



## **Nebraska Wellhead Protection Network**

Groundwater Education Legislative Breakfast  
Thursday January 10th, 2019 8:00-9:30 am  
Ferguson House (700 South 16th Street), Lincoln, Nebraska

### **Present:**

Jane Griffin – The Groundwater Foundation (TGF), Ryan Chapman – Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ), Steve Mossman – Mattson Ricketts Law Firm, Marty Link – NDEQ, Carla McCullough – NDEQ, Craig Romary – Nebraska Department of Agriculture, Jennifer Swanson – NDEQ, Mark Brohman – Nebraska Environmental Trust, Sam Radford – NDEQ, Shelley Schneider – NDEQ, Sue Dempsey – Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NDHHS), Jim Bunstock – NDEQ, Carla Felix – NDEQ, Steve Goans – NDEQ, Laura Johnson – NDEQ, Tara Sampson – NDEQ, Janece Mollhoff – Omaha Public Power District, Sara Brock – TGF, Dave Miesbach – NDEQ, Lindsay Phillips – NDEQ

Senator John McCollister – District 20, Dan McCollister – District 20, Senator Robert Hilkemann – District 4, Senator Rick Kolowski – District 31, Senator Curt Friesen – District 34, Senator Steve Erdman – District 47, Senator Bruce Bostelman – District 17, Senator Julie Slama – District 1, Elizabeth Todsen – Staff District 41, Alex Delarma – Staff District 41, Senator Myron Dorn – District 30, Senator John Lowe – District 37

### **Meeting Summary:**

The Nebraska Wellhead Protection Network Groundwater Education Legislative Breakfast took place at the Ferguson House on Thursday, January 10th from 8:00 am to 9:30 am. The meeting was an opportunity for senators and their staff to learn about and discuss wellhead protection and groundwater issues in Nebraska with WHPN members. Refreshments and pastries were provided by Nebraska Association of Resource Districts. At 8:15 Carla McCullough, 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Coordinator with the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, gave a brief talk. The primary focus of her talk was the opportunities provided by NDEQ to equip municipalities, water operators, and producers with the resources they need to protect groundwater. McCullough shared updates about the Source Water Programs in place to protect drinking water, the voluntary adoption of best management practices (BMPs) by farmers and producers, and the innovative use of 319 federal funding to address nitrate pollution and groundwater quality. Additionally, McCullough shared about the Testing Ag Performance

Solutions (TAPS) competition which encourages scientists, producers, industry people, agriculture students, government regulators, and agency personnel to promote efficiency and profitability in farming practices. Competitors aim to maximize efficiency and yield and profitability by managing an area of cropland through a growing season. Using their own recommended BMPs, NDEQ was the 2018 winner of the most profitable farm.

Folders containing prints of the poster displays and information on water protection programs and resources from NDEQ and the Groundwater Foundation were provided for every senator.