

Post-Conference Water Tour

“Where The Water Goes”

AUGUST 17, 2021

Hosted by the Scottsbluff/Gering
United Chamber of Commerce
Scottsbluff, Nebraska



Tour Schedule

Tuesday | August 17

Hosted by the Scottsbluff/Gering United Chamber of Commerce | Scottsbluff, Nebraska

- 7:15 – 7:45 a.m.** **Load bus at Fairfield Inn & Suites**
- 7:45 a.m.** **Depart Hotel**
- 8:00 am.** **Arrive at Panhandle Research and Extension Center**

Tour Schedule

Tuesday | August 17

8:15 – 9:30 a.m. Panhandle Research and Extension Center Mini-Field Tour

Mini-Field Tour at the Panhandle Research and Extension Center. (Hosted by Xin Qiao)

9:30 – 10:15 a.m. Depart for Lake Minatare

Driving presentations on role of the inland lakes and the greater North Platte Project for irrigation in the Panhandle and the resulting tributaries that exist today because of that system

Discussion at the Lake Minatare Lighthouse on the operations of the lake for irrigation and ancillary benefits of this body of water for habitat and recreation. (Discussion led by Dennis Strauch, Pathfinder Irrigation and Jay Dallman, Bureau of Reclamation)

10:15 – 11:00 a.m. Depart Lake Minatare

Driving presentations on evolution of irrigation practices, including on surface water and co-mingled acres (flood to pivot improvements) and groundwater development and regulation.

11:00 – 11:45 a.m. 21st Century Equipment Training Center (Bridgeport)

Presentation on irrigation technology advancements (Hosted by Owen Palm)
Catered Lunch (Civic Center Boxed Lunches)

11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Lunch (Civic Center boxed lunches)

12:30 – 1:15 p.m. Depart Bridgeport

Driving presentations on unique cropping of western Nebraska – dry edible bean industry, sugar beets, potatoes, etc.

1:15 – 2:00 p.m. Walther Farms Potato Facility (Lisco)

Tour potato washing facility/discussion of potato industry in western Nebraska and industrial uses of water. (Hosted by Walther Farms staff)

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. Depart Walther Family Farms

Driving presentation on smaller irrigation district development and the high plains aquifer formations to include the influence of the Ogallala Aquifer on this part of the tour area.

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3:00 – 4:30 p.m. Lake McConaughy Water Interpretive Center

Break into two groups to tour the hydro facility at Kingsley and receive a presentation from Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation staff on the Central irrigation project, their hydro power facility and the importance of recreation and tourism. (Hosted by Jeff Buettner, PR for CNPPID)

4:30 – 6:00 p.m. Depart Lake McConaughy

General Discussions

6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Arrive in Sidney

Hotel Check-in/Downtime

7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Buses Depart for Elk's Lodge

Dinner and Discussion of Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (PRRIP) (Hosted by Jason Farnsworth, ED of PRRIP)

9:00 p.m. Buses Depart for Hotels

Tour Schedule

Wednesday | August 18

8:45 p.m. Buses Depart for Elks Lodge

9:00 – 10:00 a.m. Elks Lodge

Discussion with South Platte NRD officials on the story of Lodgepole Creek and the South Platte Basin to include Water Quality issues. (Hosted by Ryan Reisdorff, South Platte NRD)

10:00 – 11:15 a.m. Depart Sidney

Driving presentations on the High Plains Ag Lab and Panhandle Research and Extension.

Driving presentations on the Pumpkin Creek Basin, specifically a continuation of water quality discussion. (Speaker TBD)

11:15 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Arrive Coulter Ranch

Discussion of livestock industry and impacts on water in the panhandle. (Hosted by Jacob and Nicole Dean)

Discussion of litigation, Pumpkin Creek flows, irrigation rights out of the creek. (Speaker Steve Smith)

Catered Lunch at Coulter Ranch (catering Double L Cafe)

1:00 – 1:30 p.m. Depart Coulter Ranch

1:30 – 2:30 p.m. Arrive Wildcat Hills Nature Center

Discussion of area geology/hydrogeology (hosted by Thad Kuntz of Adaptive Resources, Inc.) Photo opportunities for tour participants.

2:30 – 3:15 p.m. Depart Wildcat Hills Nature Center

Drive through Gering Valley Flood Control Project for a windshield tour. Discussions of the Gering Valley Drain, flood control structures and historic need for these facilities. Discussion of irrigation facilities and infrastructure needs, highlighting GFL Siphon at Rifle Sight Pass.

3:15 – 3:45 p.m. Arrive Farmers Diversion Dam

Discussion of the operation of the diversion dam and Farmers Irrigation District (Hosted by Kevin Adams).

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3:45 – 4:15 p.m. Depart Dam

4:15 – 5:00 p.m. Arrive Liley Fish Farm
Presentation on aquaculture by Jeremy Liley

5:00 – 5:30 p.m. Depart Fish Farm

5:30 p.m. Arrive Scottsbluff

Note: Dinner on your own in Scottsbluff