



Planning Documents

2021-
2031

- Master Plan
- Long Range Implementation Plan

Upper Big Blue

NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT



About Us



Partnership with the communities, families, and individuals in our region motivates the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District to improve quality of life through effective stewardship of water and soil.

With expert knowledge, intimate understanding of the needs of the region, and commitment to fair, local governance, the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District serves people and communities through a range of conservation activities. From improving practices for ag producers through education and research on best management practices, to improving life for all residents but assuring access to healthy drinking water and recreation areas, the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District provides a vital service in Adams, Butler, Clay, Fillmore, Hamilton, Polk, Saline, Seward, and York counties.



The Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District is a political sub-division of the State of Nebraska. The District was created on July 1, 1972, along with 23 other NRDs across the state. The Districts cover the entire state, including all urban and rural areas. The Districts are governed by elected Boards of Directors that set

individual District policies, approve programs and projects, set budgets, and approve expenditures. Each District has a general manager who reports directly to the board. The general manager of each district manages a staff that conducts the day to day activities to carry out policies, programs, and projects.

Our Mission



The Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District shall be a leader in conserving, protecting, developing, and managing the natural resources of this District for the health and welfare of the people of the District.

ROADMAP FOR THE FUTURE

As a leader in local natural resources management, the Upper Big Blue NRD knows that the focus cannot just be on today, but we must also look well into the future to ensure sustainability and conservation of our natural resources for generations to come. This is a challenging job considering the many competing uses and complex challenges, but one the Board of Directors and NRD staff are fully committed to taking on. However, we know this cannot be accomplished alone and we recognize that proper planning and partnership-building are essential. To reach our goals, meet our statutory obligations, and best serve the residents and producers of the District, we use a variety of strategies:

- Vision-casting for the next 10 years using this Master Plan to guide efforts
- Collaboration and partnerships
- A focus on water quality and quantity challenges and needs for agricultural producers, flood management in times of weather extremes, and ensuring adequate potable drinking water
- Efforts to address soil health and conservation in support of sustainable agricultural production that is vital to our economy
- Protection and management of important habitat and forestry resources, and providing recreational opportunities to help meet and balance a wide range of needs, interests, and uses
- Outreach and engagement with communities and producers to encourage participation, foster greater understanding, and provide necessary information and data to make informed decisions



Our Responsibilities



The Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District is a multi-purpose, local unit of Nebraska Government for management, development and protection of the soil and water resources. The basic responsibilities of the District, which are authorized by statute, are listed below.:

1. Development, management, use, and conservation of ground water and surface water
2. Soil conservation
3. Erosion prevention and control
4. Flood prevention and control
5. Pollution control
6. Water supply for any beneficial uses
7. Prevention of damages from flood water and sediment
8. Development and management of recreational and park facilities
9. Forestry and range management
10. Development and management of fish and wildlife habitat
11. Drainage Improvement
12. Solid waste disposal

METHODS

The methods we will employ to meet these responsibilities are...

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Leadership | 6. Monitoring, data collection, and research |
| 2. Information and education | 7. Guidelines, recommendations, and regulations |
| 3. Technical advice and assistance | 8. Formulating and maintaining public and private partnerships |
| 4. Cost-sharing | |
| 5. Construction and operation by the District | |

This Document



The master plan for the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District presents the goals and objectives relating to the 12 purposes of districts as stated in the revised statutes of Nebraska, Section 2-3229, (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 ground water 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. In accordance with Section 2-3276, the master plan is to be updated at least every 10 years, or more frequently if major changes in planning and development of objectives occur before the end of the period.

The master plan helps the district to expand our mission, vision, and statutory requirements into goals, objectives, and actionable items in conjunction with the Long Range Implementation Plan. This master plan was adopted by the Board of Directors on ((DATE)).

The priorities and goals are the framework for all Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District activities, programs, practices, and regulations. The board is guided by these priorities and goals in establishing policies and budgets. The staff does that same in carrying out day-to-day activities.

No attempt is made in the master plan to present current plans or budgets, or to present background information on resources and needs. Such information about the natural resources of the District is available from many other NRD publications. Comprehensive data and information is also on file at the District office. Individual project plans and studies are on file for planned as well as completed projects. Historical data concerning past programs, projects, staffing, and funding are also in the District files. The details of District programs, activities, and administrative policies are published in the following publications and documents, which are periodically updated:

- Long Range Implementation Plan
- Annual budget
- Programs and cost-share practices
- Rules and regulations
- Master Plan
- Annual report
- Audits
- Operating policies
- Personnel policies



Goal: Water Resources



Goals, Objectives, Priorities

The primary goal of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District is successful, long-term water management, for both quantity and quality.

The District strives to provide adequate supply of acceptable quality groundwater to fulfill the reasonable groundwater demands within the District for domestic, agricultural, manufacturing or industrial, and other uses deemed beneficial by the District Board of Directors.

Groundwater Quantity

The control area (now known as the Groundwater Management Area #1) was declared on December 9, 1977, with these goals:

- Encourage, promote, and regulate the efficient management and conservation of groundwater and to significantly reduce the rate of decline in the groundwater table.
- Hold the District groundwater level above the 1978 level through various programs and regulations.
- Provide an adequate water supply for existing users, as well as domestic users in the small region outside of the Groundwater Management Area #1.

Groundwater Quality

The special protection area (now known as the Groundwater Management Area #2) was declared on September 23, 1993, with these long-range goals:

- Reduce the potential for nonpoint source contamination of groundwater through education, research, management practices and incentives that would not adversely affect the economy of the area.
- Develop and implement an appropriate system of monitoring and evaluation of nonpoint source groundwater contamination including indicators such as nitrates in groundwater and the unsaturated zone, use of best management practices and other factors that are indicators of the rate of nonpoint source groundwater contamination.
- Encourage the use of best management practices to reduce deep percolation and to support research and adoption of equipment and techniques that have potential for reducing groundwater nitrates.

Goal: Water Resources

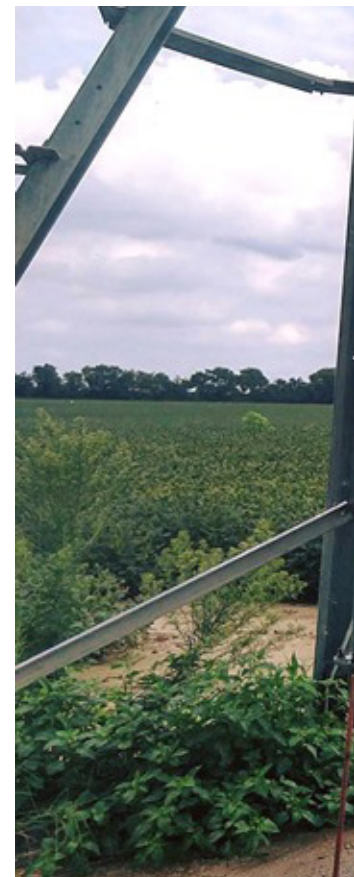


Groundwater Objectives

The Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District will seek to...

- Provide information and education and consider cost-sharing to encourage groundwater users to:
 - » Attain the most economical use of groundwater
 - » Use crop rotation
 - » Control runoff
 - » Construct water storage and land treatment where needed
 - » Use irrigation scheduling
 - » Use surface water where available
 - » Check and maintain pumping plant efficiency
 - » Keep records
 - » Install flow meters (irrigation and urban)
 - » Alternative irrigation systems (pivot conversions or sub-surface drip systems)
 - » Sample soil for nitrogen carryover
 - » Set realistic yield goals
 - » Complete full nutrient analysis
 - » Use nitrogen flow regulators
 - » Split nitrogen applications
 - » Use fertigation/chemigation
 - » Proper lawn and garden watering and fertilization
 - » Decommissioning of abandoned wells

- Monitor the groundwater conditions by:
 - » Measuring spring groundwater levels District-wide in the established network of existing wells.
 - » Measuring seasonal changes in groundwater levels using dedicated, continuous recorder wells.
 - » Monitoring groundwater quality annually, district-wide in the established network of existing wells.
 - » Monitoring seasonal changes in groundwater quality using dedicated water quality monitoring wells.
 - » Work cooperatively with other agencies to collect and evaluate groundwater data.



- Regulate the use and protection of groundwater through the implementation of:
 - » Groundwater Management Area quantity regulations to reduce conflicts between users and to manage the decline of groundwater.
 - » Groundwater Management Area quality regulations to stabilize and reduce nitrate contamination of groundwater.
 - » Chemigation regulations to reduce the risk of contamination of groundwater through irrigation systems
 - » Irrigation runoff regulations to conserve groundwater and to reduce conflicts between neighbors
- Provide necessary budget, staff and other assistance to carry out an effective management and regulatory program
- Conduct studies and research to better understand and manage groundwater in the District
- Advocate groundwater management by natural resource districts at the local level
- Assist in the planning and development of domestic water supplies where requested by local units of government or citizen groups
- Encourage other agencies to conserve groundwater when implementing their programs, such as groundwater remediation plans
- Cooperate with municipalities on wellhead protection areas.
- Promote and publicize the conservation and wise use of groundwater, through an extensive and comprehensive public relations effort.

CHEMIGATION INSPECTION



Goal: Water Resources



The Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District's goal is to store, conserve, and protect surface water for beneficial uses as determined by the Board of Directors, such as domestic, agricultural, and manufacturing.

Surface Water Objectives

Objectives in this area include:

- Development of multipurpose surface water projects consistent with local desires for water conservation, water use, flood control, groundwater recharge, recreation, and fisheries and wildlife habitat
- Construct and/or cost-share on dams designed to maximize conservation water storage
- Encourage soil conservation practices as a method of improving water quality in streams and lakes
- Determine surface water project priorities consistent with the greatest long-term benefits.
- Obtain funding for surface water projects from private, other local, state, and federal sources to supplement the District tax requirement for such projects.
- Develop management agreements for surface water projects with affected units of local government and encourage such governments to assume the management, operation, and maintenance responsibilities connected with these projects
- Promote, publicize, and offer technical advice and assistance for surface water conservation.



Goal: Soil Conservation



The District goal is to maximize soil and water conservation efforts in order to preserve the resources for future use while maintaining production today.

Objectives

This is accomplished in a variety of ways:

- Prevent erosion through a voluntary land treatment program and by encouraging minimum or reduced tillage.
- Implementing erosion or sediment control regulations where necessary to reduce conflicts between neighbors.
- Discourage channel straightening and dredging, unless steps are taken to prevent detrimental effects.
- Minimize and control erosion of soil through improved control of erosion of soil through improved conservation practices, conversion of steep slopes with erosive soils to non-cultivated uses, protection of stream banks, and improved land management.
- Maintain soil nutrient levels for productive land use and reduction of water pollution through improved soil management practices.
- Cooperate with local units of government in implementing necessary erosion control practices, as needed, on all residential or commercial development, industrial development, road construction, and other non-agricultural sites.
- Promote, publicize, and offer technical advice and assistance to promote soil conservation.
- Obtain funding for soil conservation from private, other local, state, and federal sources to supplement District funds.



Goal: Flooding Prevention/Control



The goal of the District is to reduce flooding and flood damages to acceptable levels, while making the best use of flood plain land. Flood plain management is of prime importance, as in many cases, it is the most practical way to reduce flood damages.

Objectives

Objectives in this area include to:

- Encourage flood plain management as a necessary step in creating the proper balance between structural and non-structural methods of flood protection.
- Create a greater awareness of flood plain problems and potential solutions through local planning, education and information programs.
- Sponsor, construct, operate, and maintain flood control projects, where feasible, to protect property from flood damages. Design and plan for multi-purpose uses of flood control projects where ever possible. Acquire grants and other funding to supplement District funding.
- Promote public linear parks, greenbelts, and open space in flood plains as an alternative to allowing real estate development and building construction if lands have the potential of changing from agricultural to developed areas
- Consider, on a case by case basis:
 - ◇ sharing the consulting services and costs with other local governments in connection with the planning of linear parks, greenbelts, and open space in flood plains.
 - ◇ acquiring grants for and sharing the land rights costs of flood plain buyouts with other local governments.
 - ◇ assisting communities with flood control projects by offering technical and administrative assistance, offering cost-share, and acquiring grants or other funds. Encourage multi-purpose uses of flood control projects.
- Encourage local cities and villages to assume sponsorship of all municipal storm water management projects.
- Discourage any creek or river straightening or shortening project within the District's boundaries. Limit channel projects to those necessary for flood control. Discourage drainage improvements designed to develop additional real estate, or cropland, because of potential conflicts between property owners.



Goal: Pollution Control



The goal of the District is to minimize the misuse and pollution of our natural resources, to protect and enhance the quality of the land, surface water, and groundwater within the District's boundaries.

Objectives

Objectives in this area include that the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District will seek to...

- Protect ground and surface water from point and non-point sources of pollutants (see also "Groundwater Conservation and Management," page 6).
- Inform and educate the public to make the citizens aware of potential and existing pollution and the need for prevention.
- Encourage other agencies to take water conservation and beneficial uses into account in cleanup efforts.
- Promote regional efforts toward managing solid waste, both urban and rural. Encourage the sound planning and development of solid waste disposal sites in order to adequately protect land and water quality. Encourage recycling of solid waste.

FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURE NEAR HASTINGS



Goal: Parks and Recreation



The District goal is to improve and increase the outdoor recreation opportunities in the region, especially in conjunction with multi-purpose water projects.

Objectives

The Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District will seek to:

- Plan recreation use on district owned projects. The level of recreation provided depends on the scope, size and cost of the project.
- Manage, improve, and/or expand the five existing district park and recreation facilities. Develop new park sites on major multi-purpose projects where the land is held in title by the district. Developed public use sites may include roads and trails, improved parking areas, picnic areas and shelters, drinking water, boat ramps, playgrounds, camping sites, trash service, and restroom facilities.
- Establish and manage primitive public use areas on undeveloped District projects and properties throughout the District. Primitive public use areas are to provide access for walking, and may include fishing or hunting where practical. Off-road unimproved parking is to be furnished for traffic safety. Roads, improved trails, picnic areas and shelters, drinking water, boat ramps, playgrounds, improved camping sites, trash service, and restroom facilities are not provided, maintained, or encouraged.
- Consider providing cities and villages, on a case by case basis, with planning and financial assistance for multi-use parks and recreation improvement and development that stresses natural resources such as tree plantings, wildlife habitat, and open spaces. Public use areas that have aspects of soil and water conservation are to have a priority. Ball fields, tennis courts, swimming pools and similar facilities need to be planned and funded by others.
- In flood plains, promote public linear parks, greenbelts, and open space for public access, by offering planning and financial assistance to counties, cities, and villages.
- Cooperate with counties and state and federal agencies, in public use area development and management where their activities are consistent with those of the District.
- Provide information and education to promote parks and recreation uses of public lands.



Goal: Forestry & Range Management



The District goal is to maintain and improve the quality of woodlands and grasslands in this region for soil and water conservation, as well as livestock production, timber, and wildlife.

Objectives

The Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District will seek to:

- Provide technical advice on forestry and grassland management. Encourage tree planting for windbreaks and other conservation purposes, and native grass plantings for soil erosion prevention. Encourage proper range and pasture management to provide for better mixes and stands of grass, while increasing productivity.
- Provide a tree planting program to assist landowners in planning for tree plantings, offer seedling trees for sale, and to provide a planting service for windbreak, Christmas tree or wildlife plantings.
- Consider providing cities and villages on a case by case basis, with planning and financial assistance for community tree, shrub, and native grass plantings.
- Discourage the conversion of existing tree plantings, woodlands, and grasslands to cropland or other uses.
- Promote proper tree trimming and pruning, and vegetation control undertaken by communities and power districts.
- Encourage outdoor classrooms and environmental education in order to show the importance of trees and grasses in conservation.

SMITH CREEK RECREATION AREA





OXBOW TRAIL RECREATION AREA

Goal: Fish & Wildlife



The District goal is to conserve and improve the fish and wildlife habitat found in the District.

Objectives

The Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District will seek to:

- Provide technical assistance for private landowners to develop and maintain new fish and wildlife habitat.
- Develop fisheries and wildlife habitat, where practical, on District projects.
- Obtain funding for habitat programs from private, other local, state, and federal sources.
- Discourage practices by public entities and individuals that result in the unnecessary destruction of permanent vegetation and trees.
- Encourage private landowners to preserve existing wetlands and/or restore original wetlands through Agriculture Land Easements (ALE), Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE) or other programs.
- Discourage dredge and fill activities, and conversion to croplands, unless there are reasonable wetland mitigation sites available.
- Encourage state and federal agencies and private landowners to work together to solve wetland habitat needs and irrigation runoff control, as well as working together to solve lowland flooding problems.
- Promote fish and wildlife habitat on private and public lands.



UPPER BIG BLUE

Natural Resources District

Protecting Lives • Protecting Property • Protecting the Future

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**This Master Plan Document was
Adopted by the Board of Directors,
Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District,
on [DATE]
in accordance with Nebraska Law
(Section 2-3276)**

Our Mission

The Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District shall be a leader in conserving, protecting, developing, and managing the natural resources of this District for the health and welfare of the people of the District. The core of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District focuses on these things:

- Water
- Soil
- Urban Conservation
- Flood Control
- Trees and Wildlife Habitat
- Recreation
- Grazing Lands
- Education



Long Range PLAN

2021-
2026



Upper Big Blue

NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

History & Purpose



More than 56,000 citizens rely on the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District (NRD) to provide direction and assistance in the wise use, conservation and development of soil, water and related natural resources. The Upper Big Blue NRD is dedicated to the conservation and careful development of natural resources to serve everyone's needs.

In 1972, over 150 special purpose districts were consolidated into Nebraska's NRDs. There are 23 NRDs, formed to correspond with the state's major river basins. The NRDs carry the names of these rivers, hence the Upper Big Blue NRD, Lower Platte South NRD, and so on.

NRDs are organized as political subdivisions of the state. Local control is provided by a board of directors, elected by voters within the district. Across the state, NRDs are a major source of assistance to landowners in conservation and natural resources management. The NRDs also, by law, regulate the use of groundwater in the state.

At the Upper Big Blue NRD, a 17 member board of directors establishes policy. These elected directors represent the citizens' interests in conservation. Not only do directors make decisions about conservation programs at the district level, they also bring a wealth of local judgment and experience to bear when adapting state and national programs to local situations.

The directors (two from each of eight sub-districts and one at-large) are elected by all of the voters of the NRD. They serve four-year terms.

The NRD staff, under the direction of the general manager, is responsible for

the implementation of NRD polices and regulations, and serves as the focal point for planning and operations for the District.

The NRD works closely with state and federal agencies to coordinate conservation efforts. A key agency is the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), which provides planning, technical aid and inspections for private landowners. NRCS field offices are located in Aurora, Clay Center, David City, Geneva, Hastings, Osceola, Seward, Wilber, and York.

A major source of funding for projects, programs and administration comes from a tax levy on all taxable property within the district. Other sources include federal, state, and private grants.

The NRD has the authority to coordinate land and water management projects and programs with local, state, and federal conservation organizations and other governmental units. These projects may be funded through the sharing of project costs by the sponsoring agencies.

This plan document follows the goals and objectives of the 2020 Master Plan, and summarizes the planned district activities for the next five years, including projections of financial, staffing and land rights needs of the district.

Programs & Activities



The NRD offers several major natural resources programs, as well as administers rules and regulations for groundwater use and protection in these areas:

- Water Conservation Dams
- Flood Control
 - » Dams
 - » Levees
 - » Flood Plain Buyouts
 - » Buffer Strips
- Storm Water Drainage (Urban)
 - » Master Drainage Plans
 - » Storm Water Drainage Systems
- Hazard Mitigation Planning
- Land Treatment Cost-Share
 - » Terraces
 - » Dams
 - » Diversions
 - » Windbreaks
 - » Irrigation Efficiency Improvements
 - » Buffer Strips
 - » Community Native Grass Resources
- Public Relations
 - » Publications, Social Media, E-mails
 - » Public Speaking
 - » Public Events
 - » Scholarships
 - » Educational Capital Projects Fund
- Parks and Recreation
 - » Parks Cost-Share
 - » NRD Recreation Areas
- Groundwater Quantity
 - » Observation Wells
 - » Crop Water Use Information
 - » Irrigation Scheduling Equipment
 - » Flow Meter Cost Share
 - » Demonstration Fields (Project GROW)
 - » Variable Rate Irrigation Cost-Share
- Groundwater Quality
 - » Monitoring Wells
 - » Well Abandonment Cost-Share
 - » Municipal Water Quality Assistance
 - » Domestic Well Quality Testing
- Wildlife Habitat
 - » Habitat Improvement
 - » Corners for Wildlife
 - » Wild Nebraska Program
 - » Wetlands Grazing Portable Corral
 - » Divots in the Pivots (wetland conservation cost-share)
- Tree Plantings
 - » Seedling Sales
 - » Conservation Plantings
 - » Storm Damage Tree Replacement
 - » Community Tree Cost-Share
- On-Farm Research

BEAVER CREEK FLOODING, MAY '19



District Board



The Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District is governed by a 17 member Board of Directors. Two directors are elected from each of the eight sub-districts, plus one at-large member from any sub-district. The board sets policy for the district and works closely with the staff through a committee system to carry out the district's goals. Board meetings are conducted on the third Thursday of each month at the district office. Committees meet throughout the month. Special meetings are called as needed to consider important concerns and issues. The district board of directors sets the direction, policies and budget for the natural resources district.

Board of Directors

- Jeff Bohaty, Seward, Sub-district 2
- Douglas Bruns, Waco, Sub-district 3
- Paul Bethune, York, Sub-district 8
- Douglas L. Dickinson, Seward, Sub-district 2
- Gary E. Eberle, Bradshaw, Sub-district 7
- Roger W. Houdersheldt, Shelby, Sub-district 1
- Linda L. Luebbe, Beaver Crossing, At-Large Member
- John Miller, Aurora, Sub-district 6
- Larry K. Moore, Ulysses, Sub-district 1
- Micheal D. Nuss, Sutton, Sub-district 5
- Bill Kuehner, Jr., Aurora, Sub-district 6
- David Robotham, York, Sub-district 8
- Bill Stahly, Milford, Sub-district 3
- Ronda Rich, York, Sub-district 7
- Merlin M. Volkmer, Shickley, Sub-district 5
- Paul Weiss, McCool Junction, Sub-district 4
- Lynn Yates, Geneva, Sub-district 4

The management staff oversee the day-to-day functions of the district, including regulation enforcement. These functions are carried out by the rest of the employees.

The management staff are also instrumental in budget and policy development which are ultimately approved by the board. The management staff are the project managers who conducted oversee planning, design, contracts and construction of district projects. Consultants are sometimes hired for specific tasks, such as geotechnical investigations or research. Occasionally consultants are hired for project design, but only under close supervision by management.

District Staff



The district has 27 employee positions, 24 full time, one part-time and two occasional workers. Full-time and part-time employees are permanent employees with paid benefits. Full-time employees work 40 hour work weeks all year whereas part-time employees work a regular schedule of at least 20 hours per week. Occasional workers are temporary employees who do not learn benefits. Their hours vary depending on available work.

NRD STAFF

- David Eigenberg, General Manager
- Rodney Verhoeff, Assistant General Manager
- Jack Wergin, Projects Department Manager
- Marie Krausnick, Water Department Manager
- Nancy Brisk, Office Manager
- Chrystal Houston, Public Relations Manager
- Jeff Ball, Lead Engineering Technician
- John Bush, Water Resources Technician
- Drew ten Bensel, Water Resources Technician
- Erinn Wilkins, Water Resources Technician
- Jacob Maslonka, Water Resources Technician
- Miranda Coffey, Water Data Assistant
- Dan Leininger, Water Conservationist
- Sylvia Jividen, Geneva Field Office Clerk
- Tamra Jones, Osceola Field Office Clerk
- Janet Yates, Seward Field Office Clerk
- April English, York Field Office Clerk
- Rita Hoblyn, Projects Department Secretary
- Carleen Light, Water Department Secretary
- DeeDee Novotny, Water Dept. Secretary
- Patty Connors, Secretary
- Mick Northrop, Lead Maintenance Worker
- Jay Geiger, Maintenance Worker
- Mark Olsen, Maintenance Worker
- Tom Johnson, Maintenance Worker
- Andy Larkin, Maintenance Worker
- Kyle Yrkoski, District Forester

Regulations



The long-term management and regulation of groundwater quantity and quality is a high priority in this District. That commitment requires a staff of 9 and a large part of the annual budget (about one-third of the total NRD staff and budget).

- Groundwater Quantity (most of the NRD)
 - » Well Permits
 - » Large Water User Studies
 - » Well Spacing
 - » Transfers
 - » Irrigated Acres Certification
 - » Groundwater Use Reports
 - » Flow Meters
- Groundwater Quality (all of the NRD)
 - » Fertilizer Timing Restrictions
 - » Operator Training
 - » Soil Sampling
 - » Irrigation Scheduling
 - » Irrigation Water Test for Nitrates
 - » Annual Reporting
- Fully Appropriated Upper Platte Basin Integrated Management Plan
- Chemigation
- Erosion and Sediment Control
- Park Regulations
 - » General
 - » Anderson Recreation Area
 - » Overland Trails
 - » Oxbow Trails
 - » Pioneer Trails
 - » Smith Creek

For additional information on the specifics of the programs and regulations of the NRD, please view the regularly updated Programs and Rules & Regulations publications.



Groundwater

Groundwater Quality

Online Reporting

A major goal was accomplished in 2019 as online reporting for water use and Phase II and III management area reporting. While paper reporting is still allowed, many producers chose online reporting and found it quick and easy. The new tool received praise from many producers and streamlined the data management for NRD staff as well. This tool will continue with the expectation that it will increasingly replace traditional reporting.

One District, Two Plans, One Water

In 2018, the Upper Big Blue NRD joined the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NeDNR) and the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE) on a joint planning effort to address water quality and quantity across the District. The engineering firm JEO was contracted to help with this first of its kind project. The conversations and work continued in 2019 and a public open house on the topic was held on April 2. The resulting Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) and draft Voluntary Integrated Management Plan (VIMP) were the results of this effort.

The joint planning process began with building partnerships between agencies. Since each plan required different but similar requirements, all agencies needed to agree on the terminology and planning schedule to be sure all statutory and federal guidelines were met in the planning process. Next all concerned explored the characteristics of the watershed to identify priority and special priority areas and management actions based on water quality resource concerns. They also reviewed the existing district rules and regulations dealing with groundwater quantity and identified management actions to address groundwater quantity. The WQMP was adopted by the Environmental Protection Agency in March 2020.

Next steps in the implementation of the WQMP will include:

- Developing a localized stakeholder group from within the priority and special priority areas.
- Using stakeholder feedback to identify barriers in the implementation of the WQMP.
- Developing creative ways to encourage the adoption of best management practices to improve water quality in the priority and special priority areas.

Work continues on the VIMP as a regional basin wide groundwater flow model is being developed in partnership with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources and the Blue River Basin Natural Resources Districts. The outcome of the regional model will be incorporated into the final VIMP.

Groundwater Quality (continued)

Proposed Changes to Rule 5 Regulation

In 2019, the board spent considerable time discussing the ongoing concern around nitrates in the drinking water supply of a majority of the population concentration areas of the district. They examined research on the topic and weighed several options for how to proceed with this challenging issue.

In July, the board proposed changes to Rule 5 nitrogen management practices. The proposed changes would have impacted fertilizer practices for agriculture producers across the district with the aim of reducing the amount of nitrates in the groundwater supply. The changes proposed involved the timing and amount of fertilizer application, the addition of a nitrification inhibitor when fertilizing in a certain window of time, and additional reporting on fertilizer use. Some changes would have impacted all producers, while others would have affected only those in areas with high median nitrate levels in the groundwater.

A public hearing was held on this issue on August 19 and a follow-up meeting was held September 10. Testimony was collected from more than 40 individuals during this period of public comment. Many producers expressed concern at the added expense this regulation would involve for individuals and co-ops. After reviewing the testimony, the board chose to send the proposal back to the committee level for further review as a consensus could not be reached about the changes needed. The conversation about regulation changes continued until August of 2020 when a final decision was made to leave Rule 5 as is with the addition of two new active nitrification inhibiting ingredients were added and the requirement to provide a copy of a receipt as proof of purchase for nitrification inhibitors in Phase III Management Areas.

On-Farm Research/ Project GROW Demonstrations

During the 2019 conversation regarding Rule 5 changes, many producers in the district expressed a desire to examine strategies for nitrogen management locally. Thanks to a partnership with the York County Extension Office, volunteer producers were able to try and answer their nitrogen management questions on their farms with technical assistance from the University Extension and financial support from the NRD.

York Well Watch Program

In November 2019 the Upper Big Blue NRD launched the York Well Watch program in conjunction with the City of York. The program seeks to inventory all private wells in the Wellhead Protection Area—a region that extends from the ballfield complex on the east to beyond the airport on the west, and north to south encompassing the residential and business sector of York. The area also includes a section of land south of Interstate 80 on Highway 81. The NRD is collecting data about all domestic, livestock, and irrigation wells in this area, both active and abandoned wells, to create an accurate picture of the risks wells may pose to the water system.



Long Range Implementation Plan

Depending on their condition, wells can be a direct conduit for contaminants to enter the city's drinking water. Mapping well locations will help the city and NRD to better understand how many wells are still in use and if further action is needed to safeguard the water supply. If a number of inactive wells exist in the Wellhead Protection Area, the city may be eligible for additional grant funding that could provide tools like ground penetrating radar for research and services such as well decommissioning. Cooperation with municipalities on non-point source contamination continues to be a priority. This project is expected to continue through 2020. This project is supported by a NDEE Source Water Protection grant.

Water Quality Management Plan – Best Management Practices

The Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District is currently finalizing a district-wide Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) which will provide a concise summary on water resource conditions in the district as well as offer direction for a coordinated approach to address non-point source pollution. The WQMP is based on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Nine-Elements of Watershed Planning as well as basin planning guidance provided by the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy.

The WQMP documents specific projects intended for implementation over the next five years. These projects and practices are aimed at improving water quality and removing targeted water bodies from NDEE's list of impaired waters.

PROJECT GROW SOYBEANS AND COVER CROPS



Groundwater Quality (continued)

Over the next five years the district is expecting an increase in the number of land treatment practices implemented due to the adoption of the district's Water Quality Management Plan WQMP. The target areas of the plan (for the first five-year period) include two impaired segments of Beaver Creek and the drainage basin above Recharge Lake.

Goals of the Water Quality Management Plan include:

1. The quality of surface water and groundwater resources in the basin will be enhanced through a comprehensive and collaborative program that efficiently and effectively implements actions to restore and protect natural resources from degradation and impairment.
2. Resource managers, public officials, community leaders, and private citizens will understand the effects of human activities on water quality and support actions to restore and protect water resources from impairment by non-point source pollution.
3. Land and water resources will be stable and productive using community-supported best management practices.
4. The water quality of surface and groundwater resources will meet the conditions necessary to support domestic, industrial, agricultural, recreational, and ecological uses.

Project GROW (Growing Rotational crops On Wellfield)

The Upper Big Blue NRD continued to develop Project GROW in York in 2019. Corn and soybeans were planted in collaboration with local partner Scott Gonnerman on 160 acres. The emphasis on restoring soil health continued through use of no-till and cover crop methods of weed and pest control.

The result of the 2019 growing season was continued profitability as well as a low level of residual nitrogen in the soil. The nitrogen efficiency was .68 pounds per bushel--well below the district average of 1.1.

As part of the educational outreach of Project GROW, an annual winter soil health workshop was held in 2018. About 100 people attended the event in each 2018 and 2019. Most of the attendees were farmers or others involved in the agriculture industry. Speakers have included a diverse group of researchers and practitioners, presenting on subjects from increasing carbon in soil to more accurate irrigation and fertilization practices, to weather patterns that will impact the ag economy. The workshop emphasizes the viability of no-till and cover cropping practices in the district. The district will continue to organize and sponsor producer educational efforts for the foreseeable future.

Voluntary Integrated Management Plan – Best Management Practices

The Upper Big Blue NRD is currently developing an Integrated Management Plan (IMP) to collaboratively manage the surface water and ground water supplies in the district with a goal of developmental sustainability. The vision of the IMP is to achieve a balance

Long Range Implementation Plan

between the water uses and water supplies in the district so that the economic viability, environmental sustainability, and safe living conditions within the district can be maintained and enhanced for both the short-term and the long-term.

Specific goals of the draft Integrated Management Plan include:

1. Integrated surface and groundwater resources will be proactively managed using the best available science and data.
2. The public will better understand and more fully support actions to restore and protect water supplies while developing broader understand of resource management.
3. Existing and future water uses and supplies will be protected through community-supported best management practices.
4. Over the next five years the NRD is expecting an increase in the number of land treatment practices implemented in an effort to meet the goals of the IMP.

IMPROVED DAM IN MILLIGAN



Major Projects



Smith Creek Dam--Emergency Spillway Rehabilitation

The Smith Creek Dam and Recreation Area was built in 1983. Original land acquisition allowed the adjacent landowner to continue to farm through the emergency spillway. The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources' (NeDNR) Dam Safety Group has identified the farming of the emergency spillway as a dam safety issue. The District will restore the emergency spillway channel to the original cross section and seed the channel to grass, as recommended by the NeDNR.

Smith Creek Recreation Area--Improved Facilities

The district is planning improvements to the Smith Creek Recreation Area facilities. Planned improvements include the addition of a domestic well, adding outlets to the picnic shelter, and adding security light with a warning siren.

Oxbow Trail Recreation Area – Improved Facilities

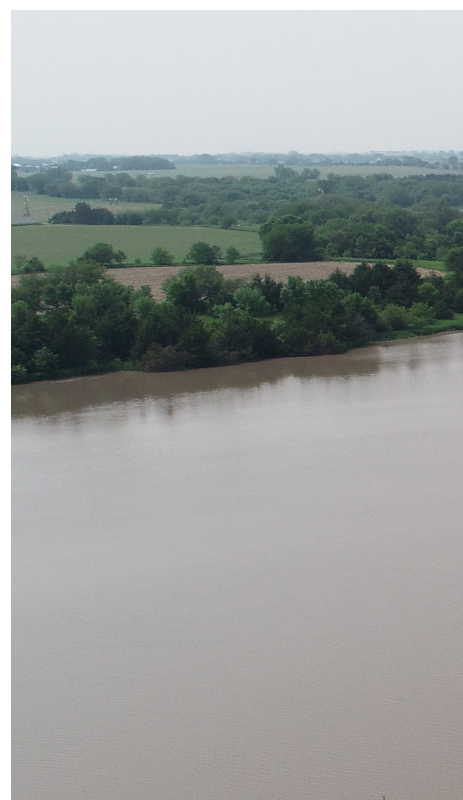
The district is planning improvements to the Oxbow Trail Recreation Area facilities. Planned improvements include the addition of a domestic well, adding outlets to the picnic shelter, and adding security light with a warning siren.

Oxbow Trail Recreation Area – Supplemental Well

The district is planning to add a supplemental well to the Oxbow Trail Recreation Area that will be used during periods of severe drought as a means of preventing the loss of the excellent fishery at Oxbow Lake.

Seward Trail

The district provided technical, financial, and construction assistance to the City of Seward for the construction of a 2.7 mile hiking/biking trail along the east side of Seward which was completed in 2004. Through an interlocal agreement with the city, the Upper Big Blue NRD is providing financial assistance to the city for the extension of the trail which will loop around perimeter of Seward. This trail project involves construction of a five-mile, 10-foot wide, concrete trail for bicycle and pedestrian use in southern, western and northern Seward. The project would connect to the existing trail at the Plum Creek Trailhead on South Columbia Avenue, just south of Depot Road. The trail would proceed west along the south edge of Seward



Long Range Implementation Plan

crossing beneath Highway 15, through the Seward County Fairgrounds before passing beneath the Highway 34 bridge. At this point the trail would head north to Waverly Road. The trail would then travel along the south side of Waverly Road, cross Highway 15 at-grade and end at the existing trail located on the southeast corner of the intersection of Karol Kay Boulevard and Waverly Road, which is the northern end of the existing Plum Creek Trail. Construction is planned to begin in 2021.

Sutton Trail Pedestrian Bridge

The district is providing financial assistance to the City of Sutton for the replacement of a pedestrian bridge located on the west side of Saunders Avenue on the city's trail. This is a key component of the city, as it connects the south side of Sutton to the north side of Sutton.

Oxbow Trail Recreation Area – Expansion of Recreation Facilities

The Upper Big Blue NRD continues to investigate opportunities to expand the recreation facilities at Oxbow Trail Recreation Area. Current recreation facilities include a boat ramp and dock, vault restrooms, and a picnic shelter. Expansion of the facilities could include flush restrooms, RV camping pads, an additional picnic shelter, playground equipment, and a tent camping area.

Bruce Anderson Recreation Area - Expansion of Recreation Facilities

The Bruce Anderson Recreation Area has been a popular destination for RV campers each summer. Most weekends the RV camping area is full, and the public has asked if the Upper Big Blue NRD has plans to expand the RV camping area. The NRD has investigated adding additional RV camping pads in the future.

PIONEER TRAILS RECREATION AREA



Major Projects (continued)

Pioneer Trails Recreation Area – Expansion of Recreation Facilities

In 2015 the Upper Big Blue NRD added recreation facilities to the Pioneer Trails Recreation Area. Public use of these facilities continues to increase each year. The NRD has discussed adding additional facilities at Pioneer Trails such as a boat dock, handicap fishing dock, and additional RV camping pads.

Seward Levee Accreditation

The Upper Big Blue NRD provided financial assistance to the City of Seward for the evaluation of the Seward Levee. The NRD anticipates additional financial assistance from Seward for a freeboard risk assessment, modifications to the levee pump station, and for the final levee certification.

The City of Seward is provided flood risk reduction by a 1.6-mile-long levee system constructed in 1953 located along the left bank of the Big Blue River along the west and south edge of Seward. In 2019 the Federal Emergency Management Agency (through a contract with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources) updated the floodplain mapping of Seward County. FEMA requires that the levee system meet criteria specified in 44 CFR 65.10 to continue to be shown as providing the 100-year flood risk reduction. The levee evaluation was completed in 2019. Follow-up activities to complete the accreditation of the levee system includes a freeboard risk assessment, modifications to an existing pump station (which pumps storm runoff from the city side of the levee to the river side of the levee), and the final levee certification process.

Urban Storm Water Master Planning

The district has completed storm water master drainage planning for Aurora, Milford, and parts of Seward. Other cities and villages in the district may benefit from these planning efforts. The proper sizing and location of drainage works throughout a village should be considered, not just a local fix for a neighborhood problem. The district is also in a position to consider the impacts and solutions for drainage from or to rural areas.

Urban Storm Water Drainage Projects

After the master planning is complete for a community, some construction cost share assistance from the district may be necessary to encourage construction of the highest priority components. It is expected that requests will be made over the next several years.

Joint Public Water Supply Systems

The district is anticipating a growing need for joint water supply projects as nitrates in groundwater is a problem for cities and villages. Other contaminants also affect drinking water quality. The cities and villages must, because of federal regulations, supply clean water for their citizens. Water treatment plants for drinking water quality are expensive. The City of Seward spent several million dollars on a treatment plant to remove nitrates. The City of Hastings is looking at \$100M expenditure over the next 20 years to remove nitrates

from the water furnished to their 25,000 citizens. By looking at these costs and other information, it is apparent that it will not be cost effective for villages and small cities to build their own individual treatment plants.

Several years ago, an unsuccessful effort was undertaken by Osceola, Polk, Shelby and Stromsburg to build a joint public water supply system. The attempt failed because the smaller villages did not want the system planning, construction and operation to be influenced by a larger community.

The district is in a position to take the lead in developing joint water supply systems because it serves all the citizens of the area, not just those in a particular town. The district can be the lead agency for planning, design, and construction. District funds may be best used for general concept planning to pay part of the consulting engineers' costs. Seed money may be necessary to encourage construction. The long-term operation and maintenance costs should be paid for with charges to the final customers.

Several options exist for the ownership and operation of joint water supply systems. The cooperating cities and villages could set up an entity through an inter-local agreement to own and operate the system. Or the district could, with political and financial support from the cooperating communities establish a rural water district to supply treated drinking water. If a rural water district was created, it would have to be part of the district, not a stand-alone entity. A rural water district could also deliver domestic water to rural customers. Other options are possible but probably not as workable.

The NRD anticipates new requests for joint water supply systems in the next few years, as communities continue to search for solutions to nitrate contamination issues.

Trail Projects

A number of trail projects within the Upper Big Blue NRD that have been discussed for future development. Included in these are:

- **Overland Trail Recreation Area – Walking Trail**

The Upper Big Blue NRD is currently developing a maintenance road access to the Overland Trail Dam which will run along the south and east side of the reservoir area. This maintenance access road may also serve as a walking trail.

- **City of York Trail Project**

The possible trail project to be constructed by the district would be owned and operated jointly by the district and the City of York. The joint arrangement is best because the trail right-of-way would be located both inside and outside of the city limits. The trail would be an extension of the existing city trail system that ends on the southwest side of York. The route would extend to the west under the highway 81 bypass at Beaver Creek and then onto the northwest to Recharge Lake.

Major Projects (continued)

- **City of Aurora Trail Project**

There have been some initial discussions about expansion of the Aurora City Trail which would include a new section of trail that would extend from the east edge of Aurora out to the Pioneer Trails Recreation Area.

- **Dark Island Trail**

The Upper Big Blue NRD has received requests for financial support of extension of the Dark Island Trail, which runs from Central City to Marquette. The initial request was for development of a one-mile section south of Marquette and future plans may include from Marquette to Aurora.

York Flood Mitigation and Resiliency Plan

The Upper Big Blue NRD has assisted in writing a pre-disaster mitigation grant application for a flood mitigation and resiliency plan. If selected, the NRD will provide technical and financial assistance for the development of the plan. Preliminary flood studies and assessments can be conducted to identify and prioritize design improvements to address site specific localized flooding issues to reduce and/or alleviate flooding impacts. The City of York will be developing a Flood Mitigation and Resiliency Plan to holistically evaluate flood risks and identify possible solutions to reduce the impacts of flooding on public and private infrastructure. Possible solutions to address flooding concerns will include a combination of structural (levees, detention, dams, channel improvements, etc.) and non-structural (elevation, acquisition, etc.) projects. The deliverable will include a list of projects at a preliminary design level backed by geotechnical evaluation, benefit/cost analysis, and funding strategy, allowing the project sponsors to proceed directly to final design and construction.

Warning Sirens at Recreation Areas

The Upper Big Blue NRD has submitted a notice of intent under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Funding Program for the installation of warning sirens at four of the NRD recreation areas (Pioneer Trails, Recharge Lake, Smith Creek, and Oxbow Trail). Installation of these sirens would give advance notice to campers and day use visitors of severe weather.

Storm Shelters at Recreation Areas

The Upper Big Blue NRD has submitted a notice of intent under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Funding Program for the installation of storm shelters at the two NRD Recreation areas that have RV camping (Pioneer Trails, Recharge Lake). Installation of these storm shelters will provide shelter for campers and day use visitors during severe weather.

Financials & Planning

Projects Priority List

Priority	Site	Project	Detail
1	Warning Sirens at Existing Recreation Areas		
	* Pending Obtaining Hazard Mitigation Grant		
		Recharge	
		Pioneer Trails	
		Oxbow Trails	
		Smith Creek	
	Oxbow Trails – Improve Existing Rec Facilities		
2		Improve Existing Facilities	Bring in Power, add security light, add outlets on picnic shelter, add domestic well, add warning siren
		Restroom Upgrade	Replace existing vault with CXT Double Vault
3	Smith Creek – Improve Existing Rec Facilities		
		Improve Recreation Area	Bring power to site, add security light, outlets on picnic shelter, add domestic well, add yard hydrants, add warning siren
		Restroom Upgrade	Replace existing vault with CXT Double Vault
4	Recharge Lake – Water Quality Improvements		
	* Pending WQMP Target Area Stakeholder Group recommendations		
	* Pending Successful 319 Grant Application		
		Watershed Improvements	Upstream Silt Retention, Land Treatment – WQMP Target Area – prepare grant applications
	Lake Improvements	Remove Silt, add Fish Structures, Re-stock – cost share opportunities?	
5	Oxbow Trails – Supplemental Supply Well		
		Well	Irrigation well near East parking area
		Power to Site	Three phase power from north
	Site Prep	Earthwork, pipeline, meter, rock, fencing	
6	Pioneer Trails Recreation Improvements		
		Add Boat Dock	Dredge existing boat ramp
		Add Handicap Fishing Dock	ADA compliant fishing dock, sidewalk
	Improve East Bank Access	Improve bank fishing opportunities	
7	Oxbow Trails – Add Recreation Facilities		
		Purchase Additional ROW	17 Acres west of existing ROW
		Additional Rec Facilities	Access Road & Parking, Flush Restroom, Picnic shelter, RV Pads, Amphitheater, Dumping Station IF NOT ALREADY ADDED - Power to site, domestic well

Projects Priority List

Priority	Site	Project	Detail
8	Seward Levee Improvements		
	* May Hinge on Obtaining Outside Assistance Grant		
		Pump Station	Upgrade Existing Pump Station
9	Henderson – Drainage Improvements		
	* May Hinge on Obtaining Outside Assistance Grant		
		Drainage improvements	Drainage system upgrade to improve drainage from north end of Henderson
10	Overland Trails – Add Rec Facilities		
		Develop Rec Area	Vault Toilet, improved parking, picnic shelter
		Additional Improvements	Add well, power to site, security light
11	Storm Shelters at Existing Recreation Areas with RV Pads		
	* Pending Obtaining Hazard Mitigation Grant		
		Recharge	
		Pioneer Trails	
12	Recharge Lake – Additional RV Pads		
		Additional ROW	3 – 11 acres
		Additional RV Pads	RV pads, extend electrical, additional water hydrants, tables, fire rings May need to relocate tent camping
		Relocate Tent Camping	Move tent camping west
13	Pioneer Trails – Additional RV Pads		
		Additional RV Pads	Add pads north of existing, extend electrical, add hydrant, tables, fire rings
14	Smith Creek – Add Additional Rec Facilities		
		Purchase Additional ROW	Below Dam? North of Existing Facilities?
		Add Additional Rec Facilities	Access Road & Parking, Flush Restroom, Picnic shelter, RV Pads, Dump Station, Amphitheater
15	Hiebner Reservoir		
		Purchase Property?	80 – 160 acres? Construct Dam – North of McCool Rec Facilities – access road and parking lot, vault toilet, picnic shelter, power to site, domestic well, lights
		Special Project	Provide cost share to existing landowner to construct dam Easement? Public Access? Buffer? Development?

Projects Priority List

16	Overland Trails – Seal Lake Bottom		
		Seal Lake Bottom	Similar to Pioneer Trails
Priority	Site	Project	Detail
17	Aurora Trail Extension		
		Extend Aurora Trail to Pioneer Trails	Additional ROW – 3 landowners Crossing on South R Road Crossing under Highway 34 bridge Possible bridge to cross creek approximately 2.5 miles
18	Smith Creek Silt Dam Repair		
		* Landowner wants to leave as is for now	
		Repair Dam / Add Spillway	Additional Easement, fencing
19	Cedar View Rec Area		
		* Pending Landowner Decision to Sell Property	
		Purchase Property	75 – 100 acres
		Develop Rec Area	Cleanup, Access, Parking lot, Vault Toilet, Picnic Shelter, Boat Ramp and Dock
20	Kezan Creek Dam		
		New Dam South of Garrison	
21	Wergin Dam		
		Northeast of Milford	Larger Dam – Special Project Or fund through Private Dams Program

General Expenses

GENERAL EXPENSES

Expenses	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 20223	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Auto & Truck Expenses	\$47,850	\$49,525	\$51,258	\$53,052	\$54,909	\$56,831
Directors' Expense	\$32,000	\$32,000	\$32,000	\$32,000	\$32,000	\$32,000
Directors' Per Diem	\$42,840	\$44,339	\$45,891	\$47,497	\$49,160	\$50,880
Dues & Memberships	\$45,085	\$46,663	\$48,296	\$49,987	\$51,736	\$53,547
Expenses -- Personnel	\$53,100	\$54,959	\$56,882	\$58,873	\$60,933	\$63,066
Fees & Licenses	\$17,680	\$18,299	\$18,939	\$19,602	\$20,288	\$20,998
Information & Education	\$87,827	\$90,901	\$94,082	\$97,375	\$100,784	\$104,311
Insurance	\$80,000	\$82,800	\$85,698	\$88,697	\$91,802	\$95,015
Legal Notices	\$1,700	\$1,700	\$1,700	\$1,700	\$1,700	\$1,700
Misc. Expense	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Office Supplies & Expenses	\$22,000	\$22,770	\$23,567	\$24,392	\$25,246	\$26,129
Postage	\$15,000	\$15,525	\$16,068	\$16,631	\$17,213	\$17,815
Special Projects	\$294,150	\$304,445	\$315,101	\$326,129	\$337,544	\$349,358
Professional Services	\$558,207	\$577,744	\$597,965	\$618,894	\$640,555	\$662,975

General Expenses (continued)

Expenses	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 20223	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Project Legal Costs	\$5,000	\$5,175	\$5,356	\$5,544	\$5,738	\$5,938
Project Operation & Maintenance	\$37,500	\$38,813	\$40,171	\$41,577	\$43,032	\$44,538
Other Operation & Maintenance	\$41,250	\$42,694	\$44,188	\$45,735	\$47,335	\$48,992
Materials for Resale	\$95,000	\$98,325	\$101,766	\$105,328	\$109,015	\$112,830
Utilities	\$35,000	\$36,225	\$37,493	\$38,805	\$40,163	\$41,569
Rent Expenses	\$13,706	\$13,706	\$13,706	\$13,706	\$13,706	\$13,706
Telephone	\$25,000	\$25,875	\$26,781	\$27,718	\$28,688	\$29,692
Salaries	\$1,562,183	\$1,616,859	\$1,673,449	\$1,732,020	\$1,792,641	\$1,855,383
Payroll Taxes	\$119,062	\$123,229	\$127,542	\$132,006	\$136,626	\$141,408
Employees' Benefits	\$635,781	\$658,033	\$681,065	\$704,902	\$729,573	\$755,108
Building Maintenance	\$30,000	\$31,050	\$32,137	\$33,262	\$34,426	\$35,631
Scholarship	\$6,050	\$6,050	\$6,050	\$6,050	\$6,050	\$6,050
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$3,903,971	\$4,038,704	\$4,178,153	\$4,322,482	\$4,471,863	\$4,626,472

Capital Expenses

CAPITAL EXPENSES

Capital Expenses	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 20223	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Land - Title & Easements	--	--	--	--	--	--
Project Construction Costs	\$725,500	\$750,893	\$777,174	\$804,375	\$832,528	\$861,666
Building Improvements	\$18,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Land Treatment Cost Sharing	\$175,000	\$181,125	\$187,464	\$194,026	\$200,817	\$207,845
Intergovern Cost Sharing	\$192,500	\$199,238	\$206,211	\$213,428	\$220,898	\$228,630
Buffer Strip Cost Sharing	\$31,183	\$32,274	\$33,404	\$34,573	\$35,783	\$37,036
Water Meter Repair Cost Share	\$15,000	\$15,525	\$16,068	\$16,631	\$17,213	\$17,815
Abandoned Well Cost Share	\$35,000	\$36,225	\$37,493	\$38,805	\$40,163	\$41,569
Wildlife Habitat	\$13,665	\$14,143	\$14,638	\$15,151	\$15,681	\$16,230
Storm Damage Tree Replacements	\$10,000	\$10,350	\$10,712	\$11,087	\$11,475	\$11,877
Private Dams Program	\$150,000	\$155,250	\$160,684	\$166,308	\$172,128	\$178,153
Transfer from Sinking Fund	\$250,000	--	--	--	--	--
Total Capital Improvements Exempt from Levy Limit	\$1,615,848	\$1,400,023	\$1,448,848	\$1,499,383	\$1,551,687	\$1,605,821

Capital and Total Expenses

CAPITAL EXPENSES

Capital Expenses	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 20223	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Machinery & Equipment	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000
Autos & Trucks	\$25,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
Office Equipment	\$16,500	\$17,078	\$17,675	\$18,294	\$18,934	\$19,597
Other Capital Expenses	\$49,500	\$51,233	\$53,026	\$54,882	\$56,802	\$58,790
Total Capital Improvements Not Exempt from Levy Limit	\$99,000	\$106,310	\$108,701	\$111,175	\$113,737	\$116,387
Total Capital Expenses (Exempt & Not Exempt)	\$1,714,848	\$1,506,333	\$1,557,549	\$1,610,559	\$1,665,423	\$1,722,208

TOTAL EXPENSES

	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 20223	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
General Expenses	\$3,903,971	\$4,038,704	\$4,178,153	\$4,322,482	\$4,471,863	\$4,626,472
Capital Expenses	\$1,714,848	\$1,506,333	\$1,557,549	\$1,610,559	\$1,665,423	\$1,722,208
Debt Service Expenses	--	--	--	--	--	--
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$5,569,319	\$5,545,036.71	\$5,735,702.03	\$5,933,040.64	\$6,137,286.10	\$6,348,680.16

Cash Reserve and Assets

CASH RESERVE

	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 20223	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
CASH RESERVE	\$350,000	\$350,000	\$350,000	\$350,000	\$350,000	\$350,000

ASSETS

ASSETS	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 20223	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Cash in Bank	\$1,418,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
Accounts Receivable -- Federal	--	\$25,000	\$25,875	\$26,781	\$27,718	\$28,688
Accounts Receivable	\$43,935	\$30,000	\$31,050	\$32,137	\$33,262	\$34,426
Inventories	\$62,670	\$40,000	\$41,400	\$42,849	\$44,349	\$45,901
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,524,605	\$525,000	\$525,875	\$526,781	\$527,718	\$528,688

Liabilities

LIABILITIES

LIABILITIES	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 20223	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Accounts Payable	\$329,107	\$340,626	\$352,548	\$364,887	\$377,658	\$390,876
Accrued Vacation	\$111,928	\$115,845	\$119,900	\$124,097	\$128,440	\$132,935
Payroll Taxes Payable	\$38,317	\$39,658	\$41,046	\$42,483	\$43,970	\$45,509
Insurance Payable	\$64,107	\$66,351	\$68,673	\$71,077	\$73,564	\$76,139
Other Pre-paid Expenses	\$13,768	\$14,250	\$14,749	\$15,265	\$15,799	\$16,352
Retirement Payable	\$199	\$206	\$213	\$221	\$228	\$236
Sales Tax Payable	\$200	\$207	\$214	\$222	\$230	\$238
Annuity Payable	\$2,322	\$2,403	\$2,487	\$2,574	\$2,665	\$2,758
FSA Payable	\$1,092,975	\$1,131,229	\$1,170,822	\$1,211,801	\$1,254,214	\$1,298,111
Net Cash Balance	\$3,063,937	\$3,171,175	\$3,282,166	\$3,397,042	\$3,515,938	\$3,638,996
Investments	\$33,944	\$35,132	\$36,362	\$37,634	\$38,952	\$40,315
County Treasurers' Balances	\$4,750,804	\$4,917,082	\$5,089,180	\$5,267,301	\$5,451,657	\$5,642,465

State and Federal Receipts

STATE AND FEDERAL RECEIPTS

	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 20223	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
State Grants & Funds	\$343,345	\$355,362	\$367,800	\$380,673	\$393,996	\$407,786
Federal Grants & Funds	\$30,000	\$31,050	\$32,137	\$33,262	\$34,426	\$35,631
Private Grants	\$76,165	\$30,000	\$31,050	\$32,137	\$33,262	\$34,426
Labor on Sale of Trees	\$9,200	\$9,522	\$9,855	\$10,200	\$10,557	\$10,927
Customer Charges	\$98,000	\$101,430	\$104,980	\$108,654	\$112,457	\$116,393
Income from investments (interest)	\$10,000	\$10,350	\$10,712	\$11,087	\$11,475	\$11,877
Miscellaneous Income	--	--	--	--	--	--
Reimbursement by other NRDs	\$132,586	\$137,227	\$142,029	\$147,000	\$152,145	\$157,471
Pro-Rate Motor Vehicle & Carline Tax	\$5,500	\$5,693	\$5,892	\$6,098	\$6,311	\$6,532
Income from Counties/Cities	--	--	--	--	--	--
Transfer from other Funds	--	--	--	--	--	--
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$704,796	\$680,633	\$704,455	\$729,111	\$754,630	\$781,042

Property Taxes

PROPERTY TAXES

	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 20223	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Property Taxes	\$3,408,125	\$3,527,409	\$3,650,869	\$3,778,649	\$3,910,902	\$4,047,783
County Treasurers Commission	\$34,081	\$35,274	\$36,509	\$37,786	\$39,109	\$40,478
TOTAL PROPERTY TAX REQUIREMENT	\$3,442,206	\$3,562,683	\$3,687,377	\$3,816,436	\$3,950,011	\$4,088,261



UPPER BIG BLUE

Natural Resources District

Protecting Lives • Protecting Property • Protecting the Future

319 E 25th St, York, NE 68467

www.upperbigblue.org

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**This Long Range Implementation Plan Document
was adopted by the Board of Directors,
Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District,
on [DATE]
in accordance with Nebraska Law
(Section 2-3276)**

Our Mission

The Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District shall be a leader in conserving, protecting, developing, and managing the natural resources of this District for the health and welfare of the people of the District. The core of the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District focuses on these things:

- Water
- Soil
- Urban Conservation
- Flood Control
- Trees and Wildlife Habitat
- Recreation
- Grazing Lands
- Education