

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
REPORT TO THE
LOWER PLATTE SOUTH NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
April 20, 2022**

PERSONNEL:

- USDA Service Center Operations – The Lancaster and Cass County Service Centers are now open to walk-in customers. ***It's business as usual at NRCS!***
- Devin Heusinkvelt has been promoted to Resource Conservationist in the Weeping Water Field Office. Devin has served as the Soil Conservationist in the Weeping Water office since April 2020 and was in the Oshkosh Field Office for the previous 3 years. Congratulations Devin!

NRD LAND TREATMENT:

- The Conservation/Resources Technicians are busy working with landowners to complete conservation practice installation prior to the April 30th construction deadline. They also continue to process payments as documentation from landowners and contractors is submitted.
- Staff is beginning to verify cover crop installation/termination for the LPSNRD Cover Crop Program. There are over 50 site visits that need to be completed in Cass and Lancaster Counties.

USDA PROGRAMS:

- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) – Staff is currently assessing and ranking CSP applications for FY22. The deadline to have ranking completed is May 6th.
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) – Staff is busy assessing and ranking EQIP-Conservation Incentive Contracts (CIC). The deadline to complete the ranking is May 6th. They're also in the process of obligating FY22 Classic EQIP contracts which need to be finished by April 27th.
- An NRCS Local Working Group (LWG) meeting was hosted by the LPSNRD on March 30th. The meeting was held in person and attended by staff and Directors Aldridge, Nolte, and Hellerich. The group had good discussion on USDA conservation program priorities, program ranking criteria, and ranking procedures. The LWG provided recommendations that have been sent to the State Technical Committee and State Conservationist for consideration.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Earth Day – April 22nd
Arbor Day – April 29th
Mother's Day – May 8th

Cory Schmidt - District Conservationist

Nebraska's 107th Legislature (2021 & 2022)
(NRD Issue Related Bills)

BILL	INTRODUCER	DESCRIPTION	COMMITTEE	HEARING	ACTION	POSITION		GENERAL FILE	SELECT FILE	FINAL READING	GOVERNOR SIGN
						NRD	NARD				
2022 BILLS (OF INTEREST)											
743	Erdman	Change provisions relating to when closed sessions may be held under the Open Meetings Act	GM	2/9/2022		O	M				
746	Friesen	Eliminate the requirement that the Director of Natural Resources be a professional engineer	NR	1/19/2022	IDPP	S	S				
761	<u>Dorn</u>	Adopt the Precision Agriculture Infrastructure Grant Act and state intent regarding appropriation of federal funds	TR	2/15/2022	IDPP	S	S				
775	Brewer	Prohibit land disposal of wind turbine blades and their component parts	NR	1/19/2022	IDPP	M	M				
778	Brewer	Adopt the Government Neutrality in Contracting Act	GM	1/27/2022		M	M				
787	Groene	Redefine a term and change applicability provisions under the Nebraska Budget Act	GM	2/9/2022		O	M	2/15/2022			
805	Hughes	Change provisions relating to prioritization of application and intent to appropriate funds under the Noxious Weed Control Act ***PRIORITY BILL***	AG	1/18/2022		S	S	2/23/2022 3/3/2022	3/8/2022 3/28/2022	3/30/2022 4/13/2022	
805A	Hughes	Change provisions relating to prioritization of application and intent to appropriate funds under the Noxious Weed Control Act appropriation bill ***PRIORITY BILL***						3/8/2022 3/22/2022	3/23/2022 3/28/2022	3/30/2022 4/13/2022	
806	<u>Bostelman</u>	Change provisions relating to drainage of land by landowner	NR	1/28/2022		M	M	2/23/2022			
809	Moser	Change provisions and duties of the Department of Environment and Energy and provisions relating to the use of certain funds relating to water ***PRIORITY BILL***	NR	1/19/2022		M	S	2/24/2022 3/11/2022	3/14/2022 3/28/2022	3/30/2022 4/12/2022	
809A	Moser	Change provisions and duties of the Department of Environment and Energy and provisions relating to the use of certain funds relating to water appropriation bill ***PRIORITY BILL***						3/8/2022 3/11/2022	3/14/2022 3/28/2022	3/30/2022 4/12/2022	
813	Hilkemann	State intent regarding funding for development and improvements along the national rail-trail route	AP	2/1/2022		S	S				
820	<u>Hansen, M</u>	Change population thresholds for cities of the metropolitan class and cities of the primary class ***PRIORITY BILL***	UR	1/18/2022		M		2/9/2022 3/1/2022	3/2/2022 3/8/2022	3/10/2022 4/12/2022	

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840	Brewer	Change provisions relating to publication and rates for legal notices ***PRIORITY BILL***	GA	2/14/2022		M	M	2/18/2022 3/1/2022	3/2/2022 3/8/2022	3/10/2022 4/12/2022	
908	McDonnell	Provide additional requirements for virtual conferencing under the Open Meetings Act	GM	2/16/2022		M	M	2/22/2022 3/14/2022	3/17/2022 3/31/2022	4/5/2022 4/12/2022	
925	Gragert	Adopt the Resilient Soils and Water Quality Act and state intent regarding appropriations ***PRIORITY BILL***	NR	1/26/2022		S	S	2/3/2022 2/24/2022	2/28/2022 3/8/2022	3/10/2022 4/12/2022	
925A	Gragert	Adopt the Resilient Soils and Water Quality Act and state intent regarding appropriations appropriation bill. ***PRIORITY BILL***						2/9/2022 2/24/2022	2/28/2022 3/8/2022	3/10/2022 4/12/2022	
953	Cavanaugh, J.	Change provisions relating to open burning permits and provide limitations on liability and nuisance relating to land-management burning	JU	1/21/2022		S					
965	Bostar	Change the day the state observes Arbor Day	GM	2/24/2022		M					
978	Hughes	Provide powers and duties relating to the treatment of dredged and fill material under the Environmental Protection Act	NR	1/26/2022	IDPP	S	S				
981	Hilkemann	Revive the Trail Development Assistance Act and state intent to transfer funds ***PRIORITY BILL***	NR	1/26/2022		S	S	2/23/2022			
1011	Hilgers	Provide, change, and eliminate provisions relating to appropriations	AP	1/24/2022		M	S	3/11/2022 3/17/2022	3/22/2022 3/24/2022	3/25/2022 3/29/2022	4/5/2022 *
1012	Hilgers	Provide for funds transfers, create funds, and change and eliminate provisions regarding a fund and reimbursement provisions	AP	1/24/2022		M	S	3/11/2022 3/15/2022	3/17/2022 3/24/2022	3/25/2022 3/29/2022	4/5/2022 *
1013	Hilgers	Change provisions relating to the Cash Reserve Fund	AP	1/24/2022		M	S	3/11/2022 3/22/2022	3/23/2022 3/24/2022	3/25/2022 3/29/2022	4/5/2022 *
1014	Hilgers	Appropriate Federal Funds allocated to the State of Nebraska pursuant to the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 ***PRIORITY BILL***	AP	1/25/2022		M	S	3/22/2022 3/23/2022	3/24/2022 3/28/2022	3/29/2022 4/7/2022	4/13/2022
1015	Hilgers	Adopt the Perkins County Canal Project Act ***PRIORITY BILL***	NR	2/9/2022		M	S	2/28/2022 3/9/2022	3/11/2022 3/29/2022	3/30/2022 4/12/2022	
1023	Hilgers	Adopt the Lake Development Act and the Water Recreation Enhancement Act ***PRIORITY BILL***	NR	2/10/2022		M	M	2/28/2022 3/9/2022	3/11/2022 3/29/2022	3/30/2022 4/12/2022	
1048	Blood	Appropriate federal funds to the University of Nebraska to evaluate the chemicals released and pollution caused by ethanol production facilities	AP	3/3/2022		S	M				

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1081	<u>Bostar</u>	Provide for a grant program for the design, construction, and implementation of water transport infrastructure under the Department of Natural Resources and state intent to appropriate federal funds	NR	2/16/2022	IDPP	S	M				
1096	Halloran	Provide for participation in trusts and investment pools by certain governmental entities	GM	2/10/2022		S					
1102	<u>Bostelman</u>	Adopt the Nebraska Environmental Response Act and change provisions relating to enforcement of environmental protection ***PRIORITY BILL***	NR	2/3/2022		S		2/23/2022 3/15/2022	3/15/2022 4/7/2022	4/8/2022 4/12/2022	
1102A	<u>Bostelman</u>	Adopt the Nebraska Environmental Response Act and change provisions relating to enforcement of environmental protection appropriation bill ***PRIORITY BILL***						3/8/2022 3/15/2022	3/15/2022 4/7/2022	4/8/2022 4/12/2022	
1135	Murman	Change provision relating to conservation or preservation easements and property tax exemptions relating to such easements	JU	2/11/2022		O	O				
1146	Friesen	Change provisions relating to the Interlocal Cooperation Act	GM	2/11/2022		O	O				
1160	<u>Wishart</u>	Appropriate federal funds to the Department of Environment and Energy for reverse osmosis systems	AP	3/3/2022		S	S				
1248	Hansen, B.	Appropriate federal funds to the Department of Environment and Energy for a municipal water treatment plant	AP	3/3/2022		S					
1255	<u>Bostar</u>	Appropriate federal funds to the University of Nebraska for an updated climate change report	AP	3/3/2022		S					
1277	<u>Clements</u>	Appropriate federal funds to the Department of Economic Development to provide funds to a county agricultural society with facilities within a city of the primary class	AP	2/9/2022		M					
BILLS PASSED THIS SESSION											
83	Flood	Change the Open Meetings Act to provide for virtual conferencing ***PRIORITY BILL***	GM	1/27/2021		S	S	2/16/2021 3/15/2021	3/17/2021 5/6/2021	4/8/2021 4/14/2021	4/21/2021
148	<u>Bostelman</u>	Transfer certain environmental safety programs to the Department of Environment and Energy	NR	1/27/2021		S	S	2/4/2021 2/16/2021	2/24/2021 3/10/2021	3/17/2021 3/25/2021	3/31/2021
406	McDonnell	Create the Lower Platte River Infrastructure Task Force and provide funding ***PRIORITY BILL***	NR	1/28/2021		M	S w/ alternate fund sources or application to WSF	4/22/2021 4/29/2021	5/4/2021 5/12/2021	5/18/2021 5/20/2021	5/25/2021

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406A	McDonnell	Create the Lower Platte River Infrastructure Task Force and provide funding Appropriation Bill ***PRIORITY BILL***	NR					4/28/2021 4/29/2021	5/4/2021 5/12/2021	5/18/2021 5/20/2021	5/25/2021
414	<u>Wishart</u>	Change provisions of the Political Subdivisions Construction Alternatives Act	GM	2/4/2021		S w/ amendment to define water construction	S	2/16/2021 4/6/2021	4/7/2021 4/12/2021	4/14/2021 4/20/2021	4/23/2021
507	<u>Bostelman</u>	Prohibit the use of treated seed corn in the production of agricultural ethyl alcohol in certain circumstances ***PRIORITY BILL***	NR	2/3/2021		S		2/23/2021 3/25/2021	3/30/2021 4/14/2021	4/20/2021 4/29/2021	5/5/2021
650	Flood	Adopt the Nebraska Geologic Storage of Carbon Dioxide Act ***PRIORITY BILL***	NR	2/11/2021		M		3/12/2021 3/30/2021	4/1/2021 4/14/2021	4/20/2021 5/19/2021	5/24/2021
650A	Flood	Nebraska Geologic Storage of Carbon Dioxide Act Appropriation Bill						3/23/2021 3/30/2021	4/1/2021 4/14/2021	4/20/2021 5/19/2021	5/24/2021
2021 CARRY OVER BILLS (OF INTEREST)											
112	Albrecht	Require members of the public to be allowed to speak at each meeting subject to the Open Meetings Act	GM	1/27/2021		M	O				
190	Hughes	Change provisions relating to use of the Water Sustainability Fund	NR	1/27/2021	IDPP	S	S				
408	Briese	Adopt the Property Tax Request Act ***PRIORITY BILL***	RV	1/27/2021		M	M - Work with Legislature on Tax Reform	3/2/2021			
483	Cavanaugh, J.	Provide for a climate change study and action plan	NR	2/11/2021	IDPP	S	O				
576	<u>Bostar</u>	Appropriate funds to the University of Nebraska (research on climate change & update report)	AP	2/16/2021		S	O				
589	Groene	Change requirements for integrated management plans by natural resources districts	NR	2/4/2021	IDPP	O	O				
591	Groene	Require a permit for any natural resources districts water augmentation project	NR	2/10/2021	IDPP	O	O				
LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS (OF INTEREST)											
5	Gragert	Accept the findings and recommendations of the Healthy Soils Task Force submitted to the Governor and the Agriculture Committee	AG	2/2/2021			M			5/21/2021 Approved	5/27/2021 Signed by Speaker
11CA	Erdman	Constitutional amendment to require enactment of a consumption tax and prohibit certain other forms of taxation ***PRIORITY RESOLUTION***	RV	2/3/2021			O	3/31/2021			
22CA	Linehan	Constitutional amendment to limit the total amount of property tax revenue that may be raised by political subdivisions	RV	1/27/2021			M - Work with Legislature on Tax Reform				

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23	Erdman	Interim study to examine the progress of natural resources districts in fulfilling their originally intended purpose	EX	12/3/2021		M - LPSNRD supports the current responsibilities of NRDs	S - offer assistance to gather information & offer NRD offices for Interim Study				
263CA	Blood	Constitutional amendment to require the Legislature to reimburse political subdivisions as prescribed ***PRIORITY RESOLUTION***	GM	1/28/2022			S	2/3/2022 3/28/2022	3/29/22		
264CA	Erdman	Constitutional amendment to prohibit the imposition of taxes other than retail consumption taxes and excise taxes ***PRIORITY RESOLUTION***	RV	2/3/2022			O	2/24/22			

* LB1011, 1012 & 1013 were signed by the Governor on 4/5/22 with line item vetos. Vetos were overridden by the Legislature.