

# CHAPTER 3:

## Environmental Quality Council

---

The Environmental Quality Council was established through the Nebraska Environmental Protection Act as the body that adopts rules and regulations which set air, water, and land quality standards in order to protect the public health and welfare of the state. They adopt regulations that guide the activities and responsibilities of NDEE. In addition, the Governor appoints the NDEE Director based on candidates recommended by the Council.

The Council has 17 members who are appointed by the Governor to four-year terms. Appointments require legislative approval. Council members are appointed to represent the food manufacturing industry; conservation interests; the agricultural processing industry; the automobile or petroleum industry; the chemical industry; heavy industry; the power generating industry; crop production; labor; the livestock industry; county government; municipal government (two members, one of which represents cities not of the primary or metropolitan class); a professional engineer; a biologist; a representative of minority interests; and a doctor with knowledge about the human health aspects of air, water and land pollution.

The Council is required by statute to meet at least twice each year. NDEE publishes notice of these meetings, together with an agenda and a description of proposed business items to be considered. The Council holds public hearings on the proposed regulations at these meetings. Any interested person may submit written comments on the proposed regulations and/or testify at the public hearing. The Council considers these comments and testimony prior to making a decision on whether to adopt, modify, or deny new state environmental regulations and amendments to existing regulations. The Council can also consider rule-making petitions submitted by the public.

Although the Council is responsible for review and adoption of rules and regulations, it does not have involvement in NDEE's administrative functions or day-to-day responsibilities. The NDEE Director is responsible for administration of NDEE and the rules and regulations adopted by the Council.

Following are two tables. The first lists the council members and the second summarizes Council actions for FY23-24.

### Council Members

| <b>Representing</b>           | <b>Council Member</b>              | <b>Term Expires</b> |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Agricultural Crop Production  | Kevin Peterson<br>Osceola          | June 22, 2025       |
| Ag Processing Industry        | Allison Willis<br>Aurora           | June 22, 2027       |
| Automotive/Petroleum Industry | Jill Becker<br>Lincoln             | June 22, 2025       |
| Biologist                     | Amy Staples<br>Broken Bow          | June 22, 2025       |
| Chemical Industry             | Seth Harder<br>Plainview           | June 22, 2027       |
| City Government               | Marty Stange<br>Hastings           | June 22, 2027       |
| Conservation                  | Vacant                             | June 22, 2027       |
| County Government             | Lisa Lunz<br>Wakefield             | June 22, 2027       |
| Food Products Manufacturing   | Jessica Kolterman<br>Seward        | June 22, 2025       |
| Heavy Industry                | Kurt Bogner<br>Norfolk             | June 22, 2027       |
| Labor                         | Brad Bird<br>Blair                 | June 22, 2025       |
| Livestock Industry            | Alden Zuhlke<br>Plainview          | June 22, 2025       |
| Minority Populations          | Tassia Steidley<br>Lincoln         | June 22, 2025       |
| Municipal Government          | Lance Hedquist<br>South Sioux City | June 22, 2025       |
| Physician                     | Timothy Tesmer, MD<br>Lincoln      | June 22, 2027       |
| Power Generating Industry     | Lynn Mayhew<br>Grand Island        | June 22, 2025       |
| Professional Engineer         | James Theiler<br>Papillion         | June 22, 2027       |

**Environmental Quality Council Actions July  
1, 2023, to June 30, 2024**

| <b>Council Meeting Date</b> | <b>Regulation</b>   | <b>Action</b> |
|-----------------------------|---|---------------|
| November 17, 2023           | Resolution to Increase Borrowing Authority for the Wastewater Treatment Facilities Construction Loan Fund (CWSRF)   | Approved      |
|                             | Resolution to Increase Borrowing Authority for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund  | Approved      |
|                             | Public Hearing on 2024 Litter Percent Allocations   | Approved      |
|                             | Public Hearing on Amendments to Title 117   | Approved      |
| June 20, 2024               | Public Hearing on 2025 Intended Use Plan and Project Priority List for Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) | Approved      |