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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**LCNRD and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources hosting public meeting in Hartington**

On July 6th at 6:00 PM the Lewis and Clark Natural Resources District (LCNRD) and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will be hosting a public meeting at the VFW in Hartington. The meeting is being held to inform the public about the Integrated water Management Plan (IMP) the agencies have developed to protect groundwater and surface water for the eastern half of Knox County and the northern portions of Cedar and Dixon Counties. The draft IMP is available for review on-line at [www.lcnrd.org](http://www.lcnrd.org), or at the office of the Lewis and Clark NRD in Hartington.

The overarching purpose of this draft IMP is to provide a framework for joint management of groundwater and surface water resources to ensure the long term availability of both resources, so that existing users are protected.

A stakeholder group with diverse interests was consulted during the preparation of the draft IMP. Stakeholder interests included ground and surface water irrigators, water recreation, rural electric, and municipalities. Four joint stakeholder meetings were held between March, 2015 and November, 2015 to discuss water concerns and regulations, and to identify potential solutions. The stakeholder input was invaluable to the process and was used to develop Goals, Objectives, and Action Items which are incorporated into the draft IMP, providing a basis for more effective management of ground and surface water.

The informational meeting provides the LCNRD and DNR an opportunity to present the draft IMP to District residents and other interested parties, and to solicit comments and opinions from the public regarding the plan. About a month after the public informational meeting, a formal public hearing will be conducted where the public can provide testimony with regard to the IMP. Notice of the public hearing will be published in local newspapers and posted on the LCNRD and DNR websites for three consecutive weeks prior to the hearing.

If you would like more information regarding the joint LCNRD and NeDNR IMP please contact the Lewis and Clark NRD at 402-254-6758 or Amy Zoller with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources at 402-471-0625.

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