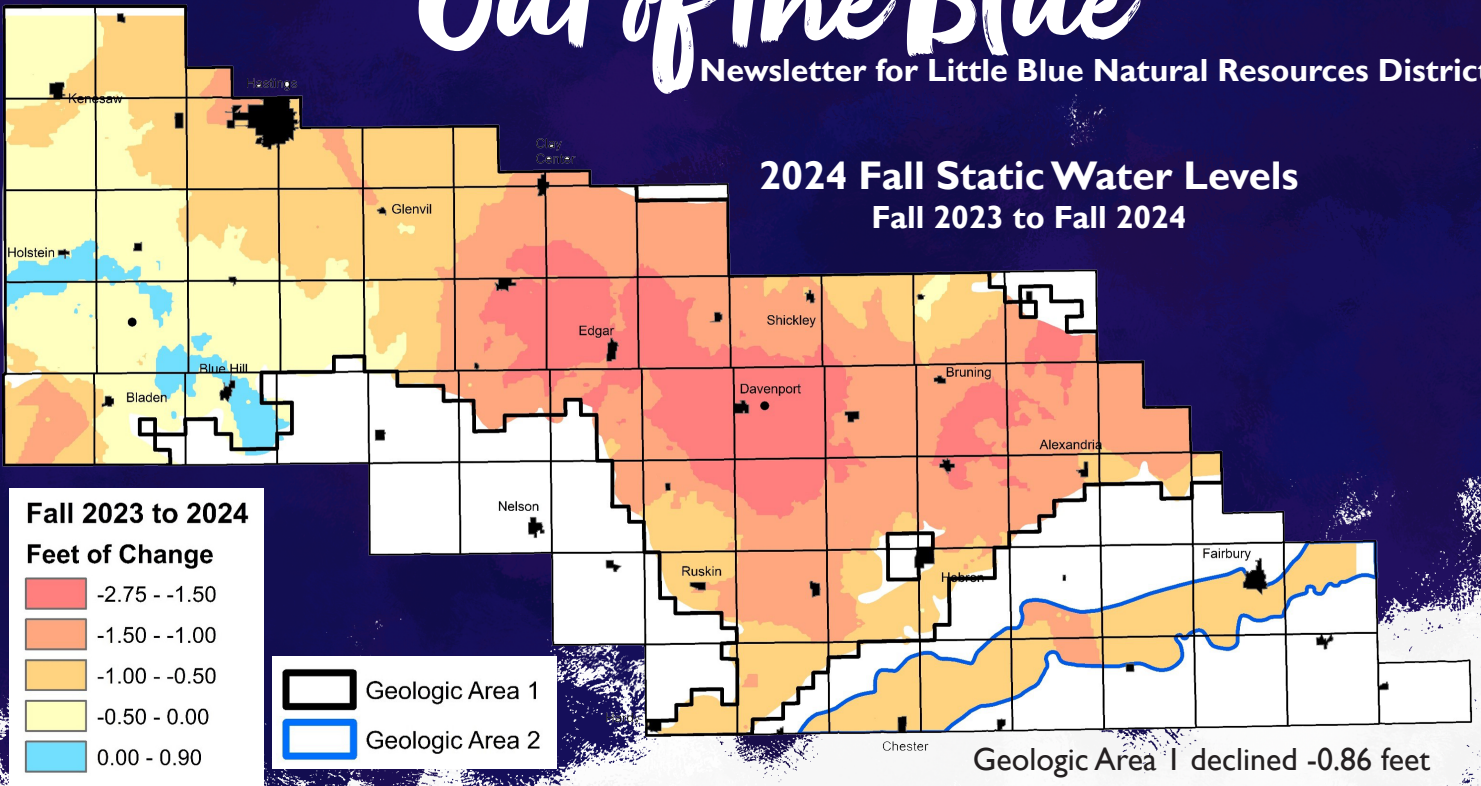


Out of the Blue

Newsletter for Little Blue Natural Resources District

2024 Fall Static Water Levels Fall 2023 to Fall 2024



Geologic Area 1 declined -0.86 feet
Geologic Area 2 declined -0.86 feet

2024 Fall Static Water Levels

Fall static water levels are measured annually for informational purposes only. All decisions concerning stays on new well development and allocations of irrigation are determined from the Spring static water level measurements. Comparing fall 2023 static water levels to 2024 fall levels, there was an average decline of 0.86 Ft (a little over 10 inches) in Geologic Area 1 and Geologic Area 2 both. The map above represents those changes in the varying colors from red to blue. Western portions of the district actually had a few levels that were higher than last year and several wells declined less than a foot. The eastern portions of the district had sections that declined 1.5 feet and more.

Groundwater allocations go into effect only if the Spring static water measurements stay below the trigger level for two consecutive years, meaning that an allocation could go into effect beginning in the 2025 growing season in Geological Area 1. Geological Area 2 did not hit the trigger level in the spring of 2024, but a stay on wells/acres has

been in effect west of Fairbury since 2006. If levels do drop below the trigger in 2025 there would be a stay implemented on high-capacity well construction & expansion of irrigated acres in the irrigatable lands to the east of Fairbury.

But as the 2024 spring levels in Geologic Area 1 initiated a stay, the question is will levels stay below the trigger level for the 2nd year and allocations for irrigation begin in 2025? If we look at changes from spring of 2024 to fall of 2024, the average drop across the district was -2.30 feet. For the last 3 years water levels have risen over the winter months by 1.79, 1.61, and 1.77 feet; but, there have been 5 instances where water levels have rebounded more than 2 feet over winter. 2025 Spring levels will begin in April and will provide the answer to allocations and stays.

For any questions, please contact Kevin Orvis at korvis@litttlebluenrd.org or call at 402- 364-2145.

This Issue:

- Fall Static Water Levels | Pg. 1
- New Water Quality Sub-Area | Pg. 2
- Tree Sales | Pg. 2
- Operator Training | Pg. 2
- Election Results | Pg. 3
- Youth Camp Scholarship | Pg. 3

CONNECT WITH US

- Little Blue Natural Resources District
- @litttlebluenrd
- @litttlebluenrd
- www.litttlebluenrd.org
- lbnrd@litttlebluenrd.org



New Water Quality Sub-Area

The Little Blue Natural Resources District (LBNRD) held a public hearing Tuesday, November 12th at 6:45 p.m., in the LBNRD boardroom, located at 100 East 6th Street, Davenport, NE. The purpose of the hearing was to receive public comment on the creation of a Level II Water Quality Sub-Area east of Bruning. A legal description and summary of the new sub-area follows:

Legal Description:

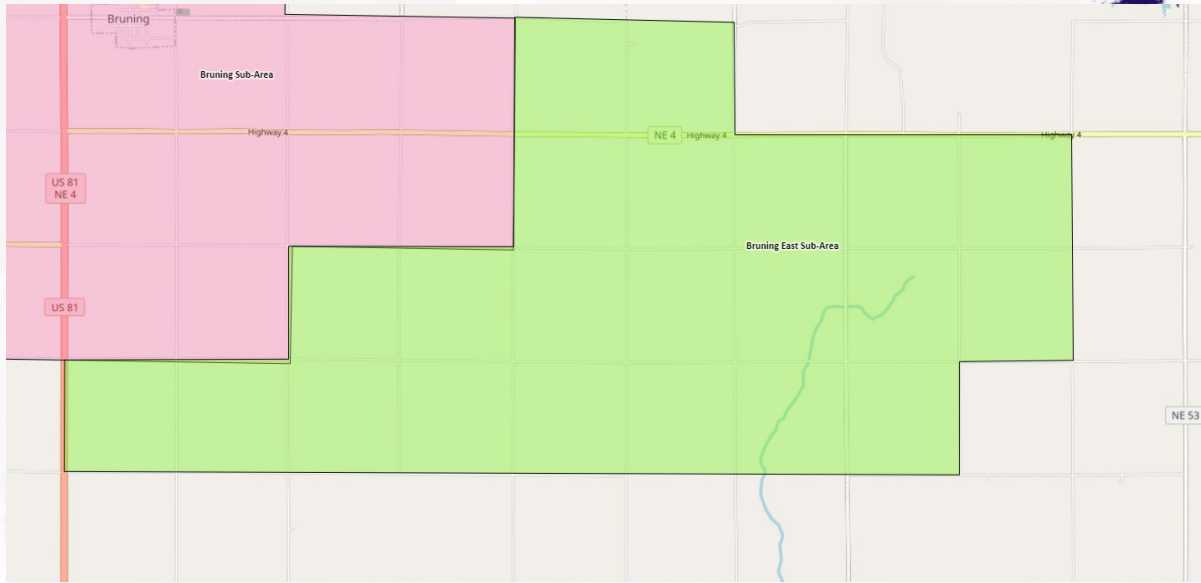
Beginning at the intersection of Road Z and Road 6600, go east to Road 6800, south to Highway 4, east to road 7100,

south to Road W, west to Road 7000, south to Road V, west to Highway 81, north to Road W, east to Road 6400, north to Road X, east to Road 6600, and north to Road Z.

This Level II Sub-Area will require the designation of a Demonstration field on which the landowner/operator will need to provide a yearly soil sample,

utilize irrigation scheduling, and utilize basic best management practices.

A map of the new sub-area is above. Full Groundwater Rules and Regulations can be found on the LBNRD website at littlebluenrd.org and at the Little Blue NRD office at 100 East 6th street, Davenport, Nebraska, 68335. (402) 364-2145.



NRD Tree Sales

Tree sales for the 2025 tree season are now underway. Trees and shrubs provide important benefits like protecting homes and livestock from wind and snow, preventing soil erosion, and providing wildlife habitat.

LBNRD offers a hand plant program and a machine plant program. We offer a variety of trees and shrubs. This list can be found on our website under the trees tab on the hand plant order form, or you may call our office. If you are interested in a machine plant of 100 or more trees you may contact your local NRCS office. They can assist you in developing a tree planting plan free of charge. They can help you determine how many trees or shrubs you will need, the best location to plant and which species best fits your specific needs.

Sales for both the hand plant program and machine plant program run through March 15th, 2025, but you will want to get your orders in sooner rather than later for the best selection! For more information or to place an order call



Kathy Boysen at the LBNRD office at 402-364-2145.

Operator Training Dates

Little Blue NRD's Dates:

January 22nd, 2025 | 9am - 12pm
Heartland Bank - Hastings

February 22nd, 2025 | 9am - 12pm
Heartland Bank - Hastings

Upper Big Blue NRD's Dates:

Tuesday, January 7th, 2025 | 9:30 am - 11:30 am | Leadership Center, Aurora

Tuesday, January 21st, 2025 | (Multiple Times)

9:30 - 11:30 am

3:30 - 5:30 pm

6:30 - 8:30 pm

Upper Big Blue NRD Office, York

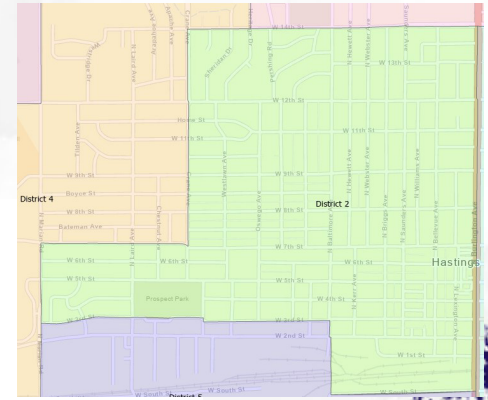
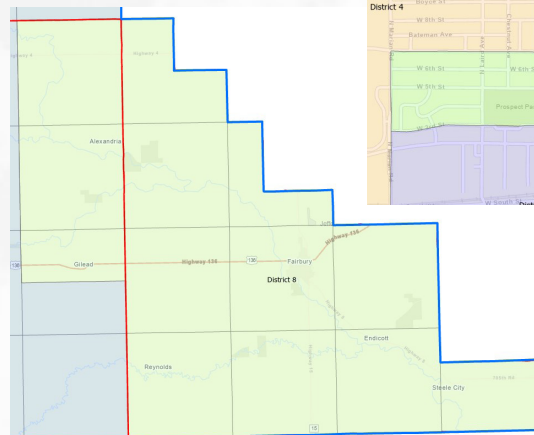


New Board of Directors and Election Results

2024 Unofficial General Election Results		BOARD OF DIRECTORS LITTLE BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT		
State of Nebraska		As of 11/6/2024		
	NAME - TOTAL VOTES	VOTES		
Sub District 1	Mason Hoffman	3240		
Sub District 2	VACANT	-		
Sub District 3	Jessi Hoeft	714		
Sub District 4	Lyle Schroer	Schyler Bohlen	TOTAL	
	1509	1464	2973	
Sub District 5	Jesse VonSpreckelsen	1411		
Sub District 6	Steve Shaw	1403		
2 Year Term - Sub District 6	Kyle Knight	1333		
Sub District 7	Alan Wiedel	Stewart Brinegar		
	1327	1477	2804	
Sub District 8	VACANT			

ALL VACANT SEATS WILL BE APPOINTED IN FEBRUARY 2025

Sub-District 8



Sub-District 2

Above are the election results from the 2024 election. At January's Board Meeting the newly elected Board of Directors will be sworn in then they will declare vacancies in Sub-District 2 and Sub-District 8.

The Little Blue Natural Resources District will be in search of persons interested in serving as a local conservation policy maker on the district's Board of Directors for those two sub-districts.

The vacant Sub-district #2 includes central Hastings. Refer to the map above or on the Little Blue NRD's website at www.littlebluenrd.org.

The vacant Sub-district #8 includes Steele City, Endicott, Fairbury, Reynolds, Gilead, and Alexandria. Refer to the map above or on the Little Blue NRD's website at www.littlebluenrd.org.

The candidates selected will fill the remaining term through December 2026. If the selected candidates wishes to serve on the board past December 2026, they will have to run for election in November 2026. The only eligibility criteria is that the prospective applicant must reside within the boundaries of the sub-district and that they are a registered voter. An interest in the

management of our soil and water resources and the environment is desirable.

For more information in the vacant board positions, please contact the NRD office in Davenport or email General Manager Scott Nelson at snelson@littlebluenrd.org. For those interested please submit a letter of interest to Scott Nelson to the email provided above on or before February 7th, 2025, and plan to attend the February 11th, 2025 board meeting at 7 p.m. when action to fill vacancies are expected to take place.

Youth Camp Scholarships

Nebraska's NRD's annually host a natural resources camp called Adventure Camp about the Environment (ACE). ACE is open to students who have completed 6th or 7th grades and want to learn more about natural resources at an adventure camp.

The subjects campers will learn about: aquatics, forestry, range ecology, wildlife and soils/land use. Campers will experience hands-on activities with a variety of speakers and explore possible careers in natural resources. ACE also includes adventurous activities for campers such as a zipline, tanking and tubing, a campfire and many other games!

ACE is currently being hosted at



Camp Kaleo in Burwell. Camp is \$235/ camper and includes meals, lodging and activities. Students that would like to attend ACE Camp during the summer may apply for our Youth Camp Scholarship before Friday, May 9th, 2025.

The Little Blue NRD has set aside \$1000.00 for Youth Camp Scholarships,

that will be divided up between eligible candidates. Other workshops or camps may be considered pending review by NRD staff. You can find the scholarship application on the NRD's website: www.littlebluenrd.org/education/. For any questions, please contact Jessica Hedges at 402-364-2145, or jhedges@littlebluenrd.org.



P.O. Box 100
100 E 6th Street
Davenport, NE 68335
lbnrd@littlebluenrd.org
littlebluenrd.org
402-364-2145

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sub-District 1: Mason Hoffman, Juniata
Sub-District 1: Glen Bonifas, Roseland
Sub-District 2: Brent Hoops, Hastings
Sub-District 2: Courtney Luebben, Hastings
Sub-District 3: Jessi Hoeft, Hastings
Sub-District 3: Glen Bredthauer, Hastings
Sub-District 4: Lyle Schroer, Lawrence
Sub-District 4: Warren Taylor, Glenvil
Sub-District 5: Jesse VonSpreckelsen, Clay Center
Sub-District 5: Aaron Paus, Fairfield
Sub-District 6: Steve Shaw, Edgar
Sub-District 6: Kyle Knight, Clay Center
Sub-District 7: Alan Wiedel, Hebron
Sub-District 7: Alan Kenning, Hebron
Sub-District 8: Bill Glenn, Fairbury
Sub-District 8: Jay Meyer, Daykin

At Large: Russ Ochsner, Roseland

LITTLE BLUE STAFF

Scott Nelson - General Manager
Tyler Goeschel - Assistant Manager
Sara Schram - Office & Finance Coordinator
Kathy Boysen - Administrative Assistant
Alicia Epps - Database Specialist
Jessica Hedges - Media & Communications Specialist
Kevin Orvis - Project Manager
Tim Hecke - Operations Supervisor
Landon Gardner - Natural Resources Technician
Lindsay Eichelberger - Water Resources Technician

FIELD OFFICES

Adams County NRCS Secretary - Rita Peshek - 402-462-5412
Clay County NRCS Secretary - Katie Lepant - 402-762-3569
Fillmore County NRCS - Sylvia Jividen - 402-759-4017
Jefferson NRD/NRCS Technician - Christine Zabokrtsky
Jefferson County NRCS Secretary - Vacant - 402-729-6134
Thayer County NRCS Secretary - Jessica Hynek - 402-768-6228
Webster County NRCS Secretary - Lynetta Snelling - 402-746-2268

Happy New Years!

Calendar

Jan 1st - Office Closed for New Years Day!
Jan 14th - LBNRD Board Meeting
Jan 20th - Office Closed for MLK Jr Day!
Jan 22nd - Operator Training - Hastings
Feb 5th - Operator Training - Hastings
Feb 11th - LBNRD Board Meeting
Feb 17th - Office Closed for President's Day!
Mar 3 - School Scholarship Deadline
Mar 11th - LBNRD Board Meeting
Apr 1st - Soil Sample Due Date
Apr 8th - LBNRD Board Meeting
Apr 25th - Office Closed for Arbor Day!

"Little Blue Natural Resources District is an Equal Opportunity & Provider."

The Little Blue NRD's **Out of the Blue** is a publication of the Little Blue Natural Resources District. Requests to be placed on the **Out of the Blue** mailing list and/or comments regarding information in this publication should be directed to **Jessica Hedges, Media & Communications Specialist, 100 East 6th Street, PO Box 100, Davenport, NE 68335.**