

# THE FLOW DOWN

A publication of the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District

Issue 1 May 2025

## Explore Someplace New!



### Inside this issue:

<i>Explore Someplace New!</i>	1
<i>Changing Our First Impression</i>	1
<i>The Board</i>	2
<i>Staff</i>	3
<i>Susan Olafsen-Lackey Recognized as 2024 Outstanding Partner</i>	4-5
<i>Meeting Dates</i>	5
<i>'S'More' Fun in Our District this Summer!</i>	6

Did you know? Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts (NRDs) offer numerous opportunities to enjoy and appreciate our natural world! Many of the NRDs build and operate public recreation areas available to all who wish to view wildlife, fish and hunt, take nature walks, use bike trails, or participate in other outdoor activities. NRD recreation facilities are built and operated to meet multipurpose needs – combining recreation with flood control, wildlife habitat enhancement, soil erosion and sediment control, or wetland renovation along rivers and streams.



There are five recreation areas in the Lower Elkhorn NRD:

- Cowboy Trail – 2 Mile Norfolk Connector, Norfolk
- Maple Creek Rec Area, Leigh
- Maskenthine Lake Rec Area, Stanton
- Pilger Rec Area, Pilger
- Willow Creek State Rec Area, Pierce (Managed by Nebr. Game & Parks Commission)

So, get outdoors and find a new area to explore! There's even a chance to win prizes if you participate in the NRD Recreation Exploration. The NRD Recreation Exploration challenges you to visit as many NRD recreation areas as you can between March and September 19, 2025. Visit any NRD recreation area and submit a photo by visiting [nrdnet.org/recreation](http://nrdnet.org/recreation). We love to see how you use and enjoy the amenities in our District!

## Changing Our First Impression

An organization's first impression is often achieved through the appearance and functionality of their website. Unfortunately, this is an area where we were missing the mark. However, the next time you visit [www.lenrd.org](http://www.lenrd.org) you may find yourself doing a double-take. We're getting a new website and a new look!

In an effort to provide a more clear and efficient website for our visitors, we began the process of requesting proposals from web hosting companies in late Spring 2024. Our new website wish list contained items such as: easily navigable and efficient menu, well organized content, a minimalistic design that is aesthetically pleasing but not distracting, and a more prominent display for pertinent information and alerts.

In July 2024, Directors approved signing a contract with UNANIMOUS, Inc. out of Lincoln, at a cost of \$16,800. UNANIMOUS, Inc. presented an excellent proposal, offers top-notch customer service, and offers peace of mind through safety and security measures. They are also familiar with the type of work we do and the message we want to convey because they have worked with numerous other NRDs in the state, including Nebraska's Association of Resources Districts.

Work on the website upgrade began in the late summer of 2024 with plans to launch in late April 2025. You will still be able to find us at [www.lenrd.org](http://www.lenrd.org). We hope you enjoy what you see!

## The Board



**Chad Korth**  
Sudistrict #1



**Jay Reikofski**  
*Vice-Chairman*  
Sudistrict #1



**Scott Clausen**  
Sudistrict #2



**Lee Klein**  
Sudistrict #2



**Anthony Wisnieski**  
Sudistrict #3



**Melissa Temple**  
Sudistrict #3



**Michael Fleer**  
Sudistrict #4



**Andrew Hrabanek**  
Sudistrict #4



**Kris Loberg**  
Sudistrict #5



**Jerry Allemann**  
*Treasurer;*  
*NARD Alt. Delegate*  
Sudistrict #5



**Matt Steffen**  
*Chairman*  
Sudistrict #6



**Mark Burenheide**  
Sudistrict #6



**Roger Gustafson**  
Sudistrict #7



**Gary Loftis**  
*NARD Delegate*  
Sudistrict #7



**Jim Aschoff**  
*Director at Large*



## Staff



**Connor Baldwin**  
Groundwater  
Management  
Area Specialist



**Ryan Bartak**  
Rec Area  
Maintenance Tech



**Curt Becker**  
Assistant General  
Manager



**Shawn Blahak**  
Logan East RWS  
Manager



**Brian Bruckner**  
General Manager



**Heidi Christiansen**  
LENRD/NRCS  
Program Assistant  
(Madison Co.)



**Dallas Dorey**  
Water Resources  
Tech



**Kristie  
Freudenburg**  
Program  
Coordinator



**Doug Hallum**  
Water Resources  
Manager



**Lindsay Hinkel**  
LENRD/NRCS  
Programs Assistant  
(Pierce Co.)



**JJ Johansen**  
Logan East RWS  
Tech



**Lisa Lauver**  
BGMA Project  
Coordinator



**Liz Lienemann**  
Communications  
Specialist



**Stephanie Mandel**  
LENRD/NRCS  
Programs Assistant  
(West Point)



**Patty Martens**  
Administrative  
Assistant



**Mike Murphy**  
GIS Specialist



**Jim Olson**  
Conservation  
Planner (Pierce/  
Madison Cos.)



**Julia Polt**  
Water Resources  
Tech



**Caitlyn Pospisil**  
Office Assistant



**Laurie Schold**  
Logan East RWS  
Financial Secretary



**Todd Stewart**  
Natural Resources  
Tech



**Carey Tejkl**  
LENRD/NRCS  
Programs Assistant  
(Stanton Co.)



**Tyler Warren**  
Rec Area  
Superintendent



**Julie Wragge**  
Grant Coordinator



## Susan Olafsen-Lackey Recognized as 2024 Outstanding Partner

Susan (Sue) Olafsen-Lackey was recently honored by the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District (LENRD) staff and Directors as the 2024 Outstanding Partner. Sue, a Hydrogeologist with the Conservation and Survey Division, School of Natural Resources, UNL, has a rather lengthy & impressive resume when it comes to the protection and management of water resources. She has been integrally involved with research efforts involving water and geology, including an emphasis on the groundwater flow system in Northeast and Northcentral Nebraska and a focus on defining the interaction of groundwater and surface water resources.

The LENRD, and residents of northeast and northcentral Nebraska, have been fortunate to reap the benefits of her knowledge and expertise when it comes to these water relationships.

The LENRD Monitoring Well Network, which has been developed in phases over past three decades, consists of 79 wells and 47 sites, and monitors water-level data in real time throughout the District via telemetry. Telemetry is the automatic recording and transmission of data from a remote source (monitoring well) to a web portal for monitoring and analysis. Sue played a vital role with the identification of many, if not all, of the well site locations for this network. Some locations were selected for the primary purpose of

monitoring water quality, some for water quantity, and some are placed near stream gauges to monitor the streamflow and groundwater connection. Implementation of this network began in 1998.

Sue has also been instrumental in providing guidance to the District, first in the pilot phase and later in the Districtwide rollout, for the Airborne Electromagnetic Survey (AEM). AEM Surveys are a method of collecting information that can be utilized to differentiate the types, depths, and locations of materials in the aquifer under the Earth's surface. Having this data helps provide a better understanding of the area's geology and is used as a guide when making decisions about policies and decisions related to groundwater management. Numerous flights have been conducted over the District first beginning in 2007 in the eastern portion of the District, near Oakland, NE and now includes over 4,000 line-miles of data. The most recent flight was conducted over the eastern part of the District in 2018, and have often been coordinated with the collection of data in adjacent NRD's.

Most recently, Sue has assisted the Logan East Rural Water System (LERWS) with identifying the best location for a new water supply well to support the System.

Aside from these extensive projects, Sue has been involved with numerous other developments since she first started serving in this capacity in 1991. In September 2023, she co-hosted a Hydrogeologic Field Trip of Northeast Nebraska with Kathleen Cameron, Hydrogeologist-UNL Conservation & Survey Division, and Matt Marxsen, Driller-UNL Conservation & Survey Division.

Her dedication, support, and contribution to the Lower Elkhorn NRD and to the residents of northeast Nebraska, are all reasons why Sue was selected as the 2024 Outstanding Partner.





## Also Recognized for Accomplishments in 2024

### Years of Dedicated Service:

**5 Years of Service:** Connor Baldwin (*Groundwater Management Area Specialist*)

JJ Johansen (*LERWS Technician*)

Todd Stewart (*Natural Resources Technician*)

**10 Years of Service:** Ken Bloomquist (*Wau-Col Regional Water System Manager*)

**15 Years of Service (LENRD)/20 Years of Service (NRDs):** Curt Becker (*Assistant General Manager*)

**30 Years of Service:** Julie Wragge (*Grant Coordinator*)

### Outgoing Representatives:

Mark Hall (*Director 2016-2024*)

Rod Zohner (*Director 2021-2024*)

Garry Anderson (*Elkhorn River Basin Representative, Nebraska Natural Resources Commission 2000-2024*)

## Deadline Reminders

June 1 – Chemigation Permit Deadline

December 1 – Flow Meter Readings Due

## Meeting Dates

### MAY

Committee: May 8th

Board: May 22nd

### JUNE

Committee: June 12th

Board: June 26th

### JULY

Committee: July 10th

Board: July 24th

### AUGUST

Committee: August 14th

Board: August 28th

### SEPTEMBER

Committee: September 11th

Board: September 25th

### OCTOBER

Committee: October 9th

Board: October 23rd

### NOVEMBER

Committee: November 13th

Board: November 25th (Tuesday)

### DECEMBER

Committee: December 11th

Board: December 18th



## Natural Resources District

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### Nebraska's NRDs . . .

**Protecting Lives, Protecting**

**Property, Protecting the Future.**



## 'S'More' Fun in Our District this Summer!

Join us for our Stars, Strolls, and S'mores moon walks this summer! This is a family-oriented activity that introduces community to cultural and natural history of our area trails and lakes. Through this program, we hope to foster an understanding and appreciation for these resources that will lead others towards stewardship of public lands.

Moon walks are held on Wednesday evenings close to the official full moon and begin at 7:30 p.m. Each Moon Walk starts with a short introduction to the night's program, then a hike to designated areas to enjoy presentations. Presenters are experts in their field and part of our local community! Of course, free s'mores will be the cherry on top of a fun evening.

**Wednesday, June 11 @ Cowboy Recreation  
and Nature Trail (Broken Bridge)**

**Wednesday, July 9 @ Willow Creek State Rec Area**  
\*park permit or day pass required

**Wednesday, August 6 @ Johnson Park  
& North Fork Whitewater Park**

Stars, Strolls, and S'mores Moon Walks are Sponsored by:  
Norfolk Area Visitors Bureau, Nebraska Game & Parks, UNL  
Extension, City of Norfolk, Cowboy Trail, USDA NRCS, and  
the Lower Elkhorn NRD.

Find the full list of activities on our website: [www.lenrd.org](http://www.lenrd.org)

