

Manager's Report
7/14/2022

NSWCP cost share program signups began July 5th. The Staff have taken some time to review the program to be sure the practices we are concentrating our dollars on, continue to be of highest priority. After review and discussion there were a few minor changes made to the questionnaire that we would hope allow for more positive points on surface water and co-mingled projects. We did alter a few questions that our partners at NRCS found to be confusing to producers and hopefully those changes will be clearer to those answering the questionnaire.

The Summer edition of "Your Resources Report" newsletter began hitting mailboxes in early July. It is exciting to be able to once again bring information back into our District residents' homes through print. There has been nothing but positive feedback from those that received the newsletter and are wanting to hear what the North Platte NRD is doing to protect and manage our natural resources.

The Staff has completed a draft budget for FY22/23 and are preparing to forward that on to the Budget and Personnel Committee for their review. Due to circumstances beyond our control, the Committee has had to delay meeting with Staff to discuss, and are hoping to schedule a meeting in late July early August to finalize the new budget. The Committee members will have a few weeks to individually review the budget before we meet in person.

On June 29th, I attended a meeting of the Upper Platte Principals in North Platte. Once again, all the players were in the room and once again I returned without a plan being proposed for the basin to be named fully appropriated. In my view, I feel the positive momentum has come to a screeching halt. There are a few major players that still cannot decide on what fully appropriated means to them and until they do there is no wind pushing the sail of this boat. The North Platte NRD has made fantastic strides working towards the fully appropriated goal, and not one can say we ignored our obligation. It has been nice to see the efforts and success of this NRD be noticed by our downstream partners. I will continue to do my part as your representative and hope there will be something more positive to report in the future.

To cap off the end of the 50th anniversary week of the NRD's, we will be holding our annual Water Expo. We have been planning and working hard to put on the best event ever. Attendee's will notice an expansion to our kids' events, educational opportunities, tours of the greenhouse, door prizes, as well as a video shown during lunch that highlights the past 50 years of the North Platte NRD. We will read the official proclamation signed by the Governor and the Chairman of the Natural Resources Committee. We will begin the festivities at 9:00 am wrapping up at 2:00 pm. We are anticipating a large crowd and it is our goal that everyone that attends goes away with a little more understanding of what we do as an NRD and hope they had a little fun as well.

Next week on July 21st I will be in Ogallala for the annual Basin Wide meeting and another Upper Platte Principals meeting. The same day we will begin the stakeholder process of creating a basin wide drought plan. I will continue to keep you all informed as more information is provided to me.

As a reminder for anyone interested in attending the annual Chamber of Commerce water tour. It will be held on August 16th and 17th. We will be heading West to the reservoirs, spending some time at the control center and touring the Kortess Power Station. If you are interested in going, please let me know.

