

Operations Committee Meeting  
Thursday, July 3, 2025 8:30 AM  
Lower Platte North NRD Office  
P.O. Box 126  
Wahoo, NE 68066

1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

We have no unfinished business to address.

2. WILD NE AND OTHER PROGRAMS

There is nothing to report.

3. OPERATION & MAINTENANCE & OTHER ITEMS

The O & M crew have spent the majority of our time moving the office and continue organizing the shop and sheds. We have completed O & M and inspections on a dozen dams.

3.A. Rehabilitation of Cottonwood 21-A, NRCS & HDR

The NRCS has sent an amendment for design to their Grants and Agreements Division for review and processing. It took a bit longer as they had to create an independent government cost estimate for design services as well as some additional context for inclusion in the agreement. They hope to have an amendment before the end of July.

In terms of starting the "design phase" of this project, after all the reviews by the sponsor, consultants & NRCS it may be possible to start the design phase at the beginning of December. As we build to that date, the LPNNRD can/should be conversing internally to determine who and how to contract for design services. Included in the design amendment will be a time extension of one (1) year. The new agreement expiration date will be 12/15/2026. Assuming no major hick-ups, Allen Gehring feels confident the design can be completed easily by 12/15/2026.

3.B. Wanhoo Basin Damage & Repair, FEMA, & Houston Engineering

Houston Engineering will discuss repair and mitigation recommendations and associated costs for the spillway joints, the downstream channel and basin, the breakwater and the 3rd mile access path to the wetland weir. We will provide conceptual drawings and cost estimates to aid in the selection of repair and mitigation options.

We will cover potential alternatives and costs for the following spillway repairs:

- Joint repair recommendations/costs
- Left bank and adjacent pressure relief well repair.
- HDPE gabion basket protection (including chain link fence repair/replacement).
- Apron draining and cleaning.
- Cleaning and regrading the basin.

We have assessed several mitigation scenarios, including:

- Improvements to HDPE gabion basket protection.
- Altered grading of the downstream channel and overbank.

- Impact on required rock size and spillway energy dissipation.

For the breakwater, we have developed cost estimates for its repair and various mitigation options, including:

- Flattening the downstream armored slope.
  - Raising the breakwater
  - Widening the bridge area
  - Adding an additional bridge
  - Creating a preferential overtopping area with additional erosion protection.
- We have also considered combinations of these options that work together effectively.

4. ROCK AND JETTY

We have not received any requests for payment or applications.

5. LAKE WANAHOO

5.A. Lake Wanahoo Permit Sales

For the month of May, the District received \$11,195.57 in annual park permit revenue.

5.B. Lake Wanahoo Camping Revenue

For the month of May, the District received \$15,555.46 in camping revenue.

5.C. Lake Wanahoo - Campsite Renovation Project

We received bids from multiple electrical contractors to complete the addition of 20 new 50/30 amp camper pad sites using the pedestals we purchased last year. Our recommendation is to award the project to Schutt Electric. Schutt was originally chosen for the upgrade project last year, is familiar with Lake Wanahoo's campground electrical system, and had the most reasonable bid at \$56,145.20.

5.D. Clint Johannes Education Building

The Clint Johannes Education Building at Lake Wanahoo was rented 17 times in June, with 2 NRD rentals. Revenue for the month was \$1,800.

6. INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

6.A. Information

6.A.1. Radio & eAds

The KTIC radio ads for June featured the abandoned well commercial featuring Jacob Stover from the Water Resources Department. He is also in July's commercial with Lacey for a reminder for annual well water testing. Those ads are both attached.

The Wahoo newspaper e-ad and print ad for June featured a reminder for well owners to annually test their wells. July's ads will feature variances.

The ads are attached.

6.A.2. Analytics

Top Posts for Facebook and X included:

- Moving/new address/office closed moving day

- Nocturnal nights flyer
- Summer education events flyer
- Natural Resources Camp flyer
- Pheasants Forever prairie strips event flyer (shared)

On the LPNNRD website, we received traffic from NARD (19), Facebook (18), Nebraska tourism (11), Wahoo newspaper e-ad (1), X (0).

The full reports are attached.

#### 6.A.3. Website Updates

The LPNNRD website needs updates to be more mobile-friendly. Redthread is the company that first created the website in 2018. They have proposed up to 25 hours of website design or development for \$5000. They have also proposed a website rebuild between \$20,000 – \$50,000. Full proposal is attached.

#### 6.A.4. Nebraska's Director of the Year

A special congratulations to Director, Mark Seier! Mark was nominated and selected as Nebraska's Director of the Year this year! Attached is a copy of the nomination Lacey sent in for Mark. He will be recognized at the NRD Annual Conference Awards Luncheon on Monday, September 29.

### 6.B. Education

#### 6.B.1. Past events

June 12th: Coffee Lakeside: Bird Feathers 9 adults, 1 child  
 June 12th: Birding at the Wahoo Public Library/Wahoo (26)  
 June 12th Nocturnal Night (7)  
 June 14th: Lions Club Youth Fishing Derby (45)  
 June 18th: St. Wenceslaus summer program - owl pellet dissection (28)  
 June 19th: Dip netting at Lake Wanahoo (10)  
 June 20th: North Bend Library (15 kids, 7 adults)  
 June 24th: Girl Scout Meeting - Tree and Bench grand opening (16 kids, 5 adults)  
 June 25th: St. Wenceslaus summer care program - prairie plants and insects - (40)  
 June 26th: Wildflowers and insects - (2 kids, 4 adults)  
 Education opportunities at the Lake TBD

#### 6.B.2. Upcoming events

July 7-11: NRD Nature Camp  
 July 10th: Nocturnal Night  
 July 17th: Coffee Lakeside  
 Happy Hearts field trip  
 Other Education events

#### 6.B.3. Year in review

Numbers:

- Students: 4,064
- Adults: 317
- Schools:
  - Columbus Lakeview HS

- David City Aquinas MS
- East Butler MS & HS
- North Bend Elementary
- Wahoo Elementary and MS
- St. Wenceslaus Elementary
- **Platte Center Elementary\***
- Newman Grove Elementary
- Fremont MS, Linden Elementary, Archbishop Bergan ECC, **Fremont HS\***
- Ashland Greenwood MS
- **Bishop Neumann MS\***
- **Yutan Highschool Special Education\***
- **Cedar Bluffs Elementary\***
- 1st annual NRD grant - 3 projects awarded
- Presented at:
  - NACD Salt Lake City, UT "Unexpected Partnerships."
  - NACEE Mahoney State Park, NE "Being uncomfortable is more than ok, it's necessary."
- 8 Coffee lakesides
- 7 NRD events
- 2 visits to Wahoo Senior Center

## 7. RURAL WATER SYSTEMS

### 7.A. Colon System

Routine monthly sampling completed, bills mailed 6/30.

### 7.B. Bruno System

The Bruno RWD is due to complete its tri-annual Lead and Copper testing; 5 separate households are required to submit samples. Once completed, each household will receive a report detailing testing results.

A resident contacted the NRD about hooking onto the Bruno RWD; the location of the property was just over one mile away from the transmission main, therefore, the \$3000 "hook-up fee" didn't apply and the customer would be required to pay the difference to connect the residential property to the RWD main. After contacting a couple contractors they decided to go with a domestic well.

The Village of Abie is interested in extending the Bruno RWD to connect with the Village's water system. Elliott has been in contact with the Village water operator and explained what will be needed from the Village to start the process.

Routine monthly sampling completed, bills mailed 6/30.

### 7.C. Other



## **Do you know what's in your well?**

**Annual water quality testing is important for domestic well owners. Invisible contaminants pose a serious risk to your health. Contact LPNDRD to learn about well water testing for your home.**



**LOWER PLATTE NORTH**  
Natural Resources District  
lpnrd.org | 402-443-4675



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**Invisible contaminants pose a serious risk to your health.**

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**LOWER PLATTE NORTH**  
**Natural Resources District**

**lpnnrd.org | 402-443-4675**

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402-443-4675.**



**LOWER PLATTE NORTH  
Natural Resources District**

# VARIANCE REQUESTS

Variance requests for new and expanded irrigated acres in Restricted Development Areas and Non-Hydrologically Connected Areas are due by August 15.

Hydrologically Connected Areas are due by September 15.

For more information visit [lpnrd.org](http://lpnrd.org) or call 402-443-4675.



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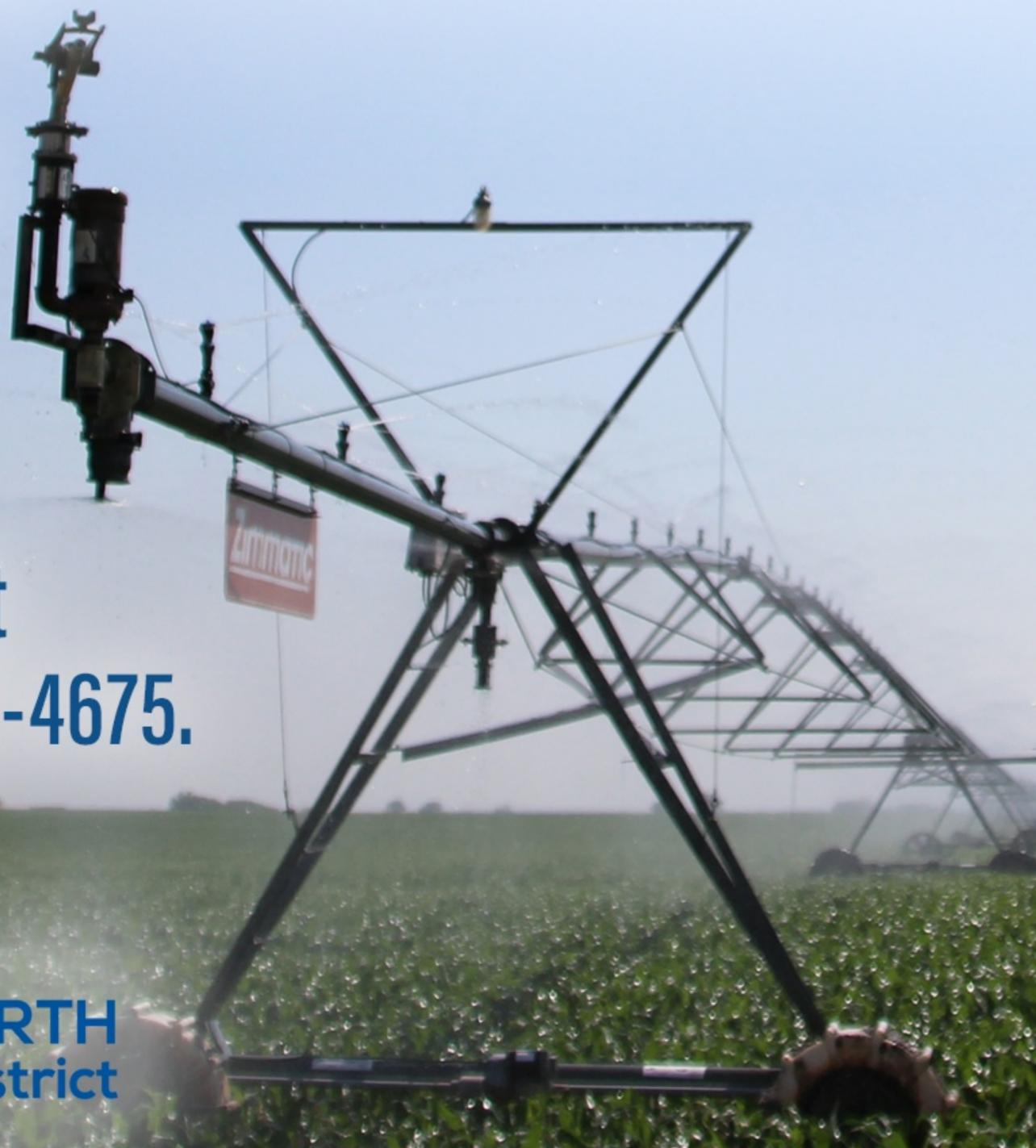
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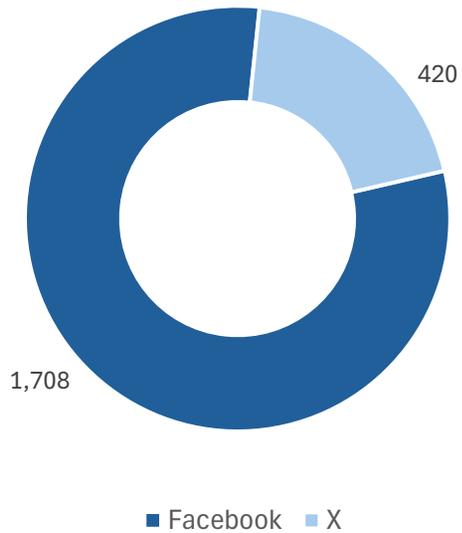
LOWER PLATTE NORTH  
Natural Resources District





# LOWER PLATTE NORTH Natural Resources District

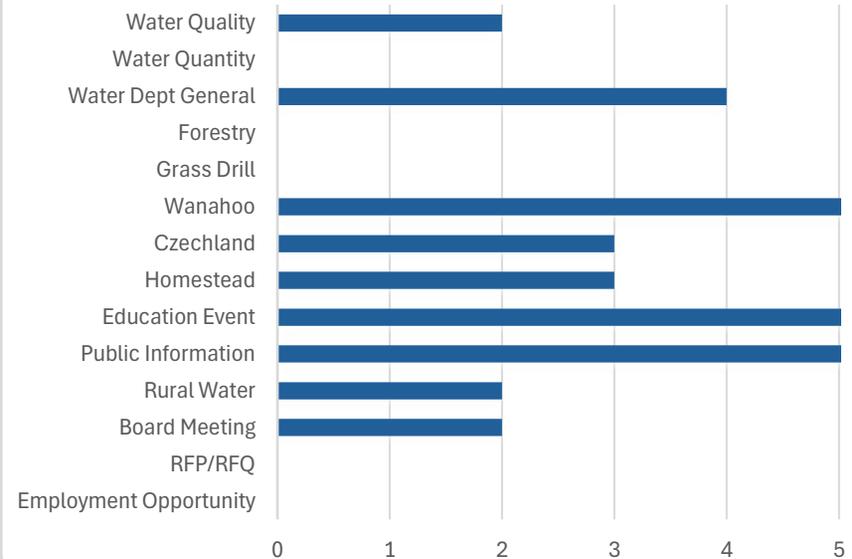
## Social Media Followers



## June Content



## June Post Categories



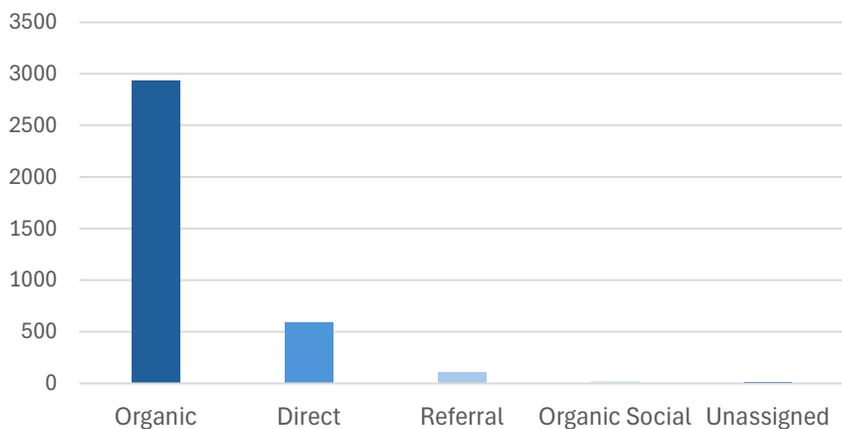
Facebook engagement ↑ 13%

X engagement ↑ 13%



# LOWER PLATTE NORTH Natural Resources District

### Traffic Channels

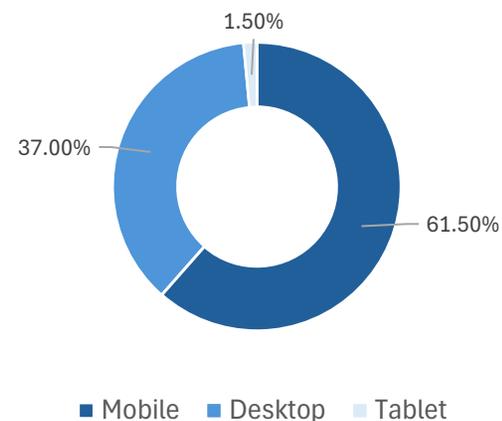


Users

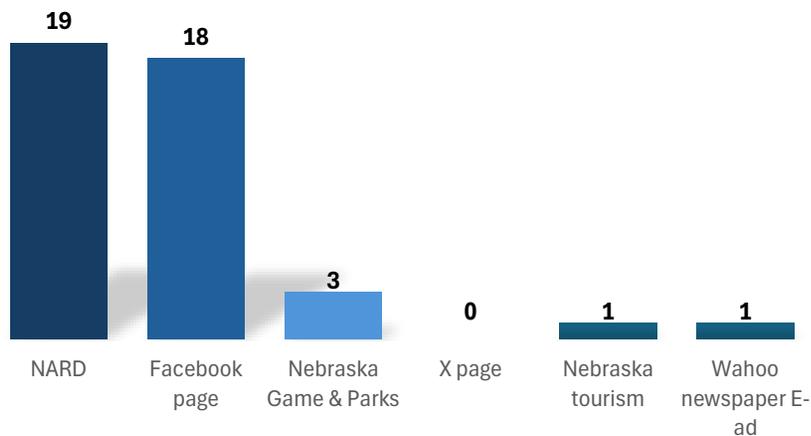


8%

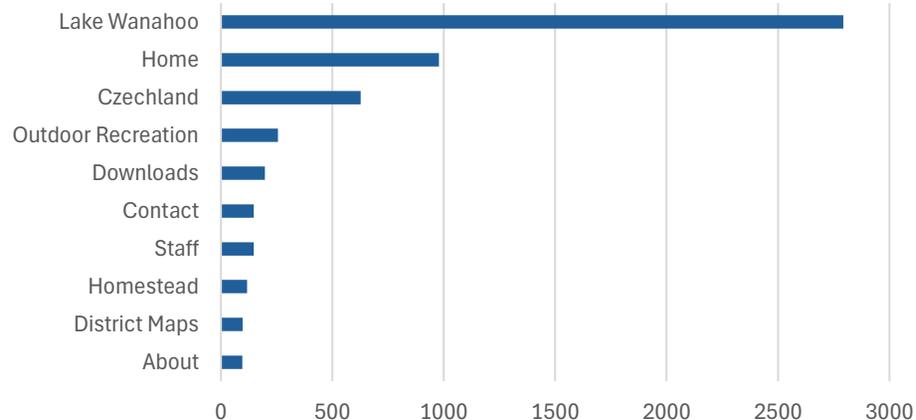
### Devices



### Traffic By Type



### Website Top 10 Pages by Users



# the investment.

## □ Website Edits

\$5,000.00

Deliverable: Edits to the current Lower Platte North NRD website. This includes up to 25 hours of website design or development.

redthread will provide:

- web design (as needed)
- web development (as needed)

You will provide:

- updates to site content once we launch your site

\*\*redthread will perform additional website edits beyond the scoped 25 hours upon request at an hourly rate of \$160 per hour.

## □ Website Rebuild - Good

\$20,000.00

Deliverable: A custom website, built on WebFlow with up to 15 pages.

redthread will provide:

- site strategy and structure outline (2 revision)
- copywriting (1 revision)
- web design (1 revision)
- web development (1 revision)
- meta descriptions & title tags
- 1 training session with your team for site content updates
- domain registration

You will provide:

- updates to site content once we launch your site

\*\*A hosting plan must be selected prior to the launch



# the investment.

## □ Website Rebuild - Better

\$30,000.00

Deliverable: A custom website, built on WebFlow with up to 25 pages.

redthread will provide:

- site strategy and structure outline (2 revisions)
- copywriting (1 revision)
- web design (1 revision)
- web development (2 revisions)
- meta descriptions & title tags
- 1 training session with your team for site content updates
- domain registration

You will provide:

- updates to site content once we launch your site

\*\*A hosting plan must be selected prior to the launch

## □ Website Rebuild - Best

\$50,000.00

Deliverable: A custom website, built on WebFlow with up to 45 pages.

redthread will provide:

- site strategy and structure outline (2 revisions)
- copywriting (1 revision)
- web design (2 revisions)
- web development (2 revisions)
- meta descriptions & title tags
- 1 training session with your team for site content updates
- domain registration

You will provide:

- updates to site content once we launch your site

\*\*A hosting plan must be selected prior to the launch



**2025 NARD Conservation Award Nomination  
Director of the Year**

**Nominee: Mark Seier**  
(402) 860-0504

**Nominating NRD: Lower Platte North NRD**  
PO Box 126  
Wahoo, NE 68066  
(402) 443-4675

**The Lower Platte North NRD wishes to nominate Mark Seier for the NARD Conservation Award – Director of the Year.**

For nearly five decades, Mark Seier served as an exemplary educator and natural resources professional in the Newman Grove community, leaving a legacy as a role model for countless students. Following his retirement from teaching, his contributions to the community and environmental stewardship remain significant.

As a teacher at Newman Grove, Mark has played a significant role in the Shell Creek Watershed Monitoring Program since its start in 2002. The Shell Creek Watershed covers almost 110 miles, running through five counties in Nebraska, and drains approximately 304,873 acres of surrounding farmland. Erosion and flooding have drastically affected the watershed. The Shell Creek Watershed Monitoring Program was created as an educational component to improve public awareness. The high school and a few middle school students take time out of their busy schedules to collect water samples and measurements throughout the year, analyze the data, and report the results to determine water quality in the stream. Mark has voluntarily coordinated with students, teachers, administrators, and parents from Newman Grove, Schuyler Central High School, and Lakeview High School to continue this program to provide data from Northwest of Newmann Grove to Southeast of Schuyler, covering nearly all parts of Shell Creek.

Mr. Seier dedicated countless hours to prepare students for rigorous presentations of their findings to community stakeholders, the Lower Platte North NRD board, and state and national audiences. He fostered teamwork, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills, providing students with invaluable hands-on experience and a tangible understanding of their potential impact to the world around them right in their backyard. He genuinely cares about the students and encourages discoveries that provide a good foundation for future careers. The students are provided with the opportunity to experience first-hand right in the water how they can strive to make a lasting impact on their community. Over the past 22 years of helping with program, Mr. Seier has made such an impact on his students that many of them chose to pursue a science-related career after they participated in the watershed monitoring program.

His dedication contributed to a landmark achievement in 2019 – the first-ever removal of a creek from the EPA's Impaired Waters list. His assistance with the Shell Creek Watershed Monitoring Program and as a member of the Lower Platte North NRD board helped reduce the atrazine in the Shell Creek.

Beyond his dedicated work with Shell Creek, Mark Seier has demonstrated a profound commitment to conservation and education as a director of the Lower Platte North Natural

Resources District (LPNNRD) since 2015. Regularly undertaking a substantial hour-and-a-half commute across the district, Mr. Seier actively participates in critical decision-making processes, including monthly committee and board meetings.

As a member of the operations committee, Mr. Seier has been instrumental in advocating for and supporting projects that enhance water quality and quantity within the LPNNRD; contributing to decisions regarding soil health and erosion control; participating in discussions regarding flood mitigation strategies and watershed management, crucial for protecting communities and wildlife habitats; and promoting educational outreach programs that increase public awareness of natural resource issues and promote responsible stewardship.

Mr. Seier's visionary approach to integrating conservation and education, and his steadfast commitment to conservation establishes a strong foundation for future stewardship within the LPNNRD.