



## **Nebraska Wellhead Protection Network**

Groundwater Education Legislative Breakfast  
Thursday January 11th, 2018 8:00-9:30 am  
State Capital Building, Lincoln, Nebraska

### **Present:**

Jane Griffin – The Groundwater Foundation (TGF), Ryan Chapman – Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ), Ken Halvorsen – Nebraska Rural Water Association, Steve Mossman – Mattson Ricketts Law Firm, John Danforth – NDEQ, Carla McCullough – NDEQ, Craig Romary – NDA, Joe Francis – NDEQ, Mark Brohman – Nebraska Environmental Trust, Sam Radford – NDEQ, Shelley Schneider – NDEQ, Marty Link – NDEQ, Kim Copenhaver – NDEQ, Becky Schuerman – Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NDHHS), Howard Isaacs – NDHHS, Steve Jillson – NDHHS, Dean Edson – Nebraska Association of Resource Districts, Jim Bunstock – NDEQ, Sara Brock – TGF, Dave Miesbach – NDEQ, Lindsay Phillips – NDEQ

Senator John McCollister – District 20, Mitchell Clark – Staff District 48, Senator Robert Hilkemann – District 4, Senator Roy Baker – District 30, Senator Steve Erdman – District 47, Senator Dan Quick – District 35, Senator Steve Halloran – District 33, Senator Dan Hughes – District 44, Senator Joni Albrecht – District 17, Lauren McCarthy – Staff District 17, Amara Meyer – District 17, Lauren Bluzek – Staff District 23, Senator John Stinner – District 48, Senator John Lowe – District 37, Senator Dan Watermeier – District 1, Senator Mike Groene – District 42, Trevor Reilly – Staff District 32, Tami Soper – Staff District 29, Senator Robert Clements – District 2, Dan Wiles – Staff District 2, Senator Burke Harr – District 8, Matt Tewes – Staff District 27, Edward Boone – Staff District 41, Tim Duey – Staff District 18, Hadassah Moore – Staff District 6

### **Meeting Summary:**

The Nebraska Wellhead Protection Network Groundwater Education Legislative Breakfast took place at the State Capitol on Thursday, January 11th from 8:00 am to 9:30 am. The meeting was an opportunity for senators and their staff to learn about and discuss the Wellhead Protection Network and groundwater issues in Nebraska. Refreshments and pastries were provided by Nebraska Association of Resource Districts. At 8:20 John Heaston, the Aquamart, gave a brief talk. The primary focus of his talk was the prominent role groundwater plays in Nebraska communities. Approximately 85% of Nebraska

residents use groundwater for their drinking water. It is very common for communities to spend a lot of money to treat groundwater issues once there is a problem, but it is less expensive and more effective for communities to take preventative measures to address groundwater nitrate issues. The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and Department of Health and Human Services have grant programs and low interest loans that Public Water Systems can utilize to make groundwater use safer and more efficient.

Space was reserved from Monday, January 8th – Thursday, January 11 in the first floor Rotunda for Network members to display informational and educational maps and graphics for those visiting or working in the Capitol and are attached below. Additionally, all senators, whether present or unable to attend the breakfast, received a folder with 2018 wall calendars containing images and information about groundwater and groundwater resources in Nebraska.