



**NORTH PLATTE**  
Natural Resources District

Press Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**North Platte NRD Receives \$750,000 Grant for Telemetry**  
*Nebraska Environmental Trust Investment and Partnership Announced*

The North Platte Natural Resources District (NRD) is pleased to announce its award of a \$750,000 grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust (Trust) to expand the Data Access and Monitoring Program (DAMP). This program will provide telemetry units to producers/landowners free of charge, with the goal of reading ground water flow meters remotely. The vendor partner, American Millennium Corporation's (AMCi) MeterEye technology consists of a camera situated over the face of the meter that will take a picture of the flow meter daily. That image is then wirelessly delivered to a website, through a cellular connection, where it is stored and then converted to digital data. The stored images and data can be viewed by both the producer/landowner and District Staff and can be used to improve water management practices. The Trust grant will be combined with a previously secured \$250,000 grant from the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NDNR) to total \$1 million in outside investment to directly benefit landowners and the NRD. The DAMP project was one of 118 projects receiving \$18,799,900 in awards from the Trust this year. The first phase of this three phase program will start approximately on May 1<sup>st</sup> with the installation of 261 units. Ultimately, with these funds, the District will expand this project to 863 meters by the end of 2019.

Producers and landowners will benefit from being provided real-time information to aid in their management decisions. Utilizing the water usage information, in addition to information that can be added on to the additional sensor ports in the unit (moisture sensors, evapotranspiration gauges, or weather data sensors) will make landowners and operators more efficient. They will be given unique, password protected login information, and their specific data will remain private.

John Berge, General Manager for the North Platte NRD, states, “The use of technology is imperative in meeting the objective of using our water resources wisely. With this generous funding from DNR and NET, these management tools will be made available to a wider cohort of producers. We are proud of that and the District’s landowners will benefit greatly from it.”

The District will also benefit greatly from the telemetry units. Each year, the District spends nearly \$170,000 in salaries, fuel, wear and tear on vehicles, and other expenses in collecting data from each of the District’s nearly 1800 flow meters in the over appropriated portion of the district. Many of these flow meters are difficult to get to and can pose safety risks to staff. Once the telemetry units are installed, the data will be automatically downloaded at the end of the water year and reports can be generated more quickly. The telemetry units will also notify district staff when a problem has occurred with the flow meter, allowing for timelier repair or maintenance.

The District hopes to have all the regulated wells in the overappropriated and irrigation wells in the full appropriated portions of the District installed with telemetry units in the next five to eight years. For more information on the telemetry project, go to [www.npnrd.org](http://www.npnrd.org).

The Nebraska Legislature created the Trust in 1992. Using revenues from the Nebraska Lottery, the Trust has provided over \$250 million in grants to more than 1,900 projects across the state. The Trust works to preserve, protect, and restore our natural resources for future generations.