

Natural Resources News

Spring 2005 A Newsletter of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District Vol. 19

Come visit our web page to find out more about what we can do for you: <http://www.tpnrd.org>

Board Approves Draft Revisions of the Ground Water Management Plan to be sent to the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources for Approval

On July 1, 2004, the Twin Platte Natural Resources District established a moratorium on the drilling of new wells for an area within the District. With the more recent designations by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources of fully and over appropriated areas within the District, a well drilling suspension and a stay on new irrigated acres continues for an area within the District. Due to these activities, the Board of Directors is concerned that extensive development of new irrigated acres outside of the suspension and stay area could be occurring. The current ground water management plan did not give the District the necessary tools to react appropriately.

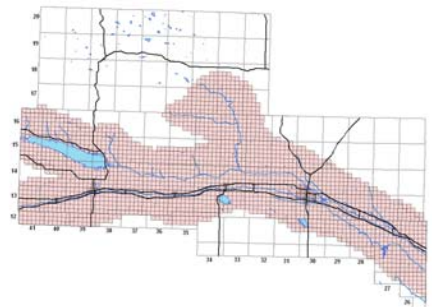
At the February 10, 2005 Board Meeting, the Board of Directors approved revisions for the District's Ground Water Management Plan.

The amendments to the Ground Water Management Plan are to allow the District to take a proactive approach in protecting the ground water resources. The amendments provide:

- For establishing the entire District in a Ground Water Management Area.
- For requiring permits for all new wells with the capacity to pump 50 gallons per minute or greater. Criteria for a permit will be that a one mile radius circle will be drawn around a proposed well site and less than 25% of the area within the circle can currently be irrigated for a permit to be issued. These criteria may limit the irrigated acres from a new well, such that the new well will not cause the irrigated acres within the circle to exceed 25% of the area, or may cause a permit to be denied.
- For establishing a Ground Water Quantity Management subarea within a portion of a Major Land Resources Area. The Board of Directors has approved subareas for the initial consideration of management. The amendments for the Ground Water Management Plan provide that the Board of Directors may revise the subareas as needed.
- For a triggering mechanism based on the density of ground water irrigated acres when considering Ground Water Quantity Management. Currently, the only triggering mechanism is based on ground water level declines.
- For a moratorium for drilling new wells during each phase of management. Currently, a moratorium for drilling new wells is not an option in any of the phases for management.

NO NEW IRRIGATED ACRES are allowed within the well drilling suspension area.....

Within the well drilling suspension and stays on new irrigated acres area of Twin Platte Natural Resources District, the only new land that now may be developed for **new** irrigated acres is from new wells drilled prior to the July 1, 2004 deadline. Those wells have until July 1, 2005 to irrigate new acres. See the map at the right. If you have any questions about the location of this area or if your acres can be irrigated please feel free to contact our office.



The Twin Platte Natural Resources District is beginning the process to certify acres according to the 2004 irrigation season



Last summer, the Twin Platte obtained funding and had high resolution infrared imagery taken for the entire District. This has allowed the TPNRD to begin the process of geo-rectification and to analyze the data for extracting the crop and amount of crop cover. It is with this information that we will begin the process of certifying irrigated acres.

The Twin Platte Natural Resources District is beginning the commencement of the Integrated Management Planning Process (IMP)

The TPNRD and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources has begun the commencement of the integrated management planning process for the TPNRD and for the Platte River Basin.

The TPNRD has undertaken the formation of a group of stakeholders to advise the Department and the TPNRD on the development of the TPNRD integrated management plan. This group of stakeholders will also address, in part, the requirement that the TPNRD and the Department consult with certain entities during the preparation of an integrated management plan for the fully appropriated river basin. The stakeholders meetings will be advertised, open to the public, and will include an opportunity for members of the public to provide comments. The following is a list of the entities that are represented on the Stakeholders group: Economic Development; Counties; University of Nebraska; Municipalities; Irrigation Districts; Chambers of Commerce; Financial Institutions; Public Power and Irrigation Districts; Recreation; Ground Water Users; Rangeland Representatives; Nebraska State Agencies; Well Drillers; and Education.

The purpose of the consultation and collaboration process is to attempt to obtain the agreement of all parties on the basin-wide plan and the TPNRD plan.

UPDATE.....

Ground water management information available on our web site

We've just added another button of information to our web page. We have renamed the Temporary Well Suspension button to Ground Water Management. This button still has the same great information and maps as before, only now we have added our Operation & Guidelines for New Wells and New Irrigated Acres within the Temporary Suspension Area, along with the required replacement well permits needed to replace a large capacity (50 gpm or greater) irrigation well in our District, and the revisions to our Ground Water Management Plan. All of this information is as easy as visiting our web site at www.tpnrd.org.



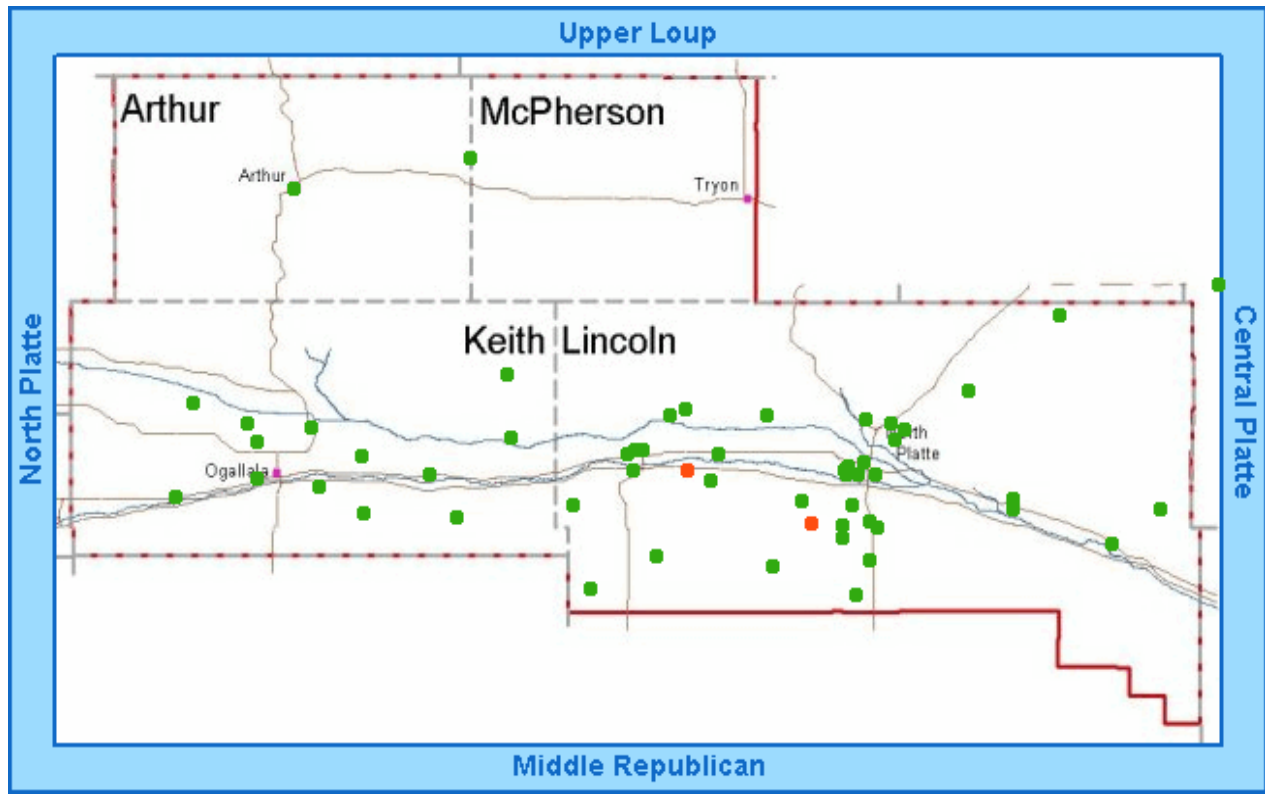
Chemigation limitations over streams or canals

Many miles of natural streams, irrigation ditches, and canals flow through the Twin Platte Natural Resources District. As more pivot irrigation systems are being installed in proximity to these flowing bodies of water, we remind you of a related District policy involving chemigation. The policy states "the Twin Platte Natural Resources District shall deny an application for a chemigation permit for an irrigation system in which any portion of the equipment passes directly over flowing waters of the State". This policy does not apply to intermittent draws that often occur in areas with sloping terrain. It also does not apply to wetlands, though there are state and federal regulations that must be observed when applying fertilizer or pesticides near any such body of water. Contact the District office if you need more information on this subject.

NeRAIN Nebraska Rainfall Assessment and Information Network

Spring is here again (hopefully spring rains too), and the Twin Platte Natural Resources District is still looking for a few volunteers to take rain gauge readings at their homes around our District. We have several gaps around the District where volunteers are needed. Please see the map below (dots are existing reporting stations).

Ideally we need one reporting station per township, except in towns where we would like stations to be one mile apart. If this is something you would be interested in and **have internet access** to report daily, please call our office and we can send you a volunteer form, or go online and download an application at www.tpnrd.org, then click on the NeRain button. Requirements to be a volunteer include internet service so that you can report daily, and a quick 15 minute training overview of how to measure rain and use the web site. If you qualify, you will be given an official weather service approved rain gauge that holds up to 10 inches of precipitation. If you don't qualify or you would rather just go online and check the daily precipitation for your area, feel free. This is a great resource-let's use it!



We would like to welcome two new faces working for the Twin Platte Natural Resources District

Sudheer Chadalavada comes to us from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He is our Geographic Information Systems Coordinator, and his job responsibilities include data management, development, analysis, and map production.

Brad Carlson graduated from Chadron State in May of 2004. He is our Range Programs Technician. He was hired to conduct rangeland inventories, as well as to support the Natural Resources Conservation Service in other aspects of the Farm Bill Programs.



Twin Platte Natural Resources District

Board of Directors.....	Sub-District
Jim Rubenthaler.....(H)584-3578.....	At-large
(Chairperson)	
Doug Stack.....(W)535-8308.....	3
(Vice-Chairperson)	
Jerry Weaver.....(W)534-9240.....	3
(Secretary)	
Jim Meismer.....(H)284-6509.....	5
(Treasurer)	
Bob Petersen.....(H)532-2689.....	2
Joe Wahlgren.....(H)537-3136.....	2
Shane Storer.....(H)764-2343.....	1
Jeff Baldrige.....(H)534-7780.....	4
Bob Wiseman.....(H)368-5866.....	4
Eric Hansen.....(W)532-6244.....	1
Dennis Schilz.....(W)287-2341.....	5

Staff Members.....	Position
Kent O. Miller.....	General Manager
Dave Slattery.....	Conservation Programs Coordinator
Bill Carhart.....	Range Programs Coordinator
Glen Bowers.....	Water Programs Field Coordinator
Ann Dimmitt.....	Water Programs Regulatory Coordinator
Sudheer Chadalavada.....	GIS Coordinator
Amy Mapes.....	Administrative Assistant
Kathy Clark.....	Field Office Secretary, North Platte NRCS
Brad Carlson.....	Range Programs Tech, North Platte NRCS

Natural Resources News is the official publication of the Twin Platte Natural Resources District. If you have any questions, comments, suggestions, or would like to be placed on our mailing list, please feel free to submit them to:

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 P.O. Box 1347
 North Platte, NE 69103-1347
 Phone: (308)535-8080
 Fax: (308)535-8207
 e-mail: tpnrd4@nponline.net



Free Hazardous Waste Collection!

APRIL 9TH : 9AM TO 1PM
1402 N. SYCAMORE

ACCEPTING

PAINTS & SOLVENTS; HOUSHOLD & YARD CHEMICALS; USED OIL; COMPUTERS (\$5.00 FEE FOR MONITORS); FLAMMABLES; AUTO CHEMICAL PRODUCTS; BATTERIES; MERCURY; TIRES (UP TO 300 TONS ON A 1ST COME, 1ST SERVE BASIS—LINCOLN COUNTY ONLY)

SORRY-NO ANTIFREEZE, INFECTIOUS WASTE, RADIOACTIVE WASTE, SCHOOL LABS, APPLIANCES, FURNITURE, OR CONSTRUCTION WASTE !

Call or e-mail us for more info on this and other events!

Phone: (308) 534-8100

Email: knplcb@yahoo.com

Visit our website at www.keepnorthplattebeautiful.org

Upcoming Events:



April

- 9 Hazardous Waste Collection Day! - North Platte — 9 am —1 pm CST
- 14 Board of Director's Meeting - 7:30 p.m. CDT*
- 29 Arbor Day Observed—Office Closed

May

- 12 Board of Director's Meeting - 7:30 p.m. CDT*
- 30 Memorial Day—Office Closed

June

- 9 Board of Director's Meeting - 7:30 p.m. CDT*

* Board Meetings are held in the TierOne Bank Center-North Platte

Twin Platte

NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

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111 South Dewey Street

North Platte, NE 69103-1347

Postal Patron