The 28th Annual Nebraska Water Conference
March 8-10, 1999

The Regency Inn, Kearney, Nebraska

"Interactively exploring visions of Nebraska's water future and how these visions might be impacted with or without planning for our water resources. The second in a series of three annual conferences exploring the possibilities and challenges of "Nebraska Water 2000.""
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"Planning for the Future"  

28th Annual Nebraska Water Conference  
March 8-10, 1999  
The Regency Inn, Kearney

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Program by:  
Steve Ress, UNL Water Center/Environmental Programs  
"Nebraska Water 2000" logo by:  
Dee Ebbeka, UNL Conservation and Survey Division  
Original Windmill art by:  
Renee Lanik, UNL Communications and Information Technology

For a list of water and natural resource-related publications available through the University of Nebraska, contact: Water Center/Environmental Programs, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 103 Natural Resources Hall, P.O. Box 830844, Lincoln, NE 68583-0844. Phone (402)472-3305. E-mail sress@unl.edu or on the Internet at http://www.ianr.unl.edu/ianr/waterctr/wchome.html


Credits

Conference Sponsors

Nebraska Water Conference Council
Nebraska Department of Water Resources
Nebraska Chapter, American Planning Association
The Groundwater Foundation
Kearney Visitors Bureau
University of Nebraska at Kearney
Conservation and Survey Division
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Vida Eden, Brock Hoegh, Becky Horner, Rick Leonard, Jacki Vogel
Program

Monday, March 8

Note: All rooms are on the first floor of The Regency Inn unless otherwise noted. Also, see the location map on page 6.

5-7 p.m. Early Registration in the Fundome.
Exhibits open in the Fundome.

7-9 p.m. Workshop on the basics of planning, an interactive session, Rachael Herpel, The Groundwater Foundation and Bob Kuzelka, UNL Water Center/Environmental Programs. Persimmon Room.

Tuesday, March 9

7:30 a.m. Registration and coffee, juice and rolls in the Fundome.
Exhibits in the Fundome.

8:30 a.m. Welcome - Edna McBreen, Associate Vice Chancellor, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Nebraska. Ballroom.

8:40 a.m. Conference Overview - Ann Bleed, Nebraska Department of Water Resources, Ballroom.

Morning Sessions
Moderated by Marc Albrecht,
Assistant Professor of Biology, UNK

8:50 a.m. Visionary presentation about the future of water up to the year 2050, U. Gale Hutton, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VII. Ballroom.

9:50 a.m. Eight breakout sessions by group assignments, as noted on nametags, to develop a vision of Nebraska’s water future. Facilitators from UNL Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communications (AgLEC).
Room assignments:
Group 1 - Ballroom
Group 2 - Dahlia
Group 3 - Camilia
Group 4 - Ginger
Group 5 - Persimmon
Group 6 - Jasmine
Group 7 - Hibiscus
Group 8 - Lotus

9:50 a.m. Break (as part of the breakout sessions in the breakout rooms).
11:10 a.m.  The history of water planning in Nebraska, Dayle Williamson, Director and Steve Gaul, Nebraska Natural Resources Commission. Ballroom.

Noon  Lunch in the Fundome.
Presiding: Ann Bleed, Chair, Nebraska Water Conference Council.


Exhibits in the Fundome.

Afternoon Plenary Sessions
Moderated by Roger Patterson, Director, Nebraska Department of Water Resources

1:20 p.m.  Who plans your water? Nebraska persons, organizations, entities and influences, Glenn Johnson, Lower Platte South Natural Resources District. Ballroom.

2 p.m.  Planning for drinking water supplies, David Little, Denver Water Board. Ballroom.

2:40 p.m.  Break in the Ballroom.
Exhibits in the Fundome.


4:10 p.m.  Panel reporting on the morning breakout sessions. Ballroom.

5 p.m.  Adjourn for the day.

5:30 p.m.  Social Hour with cash bar in the Fundome.

6:30 p.m.  Buffet Awards Banquet in the Ballroom.
Presiding: Ann Bleed, Chair, NWCC.
Pioneer Award, presented by the NWCC, see page 8.
Progress Award, presented by the NWCC, see page 9.
Maurice Kremer Groundwater Achievement Award, presented by The Groundwater Foundation, see page 10.

8:30 p.m.  Entertainment - “Windmills” presentation, T. Lindsay Baker, Texas Heritage Museum. Fundome.
Wednesday, March 10

6:45 a.m. **Buffet Breakfast** in the Fundome.  
Presiding: Gladys Styles Johnston, Chancellor, UNK.  
**Speaker:** Mike Johanns, Governor, State of Nebraska.

**Morning Sessions**  
*Moderated by Don Kraus, Director, Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District*

8:30 a.m. **Panel** on factors affecting Nebraska’s water future. *Ballroom.*  
Legal: Don Blankenau, Nebraska Department of Water Resources  
Power: Mike McDowell, Western States Power Corp.  
Irrigation: Bob Bettger, Fairmont ag producer  
Habitat: Dave Sands, Audubon Nebraska

**Question and answer session** with panelists.

10 a.m. **Eight breakout sessions** in the same assigned groups as on Tuesday to revise visions of Nebraska’s water future and to develop goals and strategic action steps. Facilitators from UNL AgLEC.  
Room assignments (note some changes from Tuesday’s sessions):  
- **Group 1** - Ballroom  
- **Group 2** - Dahlin  
- **Group 3** - Camilia  
- **Group 4** - Ginger  
- **Group 5** - Maxwell’s Lounge…WOW!!  
- **Group 6** - Fundome (east of the waterfall)  
- **Group 7** - Room 292 (second floor, northeast room area).  
- **Group 8** - Room 293 (second floor, northeast room area).

10 a.m. **Break** (as part of the session, in the breakout rooms).

11:50 a.m. **Lunch** in the Fundome.  
Presiding: Dick Mercer, Vice Chair, NWCC

**Panel reporting** on the morning breakout sessions.

1:30 p.m. **Conference adjourns.**

1:30 - 5 p.m. **Optional workshop** on a proposed International Center for Groundwater Research.  
Presiding: Edna McBreen, Associate Vice Chancellor, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Nebraska; and Susan Seacrest, President and Founder, The Groundwater Foundation.  
**Persimmon.**
Exhibitors

Ace Irrigation, Kearney
Diamond Plastics, Grand Island
Great Plains Meter, Inc., Aurora
The Groundwater Foundation, Lincoln
Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, Lincoln
Nebraska Environmental Specialists Inc. (NESI), Lewellen
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Lincoln
Nebraska League of Women Voters, Lincoln
Nebraska Water Users, Lexington
Transit Works, Lincoln
Platte River EIS Office, Lakewood, CO

University of Nebraska-Lincoln:
  Conservation and Survey Division
  Cooperative Extension
  Platte Watershed Program
  Water Center/Environmental Programs

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Nebraska-Kansas Area Office, Grand Island

U.S. Geological Survey, Lincoln

Waterman Industries Sales, Inc., Grand Island

Water Technology Services, LLC, Arvada, CO
Pioneer Award Winners
(The Pioneer Award is presented annually by the Nebraska Water Conference Council to an individual with outstanding accomplishments in the water resources area)

1999 J. Michael Jess, Lincoln
1998 Terry Woollen, Alma
1997 Ray Bentall, Lincoln
1996 Richard C. Hahn, Omaha
1995 Leslie F. Sheffield, Lincoln
1994 Wesley Sell, Scottsbluff
1993 Harold M. Stevens, Lexington
1992 Paul Hohnstein, Hastings
1991 William E. Splinter, Lincoln
1990 Deon D. Axthelm, Springfield, MO (formerly Lincoln)
1989 Homer Loutzenheiser, North Platte
1988 Robert B. Crosby, Lincoln
1987 Vincent Dreeszen, Lincoln
1986 Paul Fischbach, Lincoln
1985 Robert Daugherty, Valley
1984 Vance Anderson, Hastings
1983 Alfred Drayton, O'Neill
1982 Senator Maurice A. Kremer, Lincoln
1981 Clyde Burdick, Ainsworth
1980 Henry G. Lange, Ord
1979 Cyril P. Shaughnessy, St. Paul
1978 Larry E. Donegan, Lincoln
1977 Durward B. Varner, Lincoln
1976 Dan S. Jones, Jr., Lincoln
1975 R. Erle Campbell, Lincoln
1974 Eugene C. Reed, Lincoln
1973 Frank Zybanch, Columbus
Progress Award Winners
(The Progress Award is presented annually by the Nebraska Water Conference Council to a group, agency or organization with outstanding accomplishments in the water resources area)

1999 Nebraska Plan team members
1998 Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, Lincoln
1997 Central Nebraska Regional Water Conservation Task Force
1996 Missouri River Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha
1995 Nebraska League of Women Voters, Lincoln
1994 Management Systems Evaluation Area (MSEA) Team, Lincoln
1993 Nebraska State Irrigation Association, Lincoln
1992 Nebraska Groundwater Foundation, Lincoln
1991 Five Nebraska Center-Pivot Irrigation Equipment Manufacturers:
   Valmont Industries, Inc., Valley
   Lindsay Manufacturing Co., Lindsay
   Reinke Manufacturing Co., Deshler
   T-L Irrigation Co., Hastings
   Lockwood Corp., Gering
1990 Burlington-Northern Railroad Foundation, Fort Worth, TX, and Burlington-Northern Railroad, Lincoln
1989 Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District, Omaha
1988 Nebraska Well Drillers Association, Lincoln
1987 Twin Loups Reclamation District, Ord and Twin Loups Irrigation District, Scotia
1986 North Platte Region, Nebraska Public Power District, North Platte
1985 Nebraska Farmer magazine, Lincoln and the Agricultural Institute of Nebraska, Grand Island
1984 Little Blue Natural Resources District, Davenport
1983 Upper Republican Natural Resources District, Imperial
1982 Ainsworth Irrigation District, Ainsworth
1981 Nebraska Water Resources Association, Lincoln
1980 Frenchman-Cambridge Irrigation District
1979 Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District, Norfolk
1978 Custer Public Power District, Broken Bow
1977 Central Platte Natural Resources District, Grand Island
1976 Republican Valley Conservation Association, McCook
1975 Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District, Holdrege
1974 Gering-Ft. Laramie Irrigation District, Gering
1973 Blue River Association of Groundwater Conservation Districts (Clay, Hamilton, Seward and York Counties GWCD), Aurora
The Maurice Kremer Groundwater Achievement Award

Presented by The Groundwater Foundation

From its beginnings in 1985, The Groundwater Foundation has sought to recognize excellence in groundwater management. The Foundation Trustees intended the Maurice Kremer Groundwater Achievement Award to represent their highest accolade and be reserved for those rare individuals who had created a beneficial legacy of groundwater-related service in the State of Nebraska. The award was named for Nebraska State Senator Maurice Kremer in 1990. Kremer exemplified commitment to education, partnerships and service. Kremer winners represent such diverse fields as education, research, public health, groundwater-related industries, government service and public policy.

1999 Richard Harnsberger
1998 Les Sheffield
1997 Robert B. Daugherty
1996 Frank A. Smith
1995 Fred Salmon and Family
1994 Virginia Smith
1993 Robert B. Crosby
1992 Ted Filipi
1991 Ralph Marlette
1990 Warren Fairchild
1989 Val Kuska
1988 Eugene Reed
1987 Maurice Kremer
1986 Vincent Dreeszen
Profiles of 1999 Award Winners

J. Michael Jess receives the Nebraska Water Conference Council’s 1999 Pioneer Award. Jess has played an important role in helping shape and apply Nebraska water law and in implementing water resource projects across the state. His professional education and background, expanded through years of experience with the Nebraska Department of Water Resources (DWR), enabled him to carefully weigh all the facts when deciding water-related issues, thus enabling him to make well-reasoned decisions. Jess joined DWR in 1975 and was its director from 1981 to 1999. During that tenure DWR implemented consistent and systematic adjudication of water rights and was integrally involved in the Floodplain Management Act, Ground Water Management Act and Industrial Ground Water Act. It also approved rules and regulations for Ground Water Control and Management Areas and began a permit requirement for use of Missouri River water. Jess was actively involved in helping represent Nebraska interests in Missouri River boundary disputes with South Dakota, Iowa and Missouri and in several lawsuits involving interstate compact disputes with Wyoming and Kansas, as well as the Enders Diversion from the South Platte River, instream flow issues, the Twin Loups Project and Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District requests for permits for 33,000 acres. Jess is a licensed Professional Engineer residing in Lincoln.

Nebraska Plan team members will receive the Nebraska Water Conference Council’s 1999 Progress Award. The “Nebraska Plan” was largely adopted by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in recent decisions to renew federal power licenses held by the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) and Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District (CNPPID) involving Kingsley Dam and Lake McConaughy. Under the political leadership of former Governor Ben Nelson, the 24-member group established a collaborative undertaking representing the needs and interests of irrigators, consumers, electrical power generation, sportsmen, recreation and environmentalists interested in wildlife and habitat. The plan was developed through a series of meetings in 1992 and 1993. In contrast to earlier relicensing proposals calling for matching downstream river flows and predetermined flow targets by release of water from Lake McConaughy, the Nebraska Plan calls for intervention and management based upon judgment as a fair and flexible alternative. Participating in its development were: Steve Anschutz, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; William J. Bailey Jr., Nebraska Game and Parks Commission; Brian Barels, Nebraska Public Power District; Ann Bleed, Nebraska Department of Water Resources; Gerald Chaffin, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission; Jim Cook, Nebraska Natural Resources Commission; Paul Currier, Platte River Whooping Crane Trust; John Detuerk Jr., Big Mac Sportsmans’ Council; Tom Emerton, Platte River Whooping Crane Trust; Don Kraus, Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District; Frank Kwapisinski, Nebraska Public Power District; Jim Lundgren, Nebraska Water Users Inc.; Dave Mazour, Tri-State G&T; Bob McCue, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Former Nebraska Governor E. Benjamin Nelson, Lamson Dugan and Murray; Ed Pemberton, National Audubon Society; Paul Prentiss, Nebraska Wildlife Federation; Dave Sands, National Audubon Society; Tom Schwarz, Nebraska Water Users Association; Wes Sheets, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission; Leroy Sievers, Nebraska Department of Water Resources; Gayle R. Verbeck, Big Mac Sportsmans’ Council; Dale L. Wahlgren, Platte River Flood Control Association; and Shuhai Zheng, Nebraska Natural Resources Commission.
Richard Harnsberger is the winner of The Groundwater Foundation’s 1999 Maurice Kremer Groundwater Achievement Award. The award is the foundation’s most long-standing award and is given annually to a Nebraskan who has given lifelong and substantive service to the preservation of Nebraska’s groundwater. Groundwater Foundation President Susan Seacrest said “The decision to honor Dick with the 1999 Kremer Award is especially appropriate given his dedicated service to, and scholarship at the University of Nebraska. Thanks to his work, all of us involved in water education and management have a more complete and clear understanding of the policies and issues affecting our groundwater supply. Many of the students that Dick has taught over the years have gone on to become distinguished teachers themselves.” She also cited many of Harnsberger’s important publications, including “Nebraska Water Law and Administration” that he wrote with Norm Thorson in 1984. Of Harnsberger, Thorson said “Dick introduced many students to a sensitivity to the environment before the field of environmental law was even developed.” The Foundation’s Executive Committee cited his scholarship, mentoring of students and service to Nebraska’s environment through active support of, and participation in, environmental organizations.
Speakers & Moderators

Marc Albrecht is an Assistant Professor in the Biology Department at the University of Nebraska-Kearney. He earned a Ph.D. in Zoology from the University of Oklahoma in 1996. His dissertation was on insect community dynamics. He earned a Master of Science, Biology from Miami University in Oxford, OH in 1990 and his research there was on using population genetics of fishes to monitor aquatic toxin levels. He earned a Bachelor of Science, Biology from Denison University, Granville, OH in 1987. Albrecht is interested in the movement of animals and chemicals through the environment. Geographical Information Systems (GIS) software is increasingly being used to solve such problems. He is a certified ArcView instructor and is exploring its use in biological resource representation and modeling.

T. Lindsay Baker directs the Texas Heritage Museum at Hill College in Hillsboro, TX and is Adjunct Graduate Professor of Museum Studies at Baylor University in Waco, TX. Prior to that he was Director of Academic Programs and Graduate Studies and Assistant Professor, Department of Museum Studies and Curator of 20th Century Materials, Strecker Museum, Baylor University, Waco, TX. Baker earned Ph.D. (1977) and M.A. (1972) degrees in history from Texas Tech University and a B.A. in history and geography from Texas Tech University in 1969. He has spoken and been published widely on an array of regional and state historical topics. He has authored or co-authored 20 books, among the more recent of which are "Adobe Walls: The History and Archeology of the 1874 Trading Post," co-authored with Billy R. Harrison; Blades in the Sky: Windmilling through the Eyes of B.H. "Tex" Burdick; "Building the Lone Star: An Illustrated Guide to Historic Sites" and "Ghost Towns of Texas." He has also written on water for Texas and the southwest. Among his many professional and academic honors is a Fulbright Lectureship to Wroclaw Polytechnic University, Wroclaw, Poland from 1975-1977. Baker is a native of Cleburne, TX.

Robert E. Bettger farms irrigated corn and soybeans as part of a family farming operation with two brothers, near Fairmont. The Fairmont High School graduate earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanized Agriculture from UNL in 1971. He has served many organizations and currently serves on the Fillmore County Economic Development Corporation; Nebraska Farm Bureau, Tax Committee; and the Nebraska Republican Party State Central Committee, the U.S. Army veteran is a past President of the Nebraska Corn Growers Association and past member of the Fillmore County and Blue River Association Ground Water Districts. Bettger and his wife Sandy have four children.

Donald G. Blankenau, joined the Kutak and Rock Law Offices in Omaha earlier this month. Prior to that he was Assistant Director/Legal Counsel for the Nebraska Department of Water Resources (DWR), a position he had held since 1993. In addition, he was responsible for supervising 38 employees and preparing and managing DWR’s $4 million annual budget. Beginning in 1991, Blankenau served as legal counsel to the DWR and in that capacity acted as a hearing officer at numerous administrative hearings, served on the legal committees of the Republican and Blue River Compacts, served as legal advisor to the Nebraska Boundary Commission, served as DWR’s legislative liaison and provided assistance in Nebraska v. Wyoming. Prior to 1991, Blankenau served as Deputy Saunders County Attorney and as an associate in the general practice firm of Edstrom, Bromm, Lindahl and Wagner in Wahoo. The native Nebraskan earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Agriculture in 1983, majoring in natural resources management. He earned a Juris Doctorate from the UNL College of Law in 1987.
Ann Bleed is the State Hydrologist, Nebraska Department of Water Resources, Lincoln and an Adjunct Professor, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources and College of Engineering, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. From 1982 to 1988 she was an Assistant Professor at UNL. Bleed earned a B.A. from Earlham College in 1964, an M.S. from Pennsylvania State University in 1966, Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1974 and M.S. from UNL in 1982. The New York, New York native is a member and former chair of the Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Commission, past Secretary of the Lincoln-Lancaster County Board of Health and Past Vice-Chair of the Lancaster County Ecology Committee. She presently is Vice Chair of the Nebraska Water Conference Council. The registered professional engineer has been recognized as a Leadership Lincoln Fellow and by Alpha Pi Mu (Honorary Engineering Society) and Sigma Xi (Honorary Scientific Society), among others. She is married to UNL Professor Peter Bleed and the couple have two grown sons.

Curt Brown has worked in the field of water planning and conflict resolution for more than 20 years. He received his Ph.D. in Social Psychology from the University of Colorado in 1981, with emphasis in public policy analysis and conflict resolution. He has worked for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for 19 years, primarily in planning, public participation, dam safety and policy development. He currently is manager of the Platte River EIS Office in Denver, CO. The office is a joint venture of the Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The office is presently conducting the NEPA and ESA analyses of the proposed Platte River Endangered Species Recovery Program developed as part of the Cooperative Agreement among Nebraska, Wyoming and Colorado.

Steve Gaul has served as head of the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission’s Comprehensive Planning section since November 1997. He has been with the commission since 1979. Gaul supervises a staff of 10 that produce a variety of natural resources mapping products and information and planning reports. His past work has included coordination of a series of water policy issue studies for the state, coordination of commission reviews of groundwater management plans and environmental education efforts. Chapters he has authored in non-agency publications have addressed: the history of Nebraska water politics and policy, groundwater development in Nebraska’s Sandhills and sustainability of groundwater use in Lancaster County, Nebraska. Gaul has a bachelor’s degree in geography from Kansas State University in Manhattan and a master’s degree in geography from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Rachael Herpel directs The Groundwater Foundation’s Groundwater Guardian Program. Groundwater Guardian is an international program that supports, recognizes and connects communities protecting groundwater. In 1998, the foundation designated 189 Groundwater Guardians. Prior to joining the foundation’s staff in 1997, Herpel worked for the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District, the Nebraska Natural Resource Conservation Service and University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension. She earned a Master’s Degree in community and regional planning from UNL, where she specialized in environmental planning and published a thesis on the history and development of Nebraska’s Natural Resources Districts and their regional planning potential.

U. Gale Hutton, directs the Water, Wetlands and Pesticides Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VII, Kansas City, MO. and is a former Assistant Director of the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality. The Kansas native is a former biological science teacher who completed graduate and undergraduate work in zoology and ecology at Fort Hays, Kansas State University. He is a member of the National Technical Committee for EPA Guidance Documents on Wellhead Protection and
Sole Source Aquifer Programs, the National Urban Institute's Advisory Committee on Ground Water and the National Coordinating Work Group for USGS’s National Water Quality Assessment Program, among others. Hutton’s current position gives him responsibility for water programs in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska.

Mike Johanns was elected to serve as Nebraska’s 38th Governor on November 3, 1998. Prior to that election, he served the Lincoln area in many capacities. He was elected to the Board of Commissioners for Lancaster County and in 1982 chaired that board, the City/County Common and the City/County Joint Budget Committee in his four-year term. In 1989 he was elected to an at-large position on the Lincoln City Council, on which he served until becoming mayor in 1991. As mayor, Johanns was elected in June 1993 to the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) Advisory Board and served as chair of the USCM Subcommittee on Crime Prevention of the Standing Committee on Criminal and Social Justice. In September 1994 he became a member of the USCM Crime Bill Task Force and in October 1996 he was appointed to the USCM Unfunded Mandates Task Force. In June 1995 Johanns was named a trustee of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, one of 11 trustees in the United States. He continued to serve as a trustee during the remainder of his term as mayor. Johanns was also a member of the League of Nebraska Municipalities Executive Board, later being named vice president of that board and then president of the League. Born in Osage, IA., Johanns received his B.A. degree from St. Mary’s College, Winona, MN. in 1971 and his Juris Doctor degree from Creighton University, Omaha in 1974. He then served as a judicial law clerk for The Honorable Hale McCown and later practiced law at Cronin and Hannon in O’Neill from 1975 to 1976. After moving to Lincoln, he worked as a partner in the law firm of Nelson Johanns Morris Holdeman and Titus until his election as mayor. Johanns has two children and is married to Stephanie Johanns, also a former Lancaster County Commissioner and former State Senator. She is director of customer service for Aliant Communications.

Glenn D. Johnson, is General Manager of the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District, Lincoln. He has been with the district since 1972, serving as Assistant General Manager until 1982, when he was named to his current position. Johnson is the Nebraska Director to the National Water Resources Association and earlier this year began a two-year term as President of the National Water Resources Association. He recently completed a six-year appointment as a council member on the Nebraska Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration. Johnson earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Agricultural Engineering from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1972 and a Master’s Degree in Public Administration from the University of Nebraska at Omaha in 1993. Johnson and wife Elaine have two children, Michaela and Ryan.

Gladys Styles Johnston became the Chancellor of the University of Nebraska at Kearney in 1993. Prior to joining UNK, she was provost and then Executive Vice President at DePaul University in Chicago, IL. Prior to her appointment at DePaul, she was dean and professor of education in the College of Education at Arizona State University. Johnston became dean at ASU after serving as Chair of the Department of Management in the School of Business at Rutgers University. Her first administrative appointment at Rutgers was Chair of the Department of Educational Administration. She earned a bachelors degree in Social Science from Cheyney University of Pennsylvania, a master’s degree in educational administration from Temple University and a Ph.D. in educational administration and organization theory and behavior from Cornell University. Scholarly recognition includes appointment as the Distinguished Commonwealth Visiting Professor in the School of Education at the College of William and Mary and additionally, she held the Andrew D. White Fellowship at Cornell University. She has published two books and numerous research articles. In 1990 she was selected as one of Temple University’s Outstanding Alumnae. Johnston serves on numerous civic, educational and commercial
Boards of Directors. She currently serves as a national advisor for the Kellogg Foundation National Fellowship Program.

**Don Kraus** is General Manager of the Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District in Holdrege and Chairs the Nebraska Water Conference Council. CNPPID delivers irrigation water to over 100,000 acres of irrigated land in south central Nebraska while generating hydroelectric power and providing additional benefits for groundwater recharge, generator cooling, recreation and fish and wildlife. Kraus started with CNPPID as Electrical Engineer in Gothenburg from 1971-1974. He worked in Marshalltown, Iowa as Systems Engineer for Fisher Controls and returned to Holdrege as Electrical Engineer for CNPPID in 1976. He also has held positions of Chief Electrical Engineer and Assistant General Manager until appointment as General Manager in 1992. Kraus graduated from the University of Nebraska with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering in 1971. He is a registered Professional Engineer in Nebraska, Secretary of The Groundwater Foundation and First Vice President of the Nebraska Power Association.

**Bob Kuzelka** is the Assistant to the Director of the Water Center/Environmental Programs, an Associate Professor in the School of Natural Resource Sciences and a Courtesy Associate Professor in Community and Regional Planning at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Additionally, since 1991 he has served as a consultant to The Groundwater Foundation. Kuzelka is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners. He earned a Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Nebraska and a Master of Science in Community and Regional Planning from the University of Texas at Austin and had a Fulbright Post-Graduate Scholarship in the Department of Town and Country Planning at the University of Sydney, Australia.

**David Little** is Manager of Water Resources Planning for the Denver Water Board in Denver, CO where he is responsible for assuring that Denver has sufficient water supplies for the future. He has been involved in numerous negotiations and planning efforts based upon his knowledge of Denver’s water collection system, Colorado water law, environmental issues and hydrology modeling. He has worked for the Denver Water Board for more than 17 years and has been involved with integrated resource planning, Platte River endangered species programs, Colorado River endangered species recovery programs and many other projects.

**Edna McBreen** has been in her current position of Associate Vice Chancellor for Agriculture and Natural Resources and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln since July, 1998. She received her bachelors and doctoral degrees from Cornell University and her masters degree from Texas A&M University. She has more than 25 years experience at secondary and post-secondary levels of education in the U.S. and internationally. Prior to her current position, Dr. McBreen was Associate Dean and Director of Cooperative Extension at the University of Wyoming. Her international work has included Assistant Provost for International Programs at West Virginia University; Assistant Director of International Programs for the State University of New York System; and work as an agricultural education officer for the Africa Bureau of the U.S. Agency for International Development. Her major research and programmatic focus has been on development of institutions of higher agricultural education in sub-Saharan Africa.

**Mike McDowell** has focused on federal power and water operations for 20 years. He served 15 years as Executive Director of the Southwestern Power Resources Association and became General Manager of Western States Power Corporation when that organization was formed in 1995 by a broad coalition of Western Division Pick Sloan Missouri Basin Project and Colorado River Storage Project customers of the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA). WAPA is a federal power marketing agency that sells
hydroelectric power produced at U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects to consumer-owned electric utilities in 15 states. McDowell has held a variety of leadership positions in numerous local and state public power organizations, as well as with the American Public Power Association and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. He has received numerous national and regional recognitions for service to consumer-owned electric utilities and community organizations. The native Kansan earned B.S. and Master’s degrees in Public Administration from the University of Kansas.

Dick Mercer Chairs the Board of Directors of the Central Platte Natural Resources District and has been a member of that board since 1972. He is a Commissioner of the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission representing the Central Platte River Basin and served on Governor Bob Kerrey’s Independent Water Congress in 1983. In 1985, Governor Kerrey appointed him to a four-year term on the Environmental Control Council representing Nebraska’s livestock industry and 1993, Governor Ben Nelson appointed him to the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund Board. Mercer also served on the Board of Trustees for The Groundwater Foundation. He is a past President of the Nebraska Livestock Feeders Association, past Chair of the Beef Promotion and Consumer Relations Committee and past Chair of the National Cattlemen’s Association Feeder Council. He currently serves as a member of the NCA’s Private Lands and Environmental Management Committee, the NCA’s Endangered Species and Wildlife Subcommittee, Water Subcommittee and Beef Quality Assurance Task Force. The Kearney native and his wife, Eileen, began farming 50 years ago. Mercer currently is president of the family corporation, Double M Farms, a general farming and cattle feeding operation. Among the many awards he has received was the farming operation being named one of six national finalists in the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association 1996 Environmental Stewardship program. In addition, he was named Nebraska Cattleman of the Year by the Nebraska Cattlemen in 1994.

Fred Ore is Manager of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation’s Nebraska-Kansas Area Office in Grand Island that has responsibility for bureau projects in those two states. He previously served as Great Plains Regional Liaison in Washington, D.C. where he was detailed to the Water and Power Subcommittee of the Resources Committee for the U.S. House of Representatives. He holds a B.S. degree in civil engineering from the University of Oklahoma. Ore served 10 years as the Bureau of Reclamation’s representative in Texas and has more than 26 years of experience with federal and state water issues.

Roger K. Patterson was appointed Director of the Nebraska Department of Water Resources earlier this year. In addition to being agency Director, Patterson chairs the Nebraska Boundary Compact Commission and is the Nebraska representative to the Missouri River Basin Association, State Environmental Trust Board, Blue River Compact, Republican River Compact and the Upper Niobrara River Compact. Prior to being appointed DWR’s Director, his entire career was in the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, beginning part-time as a student in 1969 and then to a full-time position in McCook in 1974. In 1978 he transferred to the Bureau’s former Lower Missouri Region in Denver, CO. From 1983 to 1986 he was Project Superintendent in El Paso, TX. His accomplishments include implementation of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act of 1992, a landmark reform legislation involving more than 100 separate mandates addressing water conservation, contract renewals and water transfers. A founding member of the Federal Ecosystem Directorate, Patterson was responsible for coordinating four federal agencies on issues related to protecting the San Francisco Bay and Sacramento/San Joaquin River Delta. He also played a key role in forging an historic agreement with the State of California and other interest groups which broke a long-standing gridlock and established new water quality standards. His numerous awards include the 1995 Presidential Rank
Distinguished Executive Award B and in 1994, the Presidential Rank of Meritorious Executive Award. In 1993 he received the Department of the Interior’s Meritorious Service Award. Patterson is a graduate of the University of Nebraska with degrees in civil and sanitary engineering. He and his wife, Linda, have two daughters.

David S. Sands, is Executive Director of Audubon Nebraska, a state office of the National Audubon Society. The mission of Audubon Nebraska is to promote enjoyment, understanding and conservation of Nebraska’s natural heritage, especially native birds, wildlife and habitat. From 1977-1997, Sands was Vice President and then President of Standard Meat Company, a third-generation family business. He was Legislative Coordinator for the Nebraska Audubon Council and National Audubon Society from 1988-1997 and Consultant to the National Audubon Society’s Platte River Task Force in 1990 and 1991. Sands was appointed to the Governor’s Water Council in 1993, the Governor’s Air Pollution Advisory Committee in 1989 and the Governor’s Environmental Quality Council on three separate occasions. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism from Northwestern University in Evanston, IL in 1976. The Nebraska native was named the Nebraska Wildlife Federation’s Conservationist of the year in 1996 and received the Wachiska Audubon Society’s Earthkeeper Award the same year.

Susan Seacrest founded The Groundwater Foundation in 1984 and has served as its President since that time. Under her direction, the foundation has grown to become an internationally known and respected voice for public groundwater education. Her expertise in groundwater education has been recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through appointment to several EPA advisory boards, including the National Environmental Education Council and Children’s Health Protection Advisory Council. In 1997, Seacrest was appointed chair of the National Council on Environmental Education by EPA Administrator Carol Browner. She has authored numerous articles on the value of groundwater education and speaks throughout the U.S. on groundwater issues. In 1993, Governor Ben Nelson appointed Seacrest to a six-year term on the Nebraska Environmental Trust Board of Directors. The foundation’s annual “Children’s Groundwater Festival” was the first of its kind in the U.S. and has become an international model for hands-on environmental education. It was featured in a March, 1993 article in National Geographic Magazine. The foundation also sponsors an international groundwater community protection program known as “Groundwater Guardian.” Seacrest is a past president of the National Arbor Day Foundation and past American Water Resources Board of Directors member. The former teacher, counselor and journalist earned a B.A. at Saint Olaf College, Northfield, MN (1975) and M.S. Ed. from the University of Rochester, Rochester, New York (1978). Among her many awards are a Public Education Award from the Water Environment Federation and having been named Water Conservationist of the Year by the Nebraska Wildlife Federation in 1987.

Dayle E. Williamson has been associated with the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission since 1958 and has served as its Director since 1970. As agency head, Williamson directs a staff of 45 and manages an annual budget of $12 million. He serves on a number of statewide groups, including the Nebraska Water Conference Council and Nebraska Grasslands Institute. He was appointed by Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan to serve as a member of the Niobrara Scenic River Advisory Commission and is also a member of the Nebraska Environmental Trust Board and a member of the board of The Groundwater Foundation. Maintaining an active role in national water resources issues, Williamson presently serves as a member of the Natural Resources Conservation Service National Employee Development Committee and served as President of the National Association of State Conservation Agencies. He served with the National Association of Conservation Districts to help streamline the association for the 21st century and worked with an NACD operations team to develop a business operation plan. Williamson received
the 1992 William C. Ackermann Medal For Excellence in Water Management and the Interstate Conference on Water Policy Leadership Citation and was honored in 1992 as an inductee in the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement. Williamson is a graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and was a county agricultural agent prior to joining commission staff. He served in the U.S. Army for two years and retired in 1985 at the rank of Brigadier General after a 30-year career in the Nebraska Army National Guard. His final military assignment was as Commanding General, 67th Separate Infantry Brigade, Mechanized.

Student Facilitators

Jed Christensen, Columbus, Agricultural Education, UNL
Jenny Gehle, Seward, Agricultural Education, UNL
Kristyn Harms, Dodge, Agricultural Education, UNL
Stacey Keller, Scottsbluff, Agricultural Education, UNL
Matt Kreifels, Syracuse, Agricultural Education, UNL
Megan C. Patent, Randolph, Agricultural Education and International Affairs, UNL
Ryan Reuter, Minatare, Agricultural Education, UNL
Matthew Rutt, Blue Hill, Agricultural Education, UNL

Coordinating Student Facilitators

Dr. Susan M. Fritz,
Assistant Professor, Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communications (AgLEC), UNL

Mark E. Burbach,
Ph.D. Candidate in Vocational and Adult Education, and Project Coordinator, Water Sciences Laboratory, UNL