

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
RELATING TO THE LITTLE BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT AND THE
NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
VOLUNTARY INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT PLAN

Pursuant to *Neb. Rev. Stat.* § 46-718, the Little Blue Natural Resources District (NRD) and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NeDNR) hereby provide notice that the Little Blue NRD and the NeDNR shall hold a public hearing on June 13, 2019, at 6:00 pm at the Little Blue NRD offices at 100 E. 6th Street, Davenport, Nebraska. As required by *Neb. Rev. Stat.* § 46-718(1), the purpose of the hearing is to take testimony on the proposed jointly developed Little Blue NRD and NeDNR voluntary Integrated Management Plan (IMP) and the proposed groundwater and surface water controls. The geographic area for the proposed voluntary IMP encompasses the entire land area within the Little Blue NRD boundary, as well as a special management area within the Platte River Basin portion of the Little Blue NRD. The outlined contents and chapters of the proposed voluntary IMP are: 1. Authority and Effective Date, 2. Introduction, 3. Legislative background, 4. Public participation, 5. Geography and physical description, 6. Goals, objectives and action items, 7. Integrated Management Plan controls, 8. The Platte River Special Management Area, 9. Monitoring plan, 10. Funding options, 11. Information considered, and 12. Review process and modifications, and Appendices.

Chapter 7 of the voluntary IMP describes the proposed control for groundwater management and proposed controls for surface water management which apply to the entire geographic area of the Little Blue NRD, a map of which is provided in Chapter 5. The groundwater control is: A District-wide mandatory annual reporting of groundwater withdrawals by all high-capacity (greater than 50 gallons per minute) groundwater users. The proposed surface water controls to be implemented by NeDNR are: 1. Continue to assess surface water irrigation appropriations in the Little Blue Basin, investigate their use, and initiate an adjudication process through preliminary determinations of non-use, 2. Continue to enforce Nebraska Statutes and Department Rules and Regulations, as these pertain to surface water appropriations, 3. Evaluate proposed transfers of surface water appropriations, in accordance with Nebraska Statutes and Department Rules and

Regulations, 4. Require metered measuring devices on all new high capacity (greater than 50 gallons per minute) surface water irrigation uses. All measuring devices shall meet NeDNR standards for installation, accuracy, and maintenance, and 5. Institute mandatory reporting for all high-capacity (greater than 50 gallons per minute) surface water irrigation uses when a water availability trigger is met. The trigger is 24 average days of closure for surface water administration, between the period of July 1 and August 31. The average days of closure will be calculated using past 20-years of records for surface water administration. NeDNR reserves the right to institute mandatory reporting prior to the trigger being met, if deemed appropriate.

Chapter 8 of the voluntary IMP describes the proposed controls for groundwater management and proposed controls for surface water management which apply to the Platte River Special Management Area of the Little Blue NRD, a map of which can be found in Chapter 5 of the voluntary IMP. The groundwater controls for the Platte River Special Management Area are 1. A stay on the issuance of new high-capacity water well construction permits and on any new and expanded use of groundwater, 2. Certification of groundwater use, 3. Variances for new groundwater uses or modification to certified acres, 4. Required permits for groundwater irrigation, and 5. Tracking and reporting of the Village of Prosser's population. The surface water controls for the Platte River Special Management Area are 1. Moratorium on new surface water uses, and 2. Variances for new surface water appropriations.

Any interested person may appear at the public hearing and present written or oral testimony concerning the proposed voluntary IMP and proposed groundwater and surface water controls. Written testimony may also be submitted in advance to the Little Blue NRD, 100 East 6th Street, P.O. Box 100, Davenport, NE 68335, attention Kyle Hauschild, or the Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 94676, Lincoln NE 68509-4676, attention Amy Zoller, or by electronic mail at khauschild@littlebluenrd.org or amy.zoller@nebraska.gov. Advance written testimony must be received by 5 pm, June 12, 2019 to be considered.

Individuals with disabilities may request auxiliary aids and service necessary for participation by contacting the Mandy Klipp, Little Blue NRD at (402) 364-2145 by 5 pm Friday, June 7, 2019.

The full text of the proposed voluntary IMP and proposed controls may be obtained via the Little Blue's NRD's website at <https://www.littlebluenrd.org/> or telephone at (402) 364-2145 or the NeDNR's website at: <https://dnr.nebraska.gov> or telephone at (402) 471-2363. Within 60 days after the public hearing, the Little Blue NRD and the NeDNR will make a joint decision whether to implement the proposed voluntary IMP with or without modifications and whether to adopt and implement the controls proposed in the voluntary IMP.