

Sand & Soapweed

Middle Niobrara NRD

Upcoming Events:

- Water Quality Cost Share Accepted.....Nov 1st thru Dec 31st
- Tree Order Form Due.....November 2nd
- November Board Meeting.....November 9th
- Open House & December Board Meeting.....December 10th

~For the latest updates catch the NRD Moment on KVSH 940~



Board of Directors:

Back Row: Dean Jochem, Greg Wilke, Justin Hammond, & Len Danielski

Front Row: Marty Graff, Cheryl Lovejoy, & Mark Johnson

Staff:

Mike Murphy (General Manager), Zachery Peterson (Assistant/Office Manager),
Tim Storm (Water Programs Supervisor), Dana Krueger (Natural Resources Supervisor),
Jackie Moreland (Intern), and Samuel Wilton (Intern)

MNNRD Programs:

NSWCP Cost Share

- Sign up still available on a first come first served basis
- Trees 50% up to \$4,000
- Planned Grazing 60% up to \$5,000
- Miscellaneous practices 60% up to \$5,000

Water Quality Cost Share

- Sign up Nov 1st - Dec 31st
- Surge Values
- Low Pressure Nozzles
- Converting Siphon Tubes to Gated Pipes 50% up to \$2,500
- Soil Moisture Sensors 50% up to \$1,000

Woody Biomass Utilization

- Wood Chip Creation
- Composting

Conservation Tree Planting

- Tree Order Form included
- Due November 2nd.

Grants:

The MNNRD has been awarded several grants to further conservation efforts in the district.



No-Till Drill

\$32,000

Long Pine Creek Watershed Phase II

\$282,780

Long Pine Creek Watershed Phase I

\$250,000



319: Long Pine Creek Watershed Phase I

- \$97,500

- Nonpoint Source Water Quality Grant

1166: Compost Turner

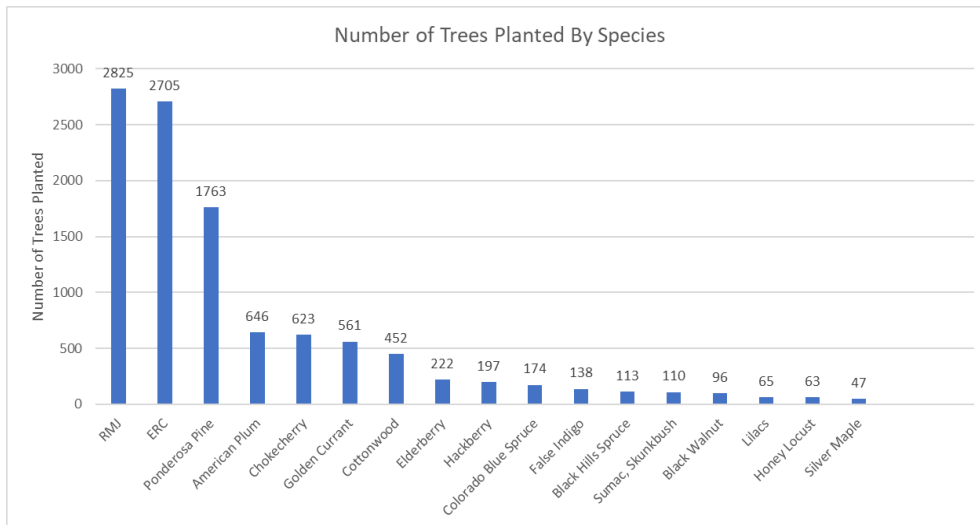
- \$132,922

- Waste Reduction & Recycling Incentive Grant

- Funds used toward a compost turner to mix wood chips and animal manure, food/yard waste, or animal carcasses to study field application rates for best crop yields.

Tree Season: 2018

The MNNRD has sold 2,568,216 trees since 1979. This past year 45,400 total trees were sold, and 85,508 feet of fabric weed barrier was installed by the MNNRD crew. To encourage tree planting the MNNRD makes low-cost tree and shrub seedlings available to landowners. Cost share programs, project design, weed barrier, drip irrigation, and planting services are available as well. Trees are planted throughout the district for livestock and farmstead protection from the sun and wind, reducing soil erosion, flood control, wildlife habitat, reducing atmospheric carbon dioxide, aesthetic value, and as a “living snow fence”. Applications are still available for 2019 cost share. This includes machine and hand planting. All sites should be rototilled before planting begins. Spring and fall food plot seed is available, as is the rental of an ATV no-till drill.



Over the 2018 tree planting season, 17 NSWCP cost share plantings were approved and planted across the district. In total, there were 11,896 machine planted trees.

Water Quality & Quantity Monitoring

Water is a finite precious resource. It is important to understand how its condition and availability are impacted.

Static Level Monitoring

Measuring water levels indicate the critical status of the water resources. Water in streams, lakes, and wetlands are sustained by groundwater discharge. By monitoring the groundwater levels, the MNNRD hopes to better understand hydrological stressors affecting groundwater recharge, storage, and discharge; so that we can better manage it. Each Spring and Fall, static water levels are read at monitoring and irrigation wells. Levels are compared per location to each prior year, and years overall. To date there are 230 monitoring sites. 52 monitoring wells have data loggers which track daily changes. Spring static water levels read at an average combined increase of .06 feet. The larger the read level, the deeper it is to groundwater. A smaller number means there is less depth to groundwater.

County (ft)	2017	2018	Change
Brown	60.38	59.84	0.54
Cherry	102.27	102.57	-0.3
Keya Paha	27.66	28.84	-1.18
Rock	62.37	62.17	0.2

Ponderosa Pine Reforestation

The MNNRD partnered with the Nebraska Forest Service to replant 53,000 Ponderosa Pines by hand on land affected by the 2012 wildfires. This project will continue next year. Interested landowners should contact the office for more information.



NDEQ Ambient Water Sample Collection

Middle Niobrara NRD continues to contract with NDEQ on the ambient water run, where water samples are collected at Snake River, Niobrara River, Long Pine Creek and Plum Creek once a month by MNNRD staff. During the months of May through September, the MNNRD conducts additional sampling at Merritt Reservoir and Valentine Mill Pond as part of the Nebraska Beach Watch program. This program tests recreational bodies of water for algae and E. coli levels on a weekly basis to determine the safety of the water for human use.