

NACD Technical Assistance Grants Help Get More Conservation on the Ground for Nebraska NRD

Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (LPSNRD) based out of Lincoln, Nebraska first received a Technical Assistance Grant from the NACD in 2018 to hire an additional Resources Technician on staff to help get more conservation on the ground. Since that time, LPSNRD has received three additional TA grants to retain the technician and the benefits have been great.

LPSNRD is comprised of a six-county area of southeastern Nebraska, including one million acres and over 350,000 residents. The District operates and maintains 190 flood control dams, 13 miles of levees, approximately 12 miles of urban stream channels, 50 miles of trails, nine wildlife management areas, 11 public wetlands, and monitors ground water quantity and quality.

Each year, LPSNRD provides over \$1 Million in cost-share assistance to approximately 150 landowners to install best management practices and make improvements to reduce soil erosion. These measures include creating terraces and grassed waterways on their fields, constructing sediment basins, planting cover crops and more. The overall environmental benefit is better quality surface water. In order to provide these cost-sharing programs, LPSNRD works with several other government agencies including Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NeDNR). The amount of LPSNRD cost-sharing varies from program-to-program. Occasionally the District designates targeted areas where cost-sharing is at a higher rate to encourage best management practices in those areas.

Since receiving our TA2018 Grant, LPSNRD has seen a boost in conservation technical assistance to producers and has been able to administer its land treatment cost-share program more efficiently in Lancaster and Cass Counties. The additional staff position funded through the grant has helped reduce workloads, maintain quality of work products, and increase access to conservation programs and staff technical assistance. With the TA grant, Evan Sisel was hired as the new Resources Technician and has assisted numerous producers/landowners with planning, design, surveying, staking, and certifying vegetative and structural conservation practices on their property, including terrace systems, grassed waterways, diversions, small dams and ponds, buffer strips, cover crops, and water and sediment control basins built on cropland and certified through NRCS. Sisel has also worked cooperatively with NRCS in providing assistance with conservation plans and federal program contracts, including administering CSP and EQIP. In addition, promotion of LPSNRD programs has also increased since hiring another technician with the TA grant(s).

“LPSNRD continues to promote, expand and improve our conservation practices within the District through our staff and various programs. It is through the NACD Technical Assistance grants that this has been possible and highly successful”, says David Potter, LPSNRD Assistant General Manager. “Our NRD was able to hire a qualified technician to work with the producers to get more conservation on the ground because of the TA grant”, he added.

To learn more about NACD’s Technical Assistance grants or to read other TA success stories, [visit the NACD Technical Assistance Grants webpage](#).



Resources Technician Evan Sisel in the field using Topcon GPS equipment to layout conservation practices