



Nebraska Loess Hills

Resource Conservation & Development Council

P.O. Box 24 Oakland, Nebraska 68045 Phone (402)685-4020

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February 20, 2024

Fred Mytty
 Dodge County
 435 N Park, Room 102
 Fremont, NE 68025-4977

Your past support of the Nebraska Loess Hills Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council is truly appreciated! Your sponsorship allows the Council to develop and implement projects which improve the quality of life in Burt, Cuming, Dakota, Dodge, Thurston, and Washington counties. Enclosed is the Council's 2023 Annual Report which highlights some of the projects completed in 2023 including:

- The Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D Council applied for and received a grant from Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy to hold an electronic waste collection. North Bend was our host community. The event was held in October and over 2500 lbs. of electronic waste was collected.
- The Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D Council created a scholarship for current high school seniors, current college students, and non-traditional students. The scholarship application was distributed to the high schools in our service area. The Nebraska Loess Hills Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council offered (1) \$500 scholarship to an individual within the service area. Eight applications were received from Cuming and Thurston County.
- The Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D Council helped unload vehicles and collect surveys from the PMRNRD E-Waste Collections held in May 2023 at Dakota City, Walthill, Tekamah, and Blair.

In 2023, RC&D Council Board members and community volunteers organized by the Council donated more than 360 hours to RC&D projects in our local communities. In addition to completing 9 projects, these efforts furthered progress in other ongoing projects. Your support made this possible!

Your support is just as important now than ever!! The RC&D Council is committed to continuing its work. Sponsor support is vital to facilitating RC&D projects. We have enclosed a Sponsorship Renewal Invoice for 2024 in the amount of \$350.00. Projects planned for 2024 include (3) household hazardous waste collections, an electronic waste collection, and several others. These projects save local government and taxpayers significant dollars, preserve resources and protect the environment.

Over-

Sponsors directly impact the quality of life in area communities through active involvement in the Council's Board of Directors. This Board identifies area needs, adopts projects, and goals, and formulates strategies for project completion. Sponsors may choose to designate a representative to serve on the Board of Directors.

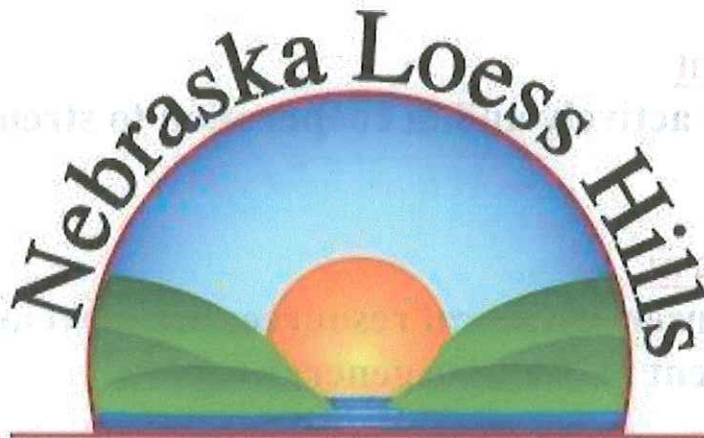
We truly hope you will continue to support the Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D Council. Contact information for the Board of Directors is included in the annual report. Please do not hesitate to contact the Board for more information or to suggest projects or partnerships which improve the quality of life in the RC&D service area.

Sincerely,

John Ross

John Ross, President
Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D Council
PO Box 24
Oakland, NE 68045
402.685.4020
office@nlhrcd.org

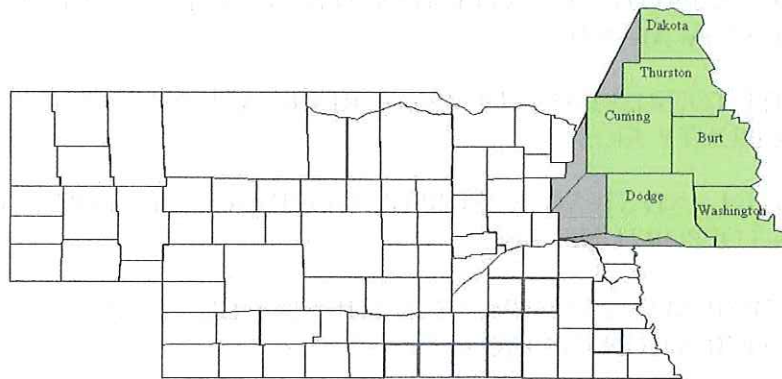
2023 Annual Report



Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council

Burt, Cuming, Dakota, Dodge, Thurston,
and Washington Counties

Resource Conservation & Development Council
PO Box 24, Oakland, NE 68045-0024
Ph: (402)685-4020 e-mail: Office@nlhrcd.org



Introduction:

❖ Purpose

The Purpose of the Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D Council, Inc. is to serve the will of local residents to the best of their ability with the tools they have available.

Vision Statement

People working actively and in cooperation to strengthen communities.

Mission Statement

Manage and conserve natural resources and develop human capital for present and future generations.

❖ Goals

GOAL A: ENHANCE & PROTECT LAND-BASED NATURAL RESOURCES & PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

GOAL B: ENHANCE & PROTECT WATER-BASED NATURAL RESOURCES & PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

GOAL C: PROMOTE TOURISM AND DEVELOP RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN THE RC&D'S SIX COUNTY AREA

GOAL D: PROMOTE LAND STEWARDSHIP BY WORKING WITH LOCAL GROUPS TO OFFER RECYCLING OPPORTUNITIES

GOAL E: DEVELOP HUMAN RESOURCES IN THE SIX COUNTY RC&D AREA BY INCREASING PARTICIPATION IN RC&D EVENTS.

❖ History

- October 9, 1991 - The first informational meeting about the RC&D program was held for area residents at the Legion Hall in Walthill.
- March 1, 1992 - A steering committee was formed which proceeded to develop Bylaws and secure Articles of Incorporation and apply to the Secretary of Agriculture for authorization.
- September 23, 1992 - After numerous Steering Committee meetings, meetings of the Application and Bylaws Committees, twelve informational presentations, and six public participation meetings, the Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D Council was formed.
- September 24, 1992 - an application for authorization from the RC&D Board of Directors was submitted to (then) SCS State Conservationist Ron Moreland, which was forwarded to (then) U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan.
- November 16, 1992 - Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation were adopted.
- January 11, 1993, the Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D Council became incorporated in the State of Nebraska.
- October 18, 1993 - the Council presented their second proposal for authorization to (then) Nebraska SCS State Conservationist Ron Moreland.
- August 10, 1994 - The Nominal Group Process was used to develop and prioritize Goals, Objectives, and Action Items for the group's first Annual Plan of Work (approved by the RC&D Board of Directors on September 28, 1994).
- April 11, 1995 - A logo development contest was held, and a winner was selected – it was a pencil drawing of our current logo. (Color was added to the logo in 2001 and was again updated in 2009).
- October 15, 1997 - Another application for authorization was submitted to Dan Glickman, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.
- December 3, 1997 - Received a Federal Tax Identification Number from the IRS.
- April 13, 1998 - The Internal Revenue Service determined the Nebraska Loess Hills Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council Incorporated, to be exempt from federal income tax under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code as an organization described in section 501(c)(3).
- September 7, 2000 - The Board of Directors, despite being passed over for funding numerous times, was persistent and submitted another application for funding.
- January 4, 2001 - Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman authorized the Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D.
- April 15, 2011 – President Barack Obama approved the termination of the RC&D Program nation-wide. Staff was given 3 days to redistribute all furniture and vehicle and to vacate the office.
- 2011 to present – The RC&D Council operates on donations from public entities, business, and private citizens.

❖ Committees

- Education
- Economic Development
- Tourism
- Environment and Conservation
- Infrastructure and Community Resources
- Finance

Declaration of the Area of Operation:

The Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D consists of six counties – Burt, Cuming, Dakota, Dodge, Thurston, and Washington – encompassing 1,671,808 acres in East Central and Northeastern Nebraska. The Omaha and Winnebago Indian Reservations occupy all of Thurston County and small portions of Burt and Cuming Counties. The area is predominately rural with a population of 102,122 (2020 U.S. Census). Not quite 75% of area residents live in 36 communities. The largest communities are: Fremont– 27,141; South Sioux City – 14,043; and Blair – 7,790. The median size community in the area is 647. The area hosts 28,679 households. Per capita income for the RC&D area is \$30,895. 10.8% of area residents live in poverty.

The six-county Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D Area covers approximately 2600 square miles and is bordered on the east by the Missouri River and the Platte River on the south. A third major river, the Elkhorn, flows through three counties in the southwest part of the area. All three rivers provide recreation for Nebraska and Area residents as well as habitat for several threatened or endangered species such as the Bald Eagle, Piping Plover, Interior Least Tern, and the Pallid Sturgeon. The Missouri River is the primary source of domestic and municipal water supply for several large cities and communities in Nebraska and neighboring states. About 100 miles of Missouri River shoreline border the Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D Area.

All soils begin as rock or “Parent material”. Destruction of certain properties of parent material leads to unconsolidated forms of “rock” in which soils are forming. Soils can be moved by wind, water, gravity, man/animals, or glaciers. Those soils transported by wind are either loess (pronounced luss), or aeolian sand (windblown sand). Except for the “Sand Hills” where soils formed in aeolian sand, loess is the parent material for many soils throughout Nebraska. A large portion of the Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D Area lies in the Loess Uplands and Till Plains Major Land Resource Area (102B). About 15% of the area lying along the Missouri River Valley is in the Iowa and Missouri Deep Loess Hills Major Land Resource Area (107N). A small area in southwestern Washington and southeastern Dodge counties is located in the Nebraska and Kansas Loess Drift Hills Major Land Resource Area (106). All three Major Land Resource Areas are characterized by rolling to hilly topography with narrow to moderate ridge tops dissected by numerous drainage-ways. Predominant soils are typically well-drained upland soils with silty clay loam surface layers formed in loess with underlying material of silty clay loam or silt loam. Water erosion (sheet & rill, ephemeral, and gully) is the primary resource concern on these soils.

Warm summers and cold winters characterize the climate of the area. Monthly average high temperatures are in the 20s (degrees F) in January and 80s (degrees F) in July. Annual precipitation averages 24”-26”, with 60% of the precipitation occurring during the May to October growing season.

Types of RC&D Assistance:

GOAL A: ENHANCE & PROTECT LAND-BASED NATURAL RESOURCES & PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP...

- ✓ The Middle Missouri Valley Weed Management Area is made up of 5 County Weed Superintendents who work together as a group, facilitated by the RC&D, to identify and treat noxious and invasive weed species. The Weed Management Area did not complete any projects as a group, but rather engaged in helping one another on an as-needed basis.

GOAL B: ENHANCE & PROTECT WATER-BASED NATURAL RESOURCES & PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP...

- ✓ The Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D Council received a grant from Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy to hold (3) Household Hazardous Waste collections. Host communities were projected to be Blair, Pender, and North Bend. However, in August, our contractor withdrew from the grant agreement and the RC&D had to cancel the collections.
- ✓ The Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D Council assisted in unloading vehicles and collecting surveys at the PMRNRD E-Waste collections held in Dakota City, Walthill, Tekamah, and Blair. 308 loads totaling 39,359 lbs. of e-waste was collected. The contractor will recycle more than 98% of this waste. Four RC&D board members helped at these collections.

GOAL C: PROMOTE TOURISM AND DEVELOP RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES...

- ✓ The RC&D hosts and facilitates the Lewis & Clark Scenic Byway which is a group dedicated toward promoting area attractions and services which may be of interest to travelers and tourists.
- ✓ The RC&D is maintaining a tourism rack at the Jackson Pump & Pantry to provide tourists with brochures of things to see along the Lewis & Clark Scenic Byway.

GOAL D: PROMOTE LAND STEWARDSHIP BY WORKING WITH LOCAL GROUPS TO OFFER RECYCLING OPPORTUNITIES...

- ✓ The RC&D coordinates and conducts several recycling opportunities for area residents including: E-Waste collection; Household Hazardous Waste collections.

GOAL E: DEVELOP HUMAN RESOURCES IN THE SIX COUNTY RC&D AREA BY INCREASING PARTICIPATION IN RC&D EVENTS.

- ✓ The Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D Council created a scholarship for current high school seniors, current college students, and non-traditional students. The scholarship application was distributed to the high schools in our service area as well as an article in the area newspapers promoting this opportunity. The Nebraska Loess Hills Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council offered (1) \$500 scholarship to an individual within the service area of Burt, Cuming, Dakota, Dodge, Thurston, and Washington counties. The scholarship is offered primarily to an individual that shows volunteering in community events. This year, eight applications were received from Cuming County and Thurston County. Miranda Bracht from Cuming County received the 2023 scholarship.

Completed Projects in 2023

<u>Project#</u>	<u>Project Name</u>
23-383	Scholarship
23-384	E-Waste PMRNRD – 2023
23-385	Tourism Display – 2023
23-386	E-Waste Grant – 2023
23-387	HHW Grant – 2023
23-388	E-Waste Collection – 2023
23-389	Logan Creek Accessibility
23-390	HHW Collection (cancelled in Aug'23)
23-391	Lewis & Clark Scenic Byway – 2023

Impact of the Council's Projects in the Area of Operation:

The Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D Council completed 9 projects in 2023. Over sixteen volunteers donated more than 360 hours to RC&D projects. Financially, the total value of the projects completed in 2023 was over \$40,500.00.

Major Impact Projects

- ❑ RC&D Scholarship
The Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D Council created a scholarship for current high school seniors, current college students and non-traditional students. The scholarship application was distributed to the high schools in our service area. The Nebraska Loess Hills Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council offered (1) \$500 scholarships to an individual within the service area of Burt, Cuming, Dakota, Dodge, Thurston, and Washington counties. Eight applications were received this year from Cuming County and Thurston County.
- ❑ The Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D Council helped unload vehicles and collect surveys at the PMRNRD E-Waste Collections held at Dakota City, Walthill, Tekamah, and Blair. 308 loads totaling 39,359 lbs. of e-waste were collected
- ❑ Board meetings and Little News mailings.
More than 1800 copies of the agenda and Little News were sent to board members and the public.
- ❑ Completed Projects
The NLHRC&D completed 9 projects in FY 2023.
- ❑ Volunteerism
Over 16 volunteers donated more than 360 hours of time working on RC&D projects.

Council's Financial Summary (October 1, 2022-September 30, 2023)

Income:

Dues and Support from 31 members	\$13,000.00
Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE)	
Grant for Household Hazardous Waste Collection in Jackson/Lyons/Wisner	\$16,380.00
Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection cash donation	\$20.00
Interest Earned	\$561.75

Expenditures:

Household Hazardous Waste Collection in Jackson/Lyons/Wisner	\$16,380.00
Council Operations	\$9,004.30
Two Scholarships Awarded	\$1,000.00

End of Year Balances:

Checking Account	\$19,136.72
Savings Account	\$11,532.33
Certificates of Deposit	\$27,241.36
Total	<u>\$57,910.41</u>

Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D Council

Board of Directors – FY 2023

JOHN (Judy) ROSS
President
At Large
2200 Highway 16
Bancroft, NE 68004
402-648-7876
402-830-6142 (cell)
jjross@gpcom.net

MARK (Jana) LORENSEN
Vice President
Village of Pender
P.O. Box 220
Pender, NE 68047
(402) 385-3166 (work)
lorensenlumber@abbnebraska.com

DICK LEITSCHUCK
Treasurer
At-Large
523 E 18th Street
South Sioux City, NE 68776
(402) 480-8189
rleitschuck@aol.com

JIM (Ruth) PETERSON
Secretary
Washington County
1109 N 18th Ave.
Blair, NE 68008
Ph # 402-426-2716
jmpeterson@abbnebraska.com

NICKI (Jeremy) WHITE
CCPPD
500 S Main
West Point, NE 68788
(372) 2463 ext.226
nwhite@ccppd.com

KENT (Mary) NEUMANN
At Large
110 Washington Street
Bancroft, NE 68004-3557
C (712) 223-2232
kentneu77@gmail.com

KATHERINE (Bill) RHEA
Dodge County
1413 Woodlawn Drive
Fremont, NE 68025
(402) 721-8341
(402) 720-7002 (cell)
kathy@rheacattle.com

GARY (Sharon) LOFTIS
Lower Elkhorn NRD
1690 County Rd H
Craig, NE 68019
402-380-2372
gary.loftis@hotmail.com

MAYNARD(Linda) MUNDERLOH
Cuming County
1865 O Rd
West Point, NE 68788
(402)380-4507
mmunderloh@cumingcounty.ne.gov

JOHN (Syd) KRUSE
At Large
2965 'K' Ave
Walthill, NE 68067
(402) 846-5488
(402) 846-5888

GARY“BIRD”(Kay) SWANSON
Burt County
414 N Osborn Ave
Oakland, NE 68045
#(402)380-8328
district6@burtcounty.org or
gbird.swanson@gmail.com

TRICIA (Joel) BRACHT
Program Coordinator
1935 H Road
West Point NE 68788
(402) 380-9091
jtbracht921@q.com or
office@nlhrcd.org

DEBORAH WARD
At Large
508 N. Davis Ave
Oakland, NE 68045
(402)374-1920 ext 101

Vacant
Thurston County

Vacant
Omaha Tribe of Nebraska

Vacant
Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska
P.O. Box 687
Winnebago, NE 68071
(402) 878-4060 ext. 1006