

Nebraska Wellhead Protection Network (WHPN)

Scope: State

Location: Nebraska

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Wellhead Protection Network
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SCOPE:

- Network of individuals, organizations, and agencies in Nebraska that help communities develop and adopt wellhead protection (WHP) programs.
- The Groundwater Foundation serves as facilitator and record-keeper for the WHPN
- Meetings include “drop-in” sessions for senators.

COLLABORATIVE FORMATION:

- Initiated by Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy in 2001 and funded by Clean Water Act Section 319 grants.
- In 2001, organizations supporting WHP programs began to meet to discuss their work, identify community needs, and exchange information.
- Meetings occur quarterly, offering diverse opportunities to tour projects that WHPN members are working on and learn from experts.
- In 2010, WHPN formed an education subcommittee to improve public outreach and achieved funding for subcommittee activities.

MEMBERS:

Approximately 168 active individuals. Meeting attendance varies by location and topic, but typically includes:

- Applicable local, state, regional, and federal agencies
- Nebraska's 23 Natural Resources Districts
- Public water systems throughout the state
- A number of environmental consulting firms

WATER CONCERNS:

Examples of concerns discussed in recent WHPN meetings include


- Potential for extreme weather events such as drought or flooding
- Nitrate contamination mitigation and management
- Innovative solutions for aquifer recharge
- New technology for developing wellhead protection plans
- Risk communication and community outreach
- Funding opportunities for groundwater and drinking water management plans
- Waterborne diseases and drinking water pathogens
- Wastewater management in wellhead protection areas
- Proper decommissioning of abandoned wells
- Controlling runoff, storm water management, rain gardens
- Impacts of hydraulic fracturing

STRATEGIES:

- Networking and collaboration between WHPN members
- Focus on WHPN member information needs
- Create consistent WHP messages to public
- Develop topical themes in consultation with WHP objectives

Results:

- Education subcommittee redesigned WHP signs, making them easier for the general public to understand.
- Subcommittee is working to develop a "Why Wellhead Protection?" brochure.
- Provides regular continuing education opportunities for WHPN members.
- Subcommittee is working on outreach and education training materials for members to use in their community.



Information current as of November 2020. Please check with the Collaborative contacts (or website if available) for the most up to date information. To find other source water collaborati2ves across the U.S. or to add yours to the list, visit the Source Water Collaborative's [How To Collaborate Toolkit](#)