. Pender Flood Mitigation Project \$264,000 withdrawal from Sinking Fund	LENRD & Pilger	\$264,000
	I. Scribner Airbase West Dam		\$10,000
FY '27	A. Battle Creek Watershed Reimbursement: \$4,005,000 from WFPO Grant \$1,000,000 transfer to Battle Creek Sinking Fund		\$5,305,000
	B. Maple Creek Watershed Reimbursement: \$677,000 from WFPO Grant Reimbursement: \$102,000 from Community		\$882,000
	C. North Fork Elkhorn River Watershed Reimbursement: \$822,000 from WFPO Grant Reimbursement: \$103,000 from Community \$475,000 transfer to Sinking Fund		\$1,503,000
	D. Willow Creek Dam \$200,000 Artesian Pressure Mitigation		\$200,000
	E. Pender Flood Mitigation Project \$264,000 withdrawal from Sinking Fund		\$264,000

FY '28	A. Battle Creek Watershed	\$4,228,000
	Reimbursement: \$3,003,000 from WFPO Grant	
	\$1,000,000 transfer to Battle Creek Sinking Fund	
	B. Maple Creek Watershed	\$441,000
	Reimbursement: \$338,000 from WFPO Grant	
	Reimbursement: \$51,000 from Community	
	C. North Fork Elkhorn River Watershed	\$2,529,000
	Reimbursement: \$1,644,000 from WFPO Grant	
	Reimbursement: \$205,000 from Community	
	\$475,000 transfer to Sinking Fund	

Land Rights: The Lower Elkhorn NRD does not currently have any plans to acquire any land easements, nor within the next 5 years.

Staff Member Contributing to this Goal: GM, PM, GC

GOAL D: Conserve Groundwater Quantity and Quality

D. Hallum

Objective: *Monitor groundwater to detect changes, trends, or problems.*

Action Item Summary: Groundwater Quantity Monitoring Program.

Strategy: Detect groundwater quantity changes, trends, or problems by measuring the depth to groundwater in the network of groundwater quantity monitoring wells and by cooperating with the U.S. Geological Survey to maintain a recorder well near Osmond and West Point.

Success Criteria: Collect annual measurements of depth to groundwater from the observation well network and report findings to well owners and cooperating agencies. Participate with USGS to support operation of two groundwater stations located near Osmond and West Point. Summarize and report this information to the Board and the public. Install surface seals (as needed) on wells in depth to groundwater network. Maintain data telemetry equipment on monitoring well network.

Target Date (Ending Date): Ongoing

Funds - Staff Requested: \$7,500

<u>Year</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
FY '26	Perform well measurements and record information in database. Cooperate with USGS for Osmond and West Point groundwater stations. Install surface seals on wells (as necessary) in depth to groundwater network. Maintain data telemetry equipment on monitoring well network.	LENRD CSD USGS	July-June	\$7,500
FY '27	Perform well measurements and record information in database. Perform recorder well measurements. Continue other tasks.	LENRD CSD USGS	July-June	\$7,600
FY '28	Perform well measurements and record information in database. Perform recorder well measurements. Continue other tasks.	LENRD CSD USGS	July-June	\$7,700
FY '29	Perform well measurements and record information in database. Perform recorder well measurements. Continue other tasks.	LENRD CSD USGS	July-June	\$7,800

<u>Year</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
FY '30	Perform well measurements and record information in database. Perform recorder well measurements. Continue other tasks.	LENRD CSD USGS	July-June	\$7,900
FY '31	Perform well measurements and record information in database. Perform recorder well measurements. Continue other tasks.	LENRD CSD USGS	July-June	\$8,000

Staff Member Contributing to this Goal: Assistant Manager, Water Resources Manager, Water Resources Technician,
Water Resources Technician, Natural Resources Technician, GIS Specialist

GOAL D: Conserve Groundwater Quantity and Quality*D. Hallum***Objective:** *Monitor groundwater to detect changes, trends, or problems.***Action Item Summary: Groundwater Quality Monitoring Program.**

Strategy: Monitor groundwater quality in the district through well water sampling and analysis by sample collection from an established network of wells annually, sample collection from special areas where contamination is known or suspected to exist, frequent sample collection from a network of dedicated monitoring wells, and from privately owned domestic wells.

- Success Criteria:**
1. Collect samples from the statewide well network.
 2. Collect samples from the monitoring wells network.
 3. Collect samples from 400 irrigation wells in select counties.
 4. Collect samples from ENWRA monitoring wells.
 5. Collect samples from privately owned domestic wells.
 6. Provide resources to analyze irrigation water samples (collected by landowner or farm operator) for nitrate.
 7. Analyze data and prepare report to the Board and the public.
 8. Purchase equipment and maintain supplies for field sampling and the lab.

Target Date (Ending Date): Ongoing**Funds - Staff Requested: \$259,135****Reimbursement: \$163,835 – Net Funds**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
FY '26	1. Collect samples from statewide network wells.	LENRD	July-June	\$259,135
	2. Collect samples from monitoring wells.	LENRD		
	3. Collect samples from 400 irrigation wells in selected counties to assess for nitrate and pesticide conditions.	ENWRA/ LENRD		
	4. Collect samples from ENWRA monitoring wells.	LENRD		
	5. Collect samples from privately owned domestic wells.	LENRD		
	6. Promote cost-share incentives for irrigation well owners and analyze irrigation water samples for nitrate.	LENRD		
	7. Analyze data and prepare report to the Board and the public.	LENRD		
	8. Purchase equipment and maintain supplies for field sampling and the lab.			

<u>Year</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
FY '27	Continue	LENRD	July-June	\$100,000
FY '28	Continue	LENRD	July-June	\$70,000
FY '29	Continue	LENRD	July-June	\$70,000
FY '30	Continue	LENRD	July-June	\$70,000
FY '31	Continue	LENRD	July-June	\$70,000

Staff Member Contributing to this Goal: Water Resources Manager, GIS Specialist, Water Resources Technician

Water Resources Technician, Natural Resources Technician

GOAL D: Conserve Groundwater Quantity and Quality

C. Becker

Objective: *Protect municipal and domestic groundwater supplies*

Action Item Summary: Well Sealing Program

Strategy: Publicize the potential threat that an open well poses to groundwater quality and to people. Offer incentives to owners of abandoned wells to have them properly sealed and utilize state cost-share Staff Requested administered by the Department of Natural Resources.

Success Criteria: Cost share with landowners to properly seal at least 30 abandoned wells.
Target Date (Ending Date): Ongoing

Funds - Staff Requested: \$25,000
Reimbursements: \$7,500

<u>Year</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
FY '26	A. Continue Well Sealing cost share program	DWEE LENRD NRCS	July - June	\$25,000
	B. Promote well sealing program through news releases, PSAs and the newsletter.	LENRD		
FY '27-'31	Continue	DWEE LENRD NRCS		\$25,000

Staff Member Contributing to this Goal: Projects Manager, Water Resources Manager, Programs Coordinator, Program Assistants

GOAL D: Conserve Groundwater Quantity and Quality

B. Bruckner

Objective: *Protect municipal and domestic groundwater supplies.*

Action Item Summary: Logan East Rural Water System

Strategy: Continue operation and maintenance of overall system

Success Criteria: Continue to plan for growth and improvement of the system.

Cooperate with the City of Oakland to supply an emergency hookup to the Logan East RWS main.
Cooperate with the City of Oakland and the Village of Craig on the possibility of the expansion of the RWS to their communities.

Target Date (Ending Date): Ongoing

Funds – Staff Requested: \$40,000
Self-Supporting Water System

<u>Year</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
FY '26	Operation and Maintenance	LERWS	July-June	\$40,000
	City of Oakland Emergency Hookup	LERWS Oakland	July-June	
	Study of Expansion of RWS	LERWS LENRD Oakland Craig	July-June	
FY '27	Operation and Maintenance	LERWS	July-June	
FY '28	Operation and Maintenance	LERWS	July-June	
FY '29	Operation and Maintenance	LERWS	July-June	
FY '30	Operation and Maintenance	LERWS	July-June	
FY '31	Operation and Maintenance	LERWS	July-June	

Staff Member Contributing to this Goal: GM, LERWS-M, LERWS-A, LERWS-S

GOAL D: Conserve Groundwater Quantity and Quality

B. Bruckner

Objective: *Protect municipal and domestic groundwater supplies.*

Action Item Summary: Wau-Col Regional Water System

Strategy: Continue operation and maintenance of overall system

Success Criteria: Continue to plan for growth and improvement of the system
Cooperate with the City of Laurel on the possibility of the expansion of the REWS to their community.

Target Date (Ending Date): Ongoing

Funds – Staff Requested: Self Supporting - \$0.00

<u>Year</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
FY '26	Operation & Maintenance	Wau-Col RWS	July-June	\$0.00
	Study of Expansion of RWS	Wau-Col RWS LENRD Laurel	July-June	
FY '27	Operation & Maintenance	Wau-Col RWS		
FY '28	Operation & Maintenance	Wau-Col RWS		
FY '29	Operation & Maintenance	Wau-Col RWS		
FY '30	Operation & Maintenance	Wau-Col RWS		
FY '31	Operation & Maintenance	Wau-Col RWS		

Staff Member Contributing to this Goal: GM, WCRWS-M, WCRWS-S

GOAL D: Conserve Groundwater Quantity and Quality

D. Hallum

Objective: *Protect municipal and domestic groundwater supplies.*

Action Item Summary: Groundwater Management Area.

Strategy: Administer Rule 12 of the groundwater management area rules and regulations (Phase 2 and 3 area).

- Success Criteria:**
1. Achieve 100% compliance with the Phase Area Groundwater management area rules and regulations.
 2. Maintain online tool for Phase Area Reports
 3. Conduct certification and education programs and assist UNL Extension with demonstration projects that promote efficient irrigation and nitrogen management.
 4. Cooperate with the LC, UE, and LN NRDs to implement the Bazile Groundwater Management Area Plan (BGMAP).

Target Date (Ending Date): Ongoing

Funds - Staff Requested: \$30,000

Grant Reimbursements: \$30,000 (Section 319)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
FY '26	1. Achieve 100% compliance with the groundwater management area rules and regulations, and modify rules as needed.	LENRD	July-June	\$30,000
	2. Maintain online reporting tool.	LENRD		
	3. Plan certification and education programs and assist UNL Extension with demonstration projects to promote efficient irrigation and nitrogen management.	LENRD		
	4. Provide support for the Bazile Groundwater Management Area Project	UNL and LENRD		
		LE, UE, LN, LC NRDs, DWEE		
FY '27	Continue.	LENRD	July-June	
FY '28	Continue.	LENRD	July-June	
FY '29	Continue.	LENRD	July-June	
FY '30	Continue.	LENRD	July-June	
FY '31	Continue.	LENRD	July-June	

Staff Members Contributing to this Goal: GM, AGM, WRM, GIS, WRS, NRT, GMAS, CP, GC.

GOAL D: Conserve Groundwater Quantity and Quality

D. Hallum

Objective: *Protect municipal and domestic groundwater supplies.*

Action Item Summary: Groundwater Management Area.

Strategy: Administer Rules 13 and 15 of the groundwater management area rules and regulations (new irrigation development and variances).

Success Criteria: Process applications and enforce Rules 13 and 15.

Target Date (Ending Date): Ongoing

Funds - Staff Requested: \$0.00

<u>Year</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
FY '26	Process variance application and address approved variance issues.	LENRD	July-June	
FY '27	Process variance application and address approved variance issues.	LENRD	July-June	
FY '28	Process variance application and address approved variance issues.	LENRD	July-June	
FY '29	Process variance application and address approved variance issues.	LENRD	July-June	
FY '30	Process variance application and address approved variance issues.	LENRD	July-June	
FY '31	Process variance application and address approved variance issues.	LENRD	July-June	

Staff Member Contributing to this Goal: Assistant Manager, Water Resources Manager, GIS Specialist,
Water Resources Technician
Groundwater Management Area Specialist

GOAL D: Conserve Groundwater Quantity and Quality*D. Hallum***Objective:** *Protect municipal and domestic groundwater supplies.***Action Item Summary: Groundwater Management Area.****Strategy:** Administer Rule 17 of the groundwater management area rules and regulations (quantity subareas).**Success Criteria:** Achieve 100% compliance in quantity subareas.**Target Date (Ending Date):** Ongoing**Funds - Staff Requested:** \$0.00

<u>Year</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
FY '26	Ensure compliance with and address quantity subarea issues.	LENRD	July-June	
FY '27	Ensure compliance with and address quantity subarea issues.	LENRD	July-June	
FY '28	Ensure compliance with and address quantity subarea issues.	LENRD	July-June	
FY '29	Ensure compliance with and address quantity subarea issues.	LENRD	July-June	
FY '30	Ensure compliance with and address quantity subarea issues.	LENRD	July-June	
FY '31	Ensure compliance with and address quantity subarea issues.	LENRD	July-June	

Staff Member Contributing to this Goal: Assistant Manager, Water Resources Manager, Project Manager,
Water Resources Technician, Groundwater Management Area Specialist

GOAL D: Conserve Groundwater Quantity and Quality*D. Hallum***Objective:** *Protect municipal and domestic groundwater supplies.***Action Item Summary: Groundwater Management Area.****Strategy:** Administer district-wide flow meter installation and maintenance program.**Success Criteria:** Administer annual flow meter maintenance requirements.**Target Date (Ending Date): Ongoing****Funds - Staff Requested: \$65,000**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
FY '26	Ensure compliance with installation and maintenance of flow meter requirement.	LENRD	July-June	\$65,000
FY '27	Ensure compliance with and address district-wide flow meter installation issues.	LENRD	July-June	\$70,000
FY '28	Ensure compliance with and address district-wide flow meter installation issues.	LENRD	July-June	\$70,000
FY '29	Ensure compliance with and address district-wide flow meter installation issues.	LENRD	July-June	\$70,000
FY '30	Ensure compliance with and address district-wide flow meter installation issues.	LENRD	July-June	\$70,000
FY '31	Ensure compliance with and address district-wide flow meter installation issues.	LENRD	July-June	\$70,000

Staff Member Contributing to this Goal: Assistant Manager, Water Resources Manager, Project Manager,
Water Resources Technician
Groundwater Management Area Specialist, Office Assistant

GOAL D: Conserve Groundwater Quantity and Quality

B. Bruckner

Objective: *Protect municipal and domestic groundwater supplies.*

Action Item Summary: District Wellhead Protection Program.

Strategy: Provide assistance to Public Water Suppliers by helping to develop wellhead protection plans and pay for wellhead protection area management.

Success Criteria: Provide public water suppliers with information about wellhead protection planning, encourage them to pursue wellhead protection area delineation and contaminant source inventory completion; provide groundwater quality and quantity data collection; vadose zone monitoring; enhanced cost-share with the Nutrient Management Cost-Share Program to provide irrigation scheduling equipment, and fuel and fertilizer safety equipment cost-share; waste oil collection; and educational support. Attend NDEE sponsored Wellhead Protection Area meetings.

Target Date (Ending Date): Ongoing

Funds - Staff Requested: \$5,000

<u>Year</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
FY '26	Continue to promote wellhead protection for the district and the LEWRS, provide cost share assistance, and educational support.	LENRD	July-June	\$5,000
FY '27	Continue	LENRD	July-June	\$5,000
FY '28	Continue	LENRD	July-June	\$5,000
FY '29	Continue	LENRD	July-June	\$5,000
FY '30	Continue	LENRD	July-June	\$5,000
FY '31	Continue	LENRD	July-June	\$5,000

Staff Member Contributing to this Goal: Assistant Manager, Water Resources Manager, Water Resources Technician,
Natural Resources Technician, Programs Coordinator

GOAL D: Conserve Groundwater Quantity and Quality *B. Bruckner*

Objective: *Protect municipal and domestic groundwater supplies.*

Action Item Summary: Chemigation Program

Strategy: Administer the Nebraska Chemigation Act Program.

Success Criteria: Perform inspections and complete paperwork for chemigation permit applications.

Target Date (Ending Date): Ongoing

Funds - Staff Requested: \$0.00

<u>Year</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
FY '26	Administer the chemigation program.	LENRD	July-June	
FY '27	Administer the chemigation program.	LENRD	July-June	
FY '28	Administer the chemigation program.	LENRD	July-June	
FY '29	Administer the chemigation program.	LENRD	July-June	
FY '30	Administer the chemigation program.	LENRD	July-June	
FY '31	Administer the chemigation program.	LENRD	July-June	

Staff Member Contributing to this Goal: Assistant Manager, Water Resources Manager, Water Resources Technician,
Water Resources Technician, Natural Resources Technician, Office Assistant

GOAL D: Conserve Groundwater Quantity and Quality

D. Hallum

Objective: *Protect municipal and domestic groundwater supplies.*

Action Item Summary: Public Water Supply Test Well Cost-Share Program

Strategy: Help public water suppliers find new production well sites by providing financial assistance for the cost of installing a test well (up to \$10,000); and provide the district with new monitoring well sites in or near public water supply wellhead protection areas.

Success Criteria: Cooperate with public water suppliers to install test/monitoring wells.

Target Date (Ending Date): Ongoing

Funds - Staff Requested: \$10,000

<u>Year</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
FY '26	Cooperate with public water suppliers to install test/monitoring wells.	LENRD	July-June	\$10,000
FY '27	Cooperate with public water suppliers to install test/monitoring wells.	LENRD	July-June	\$10,000
FY '28	Cooperate with public water suppliers to install test/monitoring wells.	LENRD	July-June	\$10,000
FY '29	Cooperate with public water suppliers to install test/monitoring wells.	LENRD	July-June	\$15,000
FY '30	Cooperate with public water suppliers to install test/monitoring wells.	LENRD	July-June	\$15,000
FY '31	Cooperate with public water suppliers to install test/monitoring wells.	LENRD	July-June	\$15,000

Staff Member Contributing to this Goal: Assistant Manager, Water Resources Manager

GOAL D: Conserve Groundwater Quantity and Quality

D. Hallum

Objective: *Increase our general knowledge of the hydrogeologic characteristics of the district.*

Action Item Summary: Vadose Zone Monitoring Program.

Strategy: Utilize manual or truck or trailer mounted soil boring and sampling equipment to collect physical and chemical information from the zone between plant roots and the upper surface of groundwater.

Success Criteria: Collect samples from sites that include a variety of land uses and landscapes, including wellhead protection areas.

Target Date (Ending Date): Ongoing

Funds - Staff Requested: \$35,000

Reimbursements: Partial - NET Grant Staff Requested

<u>Year</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
FY '26	Collect and analyze vadose zone samples.	LENRD	July-June	\$35,000
FY '27	Collect and analyze vadose zone samples.	LENRD	July-June	\$35,000
FY '28	Collect and analyze vadose zone samples.	LENRD	July-June	\$35,000
FY '29	Collect and analyze vadose zone samples.	LENRD	July-June	\$35,000
FY '30	Collect and analyze vadose zone samples.	LENRD	July-June	\$35,000
FY '31	Collect and analyze vadose zone samples.	LENRD	July-June	\$35,000

Staff Member Contributing to this Goal: Assistant Manager, Water Resources Manager, Water Resources Technician
Natural Resources Technician

GOAL D: Conserve Groundwater Quantity and Quality*D. Hallum*

Objective: *Increase our general knowledge of the hydrogeologic characteristics of the district.*

Action Item Summary: Hydrogeologic Study Program

Strategy: Contract with USGS, UNL Conservation and Survey, or a private consultant to perform hydrogeologic research

Success Criteria: Cooperate with the C&SD, USGS, UNL, NDNR, NDHHS, NRCS, and other agencies to investigate the geologic and hydrogeologic framework of the District.

Cooperate with the other NRDs of eastern Nebraska, the DNR, the USGS, and other entities to study the hydrogeologic characteristics of the glaciated area (Eastern Nebraska Water Resources Assessment or ENWRA).

Cooperate with the High Plains Climate Center to maintain AWDN stations within the District.

Target Date (Ending Date): Ongoing

Funds - Staff Requested: \$100,000

<u>Year</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
FY '26	Geologic and hydrogeologic framework. ENWRA study.	LENRD ENWRA	July-June	\$100,000
	Fund maintenance of AWDN stations.	LENRD HPCC		
FY '27	Geologic and hydrogeologic framework. ENWRA study.	LENRD ENWRA	July-June	\$100,000
	Install and equip monitoring wells.	LENRD		
	Fund maintenance of AWDN stations.	LENRD HPCC		
FY '28	Geologic and hydrogeologic framework. ENWRA study.	LENRD ENWRA	July-June	\$100,000
	Install and equip monitoring wells.	LENRD		
	Fund maintenance of AWDN stations.	LENRD HPCC		

<u>Year</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
FY '29	Geologic and hydrogeologic framework. ENWRA study.	LENRD	July-June	\$100,000
	Install and equip monitoring wells.	ENWRA		
	Fund maintenance of AWDN stations.	LENRD		
		LENRD		
FY '30	Geologic and hydrogeologic framework. ENWRA study.	HPCC	July-June	\$100,000
	Install and equip monitoring wells.	LENRD		
	Fund maintenance of AWDN stations.	ENWRA		
		LENRD		
FY '31	Geologic and hydrogeologic framework. ENWRA study.	HPCC	July-June	\$100,000
	Install and equip monitoring wells.	LENRD		
	Fund maintenance of AWDN stations.	ENWRA		
		LENRD		

Staff Member Contributing to this Goal: Assistant Manager, Water Resources Manager, Water Resources Technician, Natural Resources Technician, GIS Specialist

GOAL D: Conserve Groundwater Quantity and Quality*D. Hallum*

Objective: *Increase our general knowledge of the hydrogeologic characteristics of the district.*

Action Item Summary: Water Resources Planning

Strategy: Prepare, evaluate and modify District and Basin water resources plans required by the Groundwater Management and Protection Act or as desired by the Board.

Success Criteria: Achieve the goals and objectives of the Lower Platte River Basin Coalition Management Plan.

Target Date (Ending Date): Ongoing

Funds – Staff Requested: \$10,000

<u>Year</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
FY '26	Lower Platte River Basin Coalition basin water management plan.	LENRD	July-June	\$10,000
	Inventory land use and certify irrigated acres.	LENRD DWEE LPRBC		
FY '27	Implement Lower Platte River Basin Coalition and LENRD Integrated Management Plans.	LENRD	July-June	\$10,000
	Inventory and certify irrigated land (as necessary). Evaluate and modify plans as necessary.			
FY '28	Continue	LENRD	July-June	\$10,000
FY '29	Continue	LENRD	July-June	\$10,000

<u>Year</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
FY '30	Continue	LENRD	July – June	\$10,000
FY '31	Continue	LENRD	July-June	\$10,000

Staff Member Contributing to this Goal: General Manager, Assistant Manager, Water Resources Manager,
Water Resources Specialist

GOAL E: Develop and Manage Surface Water

D. Hallum

Objective: *Develop surface water projects consistent with local desires for flood control, recreation, conservation, irrigation, water supplies, and wildlife protection.*

Action Item Summary: Stream Gage Program

Strategy: Collect stream water elevation and flow information for the North Fork of the Elkhorn River.

Success Criteria: Cooperate with the U.S. Geological Survey to operate and maintain a stream gage on the North Fork of the Elkhorn River.

Target Date (Ending Date): Ongoing

Funds – Staff Requested: \$5,750

<u>Year</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
FY '26	Operate and maintain a stream gage on the North Fork of the Elkhorn River.	LENRD USGS	July-June	\$5,750
FY '27	Operate and maintain a stream gage on the North Fork of the Elkhorn River.	LENRD USGS	July-June	\$5,000
FY '28	Operate and maintain a stream gage on the North Fork of the Elkhorn River.	LENRD USGS	July-June	\$5,000
FY '29	Operate and maintain a stream gage on the North Fork of the Elkhorn River.	LENRD USGS	July-June	\$5,000
FY '30	Operate and maintain a stream gage on the North Fork of the Elkhorn River.	LENRD USGS	July-June	\$5,000
FY '31	Operate and maintain a stream gage on the North Fork of the Elkhorn River.	LENRD USGS	July-June	\$5,000

Staff Member Contributing to this Goal:
Assistant Manager, Water Resources Manager

GOAL F: Establish and Preserve Fish and Wildlife Habitat

C. Becker

Objective: *Establish and preserve fish and wildlife habitat on private lands*

Action Item Summary: Offer incentive programs to encourage producers to establish and maintain wildlife habitat

Strategy: Develop and implement programs and practices which are attractive to landowners, beneficial to wildlife and give priority to environmentally sensitive areas. Programs include Corners for Wildlife and Nebraska Buffer Strip Program.

Success Criterion: Contract with landowners to establish or improve habitat on 400 acres of private land, while maintaining existing contracts.

Target Date (Ending Date): Ongoing

Funds – Staff Requested: \$57,000

Reimbursement: \$57,000

<u>Year</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
FY '26	A. Corners for Wildlife Program.	LENRD NRCS PF	July-June	\$57,000
	B. Nebraska Buffer Strip Program.	NRCS LENRD	July-June	
FY '27-'31	Continue	LENRD		\$60,500

Staff Member Contributing to this Goal: Projects Manager, Programs Coordinator, Program Assistants

GOAL G: Provide adequate outdoor recreation opportunities within the District

Objective: *Develop multipurpose projects which include outdoor recreation facilities.*

Action Item Summary: NRD-owned recreational areas

Strategy: Maintain and develop NRD-owned outdoor recreation areas.

Success Criteria: Completion of current projects:

- 1) Maskenthine – Bike Trail
- 2) Willow Creek SRA – Park Renovations
- 3) Maple Creek – Shoreline Stabilization
- 4) Pilger – Park Renovations
- 4) Maintenance of all recreation areas.

Target Date (Ending Date): Ongoing

Funds - Staff Requested: \$491,000

**Reimbursements: \$85,000 Camper Fees
\$250,000 Donated Funds**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
FY '26	A. Maskenthine Rec Area Bike Trail Renovation - \$50,000 Add Hydrants to Campground - \$10,000	LENRD	July-June	\$60,000
	B. Pilger Rec Area Picnic Shelter & Trail Installation - \$250,000 Reimbursement - Donations - \$250,000	LENRD	July-June	\$250,000
	C. Maple Creek Rec Area Replace Shower house Water Heaters	LENRD	July-June	\$6,000
	D. Willow Creek Rec Area Park Renovations	LENRD NG&P	July-June	\$15,000
	E. Maintenance of all Recreation Areas	LENRD	July-June	\$160,000
FY '27	A. Maple Creek Rec Area Playground Resurfacing - \$45,000 Add Hydrants to Campground - \$10,000	LENRD	July-June	\$55,000

	B. Willow Creek Rec Area Park Renovations	LENRD	July-June	\$15,000
	C. Maintenance of all recreation areas	LENRD	July-June	\$162,000
FY '28	A. Cowboy Trail Streambank Stabilization	LENRD	July-June	\$5,000
	B. Maskenthine Tornado Shelter/Restroom	LENRD	July-June	\$50,000
	C. Willow Creek Rec Area Park Renovations	LENRD	July-June	\$15,000
	D. Maintenance of all recreation areas	LENRD	July-June	\$164,000
FY '29	Maintenance of all recreation areas	LENRD	July-June	\$164,000
FY '30	Maintenance of all recreation areas	LENRD	July-June	\$164,000
FY '31	Maintenance of all recreation areas	LENRD	July-June	\$164,000

Staff contributing to this Goal: Projects Manager, Recreation Area Superintendent

GOAL G: Provide adequate outdoor recreation opportunities within the district

Objective: *Assist other entities in the development of outdoor recreation facilities*

Action Item Summary: Offer communities a Recreation Area Development Program and Conservation Assistance Program

Strategy:

1. Assist communities with funding the planning, acquisition, and development of outdoor recreational areas, trails, and related facilities.
2. Assist communities with funding of projects to correct erosion, drainage, or flooding problems.

Success Criteria: Assist communities who request assistance

Target Date (Ending Date): Ongoing

Funds - Staff Requested: \$133,000

<u>Year</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
FY '26	A. Village of Leigh			\$13,425
	B. City of Lyons			\$25,000
	C. Village of Carroll			\$11,437
	D. Village of Hoskins			\$29,840
	E. Village of Belden			\$10,000
	F. Norfolk Public School			\$25,000
	G. Village of Pender			\$17,455
FY '27-'31	Continue			\$150,000

Staff Members Contributing to this Goal: Projects Manager, Programs Coordinator

Goal H: Promote the planting and conservation of trees

Objective: To stimulate tree planting on private lands for all beneficial purposes

Action Item Summary: Conservation Tree Program

Strategy: To provide low-cost conservation tree and shrub seedlings for a wide variety of beneficial purposes. This program also includes low-cost tree planting service.

Success criterion: Determine program success by measuring:

1. Increase the number of landowners who purchase conservation tree seedlings.
2. Increase the number of conservation tree seedlings purchased.

Target date (ending date): ongoing

Funds - Staff Requested: \$120,000

Reimbursement: Customer charges - \$120,000

<u>Year</u>		<u>Activity</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Estimated Costs</u>
FY '26	A.	Conservation Tree Sales Program.	LENRD NRCS NFS	November – April	\$ 120,000
	B.	Provide technical assistance and develop planting plans for at least 100 landowners to promote tree planting for a wide variety of beneficial purposes throughout the Lower Elkhorn NRD.	LENRD NRCS NFS	July – June	
	C.	Promote conservation tree planting through personal contacts, education programs, newsletter articles, press releases, and commercial advertising.	LENRD NRCS FSA NFS	July – June	
FY '27-'31		Continue			\$ 120,000

Staff Member Contributing to this Goal: Projects Manager, Natural Resources Technician, Programs Coordinator, Program Assistant

Goal H: Promote the planting and conservation of trees**Objective:** (1) Stimulate tree planting on private lands for all beneficial purposes**Action Item Summary: Agroforestry Incentives Program****Strategy:** Provide technical assistance to landowners through direct contacts. This program will also provide cost-share assistance to landowners for approved forestry, wildlife, and agroforestry plantings and management activities.**Success criterion:** Determine program success by measuring:

1. Increase the number of landowners planting new windbreaks
2. Increase the number of landowners renovating old, degrading windbreaks
3. Increase the number of acres planted for wildlife habitat

Target date (ending date): ongoing**Funds - Staff Requested: \$10,000****Reimbursements:**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Estimated Costs</u>
FY '26	A. Provide technical assistance to landowners through site visits, field days, and the development of planting plans, practice plans, and Stewardship Management Plans.	LENRD NRCS NFS	Year-round	\$10,000
	B. Provide cost-share Staff Requested for wildlife, forestry, and agroforestry plantings and management activities throughout the LENRD	NSWCP LENRD DWEE	May through March	\$10,000
FY '27-'31	Continue			\$28,000

Staff Members Contributing to this Goal: Natural Resources Technician, Projects Manager, Programs Coordinator, Programs Assistants

Goal H: Promote the planting and conservation of trees

C. Becker

Objective: (2) Stimulate tree planting on public lands for all beneficial purposes.

Action Item Summary: Community Forestry Incentives Program

Strategy: Provide technical assistance to local communities either through direct contacts or educational programs and materials. This program will also provide cost-share assistance as a means of encouraging the establishment or improvement of approved Community forestry projects.

Success criterion: Determine program success by measuring:

1. Utilize all available funding for cost-share assistance to communities.
2. Increase the number of trees planted by cooperating communities.

Target date (ending date): ongoing

Funds - Staff Requested: \$34,600

<u>Year</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Estimated Costs</u>
	A. Provide technical assistance to communities by assisting in the development of community forest management plans.			
	B. Cost share with local entities on Community Forestry Projects			
	• Pender Public School – Complex Landscape - \$4,987.50			
	• City of Norfolk – Park Tree Plant - \$3,295.88			
FY '26	• City of West Point – Tree Program - \$3,841.21	LENRD	Year-	\$34,600
	• Village of Leigh – Park Tree Project - \$1,000.00	NFS	round	
		NRCS		
	• Northeast Community College – Farm Orchard – \$3,067.50			
	• City of Wakefield – Tree Planting - \$5,000.00			
	• Village of Pilger – 2025 Tree Recovery - \$1,181.29			
	• City of Wisner – Citywide Tree Planting - \$5,000.00			
	• City of Lyons –Tree Planting - \$4,000.00			
	• Village of Wausa – Park Project - \$3,200.00			
FY '27 - '31	Continue			\$34,600

Staff Member Contributing to this Goal: Natural Resources Technician, Projects Manager, Programs Coordinator

Goal H: Promote the planting and conservation of trees

C. Becker

Objective: (1) Stimulate tree planting on private lands for all beneficial purposes

Action Item Summary: Forestry Incentive for Public Facilities (privately owned)

Strategy: Provide technical assistance to privately owned facilities that are open to the public (golf courses, etc.) either through direct contacts or education programs and materials. This program will also provide cost-share assistance as a means of encouraging the establishment, improvement, or maintenance of approved greenspace.

Success criterion: Determine program success by measuring:

1. Increase the number of facilities that receive cost-share assistance.
2. Increase the number of trees planted by cooperating facilities.

Target date (ending date): ongoing

Funds - Staff Requested: \$1,200.00

<u>Year</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
FY '26	A. Provide assistance to public access facilities in development of forestry management plans.	LENRD NRCS	Year-round	\$1,200
	B. Cost share with local facilities on forestry projects	NFS		

- Rich Charipar Memorial Golf Course - \$1,200

FY '27-'31	Continue			\$3,000
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Staff Member Contributing to this Goal: Projects Manager, Natural Resources Technician, Programs Coordinator

GOAL I: Information and Education

L. Lienemann

Objective: *To ensure public awareness of the District's responsibilities, programs, projects, and goals, and to increase public concern for the proper management and conservation of our natural resources.*

Action Item Summary: Public Outreach

Strategy: To ensure public awareness of the District's responsibilities, programs, and projects, and to increase public concern for the proper management and conservation of our natural resources using various platforms such as digital and print newsletters, website, brochures, social media, radio, print, educational events, workshops, exhibitor booths and field days.

Success Criterion: Increase public awareness of the Lower Elkhorn NRD and its programs and activities. This can be measured by public response to programs (i.e.: domestic well sampling, well abandonment) attendance at open houses/events and other inquiries.

Target Date (Ending Date): Ongoing

Funds – Staff Requested: \$84,800

<u>Year</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
FY '26	A. Promote District programs and events through printed materials, promotional items, social media, radio advertising, digital outlets, multi-media advertising campaigns, events, workshops, field days and exhibitor booths	LENRD	On-going	\$49,800
	B. Send a printed newsletter – 2 issues mailed bi-annually	LENRD	On-going	\$30,000
	C. Continue web hosting and implement ADA compliance monitoring	LENRD	On-going	\$5,000
FY '27-'31	Continue			\$85,000

Staff Members Contributing to this Goal: I&E, GM, AGM, PM, GC

GOAL I: Information and Education

L. Lienemann

Objective: *To ensure public awareness of the District's responsibilities, programs, projects, and goals, and to increase public concern for the proper management and conservation of our natural resources*

Action Item Summary: Forestry Advertising/Educational Events

Strategy: To promote NRD programs and events through multimedia advertising campaigns.

Success Criterion: Increase public awareness of the Lower Elkhorn NRD's programs and activities, especially through our educational forestry programs and the Conservation Tree Program.

Target Date (Ending Date): Ongoing

Funds – Staff Requested: \$10,500

<u>Year</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
FY '26	A. Continue multi-media advertising campaigns for all forestry programs, including the Conservation Tree Program	LENRD	Nov - Apr	\$ 10,000
	B. Purchase forestry educational materials for the public and the schools as well as the Walk in the Woods program in West Point and Arbor Day programming.	LENRD	July-June	\$ 500
FY '27-'31	Continue			\$ 12,000

Staff Members Contributing to this Goal: Forester, I&E Specialist, GC, PA

GOAL I: Information and Education

L. Lienemann

Objective: *To ensure public awareness of the District's responsibilities, programs, projects, and goals, and to increase public concern for the proper management and conservation of our natural resources*

Action Item Summary: Water Resources Advertising/Educational Workshops

Strategy: To promote NRD programs and events through multimedia advertising campaigns.

Success Criterion: Increase public awareness of the Lower Elkhorn NRD's programs and activities, especially in the areas of water quality, quantity, and management of the resource.

Target Date (Ending Date): Ongoing

Funds – Staff Requested: \$17,000

<u>Year</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
FY '26	A. Continue multi-media advertising campaigns for all water projects and programs and send text messages to producers	LENRD	July-June	\$ 10,000
	B. Continue to provide grants to Madison, Wayne, and Norfolk Public Schools through our partnership with the Watershed Dynamics program	LENRD	July-June	\$ 2,000
	C. Know Your Well program	LENRD	July-June	\$ 5,000
FY '27 – FY '31	Continue			\$ 20,000

Staff Members Contributing to this Goal: I&E, WRM, GC

GOAL I: Information and Education*L. Lienemann*

Objective: *To ensure public awareness of the District's responsibilities, programs, projects, and goals, and to increase public concern for the proper management and conservation of our natural resources*

Action Item Summary: District Awards Program

Strategy: To promote and honor excellence in conservation by participating in state, regional and national awards programs and by sponsoring the LENRD's annual awards program.

Success Criterion: Increase public awareness of the outstanding conservation work individuals, families and communities are doing. Identify and recognize individuals doing positive conservation activities. Participation - NARD and NACD Awards Program and local LENRD awards.

Target Date (Ending Date): Ongoing

Funds – Staff Requested: \$500

<u>Year</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
FY '26	A. Nominate at least one producer for each of the following awards: NRD Conservation Honor Farm, and Tree Planter.	LENRD NRCS	July-June	
	B. Work with NRCS to promote and recognize outstanding conservationists from the District. Pitch success stories to media.	LENRD NRCS	July-June	
	C. Recognize Outstanding Tree Planter, Sustainable Ag., Volunteer Appreciation, Educator of the Year, and Outstanding Partnership Award recipients and Director & Staff Awards at the Annual Awards	LENRD	June - April	\$ 500
FY '27 – FY '31	Continue			\$ 500

Staff Member Contributing to this Goal: I&E, GM, AGM, Admin. Asst.

GOAL: I. Information and Education

L. Lienemann

Objective: *To ensure public awareness of the District's responsibilities, programs, projects, and goals, and to increase public concern for the proper management and conservation of our natural resources*

Action Item Summary: Youth and Adult Education

Strategy: The first step in increasing awareness is education. We will continue to visit schools and supply them with educational materials upon request (113 elementary schools and 33 high schools). We also sponsor the conservation poster contest, FFA contests in our area, the Envirothon, water festivals, and Life on the Farm events. We have added adult programming with the Coffee & Conversations, Test Your Well Nights, Fixings in the Fields, and Stars, Strolls, & S'mores.

Success Criterion: Participation - Requests from teachers for environmental education materials. By getting this information into the hands of educators, they can teach the material in the classroom and reach many more individuals-their students- with the conservation message. Participation in all three Contests. Participation and feedback from adult programming.

Target Date (Ending Date): Ongoing

Funds – Staff Requested: \$12,500

<u>Year</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
FY '26	A. On request, provide conservation education materials to schools and communities.	LENRD	Aug. - May	\$2,000
	B. On request, speak to classes on conservation topics.	LENRD	Aug. - May	
	C. Promote and sponsor NARD Conservation Poster Contest.	LENRD	Oct. - Feb.	\$300
	D. Contact schools about festivals, environmental education, and soil conservation activities.	LENRD NRCS	Aug. - May	
	E. Sponsor FFA land judging contest, if held within district. Work with other agencies to promote the Envirothon.	LENRD NRCS EXT	Aug. - May	\$4,200
	F. Participate in Water Festivals, Earth Day, Arbor Day, Conservation Days, Stars-Strolls-Smores, and other environmental education workshops for children and adults.	LENRD NRCS G&P Ext.	June - July	\$6,000

FY '27	Continue	\$12,500
FY '28	Continue	\$13,000
FY '29	Continue	\$13,000
FY '30	Continue	\$13,500
FY '31	Continue	\$13,500

Staff Member Contributing to this Goal: I&E Specialist, GM, AGM, PM, PC, Adm. Asst., PA, GC, Office Asst.

Goal I: Information and Education*L. Lienemann*

Objective: To encourage schools and/or public education centers within our District to develop outdoor classrooms on their property.

Action Item Summary: Outdoor Classroom Grants

Strategy: To provide grants to schools or other groups to develop outdoor learning areas.

Success criterion: Determine program success by measuring how many schools are participating across the district.

Target date (ending date): ongoing

Funds – Staff Requested: \$3,000

<u>Year</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
FY '26	A. Provide 2 Outdoor Classroom Grants at \$1,500 each to area schools	LENRD	Ongoing	\$ 3,000
FY '27	Continue			\$ 3,000
FY '28	Continue			\$ 3,000
FY '29	Continue			\$ 4,500
FY '30	Continue			\$ 4,500
FY '31	Continue			\$ 4,500

Staff Members Contributing to this Goal: Forester, I&E, GC, RAS

GOAL I: Information and Education*L. Lienemann*

Objective: *To ensure public awareness of the District's responsibilities, programs, projects, and goals, and to increase public concern for the proper management and conservation of our natural resources*

Action Item Summary: Scholarship Program

Strategy: To provide scholarships to encourage teacher participation in conservation and environmental education workshops. To provide scholarships to the youth to encourage participation in summer camps such as 4-H and ACE Camp. Provide scholarships to high school seniors furthering their education in a natural resource related field.

Success Criterion: Participation - Determined by the number of teachers applying for scholarships and increasing their awareness through their attendance of conservation/environmental education workshops. Scholarships are given to area youth to attend the camp of their choice, including: the Natural Resources & Leadership Camp, the Sandhills Academy, and ACE Camp. Increased applications from high school seniors for scholarships towards a natural resource related field of study.

Target Date (Ending Date): Ongoing

Funds – Staff Requested: \$5,000

<u>Year</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
FY '26	A. Provide camp scholarships for area 4-H and / or ACE Camps.	LENRD	Mar. -July	\$1,000
	B. Provide teacher scholarships to attend conservation/environment education workshops and programs including Ag In The Classroom, Project WILD, Project WET, Project Learning Tree, Forestry workshops, and Watershed Dynamics.	LENRD	July-June	\$1,000
	C. College scholarship program	LENRD	November	\$3,000
FY '27-'31	Continue			\$5,000

Staff Member Contributing to this Goal: I&E, Office Assistant

GOAL: I. Information and Education

L. Lienemann

Objective: *To ensure public awareness of the District's responsibilities, programs, projects, and goals, and to increase public concern for the proper management and conservation of our natural resources*

Action Item Summary: Sponsorships

Strategy: To provide support for various events, workshops, and field days and special opportunities (i.e.: FFA Week and Ag Month) across the District promoting conservation and environmental stewardship.

Success Criterion: Participation - Determined by the number of adults reached through the various events, and by the increase of awareness of conservation issues by attending conservation/environmental education workshops.

Target Date (Ending Date): Ongoing

Funds - Staff Requested: \$8,000

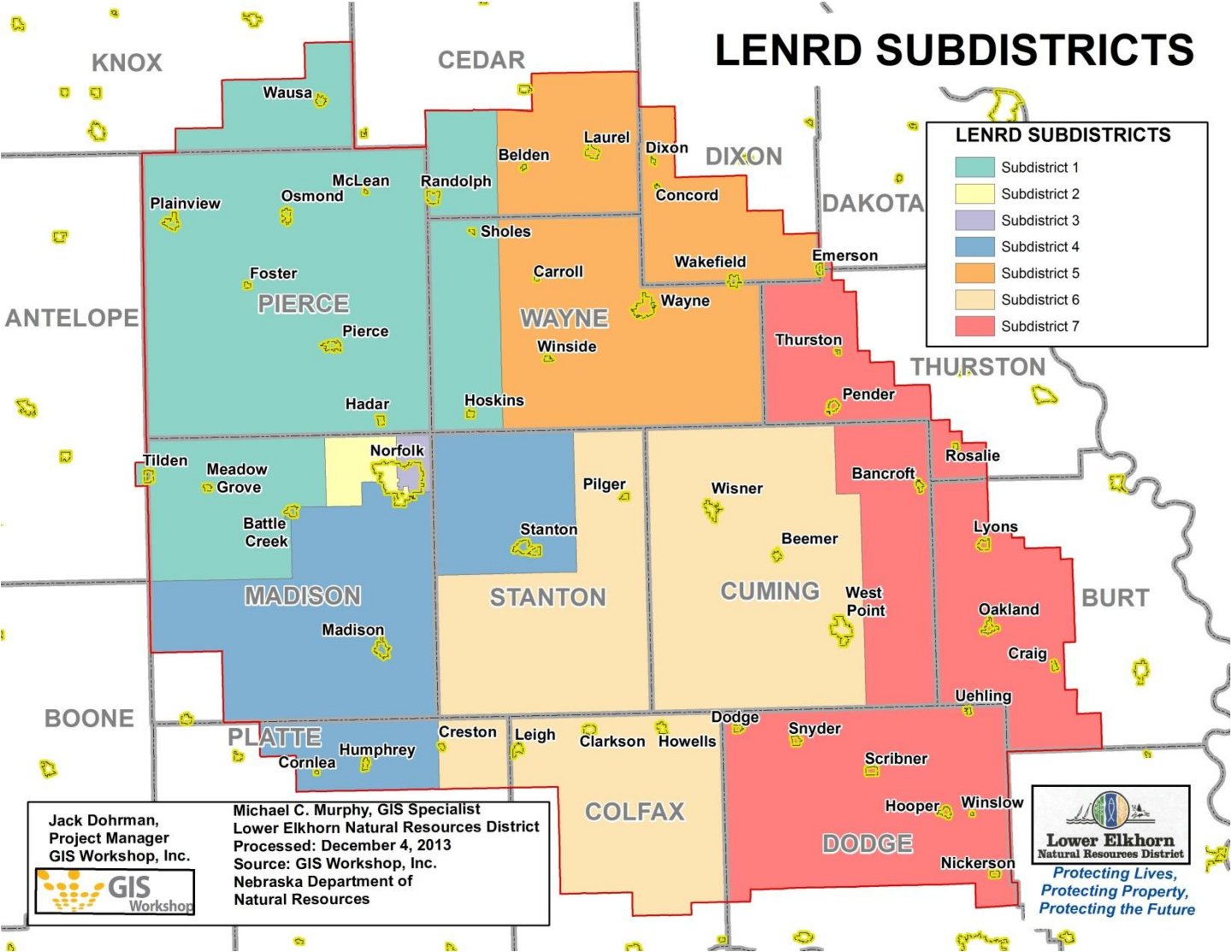
<u>Year</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
FY '26	A. Provide sponsorships to educational events all across the District to increase awareness of conservation issues	LENRD	July -June	\$ 8,000
FY '27	Continue			\$10,000
FY '28	Continue			\$10,500
FY '29	Continue			\$11,000
FY '30	Continue			\$11,500
FY '31	Continue			\$12,000

Staff Members Contributing to this Goal: I&E, Adm. Asst., GM, AGM, PM

Land Rights: The Lower Elkhorn NRD does not currently have plans to acquire any land easements, nor within the next 5 years.

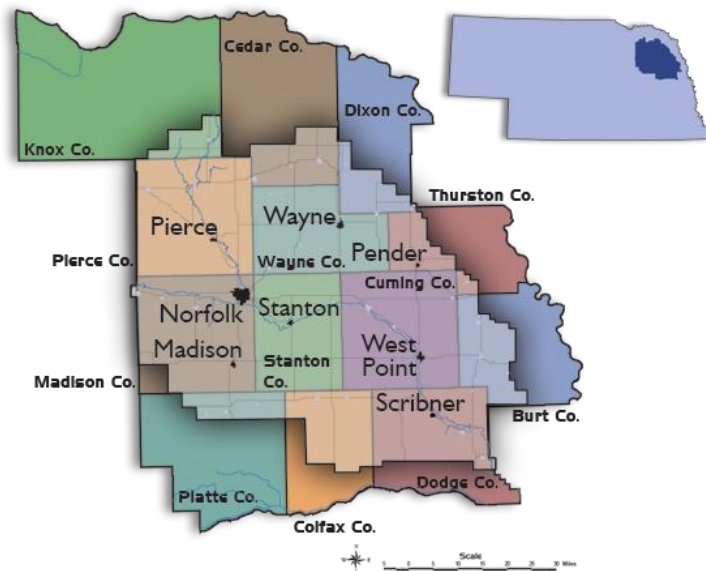
This statement is to comply with the Nebraska State Statute to... “summarize planned district activities and include projections of financial, personnel, and land rights needs for the district for at least the next five years and the specific needs assessment upon which the current budget is based.”

LENRD SUBDISTRICTS



Mission Statement

“Striving to improve the quality of life
for all citizens of the
LOWER ELKHORN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
by promoting and demonstrating
sound methods of stewardship
which conserve, develop, and manage our natural resources.”



Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District

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