

## Midde Republican Natural Resources District

## MEETING NOTICE

The Middle Republican Natural Resources District Board of Directors will hold a special meeting at the Phelps County Ag. Center, $13082^{\text {nd }} \mathrm{St}$, Holdrege, Nebraska on Monday, March 1, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. for the purpose of discussing matters relating to lawsuit settlement compliance. No action will be taken at this meeting.

Publish as soon as possible, prior to February 28 if at all possible.

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March 1,2004
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Middle Republican Natural Resources District

Memo

DATE: February 26, 2004
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Dan Smith
RE: Special Board Meeting

As all of you should know, we have set up a special board meeting for Monday March $1^{\text {st }}, 2004$ at the TriBasin NRD office in Holdrege. The meeting will start at 10 AM and expect it to last a long time. Lunch will be catered. An agenda will be enclosed but expect it to change or be expanded. I do not think any other district will have enough board members present to make a quorum. Because the other districts use weekly newspapers, they were not able to provide notice of the meeting. We will have to take the usual steps getting started but no action is planned for this meeting.

I am also enclosing some information that is new or updated from the last time you saw it. Additional info will be provided in Holdrege.

## NEW

1. Potential Allocation Scheme - Patterson
2. Proposed amendment to LB 962 - Patterson (not adopted)

UPDATED
3. Joint action plan considerations
4. Irrigated acreage report 2003 crop year
5. Registered well report by Counties in Republican Basin
6. Registered well report by NRD in Republican Basin
( please note TBNRD is entire NRD not just Rep. Basin)
7. Pumping and Depletion Summary - dated 2/7/2004

Same info presented at Feb board meeting.

## AGENDA - March 1, 2004

The Middle Republican NRD Board of Directors will hold a special meeting at the TriBasin NRD Office in Holdrege, Nebraska on Monday, March 1, 2004 at 10:00 A. M.

## Regular Meeting:

1. Meeting called to order.
a. Verify quorum
2. Circulate agenda and roster
a. Items added since mailing
3. OFFIAL NOTICE OF THIS MEETING WAS PUBLISHED IN THE NORTH PLATTE TELEGRAPH AND THE MCCOOK DAILY GAZETTE AND WAS POSTED IN THE NRD OFFICE. AS A COURTESY IT WAS ALSO PROVIDED TO LOCAL RADIO STATIONS
4. Introductions
5. Ground Water Management
a. Discussion of Republican River Compact Administration Model.
b. Discussion of Joint Action Plan requirements and time line.
c. Discussion of proposed allocations.
d. Discussion of other settlement issues.
e. Discussion of legislative issues - LB 962 as amended

Adjourn
Next regular meeting date - March 9, 2004, 7:30 P. M., at the Fairgrounds in McCook, Nebraska.

This concept relies on developing an incentive based allocation plan. Under this concept there would be two or more alternative allocation options. The base allocation plan would set allocations low enough to ensure that the State would remain in compliance with the Compact in any given year without having to rely on any short term dry-year leasing (in other words the allocation would be set at the minimum allocation Nebraska could expect in a dry year - approximately 200,000 acre-feet). The alternative options would combine a higher allocation per acre with a voluntary payment per acre into a Compact Compliance Insurance Fund (CCIF). The funds, combined with available State and/or Federal funds, would be used primarily for dry-year leasing of quick response wells (QRW) and surface water rights to ensure compact compliance. If additional funds are available, they could be used to permanently retire surface water, QRW, or upland irrigated acres to help manage the lag effect.

The funds would be administered by a board consisting of one person from each participating NRD and the DNR ${ }^{1}$. The board would be responsible for establishing the guidelines for distributing the funds and hiring personnel to manage the funds. The operation and maintenance of the funds would be paid for by the fund itself.

The allocations would be established in three-year blocks. The Base Option would be set at _\% of 2000 year pumping to ensure compact compliance, even in dry years. Upland wells would be able to use this allocation as they choose within the three-year block. In dry years, QRWs would be restricted to using only the average annual allocation in any given year.

Options 2 (or more) would allow a higher allocation of _inches per acre for each acre to any irrigator who contributed \$_per acre to the CCIF. The amount of water that could be allocated under the alternative Options would be set to ensure continued compliance with the Compact. Surface water users that receive an amount equal to the higher allocation over the three years would also be expected to contribute to the fund. Obviously, for higher allocations, the contribution per acre would also have to be higher.

We believe LB 962 will provide the tools to make this approach work.
Given the increase in acres in both the Middle and Lower Republican NRDs, those NRDS may want to consider establishing a workable allocation per acre by limiting the allocation to _\% of certified acres. For example, if the allowable pumping were 150,000 AF for $200, \overline{0} 0$ certified acres, the NRD may want to establish a 12 inch allocation for $75 \%$ of each landowners certified acres. The land owner could choose to utilize that water on $100 \%$ of the certified acres.

[^0]Roger Portarsen

|  | AM2592 | AB |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| AM2592 | LB 962 | $\vdots$ |
| LB 962 | MHF-02-11 |  |
| MHF-02-11 |  |  |

AMENDMENTS TO LB 962

1. On page 124 , line 17 , after "systems" insert "or may

2 establish a tiered allocation system in connection with a water use
3 reduction incentive program established pursuant to subsection (9)

4 of this section".
Corer patateror

1. Treat wells differently by date drilled
a. July 1, 1998 -Date original management area adopted.
b. January 1, 2001 - eligible date in statutes
c. Any date from (b.) till now.

Wells completed:

| 1998 | 10 (Jul-Dec) |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1999 | 32 | Total 190 |
| 2000 | 26 |  |
| 2001 | 54 |  |
| 2002 | 68 |  |

2. Treat wells differently by hydrologic conditions
a. Alluvial $\qquad$ $\rightarrow$ Acres RW 29,500 HI 21,000
Quick response wells 1569 wells ?(100,000 acres)
Acres 300,000

Upland wells....... $\rightarrow$
Areas with declines
a. Frontier County-NE corner
b. Lincoln County

Mound area
Platte drainage
3. What is minimum allocation?
a. If allocation is less than 12 inches, do we want to consider

Rotation of Acres
Reduction in Acres
4. Incentive (temporary or permanent retirement) practices
a. Do we want to actively pursue this type of option?
b. Rule development
c. How much do we invest

| Current Cost-share Dollars | Meters | 25,000 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | IWM | 55,000 |
|  | LCP | 75,000 |

Irrigation wells (A,I,S) Quick Response wells

| 3392 | URNRD | 751 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 3318 | MRNRD | 1569 |
| 3866 | LRNRD | 1942 |
| $1500 ?$ | TBNRD | 181 |


Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
Database Updated Through: Jan 192004 Processed: 2/25/2004

## REGISTERED GROUNDWATER WELLS <br> BY Republican Basin COUNTY

| County | Number of (Registered) Wells |  |  |  |  |  | Average Well Depth | Avg Static Level | Avg Pump Level | Total Acres Irrigated | Avg Yield (GPM) | Rplcmnt Wells |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Comm | Dom It | Irr * ${ }^{\text {* }}$ | Mon O | Other | Total |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Chase | 4 | 84 | 1,474 | 32 | 103 | 1,697 | 288.37 | 72.78 | 115.62 | 231,561 | 1,556 | 43 |
| Dundy | 9 | 47 | 1,099 | 13 | 164 | 1,332 | 205.75 | 54.88 | 95.9 | 159,409 | 1,017 | 38 |
| Perkins | 4 | 76 | 980 | 15 | 103 | 1,178 | 395.01 | 154.67 | . 7 | , | 1, | 38 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 967 | 272.95 | 146.04 | 212.17 | 115,730 | 785 | 28 |
| Frontier *** | 3 | 80 | 703 | 41 | 140 | 707 | 328.16 | 154.16 | 207.7 | 79,985 | 833 | 15 |
| Hayes | 1 | 30 | 537 | 18 | 121 | 926 | 126.5 | 71.15 | 104.64 | 69,690 | 556 | 49 |
| Hitchcock | 23 | 83 179 | 623 | 53 | 144 |  | 113.73 | 61.95 | 102.68 | 102,952 | 438 | 56 |
| Red Willow | 29 | 179 | 1,112 | 202 | 247 | 1,769 |  | 136.7 | 171.2 | 79,499 | 1,097 | 5 |
| Lincoln ${ }^{* *}$ | 6 | 60 | 542 | 0 | 40 | 648 | 443.4 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 1434 | 190.07 | 117.95 | 152 | 148,307 | 727 | 93 |
| Franklin | 3 | 49 | 1,227 | 13 | 142 | 1,434 |  | 52.55 | 86.99 | 114,434 | 492 | 69 |
| Furnas | 11 | 104 | 1,035 | 46 | 213 | 1,409 | 1777.09 | $\underline{52.51}$ | 134.67 | 142,155 | 715 | -64 |
| Harlan | 6 | 80 | 1,225 | 22 | 119 | 1,452 | 144.26 | $\underline{95.71}$ | 105.42 | 90,998 | - 691 | 68 |
| Nuckolls* | 4 | 4.123 | 161 | 101 | 106 | 495 | 144.26 | 73.51 | 101.15 | 82,339 | -626 | 34 |
| Webster* | 2 | 285 | 572 | 49 | 97 | 805 | 128.48 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 2596 | 192.67 | . 79.85 | 114.95 | - 288,615 | 5 1,012 | - 278 |
| Phelps | 11 | $1{ }^{117}$ | 2,299 | 40 | 129 | - 2,596 |  | $1 \quad 64.99$ | 92.36 | - 301,632 | 2 1,006 | - 398 |
| Kearney | 12 | 2-154 | 2,429 | - 120 | - 113 | - 2,828 | - 192.67 | 7-79.85 | 114.95 | 5 288,615 | 1,012 | 278 |
| Phelps | 11 | 1117 | 2,299 | 40 | 129 | - 2, | - 192.67 |  |  |  |  |  |



* Corrected for \# of irrigation wells in county by NRD.
** Corrected in all columns
*** Corrected for \# of irrigation
*** Corrected for \# of irrigation wells and acres
Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
Data Bank
Database Updated Through: Jan 192004 Processed: 2/25/2004
BY Republican Basin NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

- Listed in Part 2
Summary Report (Part 2)
Other Wells (Registered)

$\begin{array}{rrr}\text { Upper } & \text { Middle } & \text { Lower } \\ 3381 & 3195 & 3638 \\ 3392 & 3318 & 3866\end{array}$
SUMMARY REPORT
REGISTERED GROUNDWATER WELLS

|  |
| :--- |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |



Pumpage and Depletion by NRD

Allocation of Pumpage Volumes by Natural Resources Disttict


1990_2002Summary Groff final5.xlsSheet1


Allocation of Pumpage Volumes by Natural Resources Disttict Ground Water Irrigated Acres Only


|  | Lower Republican NRD |  |  | Tri-Basin NRD <br> Total <br> Pumpage Acre <br> Feet |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Scenario | Total <br> Pumpage Acre <br> Feet | Certified Acres | lnches Per Acre |  | Certified Acres | Inches Per Acre |
| $\begin{array}{\|l\|} \hline \text { Average } \\ 1991-2000 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | 178,160 |  |  | 136,633 |  |  |
| 10\% <br> Pumpage <br> Reduction | 160,344 |  |  | 122,970 |  |  |

Summary Allocations Minus Depletions from Beneficial Consumptive Use Nebraska

| $5-\mathrm{Yr}$ <br> Running <br> Average |  | Above Guide Rock |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Average | Minimum A | Average | Minimum |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Pumping Reduction Scenarios |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Forecast2021-2040 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| (20,500 | (83,400) | (51,700) | 196.600 |
|  |  |  |  |
| (16,600) | 176, 100 | (13,000) | (89,0¢0) |
|  |  |  |  |
| (8,900) | (71,000) | (35, 100 | (0, 0000 |
|  |  |  |  |
| (1,500) | 65 100 | 127,700 | (78, 100) |
|  |  |  |  |
| 6,640 | (58,400) | ) 119,500$)$ | (71,600) |
|  |  |  |  |
| 12,800 | (51,800) | ) $(13,000)$ | (65,000) |
|  |  |  |  |
| 39,100 | (28,000) | ) 12,600 | i+10,800 |
|  |  |  |  |
| 11,400 | (63,700) | 1) (14,900) | 160,660 |
|  |  |  |  |
| 40,800 | (25,500) | ii 14,400 | 185,000 |
|  |  |  |  |
| 35,200 | 133,200; | 3 8,970 | 162000 |



Summary 2.xlsSheet1

## Procedures/Deadlines <br> With and Without LB962

## If LB962 Is Not Adopted

1. Each NRD/DNR joint action plan is to be completed with one year after the NRD passed the resolution to proceed to develop a plan. The resulting deadlines are:

- Upper Republican NRD-September 2, 2004
- Middle Republican NRD-? Aua, 12,2004
- Lower Republican NRD-? Sept 10,2004
- Tri-Basin NRD—August 12, 2004

2. A hearing on adoption of the joint action plan and on designating the groundwater management area to be used to implement the plan is to be conducted within 60 days after the completion of the plan. Notice must be published for 3 weeks prior to the hearing.
3. The district is to decide within 90 days after the hearing if the joint action plan should be adopted and a management area designated and if so, what ground water controls are to be adopted.
4. The order adopting the controls has to be published for 3 weeks following its adoption and it has to become effective within 90 days after its adoption.
5. The statute is ambiguous on this point, but the safe assumption is that DNR is to adopt any surface water controls within the same time frame as allowed for NRD adoption of the ground water controls. In that regard, if DNR determines that surface water controls are to include requirements for surface water appropriators to use reasonable conservation measures or best management practices, DNR is to allow those appropriators a reasonable amount of time, not to exceed 180 days, to identify those measures and/or practices and the schedule for their application and utilization. Whether that opportunity is supposed to be given before or after completion of the plan is also unclear in the statute, but the most reasonable interpretation seems to be that the opportunity is to be given before completion of the plan.

## If LB962 Is Adopted (Projected effective date is July 16, 2004)

1. If preparation of a joint action plan has been completed by July 16, the stays on new water uses and on increases in irrigated acres would not take effect. (Note: adoption of the plan prior to July 16 is not required, only completion of it so that it is ready for the hearing concerning its adoption; however the NRD and DNR would have to be in agreement that the plan was complete.) If the plan is to be adopted after July 16, it would first have to be compared to the requirements in LB962 for integrated management plans (IMPs), modified if necessary to bring it into conformance with those requirements, and then adopted under the provisions of LB962 as an IMP. If
agreement could not be reached on the need for or substance of any modifications, the disagreement would be submitted to the Interrelated Water Review Board (IWRB) for resolution. Any temporary suspension adopted by the NRD under current law would remain in effect until the IMP was adopted and took effect.
2. If preparation of a joint action has not been completed by July 16, the stays on new water uses and on increases in irrigated acres would take effect sometime between that date and August 1. For the Lower Republican, where the temporary current temporary suspension applies to only part of the district, the stays would apply in only the same geographic area, as does the temporary suspension. For the Upper and Middle Republican NRDs, the stays would be district wide. For the Tri-Basin NRD, the stays would apply to all that portion of the NRD that is in the Republican River Basin unless (1) that NRD, under current law and before July 16, 2004, adopts a temporary suspension on new well construction in a more limited geographic area, and (2) DNR does not determine prior to the stay that the temporary suspension area excludes portions of the hydro logically connected area. The stays in each NRD would remain in effect until the IMP for that NRD was adopted either by NRD/DNR or by the IWRB, except that if the NRD held a hearing within 90 days after July 16 on the question of whether or not to terminate the groundwater related stays, it could decide within 45 days after that hearing to terminate those stays.
3. Under LB962, the NRDs and the DNR would have up to 3 years ( 2 more annual extensions allowed) after July 16 to complete each individual IMP and put it into effect. However, the deadlines imposed by the Compact settlement will come into play before then.



[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ To be fair, the Tri-Basin NRD should also pay into the CCIF.

