

**April 7, 2009**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Mike Onnen, Manager, Little Blue NRD  
402.364.2145 or monnen@littlebluenrd.org

## **All-Hazard Mitigation Planning Meetings Scheduled**

### *Public invited to participate*

If your town was wiped out by a tornado, where would you go to protect yourself? With landmarks gone, could you find what you need? Would you know where and how to start the rebuilding process?

Or, if a winter storm knocked out power and the lines and couldn't be fixed for days—or weeks, how would you respond? Where would you turn for help?

These situations and other natural disasters, such as floods, wind storms, droughts, wildfires, and dam failures, are all part of a plan currently being developed for each community in your county.

The Little Blue Natural Resource District (NRD) and the Lower Big Blue NRD are partnering with the counties of Jefferson, Gage, Saline, Thayer, Nuckolls, Fillmore, Clay, Adams and Webster and their Emergency Management coordinators to develop a regional All-Hazards Mitigation Plan. An All-Hazards Mitigation Plan is now required as part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 regulation for any local governmental entity to receive federal funding for FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance Programs, including Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), post-disaster funds; Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) pre-disaster funding; Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA); Repetitive Flood Claim (RFC), and the Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) Programs.

The project to develop the All-Hazards Mitigation Plan began in May 2008 when public meetings were held in each county to receive public comments about disaster types, problem areas, and potential mitigation solutions.

Now, a second round of public meetings has been scheduled for this spring to allow all public officials and members of the public an opportunity to hear about the plan's progress and share feedback on projects that could help their communities.

"The public's participation is critical for a successful plan," said Mike Onnen, manager of the Little Blue NRD. "We've gathered quite a bit of information over the past year, and now we need the public's help to evaluate and rank the projects that have been added to the draft mitigation plan."

Meetings have been set for the following counties and locations:

(more)

<b>County</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
Fillmore County	April 20	7:30 PM	Geneva Public Library, Geneva
Thayer County	April 21	7:30 PM	Courthouse Club Room, Hebron
Saline County	April 22	7:30 PM	Saline Center Hall, Hwy 15 & Co. Rd M (near Wilber)
Jefferson County	April 23	7:30 PM	Jefferson County Fairgrounds, 4-H Building, Fairbury
Gage County	April 27	7:30 PM	Wymore Community Building, Wymore
Webster County	April 29	3 PM	Courthouse, Red Cloud
Nuckolls County	April 29	7 PM	City Auditorium, Nelson
Adams County	April 30	7:30 PM	Hastings Police Station Auditorium, Hastings

Following the public meetings, the public feedback will be reviewed and compiled; adjustments will be made to the plan as needed. The Olsson Associates consulting firm was hired to assist the NRDs in the planning process. The resulting plan will be completed and submitted to Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) this summer.

###