



NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES DISTRICTS

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TO: NARD Board, NRD Managers and Conservation Partners
FROM: Dean E. Edson, NARD Executive Director
RE: 14 NARD SINE DIE UPDATE

Legislature Adjourns – State senators adjourned Sine Die on April 13, 2006, ending the 60-day working session. Please take time to thank your state senator for their work this session.

Term Limited Senators Finish their Last Session -- Following are the 20 Senators that are leaving the legislature this year due to term limits. Senator Roger Wehrbein, Senator Kermit Brashear, Senator Pam Brown, Senator Patrick Bourne, Senator Pam Redfield, Senator Nancy Thompson, Senator Matt Connealy, Senator Jim Jensen, Senator Elaine Stuhr, Senator Marian Price, Senator Chris Beutler, Senator Dennis Byars, Senator Bob Kremer, Senator Jim Cudaback, Senator Ed Schrock, Senator Douglas Cunningham, Senator Don Pederson, Senator Tom Baker, Senator David Landis, and Senator Adrian Smith.

The following provides a list of bills passed (pages 1-5) and indefinitely postponed (pages 5-6). *Unless otherwise noted, the bills passed become 3 months after the end of the session.*

Bills Passed

- * **LB 32, NRD Director Per Diem** – Lawmakers approved on a 45-0 vote to increase the NRD Director per diem from \$2,800 to \$3,600 annually. The maximum daily per diem remains at \$70.
- LB 508** – Senators approved on a 43-0 vote to make several changes to water laws. Included in the bill were: (1) Changing the water well decommissioning formula for NRDs from the previous year's use to a three-year average; (2) Clarifying that groundwater reuse pits are not subject to surface water rights (**LB 1099**); (3) Allowing old wells that are being replaced to be used as monitoring, livestock or other non-consumptive uses less than 50 gallons per minute (**LB 1164**); (4) Adding a representative from the NRDs to the Water Well License and Standards Board (**LB 140**); (5) Allows Electric inspectors to break the seal on a well (**LB 822**)
- * **LB 898, Open Meetings Law** – Lawmakers approved on a 41-0-8 vote to open meeting law changes. After the compromise amendment was adopted on Select File, the final version includes five changes to open meetings laws: (1) Agenda items shall be sufficiently descriptive to give the public reasonable notice of the matters to be considered at the meeting; (2) Motions to close a public meeting must include the subject matter and the reason necessitating the closed session shall be identified in the motion; (3) If the motion to close passes, then the presiding officer immediately prior to the closed session shall restate on the record the limitation of the subject matter of the closed session; (4) Public bodies shall make available at least one current copy of the Open Meetings Act posted in the meeting