

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)**DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST MONTHLY REPORT****2/15/2023****PERSONNEL/OFFICE**

- Cory Schmidt, who had been the District Conservationist since 2016, started a new position on January 16th, 2023 with NRCS at the Area Office. Cory is now the Area Resource Conservationist and will serve the 27 field offices that make up the Nebraska NRCS East Area.
- District Conservationist Vacancy (Lincoln Field Office) – A job announcement was posted on USAJobs and was open from 1/3/23 – 1/17/23. Applications are being reviewed.
- Acting District Conservationist (Lincoln Field Office) – Tom Cowan (Resource Conservationist in the David City Field Office) was selected as the Acting District Conservationist for a 120-day assignment. Tom began on January 30th, 2023.
- NRCS Soil Conservation Technician Vacancy (Lincoln Field Office) – A job announcement was posted on USAJobs and was open from 1/9/23 – 1/23/23. Applications are being reviewed.
- The Lancaster and Cass County Service Centers are under normal operations.

LPSNRD LAND TREATMENT

- Drought conditions are impacting the installation of structural practices across the district. Extra consideration is required prior to construction to make sure there is enough soil moisture to obtain compaction requirements. Staff will be completing evaluations on all fields prior to releasing design paperwork to landowners.
- The LPSNRD currently has the following land treatment cost-share program applications:
 - Lancaster County
 - 25 Fall Structural Applications – 1 Completed Project (1 paid)
 - 36 Cover Crop Applications
 - Cass County
 - 37 Fall Structural Applications – 5 Completed Projects (3 paid)
 - 4 Cover Crop Applications

USDA PROGRAMS

- Planning staff is finishing up ranking for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) applications.
 - Lancaster County
 - 41 Applications
 - Cass County
 - 21 Applications

UPCOMING EVENTS

- February 20th – USDA Offices will be closed for President's Day Holiday
- March 28th – NRCS Local Work Group Meeting – 9:00am @ Lower Platte South NRD Office Building

Tom Cowan – Acting District Conservationist

Nebraska's 108th Legislature (2023 & 2024)
(NRD Issue Related Bills)

BILL	INTRODUCER	DESCRIPTION	COMMITTEE	HEARING	ACTION	POSITION		GENERAL FILE	SELECT FILE	FINAL READING	GOVERNOR SIGN
						NRD	NARD				
2023 BILLS (OF INTEREST)											
7	Blood	Provide a statute of limitations for exposure to hazardous or toxic chemicals	JU	1/25/2023			M				
40	Blood	Adopt the Riparian and Water Quality Practices Act	NR	2/23/2023		M	O as written				
49	Dungan	Change provisions relating to solar energy and wind energy, declare certain instruments void and unenforceable, and provide for a civil cause of action	JU			M w/comments					
121	Bostelman	Repeal the Trail Development Assistance Act	NR	2/16/2023			M				
125	Bostelman	Change provisions relating to the Surface Water Irrigation Infrastructure Fund	AP	3/14/2023			S				
147	Kauth	Change procedures for property tax refunds	RV	2/1/2023			M	2/7/2023			
158	McDonnell	Appropriate funds to the Department of Agriculture	AP		WD						
205	von Gillern	Adopt the Government Neutrality in Contracting Act	GM	2/10/2023			S				
218	Ibach	Change provisions relating to intent to appropriate money for management of vegetation within the banks or flood plain of a natural stream	AG	2/7/2023		S	S				
241	Briese	Change provisions relating to transfer of water to another state	NR	1/26/2023		M	M				
281	Jacobson	Require the Department of Economic Development to provide grants for youth outdoor education camp facilities	NR	2/15/2023		S					
287	Brewer	Prohibit creation of joint public agencies under the Joint Public Agency Act	GM				M				
292	M. Cavanaugh	Prohibit the use of eminent domain under the Jobs and Economic Development Initiative Act	NR	2/8/2023			M				
302	Linehan	Change provisions relating to conflicts of interest by certain officeholders and public employees	GM	2/15/2023			M				
304	Linehan	Require political subdivisions to disclose membership dues and lobbying fees	GM	2/9/2023		M	M				

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312	Lowe	Change provisions relating to withholding money due to noncompliance with budget limits and annual audits for certain political subdivisions	GM	2/9/2023		M	M				
322	Linehan	Prohibit creation of new joint public agencies with power or authority relating to tax	RV				M				
332	Linehan	Prohibit creation of new joint public agencies with power or authority relating to education	ED				M				
361	Dorn	State legislative intent to appropriate funds for the Precision Agriculture Infrastructure Grant Program	AP	3/1/2023			S				
394	Erdman	Change provisions relating to the determination of damages as a result of eminent domain	JU			O	O				
396	Erdman	Provide for streamflow augmentation projects and retention of water rights	NR			O	O				
400	Brewer	Adopt the Nebraska Pheasant Restoration Act	NR	2/8/2023			M				
401	Dorn	State intent regarding appropriations to the Department of Natural Resources	AP	3/14/2023		S	S				
411	Dungan	Appropriate funds for Wyuka Cemetery	AP	3/16/2023							
428	Walz	Require the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency to provide matching funds for the federal Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	GM			S	S				
456	Brewer	Provide for claims for monetary compensation for damage caused by elk or mountain lions and authorize control of elk and mountain lion populations	NR	2/9/2023							
457	Holdcroft	Require video surveillance of voting and provide requirements for paper ballots, vote scanning devices, and vote tabulating equipment	GM								
483	Raybould	Redefine qualifying mutual financial institution for purposes of regulation of public funds deposit security	BC	3/7/2023							
506	Bostar	State intent to appropriate federal funds to the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Environment and Energy	AP	3/14/2023		S	S				
513	Brewer	Change proof of publication requirements for legal notices and published notice and virtual conferencing requirements under the Open Meetings Act	GM	2/10/2023			S				

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514	Brewer	Change provisions relating to elections	GM	2/2/2023							
534	Slama	Appropriate federal funds to the Department of Environment and Energy for community water systems	AP	3/13/2023		S	S				
560	Blood	State intent to seek federal funds under Inflation Reduction Act of 2022	AP	3/6/2023		S	S				
571	Lippincott	Appropriate funds to the Department of Environment and Energy to carry out the Water Well Standards and Contractors' Practice Act	AP	3/13/2023		S	S				
576	Cavanaugh, J.	Provide limitations on liability and nuisance related to land-management burning	JU			M	S				
613	McDonnell	State intent to appropriate funds to the Department of Environment and Energy	AP	3/13/2023							
614	McDonnell	Appropriate funds to the Department of Agriculture	AP	2/22/2023			S				
637	Albrecht	Require members of the public to be allowed to speak at each meeting subject to the Open Meetings Act	GM				M				
651	McDonnell	Provide for appropriations relating to cybersecurity improvements for state agencies and political subdivisions	AP	3/16/2023		S	S				
655	McDonnell	Appropriate funds to the State Fire Marshall	GM	2/16/2023							
656	McDonnell	Change provisions relating to the Small Watersheds Flood Control Fund	NR			M	S				
662	Ballard	Change provisions to the Nebraska Right to Farm Act relating to certain public or private nuisances	AG	2/14/2023		O					
695	Linehan	Provide a property tax exemption	RV								
721	Ballard	Appropriate funds to the Department of Transportation for the East Beltway project in Lancaster County	TR	2/28/2023							
723	Bostelman	Adopt the Public Water and National Resources Project Contracting Act	NR	2/2/2023			S				
749	Cavanaugh, M.	Prohibit possession of deadly weapon in the State Capitol or on State Capitol grounds	JU								
750	Albrecht	Change provisions relating to the valuation of agricultural land and horticultural land	RV	2/2/2023							
766	DeKay	Appropriate Federal Funds to the Department of Environment and Energy for reverse osmosis systems	AP	3/13/2023			S				

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776	Bostar	Provide for nomination and election of candidates on the nonpartisan ballot	GM								
808	Halloran	Provide for counting and recounting ballots under the Election Act by hand count	GM								
LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS (OF INTEREST)											
1CA	Blood	Constitutional amendment to require the Legislature to reimburse political subdivisions as prescribed	GM				S				
6CA	Erdman	Constitutional amendment to prohibit governmental entities from imposing any taxes other than retail consumption taxes and excise taxes	RV				O				
7CA	Erdman	Constitutional amendment to require the state to impose a consumption tax or an excise tax on all new goods and services and to provide a tax exemption for grocery items	RV				O				
30CA	Murman	Constitutional amendment to provide for a different method of taxing commercial real property	RV			M					