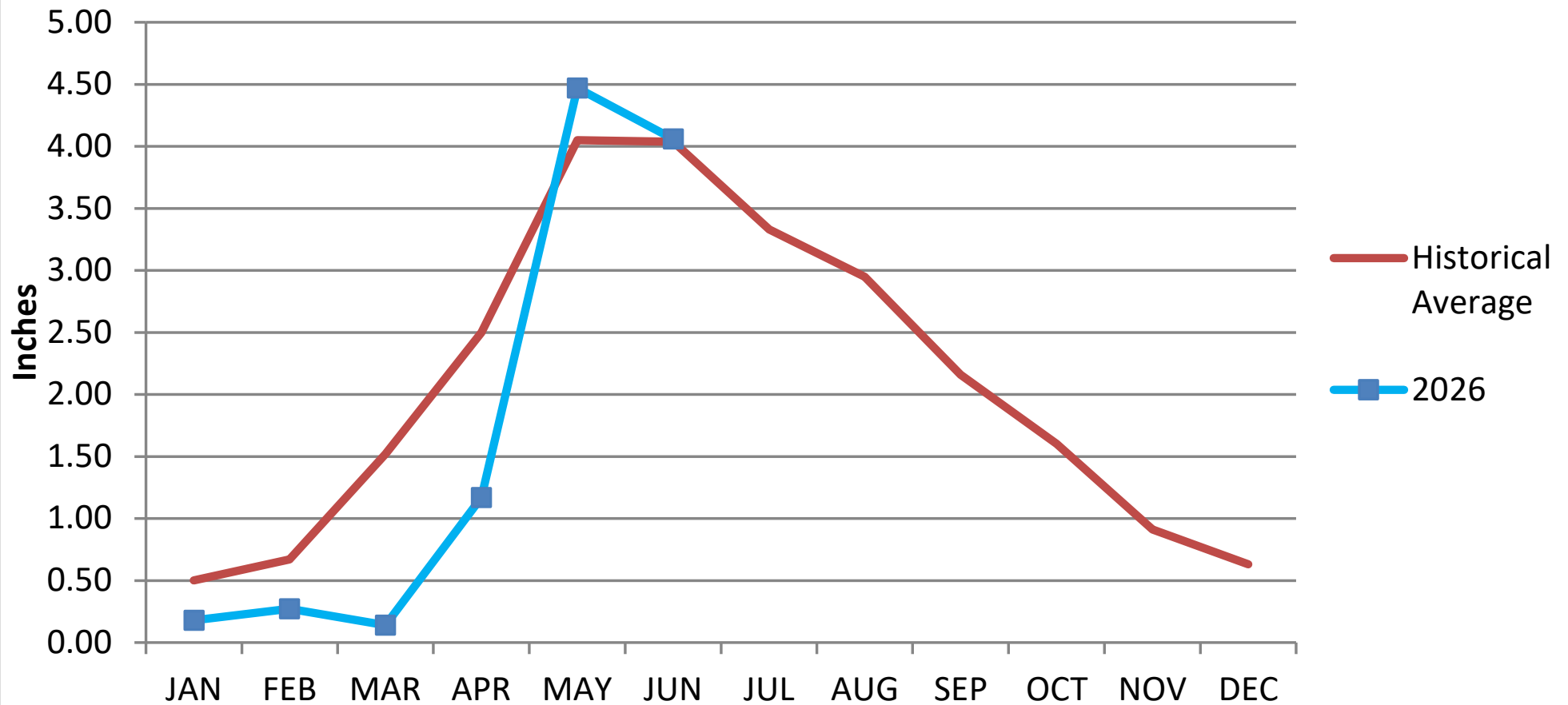


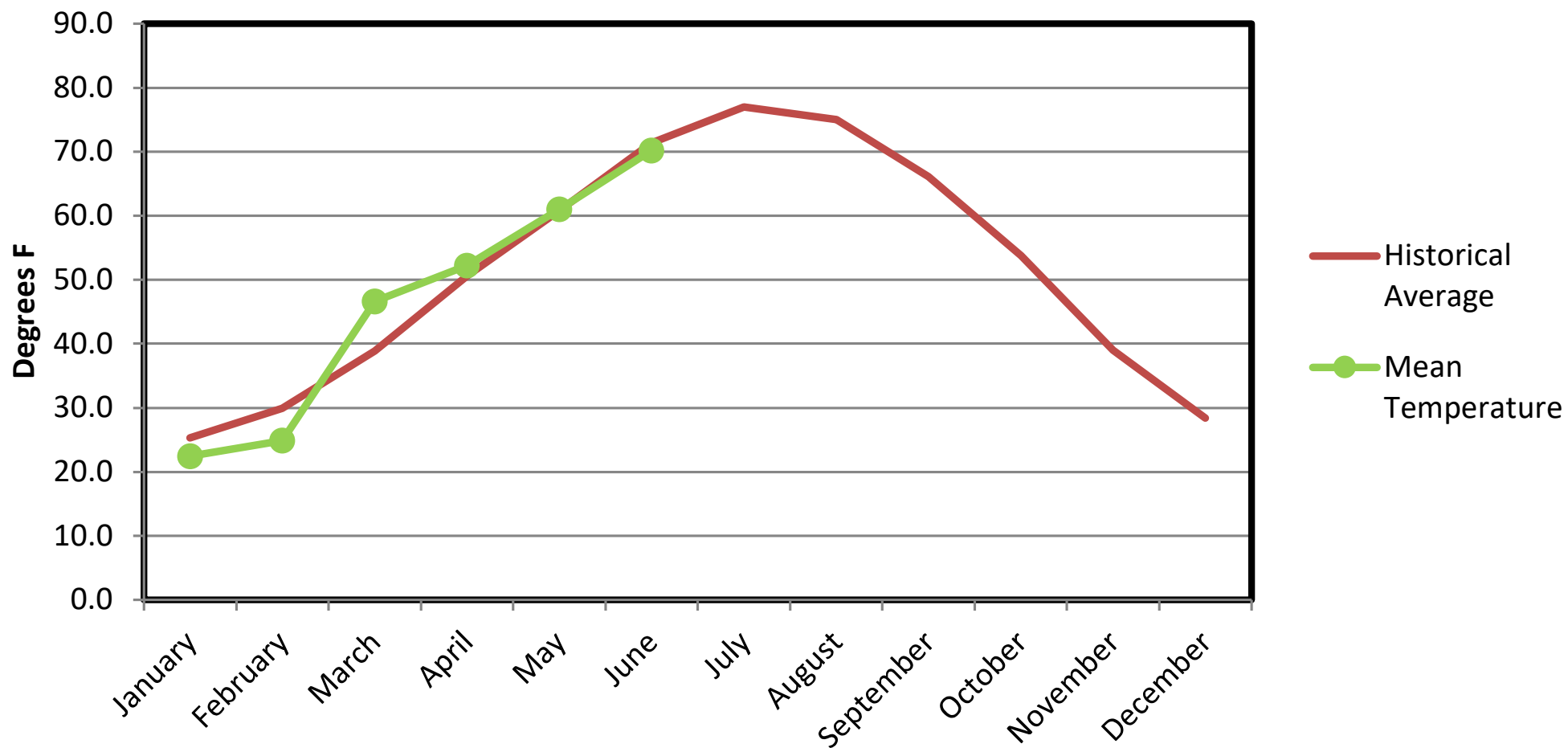
Tri-Basin NRD

Holdrege Monthly Precipitation - 2026



Tri-Basin NRD

Holdrege Monthly Mean Temperature - 2026



Tri-Basin NRD
1723 Burlington
Holdrege, NE 68949



Phone: (308) 995-6688
Fax: (308) 995-6992
Email: tribasin@tribasinnrd.org

Natural Resources District

June 2026 - Holdrege

Temperature: (°F)

- * High: 95° (Recorded June 9)
- * Low: 47° (Recorded June 15, 16 & 17)
- * Mean: 70.2° (Normal for June 71.5°)
 - Mean High: 80.9° (Normal: 84.6°)
 - Mean Low: 59.5° (Normal: 58.4°)

NOTES

Precipitation for June 2026: 4.03"

(Normal for June: 4.01")

Precipitation for the year through June: 10.29"

(Normal for the year through June: 8.96")

NOTES: Rain noted 11 days
Thunder noted 1 day
Fog noted 1 day
Trace noted 1 day

June 2025

Temperature:

High: 88°
Low: 37°
Mean: 59.9°

Precipitation:

For the month: 1.74"
For the year: 4.85"

STATION (Climatological) Minden		(River Station, if different)		MONTH Jun 2026		WS FORM B-91 (03-09)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE																			
STATE NE		COUNTY Kearney		RIVER		RECORD OF RIVER AND CLIMATOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS																					
TIME (local) OF OBSERVATION RIVER		TEMPERATURE 08:30		PRECIPITATION 08:30						STANDARD TIME IN USE																	
TYPE OF RIVER GAGE		ELEVATION OF RIVER GAGE ZERO		FLOOD STAGE		NORMAL POOL STAGE																					
DATE	TEMPERATURE			PRECIPITATION											WEATHER (Observation Day)						RIVER STAGE			REMARKS (SPECIAL OBSERVATIONS, ETC.)			
	24 HRS ENDING AT OBSN			24 HR AMOUNTS Rain, melted snow etc. (in and hundredths) Snow, ice pellets, hail (fine and tenth) Show, ice pellets, hail ice on ground (in)			Draw a straight line (—) through hours precipitation was observed, and a wavy line (~~~~) through hours precipitation probably occurred unobserved											Mark 'X' for all types occurring each day							Time of occurrence if different from above Condition Gage reading at — AM Tendency		
	MAX MIN						A.M. NOON P.M.											Fog Ice pellets Glaze Thunder Hail Damaging winds									
1 83 57 68			0.00 0.0 0			1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11											X										
2 85 61 64			M 0.0 0			~~~~~																					
3 81 62 69			1.52 0.0 0			~~~~~																					
4 80 61 63			1.10 0.0 0			~~~~~																					
5 76 61 63			0.00 0.0 0														X										
6 82 63 67			0.00 0.0 0																								
7 85 67 68			0.00 0.0 0																								
8 82 63 75			0.00 0.0 0																								
9 86 63 72			0.00 0.0 0																								
10 93 63 67			0.65 0.0 0																				X				
11 88 62 68			0.50 0.0 0			~~~~~																					
12 77 52 69			0.00 0.0 0			1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11																					
13 82 66 69			0.05 0.0 0																								
14 78 48 52			0.00 0.0 0																								
15 74 47 M			0.00 0.0 0																								
16 80 52 63			0.00 0.0 0																								
17 83 63 72			0.00 0.0 0																								
18 84 58 67			0.00 0.0 0																								
19 77 52 70			0.00 0.0 0																								
20 73 58 60			0.13 0.0 0																								
21 71 59 61			0.03 0.0 0																								
22 68 56 61			0.01 0.0 0			1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11																					
23 74 58 60			0.00 0.0 0																								
24 74 60 67			0.48 0.0 0																								
25 80 60 62			0.20 0.0 0																								
26 69 58 62			0.22 0.0 0																								
27 77 62 64			0.00 0.0 0																								
28 84 64 76			0.00 0.0 0																								
29 93 74 80			0.00 0.0 0																								
30 94 66 72			0.00 0.0 0																								
31																											
80.4 59.9 SUM			4.89			CHECK BAR (for wire weight) NORMAL CHECK BAR											Fog Ice pel Glaze Thund Hail Dam winds										
CONDITION OF RIVER AT GAGE						READING											DATE						OBSERVER				
A. Obstructed by rough ice			E. Ice gorge below gage																								
B. Frozen, but open at gage			F. Shore ice																								
C. Upper surface smooth ice			G. Floating ice																								
D. Ice gorge above gage			H. Pool stage																								
																							SUPERVISING OFFICE GID Hastings				
																							STATION INDEX NO. 25-5565-08				

[illegible]

[illegible]

STATION (Climatological) Elwood 8S		(River Station, if different)		MONTH May 2026		WS FORM B-91 (03-09)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE	
STATE NE		COUNTY Gosper		RIVER					
TIME (local) OF OBSERVATION RIVER		TEMPERATURE 08:00		PRECIPITATION 08:00		STANDARD TIME IN USE			
TYPE OF RIVER GAGE		ELEVATION OF RIVER GAGE ZERO		FLOOD STAGE		NORMAL POOL STAGE			
TEMPERATURE		PRECIPITATION		WEATHER (Observation Day)		RIVER STAGE		REMARKS (SPECIAL OBSERVATIONS, ETC.)	
24 HRS ENDING AT OBSERVATION		24 HR AMOUNTS Rain, melted snow, etc. (in and hundredths) Snow, ice pellets, hail (ins and tenths) Snow, ice pellets, hail on ice on ground (in)		Draw a straight line (—) through hours precipitation was observed, and a wavy line (~~~~) through hours precipitation probably occurred unobserved		Mark 'X' for all types occurring each day			
AT OBSN				A.M. NOON P.M.		Fog Ice pellets Glaze Thunder Hail Damaging winds		Condition Gage reading at Tendency	
MAX MIN				1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11				___ AM	
1		0.00 0.0 0							
2		0.00 0.0 0						A calm, mostly clear 24 hours.	
3		0.00 0.0 0							
4		0.00 0.0 0						A mostly calm, with a few wind gusts, clear 24 ho	
5		0.04 0.0 0							
6		0.10 0.0 0							
7		0.00 0.0 0							
8		0.00 0.0 0						CLEAR & 37 DEGREES @ 8:00 A.M.	
9		0.00 0.0 0						A MOSTLY CLEAR, CALM 24 HOURS.	
10		0.00 0.0 0							
11		0.00 0.0 0							
12		0.00 0.0 0		1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11					
13		0.00 0.0 0							
14		0.00 0.0 0							
15		0.00 0.0 0						WIND & DRY WEATHER CONTINUE,	
16		0.00 0.0 0						GUSTING WIND AGAIN YESTERDAY	
17		0.37 0.0 0							
18		0.00 0.0 0						WIND TO A GUESSTIMATE OF 25+ MPH AT OBSERVATION.	
19		T 0.0 0							
20		T 0.0 0							
21		0.08 0.0 0						WE'RE GETTING A FEW SPRINKLES.	
22		1.05 0.0 0		1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11				THUNDER & LIGHTNING @ 3:00 A.M. THE RAIN PRE	
23		0.00 0.0 0							
24		0.03 0.0 0							
25		0.00 0.0 0							
26		0.00 0.0 0							
27		0.00 0.0 0						STRONG WIND YESTERDAY. GUESSTIMATE OF 30 MPH.	
28		0.00 0.0 0							
29		0.20 0.0 0						LIGHT RAIN ALL AFTERNOON YESTERDAY.	
30		0.83 0.0 0						STRONG LIGHTNING WITH THE RAIN.	
31		0.70 0.0 0						WIND GUESSTIMATE OF 40+ MPH. LARGE TREE DOWN, I	
SUM		3.40		CHECK BAR (for wire weight) NORMAL CHECK BAR					
CONDITION OF RIVER AT GAGE		READING		DATE		Fog Ice pellets Glaze Thunder Hail Damaging winds		OBSERVER	
A. Obstructed by rough ice		E. Ice gorge below gage						Closed by Charlene Nott (ELWN1) on 19 Jun 2026 08:08AM	
B. Frozen, but open at gage		F. Shore ice						SUPERVISING OFFICE	
C. Upper surface smooth ice		G. Floating ice						GID Hastings	
D. Ice gorge above gage		H. Pool stage						STATION INDEX NO.	
								25-2690-08	

[illegible]

Third Quarter 2026 Grand Island Stream Gauge Data

	July Act	July Tar	Well Run	Aug Act	Aug Tar	Well Run	Sept Act	Sept Tar	Well Run
1	3.81	800			800			800	
2	3.57	800			800			800	
3	3.45	800			800			800	
4	3.36	800			800			800	
5	3.34	800			800			800	
6	3.3	800			800			800	
7	3.26	800			800			800	
8	3..32	800			800			800	
9	3.46	800			800			800	
10	3.33	800			800			800	
11	3.32	800			800			800	
12	3.28	800			800			800	
13	3.25	800			800			800	
14	81.5	800			800			800	
15	57.3	800			800			800	
16		800			800			600	
17		800			800			600	
18		800			800			600	
19		800			800			600	
20		800			800			600	
21		800			800			600	
22		800			800			600	
23		800			800			600	
24		800			800			600	
25		800			800			600	
26		800			800			600	
27		800			800			600	
28		800			800			600	
29		800			800			600	
30		800			800			600	
31		800			800				

Third Quarter 2026 Overton Stream Gauge Data

	July Act	July Tar	Well Rur	Aug Act	Aug Tar	Well Rur	Sept Act	Sept Tar	Well Run
1	214	800			800			800	
2	199	800			800			800	
3	151	800			800			800	
4	199	800			800			800	
5	199	800			800			800	
6	1130	800			800			800	
7	231	800			800			800	
8	123	800			800			800	
9	113	800			800			800	
10	2.62	800			800			800	
11	2.2	800			800			800	
12	2.82	800			800			800	
13	2.56	800			800			800	
14	85.5	800			800			800	
15	57.3	800			800			800	
16		800			800			600	
17		800			800			600	
18		800			800			600	
19		800			800			600	
20		800			800			600	
21		800			800			600	
22		800			800			600	
23		800			800			600	
24		800			800			600	
25		800			800			600	
26		800			800			600	
27		800			800			600	
28		800			800			600	
29		800			800			600	
30		800			800			600	
31		800			800				



Natural Resources District

1723 Burlington
Holdrege, NE 68949
308. 995.6688
FAX 308.995.6992
tribasin@tribasinrdr.org

General Manager
JOHN THORBURN

June 30, 2026

Chairman
TODD GARRELS
Holdrege, Nebraska

AMGL CPAs
1203 W. 2nd St.
Grand Island NE 68802

Vice Chairman
JOE BILKA
Holdrege, Nebraska

Dear Kyle:

Treasurer
JEFF RYAN
Heartwell, Nebraska

We have engaged Core CPAs to audit our financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2026. In connection with their audit, they would like to make inquiries of you and examine your workpapers for the audit of our financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2025. You are hereby authorized to respond to their requests fully and without limitation.

Secretary
ROB HINRICHS
Axtell, Nebraska

Please allow our auditors to copy any information needed from files related to our financial statements and related matters that they request, unless deemed proprietary. We will reimburse you for the reproduction costs.

BRIAN BERGSTROM
Axtell, Nebraska

We have represented to our auditors that we have paid in full for all services rendered by you to date and that we are not involved with your firm in any disputes about auditing procedures, accounting principles, or similarly significant items. Jake Klabenes of Core CPAs will contact you directly to schedule the review.

JOEL GRAMS
Minden, Nebraska

DAVID GRIMES
Minden, Nebraska

Respectfully,

ED HARRIS
Loomis, Nebraska

(Officer's Authorized Signature and Title)

JOE LARSON
Loomis, Nebraska

John Thorburn
Tri-Basin Natural Resources District

BRAD LUNDEEN
Wilcox, Nebraska

G. REED PHILIPS
Bertrand, Nebraska

LARRY REYNOLDS
Lexington, Nebraska

ANDREW STADE
Minden, Nebraska

**PRRIP
ELWOOD OUTLET FEASIBILITY STUDY – PHASE 2
PLUM CREEK PROPERTY OWNER MEETING NOTES**

Project: Elwood Outlet Design – Phase 2
Meeting Location: Elwood American Legion Hall
Meeting Date/Time: June 18, 2026, 1:30 – 3:00pm

MEETING PURPOSE:

To discuss the effort underway by the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (PRRIP) to release storage water from Elwood Reservoir to Plum Creek and into the Platte River to increase flows during periods of shortage. The Elwood Outlet Design – Phase 2 features a detailed stream assessment to examine channel capacity, stability, and erosion risk. The objective of the meeting was to address areas of concern to landowners and receive feedback.

ATTENDEES:

There was a total of 24 property owners, two from the PRRIP (one virtually), two from the Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District, two from Tri-Basin Natural Resources District, and one from Spheros Environmental.

MEETING NOTES:

- John Thornburn (Tri-Basin NRD) and Jason Farnsworth (PRRIP) provided the group with an introduction on the overall goals of the PRRIP and partnership role of the Tri-Basin NRD in working with property owners to gain access to Plum Creek.
 - There were several questions from property owners about how the PRRIP operates, how they interact with CNPPID, how they were formed, funded, and operated.
- Jon Mohr (Spheros) explained two posters with project information, talked through the scope, and shared several images of the study area, images of Plum Creek showing 12 cfs baseflow with estimated heights of water at 50 and 100 cfs based upon the flood flow model, and an image of a typical agricultural crossing.
- A question was asked about seepage, and the baseflow to Plum Creek after Elwood Reservoir was constructed. Some expressed concerns about meadows that are now wet, which present a danger to livestock.
- Someone asked about how much faster flow in the stream would be during the releases as compared to the 12cfs baseflow.
- A question was raised on the increase in height if the maximum of 100 cfs was released. Seth Turner (PRRIP) estimated between 2.5 to 3.5 feet based upon gage data.
- Someone raised concerns about new ag crossings causing water to back up and cause flooding. Jon M explained that the design of the crossing would allow for overtopping without adverse impacts. Jason explained that the PRRIP wouldn't proceed with a project that would cause major flooding issues.
- A discussion was held on how increased flow may affect irrigators. It was explained that with an increase in water height of around 3 feet most existing operations, using a basket and pump or

**Platte River Recovery Implementation Program
Elwood Outlet Feasibility Study – Phase 2 Project Summary
June 2026**

OVERALL PROJECT GOAL

The Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (Program) is implementing a Water Action Plan to reduce flow deficits that affect threatened and endangered species along the Platte River between Lexington and Chapman, NE. One option under evaluation would temporarily store excess Platte River flows in Elwood Reservoir and release that water during periods of shortage. Conceptual designs for a new outlet structure (not yet built) were completed in Phase 1 of the Elwood Outlet Feasibility Study (2025). Water from the outlet would enter Plum Creek and flow downstream to the Platte River (see back page).

PHASE 2 – PLUM CREEK STREAM ASSESSMENT

Current baseflow in Plum Creek is typically 10–12 cfs downstream from Elwood Reservoir. Phase 2 of the Elwood Outlet Feasibility Study will evaluate how Plum Creek would handle managed releases of up to 100 cfs, plus existing baseflow, for a maximum flow of about 112 cfs. The assessment examines channel capacity, stability, and erosion risk, and identifies where improvements may be needed to safely convey these flows. A key focus is upgrading agricultural crossings to ensure they can reliably pass the augmented flows while supporting ongoing farm operations. Tri-Basin NRD, a project partner, plans to request landowners' permission for contractors to access Plum Creek in July to complete field surveys.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU AS A LANDOWNER

- No outlet currently exists; the project is still in the feasibility assessment and preliminary design phase.
- Tri-Basin NRD may request temporary access for field crews to collect stream and soils data by hand and to photograph or survey existing crossings.
- The study will evaluate potential impacts to the creek from adding up to an additional 100 cfs during managed releases.
- Agricultural crossings would be improved, not removed—upgrades would be designed to be cattle friendly, safely pass higher flows and to reduce future maintenance issues.
- The goal is to minimize impacts on farming operations, infrastructure, and the riparian corridor while improving long-term stream function.
- No construction decisions have been made; Phase 2 is strictly assessment and concept-level design.

City of Minden

P.O. Box 239, 325 N. Colorado
Minden, Nebraska 68959

phone 308.832.1820
fax 308.832.1949
www.MindenNebraska.org



Annual Report--Redevelopment Projects June 17th, 2026

Nebraska State Statute: Section 18-2117.02 Annual Report

(1) The total number of redevelopment projects within the city that have been financed in whole or in part through the division of taxes as provided in section 18-2147;

Project 1	Lempka Addition
Project 2	Isaacson Tract 27
Project 3	Lempka Addition Project 2
Project 4	Lempka Addition Project 3
Project 5	Dinkler Properties, LLC
Project 6	H&R, L.L.C
Project 7	Zu Haus Flats
Project 8	Lempka Addition Project 4
Project 9	Lempka Addition Project 5
Project 10	Lempka Addition Project 6

(2) The total estimated project costs for all such redevelopment projects;

Project 1	\$600,000
Project 2	\$350,000
Project 3	\$450,000
Project 4	\$475,000
Project 5	\$500,000
Project 6	\$1,200,000
Project 7	\$1,300,000
Project 8	\$500,000
Project 9	\$500,000
Project 10	\$500,000



City of Minden

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(4) The number of such redevelopment projects for which financing has been paid in full during the previous calendar year or has reached the 15-year maximum time period and for which taxes may no longer be divided pursuant to section 18-2147;

None

(5) The number of such redevelopment projects approved by the governing body in the previous calendar year;

1

(6) Information specific to each such redevelopment project approved by the governing body in the previous calendar year, including the project area, project type, amount of financing approved, ad total estimated project costs; and

Project 10: Lempka Addition Project 6

The construction of a single-family home. Total project cost is approx. \$500,000

(7) The percentage of the city that has been designated as blighted.

36.86%

U.S. high court will hear Nebraska vs. Colorado over water

Josh Reyes, Omaha World-Herald

Kearney Hub

6/30/2026

LINCOLN – The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday granted Nebraska's request to sue Colorado over long ago negotiated access to water from the South Platte River, which flows east through Colorado and into Nebraska .

Nebraska Attorney General Mike Hilgers called the decision "Huge news" in a statement on social media site X.

"We re get the opportunity to vindicate our water rights in front of the highest court in the land,' he said.

Colorado and Nebraska signed the South Platte River Compact more than a century ago, allotting Nebraska 120 cubic feet per second of water flow each irrigation season from April to Oct. 15. Nebraska has accused fast-growing Colorado of letting other water users intercept the flows belonging to Nebraska/ The state estimates Colorado has deprived Nebraska of more than 1 million acre-feet of water since the compact was enacted in 1923.

Nebraska Gov. Jim Pillen and Hilgers announced their intent to sue Colorado last July.,

"It's crustal clear. Colorado has been holding water back from Nebraska for almost 100 years and getting more and more egregious every single day" Pillen said when announcing the lawsuit.

He also said Colorado has impended progress on the Perkins County Canal project to carry water from the South Platte River in eastern Colorado to western Nebraska, where it would be stored in reservoirs and eventually returned to the river.

The Perkins County Canal would be the largest infrastructure project in Nebraska history and is expected to cost more than \$628 million/

The high court's order states Colorado has 30 days to file a response to Nebraska's lawsuit.

Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser quickly downplayed the significance of the court's decision.

"Today's court decision merely opens the door for Nebraska to bring it claims against Colorado . Nebraska's burden to prove those claims is incredibly high and we will vigorously defend Colorado's full entitlement under the compact," He said in a press release.

Weiser also said "Colorado is complying with the South Platte River Compact and not interfering with Nebraska's efforts to build the Perkins County Canal."

The Colorado AG has called unwise and unlikely to happen, and Colorado officials have said the water the Nebraska expects from the river may not be there.

Colorado Gov. Jared Polis also said last year that Colorado complied with the compact and Negotiated in good faith, while Nebraska has attempted to "intimidate Colorado landowners and damaging agricultural communities.

Hilgers introduced the proposal to build the canal as a state lawmaker under former Gov. Pete Ricketts in 2022. Pillen noted on social media and in a press release Monday that he increased funding for the project "to expand its capacity to benefit western Nebraska farmers and producers.

Democratic lawmakers over the past two legislative sessions have suggested drawing funds from the \$628 million Nebraska set aside for the canal to shore up major funding gaps in state budget. But the proposals never approached receiving majority support, with GOP lawmakers and the governor calling the money off-limits.

State Sen. Paul Stromem of Sidney said in March that protecting invested in its lawsuit against Colorado.

If we start draining that fund, the opposition could step up and say, "Maybe they're not serious about this.

Nebraska has developed plans for the canal and submitted them to the Army Corps of Engineers for environmental review. It showed the plans, including the proposed 60-mile canal path, to at a series of events in Julesburg, Colorado, Ogallala, and Kearney.

The state still must acquire privately owned land in Colorado and Nebraska along the canal's planned path.

Pillen as projected that construction would be finished in 2032.

Ruling partly blocks R-Project through Sandhills

Todd Von Kampen, North Platte Telegraph

Kearny Hub

6/26/2026

For the second time, a federal court in Colorado has put an obstacle in the Nebraska Public Power District's path to completing its R-project transmission line through the Sandhills.

U.S. District Judge Nina Wang of Denver June 8 granted a partial temporary injunction against a second Fish & Wildlife Service "incidental take permit" to relocate endangered American burying Bettles disturbed by construction on the 226-mile route.

In the ruling's wake, NPPD plans to begin building the 345-kilovolt line in area the permits wouldn't be affected, including its first Lincoln County miles.

Based on the injunction's partial nature, spokesman Grant Otten said Tuesday, NPPD will start R-Project construction "in locations that are not American burying beetle habitat."

Specifically, workers will start from Sutherland's Gerald Gentleman Station -NPPD's largest power generator of any type – and building generally east and north toward Stapleton, Otten said. Forbe's Bros. Timberline Construction Co. is the contractor.

Lincoln County commissioners last month granted use permits for five temporary R-Projects construction "fly yards" along the line's intended route through the county.

2025 Trump order at Issue

Wang's ruling backed one argument and rejected a second by a half-dozen plaintiffs whose July 2019 suit led to the June 2020 rejection of Fish and Wildlife's initial permit by federal District Judge William J Martinez.

Those parties are the national Oregon-California Trails Association, the Western Nebraska Resources Council, Preserve the Sandhill LLC and the Whitetail Farms East and Horseshoe Bar Ranches between Paxton and Sutherland.

Martinez's 2020 ruling cited three points, most notably that the federal agency's decision "Inadequately considered the effects of the R-Projects" from NPPD's first plan to run it directly over Oregon-California trail "swale" runs on O'Fallon's Bluff north of Gerald Gentleman.

The 2019 plaintiffs launched a fresh court challenge March 8, arguing that the federal agency "ran roughshod over the obligations" imposed by the National Historic

Preservation Act due to “an 11th-hour request” by NOOD to clear the way for the R-Project.

Wang declined to block the entire project a second time, but she ruled that the plaintiffs have proved “a substantial likelihood of success” in challenging the application “energy emergency” executive order to the project first proposed in 2012.

That order, issued on the first day of President Donald Trump’s second term on Jan. 20, 2025, directed federal agencies to use “any lawful emergency authorities available to them... to facilitate the identification, leasing, siting, production, transportation, refining and generation of domestic and generation domestic energy resources.”

The plaintiffs haven’t shown they’re likely to win on their allegations that Trump’s order was wrongly applied to the entire R-Project by Fish and Wildlife and the federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Wang wrote/

But she found they’re “likely to succeed” in arguing that Fish and Wildlife granted the second permit “without first finding that the R-Project is an essential and immediate response to the national energy emergency declared by President Donald Trump”.

The plaintiffs that first sued in 2019 say the second permit’s required review of applicable federal laws – including those on historic preservation – was short-circuited when Fish and Wildlife agreed to use “alternative compliance procedures” sought by NPPD in wake of Trump’s executive order.

“The public has a strong interest in ensuring that federal officials act within the bounds set by Congress,” Wang wrote. “On balance, the court finds that the public interest weighs slightly in favor of issuance of preliminary injunction.”

Full halt rejected

But the judge sided with Fish and Wildlife and NPPD in rejecting the plaintiffs’ argument that she should block the entire R-Project a second time.

“While petitioners insist that the entire R-Project must be cease., they do explain how the allegedly defective (permit) infects the entirety of the construction project,” Wang wrote.

Her June 8 order suspends Fish and Wildlife second incidental take permit while the case process toward trial, she added. She set a telephone “status conference” for July 7.

Wang added that her ruling “is not intended to rule on or predict any legal consequences to NPPD if it proceeds with the R-Project without an incidental take permit in place/”

Both the overturned 2020 permit and its successor authorized NPPD to develop an alternative habitat for American burying beetle on Blaine County land acquired by the agency.

Otten, the NPPD spokesperson, said the power district "is disappointed in the court's decision" but "will continue to pursue the R-Project to meet Nebraska's electrically transmission needs."

He added: "for 14 years, NPPD has worked tirelessly to permit the R-Project with reasonable and appropriate environmental controls."

NPPD won the Nebraska Public Service Commission's 3-1 approval June 2 to proceed construction, despite renewed pleas from Sandhill residents to stop it.

PSC member Kevin Stocker of Scottsbluff cast the one "no" vote, while another member abstained Nebraska Public Media reported.

Gri-Basin & R.O.
Directors & Staff,

The fresh basket of
flowers sent to Gary's
memorial was beautiful.
Gary thought the work
of Gri-Basin and the
other & R.O. was necessary &
essential. He was proud
to have been a board
member. Thank you
for your tribute.

*Y*OUR KIND EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY

AND FRIENDSHIP WILL

ALWAYS REMAIN IN OUR MEMORIES.

*T*HANK YOU FOR YOUR THOUGHTFULNESS.

*Sincerely,
Cindy & Family*