

**Tuesday**

**January 28, 2025 Embassy Suites**

Silence All Cell Phones During Sessions

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**7:30 a.m.**

Director's Boardroom

***NARD Fiscal Planning & Budget Committee Breakfast Meeting***

Mason Hoffman, Fiscal Planning & Budget Committee Chair,  
Little Blue NRD

**7:30**

Executive Boardroom

***NARD Program & Planning Committee Breakfast Meeting***

Ryan Reuter, Program and Planning Committee Chair, North Platte NRD

**7:30**

Pre-Convene Area

***Registration desk opens***

***Break service in Regents AB - Compliments of HDR, Olsson,  
JEO Consulting Group, and ENWRA.***

**8:30**

Regents AB

***Opening Remarks Governor Jim Pillen***

Martin Graff, NARD President, Middle Niobrara NRD

**9:00**

Regents AB

***General Session - Property Tax Reform Panel***

*Hunter Traynor, Bruce Rieker, Colby Coash*

Join representatives from the Nebraska Chamber, Nebraska Farm Bureau, and Nebraska Association of School Boards for an engaging Property Tax Reform Panel. This session will explore the challenges and opportunities surrounding property tax reform, including its impact on businesses, agriculture, and education. Panelists will share diverse perspectives and discuss potential solutions to balance funding needs while addressing taxpayer concerns.

Martin Graff, NARD President, Middle Niobrara NRD

**9:45-10:00**

Regents AB

***Breaks are Compliments of HDR, Olsson, JEO Consulting Group, and ENWRA.***

**10:00**

Regents AB

***Framing Legislative Issues and Discussion of Proposed Legislation of Interest***

*Dean Edson, Executive Director, Nebraska Association of Resources Districts and Michelle Weber, Zulkoski/Weber*

Terry Martin, Legislative & Gov't Affairs Chair, Upper Republican NRD

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**12:00**

Regents CDEF

***Luncheon Co-Sponsored by University of Nebraska Water Center and Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, and Houston Engineering, Inc.***

*Senator Tom Brandt, Chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, and NAYI Ag Youth Coordinators: Jenna Knake, Laura Albro*

Martin Graff, NARD President, Middle Niobrara NRD

**1:00 - 4:00**

**Visit the four Trade Shows after lunch and grab your dessert.**

**The break service, with different goodies, will be in each of the trade shows during the 2:45 break. Visit each room and enter to win one of several drawings, including gift cards valued at \$100!**

Chancellor 1

***HDR - Trade Show***

Chancellors 2

***Olsson - Trade Show***

Chancellors 3

***JEO Consulting Group - Trade Show***

Director's Boardroom

***ENWRA - Trade Show***

**2:45 - 3:00**

Trade Show Rooms

***Breaks are Compliments of HDR, Olsson, JEO Consulting Group, and ENWRA.***

**3:00**

Regents AB

***Action on Proposed Legislation***

Terry Martin, Legislative & Gov't Affairs Chair, Upper Republican NRD

**5:00 - 7:00**

Ballroom

***Reception with Senators - Co-sponsored by HDR, Olsson, JEO Consulting Group, ENWRA, University of Nebraska Water Center and Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, and Houston Engineering, Inc.***

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**7:30 a.m.**

Embassy Bar & Grille

***NARD Information & Education Committee Breakfast Meeting***

Bob Hilger, Information & Education Chair, Lower Platte North NRD

**7:30**

Director's Boardroom

***NARD Native Vegetation and Forestry Sub-Committee Breakfast Meeting***

**8:00**

Pre-Convvene Area

***Breaks are Compliments of HDR, Olsson, JEO Consulting Group, and ENWRA.***

**8:00**

Pre-Convvene Area

***Registration desk opens***

#### Concurrent Sessions

**8:30 - 9:15**

Regents C

***\*Improving Nitrogen-Use Efficiency for Corn in Nebraska: In-Season Management***

*Dr. Ferguson, UNL*

The presentation will review research and evolving recommendations for nitrogen fertilizer management for corn in Nebraska, and discuss recent revisions for managing nitrogen for irrigated corn

Mason Hoffman, Little Blue NRD

**8:30 - 9:15**

Regents DE

***Nebraska Dam Programs & Hazard Classifications Panel***

*Allen Gehring and Melissa Baier, NRCS; Tim Gokie, NeDNR;*

*Scott Sobotka, LBBNRD; Sean Elliott, LPNNRD*

The session will include a panel of representatives from NRCS, NeDNR, and NRDs that will provide a high-level overview of programs that fund dam construction and rehab. The discussion will highlight the differences between dam classifications, how they are determined, how a dam's hazard classification may change over time, and the implications of such changes. Additionally, NRD representatives will highlight local efforts to mitigate flood risk and outline resources that have assisted in mitigating downstream risks and hazard classification changes.

Larry Reynolds, Tri-Basin NRD

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**8:30 - 9:15**

Regents F

***Parliamentary Procedure: Running Effective Meetings***

*Lynna Gene Cook*

Get the knowledge and skills necessary to run effective meetings using parliamentary procedure. Attendees will gain a foundational understanding of Robert's Rules of Order, including how to structure meetings, manage discussions, and make decisions efficiently. The session will also provide practical tips for ensuring meetings stay on track and cover all necessary agenda items. Engage in a Q&A segment to ask specific questions about applying parliamentary procedure in various organizational settings. This will help clarify common challenges and enhance participants' confidence in using these rules to foster productive and orderly meetings.

Rich Tesar, Papio-Missouri River NRD

**8:30 - 9:15**

Chancellor 2/3

***Revitalizing Irrigation: Restoring Aging Canals for Sustainable Water Management***

*Matt Pillard and Bryce Haines, HDR*

This presentation will highlight HDR's ongoing efforts for rehabilitation and modernization of two separate irrigation canal projects: The St. Mary Canal, located in Montana and managed by the Milk River Joint Board of Control and the Goshen Irrigation District/Gering-Fort Laramie Irrigation District Tunnel #2 (Fort Laramie Canal) located in Wyoming. Both projects involve modernization measures to address the unique challenges associated with aging infrastructure in agriculture water management.

Deborah Hansen, Lower Niobrara NRD

**9:20 - 10:05**

Regents C

***\*Opportunity for Nebraska:***

***Reducing Emissions & Decarbonization (ONE RED)***

*Randy Smith, NDEE*

The ONE RED team, under an initial EPA planning grant, has developed the Nebraska Priority Climate Action Plan, outlining voluntary, high-impact measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. These measures aim to lower air pollution, stimulate economic growth, and improve quality of life. The team will also create a Comprehensive Action Plan by December 2025 to address long-term goals through 2050. Additionally, the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE) has received \$307 million from the EPA to implement eight key measures from the plan, benefiting various economic sectors and both rural and urban areas. This presentation will provide an overview of the Action Plans and ONE RED Programs.



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**9:20 - 10:05**

Regents DE

### ***\*Examining the Effect of Fertilizer Application Practices on Soil Nitrate and Water Quality***

*Jason Moudry, LLNRD and Chris Hobza, USGS*

Across Nebraska, groundwater resource managers have struggled to identify effective, yet politically durable management actions that can reduce nitrate concentrations in groundwater. Fertilizer application rates that exceed in-season crop demands can result in leaching of nitrate into groundwater. The Lower Loup Natural Resources District (LLNRD) is actively working to improve groundwater quality and reduce the amount of nitrate entering the groundwater system, which in some areas exceeds 10 milligram per liter. The LLNRD and the USGS Central Plains Water Science Center have developed a program of study to support potential water-quality management actions. LLNRD staff worked with willing producers to select 10 different fields for study which used either fall-applied commercial fertilizers, manure or sidedress applications. Repeated soil sampling indicated changes in nitrate and ammonium for the three different fertilization practices over an entire growing season. Potassium bromide was used as an applied tracer to estimate the maximum rate of nitrate movement through well drained loess soils for each field. While data collection and analysis is ongoing preliminary results and lessons from the first year of data collection will be shared.

Deb VanMatre, Central Platte NRD

**9:20 - 10:05**

Regents F

### ***Director Responsibilities: NRD Governance***

*Kennon Meyer, BWJ Law Group*

This presentation will explore the legal responsibilities directors have in fulfilling their duties as a member of the board of directors. Additionally, this presentation will help identify the do's and don'ts of being a director in furtherance of those duties.

Terry Martin, Upper Republican NRD

**9:20 - 10:05**

Chancellor 2/3

### ***Funding the Future: Strategies for Infrastructure Implementation***

*Dan Fricke, JEO Consulting Group*

This presentation identifies financial strategies, effective resource management, and practical steps to implement infrastructure projects.

Ryan Reuter, North Platte NRD

**10:05 - 10:20**

Pre-Convene Area

### ***Breaks are Compliments of HDR, Olsson, JEO Consulting Group, and ENWRA.***

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**10:20 - 11:05**

Regents C

### ***Maximizing Producer Profits through Carbon-Smart Practices and the 45Z Tax Credit***

*Brent Hoops, Chief Ethanol Fuels*

Discover how producers can benefit from emerging opportunities in sustainable agriculture and renewable energy. This session will explore the importance and challenges of Carbon Intensity (CI) Scores at the farm and ethanol plant. Conservation practices like cover crops, reduced tillage, and nutrient management will be analyzed for how they can be used to earn premium payments from ethanol plants through the 45Z tax credit. We'll look at how ethanol plants across the country are navigating these changes, provide insights into programs like RCPP, and learn how conservation-focused efforts can lead to profitability and sustainability for producers and ethanol plants alike.

Gene Kelly, Upper Elkhorn NRD

**10:20 - 11:05**

Regents DE

### ***\*How Nebraska Geology Affects Water Management***

*Brandi Flyr, CPNRD*

Climate and plate tectonic movements from hundreds of millions of years ago impact Nebraska water management today. From east to west, different processes built and then modified Nebraska's aquifers. How these aquifers were built has direct correlation and impact on farming practices and subsequently, water management.

Joe Anderjaska, Middle Republican NRD

**10:20 - 11:05**

Regents F

### ***Compliance with Open Meetings Act and Public Records Requests***

*Ryan Baker, Nebraska Attorney General's Office*

This presentation will explore the legal responsibilities directors have in conducting open and transparent board meetings fulfilling their duties pursuant to the Open Meetings Act. Additionally, this presentation will help identify the dos and don'ts of responding to Public Records Requests in furtherance of the open and transparent business operation.

Steve Kelley, Lower Big Blue NRD

**10:20 - 11:05**

Chancellor 2/3

### ***\*ENWRA Recharge Mapping and Focus Area Assessments WSF #5312***

*Chris Hobza, USGS and Aaron Young, UNL-CSD*

The Eastern Nebraska Water Resources Assessment (ENWRA) Groundwater Recharge Mapping and Focus Area Assessments Project is a collaborative effort between the ENWRA sponsors, Conservation and Survey Division, School of Natural Resources, University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL-CSD), and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) utilizing historical water quality data conjunctively with an improved

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hydrostratigraphic framework to determine the effectiveness of using Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) Survey as a tool to assess groundwater vulnerability and recharge potential. Available water-quality, age tracer, and water-level data has been grouped and evaluated using the interpolated AEM soundings to produce High, Moderate, and Low (H, M, L) recharge potential areas within the ENWRA region. The resulting preliminary regional Recharge Potential Map, as well as subsequent refinements and related map products specific to the Focus Areas are available online through an interactive webmap: [go.unl.edu/enwra2024map](http://go.unl.edu/enwra2024map). A U.S. Geological Survey Scientific Investigations Report will accompany the map and discuss the statistical analyses, study results and recommendations for Focus Areas relative to groundwater quantity and quality management concerns crossing ENWRA NRD boundaries. The Recharge Potential map, once published, will be uploaded to the Nebraska GeoCloud. Join us for a presentation of results followed by a Q&A session.

Bob Hilger, Lower Platte North NRD

**11:10 - 11:55**

Regents C

***\*Updates on the Resilient Soils Act and the Nitrogen Reduction Act***

*Alexa Davis, NeDNR*

The Department of Natural Resources (NeDNR) will go through two major programs all about soils. Listen to how NeDNR has helped producers connect and embrace innovative technology using the Resilient Soils and Water Quality Act (RSWQA) and the Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Act (NiRIA).

Scott Berndt, Upper Niobrara White NRD

**11:10 - 11:55**

Regents DE

***NARD Risk Pool Health Insurance Plan***

*Jason Rothermund, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska*

Jason will assist you in setting up your online account with myNebraskaBlue. He will guide you through accessing up-to-date information about your coverage, viewing your member ID card, and tracking your deductible and claims. Additionally, he will walk you through the various programs and benefits your health insurance plan offers. If you have any questions, feel free to ask during the session, otherwise Q&A will follow the presentation.

Jeanne Dryburgh, NARD

**11:10 - 11:55**

Regents F

***Accountability and Disclosure***

*Kennon Meyer, BWJ Law Group*

This presentation includes a review of requirements for directors and employees on the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Act and related laws.

Paul Bethune, Upper Big Blue NRD

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**11:10 - 11:55**

Chancellor 2/3

***Bringing Life Back to Methodist Cove: Harlan County Lake Ecosystem Restoration Section 1135 Project***

*Brad Schleeter, Olsson*

Harlan County Lake, built in the 1950s by the US Army Corps of Engineers, serves multiple purposes including flood control, irrigation, recreation, and wildlife benefits. This 13,500-acre reservoir in south-central Nebraska faces significant sedimentation issues due to erodible loess soils, which block access to crucial fish habitats during low water periods. The Harlan County Lake Ecosystem Restoration project aims to address these issues by removing sediment, reestablishing depth diversity, and protecting the cove from future sediment deposition. Additionally, the project will stabilize the shoreline to reduce erosion. This presentation will detail the USACE Section 1135 program and the specific restoration activities planned to enhance the lake's ecosystem and recreational value.

Don Duffy, Lower Republican NRD

**12:00**

Regents AB

***Luncheon***

***Co-Sponsored by University of Nebraska Water Center and Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, and Houston Engineering, Inc.***

*Senator Robert Clements, Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, and Nebraska LEAD Director Kurtis Harms*

Martin Graff, NARD President, Middle Niobrara NRD

**1:30 - 5:00 pm**

Regents DE

***NARD Board of Directors Meeting***

**\*Continuing Education Credits**

The NARD will utilize an automated sign-in for documenting attendance and gaining credit for continuing education. Please utilize the card reader and certification card issued by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. If you do not have a card, please see one of the NARD staff. A total of seven credit hours will be requested, 1 credit hour for each designated breakout session and 1 credit hour for visiting and signing into all trade shows.