

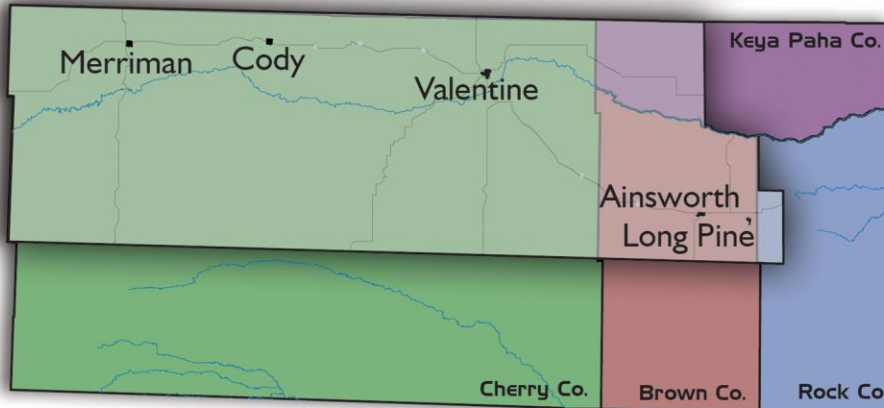
KNOW YOUR NRD



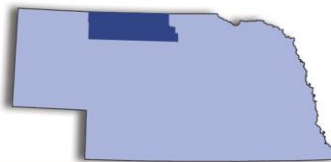
MIDDLE NIOBRARA
Natural Resources District
Valentine, NE

Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts
Making the Good Life Better Since 1972

2018



MIDDLE NIOBRARA NRD



Water Quality Facts (FY 2017-2018)

- 400 nitrate samples
- 517 total chemigation permits
- 350 chemigation inspections

Water Quantity Facts

- 574 registered domestic wells
- 230 static water level monitoring sites
- 151,281 certified irrigated acres
- 111,790 groundwater
- 32,038 surface water
- 7,453 combination

Land Improvement Facts

- 2,568,216 trees sold since 1980
- 45,400 trees sold in FY 2018

Protecting Lives

The Niobrara River Basin Alliance (NRBA) initiated a Basin Wide Voluntary Integrated Management Plan (VIMP) with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NDNR), and the public. The goals of the integrated management process are to ensure a balance between water supplies and uses, and to protect the rights of existing surface water and groundwater users.

At the December 2015 Board Meeting the MNNRD Directors voted to extend the temporary stay on new irrigated acres until the District IMP is completed.

This temporary stay had originally been put in place

Protecting Property

on June 29, 2015. The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources also extended their temporary stay on new surface water irrigated acres to coincide with the MNNRD's stay. The plan is to let the LB 1038 process work.

In the spring of 2018, the MNNRD staff met with NDNR to discuss updates to the goals and objectives of the VIMP. The MNNRD has reached out to stakeholders to reinstate conversations to finish the plan.



Protecting the Future



Recreation Areas

The MNNRD maintains the Brewer Bridge Landing, allowing public access to the Niobrara River. The Cub Creek Recreation Area, 8 miles west of Springview, offers camping, fishing, hiking, and more!

Woody Biomass Utilization

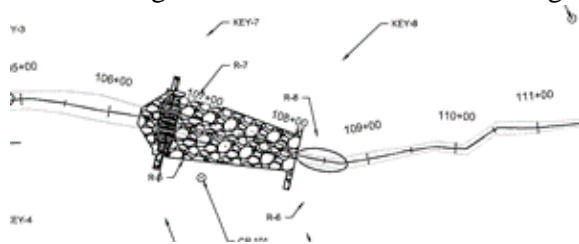
The latest project the MNNRD has undertaken is the Waste to Worth program. Working with six other NRDs as well as the University of Nebraska -Lincoln, the goal of the project is to study the composting potential of a mixture of wood chips and animal manure. This will require the MNNRD to generate between 150 and 200 tons of wood chips each year for the next two to three years.



The MNNRD was also awarded a Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) grant to help purchase a compost turner to utilize as part of the MNNRD woody biomass utilization program. MNNRD staff have to date hauled thirty-three tons of wood chips for future composting trials.

Long Pine Creek Watershed

The Middle Niobrara NRD and JEO Consulting are addressing threats to water quality and infrastructure within the Long Pine Creek Watershed. The watershed, approximately 328,000 acres primarily in Brown County is mostly irrigated farming and rangeland within the Ainsworth and Long Pine communities. Grants from Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and Nebraska Environmental Trust are helping fund the project, and the construction of one structure on Sand Draw Creek. A planning application has been submitted to the USDA Watershed Flooding Protection Program to obtain additional funding.



Tree Program

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”. This year 11,896 trees were planted, and 85,508 feet of fabric weed barrier was installed by the MNNRD crew.



- Protects lives through water testing
- Are leaders in groundwater management
- Uses taxpayer dollars efficiently

Nebraska's system of local natural resources management is unique in the United States. Unlike most states which have districts based on counties, Nebraska's 23 Natural Resources Districts are based on river basin boundaries which enables Nebraska to manage resources on a watershed basis. While all NRDs share a common set of responsibilities, each district is autonomous, governed by a locally-elected Board of Directors. Each district sets its priorities and develops programs to best serve local needs. Since being created in 1972, NRDs have experienced tremendous growth in the responsibilities given to them by state statute, especially in protecting groundwater.

The NRDs are partially funded by property taxes and make very efficient use of those tax dollars. A typical NRD takes only 1-2 % of all property taxes in a county. The MNNRD tax collections amount to approximately 27 cents per acre. This continues conservation practices that give back locally.

Find out more about Nebraska's NRDs at www.nrdnet.org