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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Water Project to Hold Open House Meeting

Water is Nebraska's most precious resource, second only to our people. It is critical to provide safe drinking water to our northeast Nebraska residents and to protect both the quality and quantity of water. It is not only critical to the viability of our communities but also key to our number one industry, agriculture.

The Lewis & Clark Natural Resources District (LCNRD) is dedicated to serving the people and enhancing the natural resources of northeast Nebraska. One of the many public services provided by LCNRD is the Cedar Knox Rural Water Project (CKRWP) which provides drinking water to 7000 people. The current system is over 40 years old, is costly to operate and will not allow for future growth. Several years ago, the Board began working with an engineering firm to identify alternatives to the current aging system and evaluating short-term and long-term costs.

Several studies have been completed related to developing a groundwater source in Dolphin Township and in the Aten area. In addition, the Board has looked at the feasibility of hooking into Yankton, SD's water system and considered several other options.

On March 8th, a public hearing was held pertaining to the CKRWP plans and to share the options being considered. The Board was pleased to present its findings, associated costs and to receive public input. We thank those who took the time to participate and are grateful for the public input we have received. Based on feedback and ongoing work, the LCNRD is updating the preliminary engineering reports to reflect current pricing for each of the options for supplying an alternative water source. The NRD is working carefully to ensure the right path is pursued. For those who have expressed concerns about locating a wellfield in an area with high nitrates or insufficient quantities, know that the Board's priority is to ensure there is safe drinking water and that any solution will not adversely impact our neighbors.

Upcoming activities for the project include additional investigation to evaluate the potential impact in the Dolphin area in mid-May. There will be an open house meeting held on May 24th from 5 to 7 pm at the Crofton City Auditorium. The open house meeting will provide an opportunity for interested parties to learn more about the overall project needs, groundwater evaluations completed to date, and other options reviewed to identify a source for CKRWP. Project engineers from Bartlett & West Co. and LRE Water, UNL-CSD Hydrogeologist, Susan Olafsen-Lackey and staff from CKRWP and LCNRD will be available to discuss the project and address questions.

For more details contact the Cedar Knox Rural Water Project at 402-254-6758 or lcnrld@hartel.net .

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