

AGENDA – April 13th, 2004

The Middle Republican NRD Board of Directors will hold their regular meeting at the NRD Office in Curtis, Nebraska on Tuesday, April 13, 2004 at 7:00 P. M.

Regular Meeting:

1. Meeting called to order.
 - a. Verify quorum
 - b. Excused absences
2. Circulate agenda and roster
 - a. Items added since mailing
3. OFFICIAL NOTICE OF THIS MEETING WAS PUBLISHED IN THE NORTH PLATTE TELEGRAPH AND THE MCCOOK DAILY GAZETTE AND WAS POSTED IN THE NRD OFFICE AND ON THE DISTRICT WEBSITE AT WWW.MRNRD.ORG. AS A COURTESY IT WAS ALSO PROVIDED TO LOCAL RADIO STATIONS.
4. Approve minutes for March 9, 2004, regular board meeting.
5. Open Hearing For Variance Request
6. Close Hearing
7. Consider Variance Requests
8. Legal Matters
 - a. Jon Schroeder
9. Financial Actions
 - a. Approve Financial Report for March, 2004
10. Open Forum – Comments from guests
11. Reports – Agencies, Associations, Others
 - a. NRCS – 1) District Conservationist Report 2) Consider Agreements
 - b. NARD – 1) Report-Anderjaska 2) Next meeting June 21, 2004
 - 3) Insurance surcharge
 - c. NACD – 1) Newsletters
 - d. NNRC – Roberts & Madsen
 - e. Information & Education – Cheryl
 - 1) Scholarships-College
 - 2) Part sponsorship of Envirothon team-Wauneta/Palisade
 - 3) Honor Farm Nominations

- f. NE Republican River Management Districts Association
 - 1) Report on April 5th meeting
- g. Other Agencies or Associations
 - 1) Rural Development - April 1st meeting.
 - 2) Riparian project – April 15th.
- h. Legislation – Task Force Proposal – LB 962 as amended

12. Ground Water Management

- a. Ground Water Management Area
 - 1) Well permits 2) McCook wells
 - 3) Consider Joint meeting recommendations
 - 4) Consider allocation alternatives to submit to DNR.
 - 5) May newsletter – Special Addition for proposed rules and settlement information
- b. Settlement Implementation - Next meeting April 20th, Cambridge
- c. Ground Water Quality Management Area
- d. Other Ground Water Activity
 - 1) Spring Well Measurements

13. Programs

- a. WILD
- b. Buffer Strips
- c. Livestock Waste Control Applications
- d. Conservation Management Funds
 - NSWCP items
 - LCP items
 - Meters
 - Approve Applications
- e. Watersheds
- f. Complaints
- g. Chemigation
- h. Tree Planting

14. General Operations

- a. Personnel
- b. Sales and Rental Equipment
- c. Personnel & Operations Comm. Recommendations
 - 1) Updated Equipment Needs

Adjourn

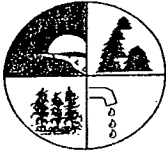
Next regular meeting date – May 11, 2004 at 7:30 P. M., at the Fairground Meeting Room in McCook, Nebraska.

MIDDLE REPUBLICAN NRD

ATTENDANCE ROSTER

4-13 2004

NAME	ADDRESS	DESIRE TO SPEAK	AGENDA ITEM NUMBER
Bob Merrigan	Curtis		
Dan Smith	Maywood		
Gayle Haag	Bartley		
Kevin Fornoff	Hayes Center		
Wayne Madsen	Trenton		
Don Roberts	McCook		
Joseph R. Cudjaska	Hayes Center		
Stan Moore	Bartley		
Kelly West	Trenton		
Duane Dodson	Maywood		
Del Harsh	Cambridge		
+ Dennis Hoyt	Cuba		
Mike Peters	McCook		
Claude Apple	McCook		
Doree Smith	Curtis		



220 Center Ave.
PO Box 81
Curtis, NE 69025

Phone: 800-873-5613
Fax: 308-367-4285
Email: office@mnrnd.org

Middle Republican Natural Resources District

MEETING NOTICE

The Middle Republican Natural Resources District Board of Directors will hold their regular monthly meeting at the NRD Office 220 Center Ave, Curtis, Nebraska on April 13, 2004 at 7:00 P.M., The agenda, kept current, is available during regular business hours at the NRD office in Curtis. Individuals requiring physical or sensory accommodations should call the NRD at 308-367-4281 or 800-873-5613 five days prior to the meeting.

Publish no later than April 1, 2004

MINUTES
Middle Republican Natural Resources District
Board of Directors Meeting
March 9, 2004
McCook, Nebraska

Board Members Present: Joe Anderjaska, Duane Dodson, Kevin Fornoff, Gayle Haag, Dennis Hoyt, Wayne Madsen, Stan Moore, Mike Peters, Don Roberts, and Kelly Wertz

Board Members Absent: Del Harsh

NRD Staff: Dan Smith, Bob Merrigan, Cheryl Griffith and Christy Peterson

NRCS Staff: Dave Griffith

Others: Brad Hock, Jerry Mustion, Jerry Wilcox, Lyle Grabenstein, Claude Cappel, Connie Jo Dicoe, Brad Johnson, Rick Spencer, Rod Spencer, Chris Miller, and Mike Thomas

Information Mailed to Directors:

March Agenda	February Public Hearing Minutes
Public Hearing Agenda	March 1, 2004 Special Meeting Minutes
February Minutes	E-Notes 2-24-04
February Financial Report	E-Notes 3-02-04
Information and Education Report	NARD Legislative Update 2-20-04
February Budget Summary	NARD Legislative Update 2-27-04
2004 Candidate List	Permit to Construct Report
Letter from George Seward	Hi-Line article concerning Ethanol Plant
Republican River Settlement Costs Report	

Information Distributed at Meeting:

Meter Cost Share	Flow Meter Usage Report 1999-2002
Cost Share Summary	NARD Legislative Update 3-5-04
Tree Cost Share	NARD Bill Summary Tracking Report
McCook Gazette Editorial	Allocation Considerations
Planter & Drill Clinic Notice	Summer Camp Scholarship Application
Route 66 4-H Camp Information	Xeriscaping Meeting Flyer
Certified FSA Acres	Rod Spencer's Usage Report
Evaluation of Wellfield Possibilities	

REGULAR MEETING

The regular monthly board meeting was called to order by Chairman Haag at 7:05 p.m. The agenda and roster were circulated to those present.

Items added to the agenda: 9b) Health Insurance Assessment, 11e3) Camp Scholarship, 12a5) Certified Acres-Lincoln Farms

Dennis Hoyt arrived at 7:07p.m.

Official notice of the regular monthly meeting was published in the **North Platte Telegraph** and the **McCook Daily Gazette** and was posted in the **NRD office** and on the District Website at **www.mrnrd.org**. As a courtesy it was also announced on **local radio stations**.

The minutes for the regular board meeting on February 10, 2004 and the special meeting on March 1, 2004 were presented.

- ◆ A motion was made by Anderjaska and second by Wertz to approve the minutes for the February board meeting and March special meeting as presented.

Ayes-9 Nays-0 Abstain-Madsen Motion carried

Recessed meeting at 7:07p.m. for hearing.

Reconvened meeting at 7:19p.m.

CONSIDER VARIANCE REQUEST

Discussion was held on the well and the zoning issue.

- ◆ A motion was made by Fornoff and second by Roberts to approve the variance request for Clara Grabenstein conditional upon Frontier County Zoning Commission changing the zoning from agricultural land to industrial.

Ayes-9 Nays-Anderjaska Motion carried

OTHER AGENCIES OR ASSOC.

Smith reviewed the meeting he attended in Cambridge concerning water systems for Cambridge, Bartley, and Indianola. Questions were presented at the meeting concerning the NRD running a rural water system for the area. Chris Miller, Miller & Associates, was invited to attend the meeting and discuss the project with the Directors.

Miller circulated a report that evaluated 5 alternatives for wellfields for Cambridge, Bartley, Indianola, Arapahoe, and Holbrook. This report compared cost effectiveness of 5 different options. The most cost effective plan was to have one wellfield service Arapahoe and Holbrook and a second wellfield service Cambridge, Indianola, and Bartley. Due to this report, the State will only assist with the wellfields if this plan is used. Arapahoe is going ahead and developing their wellfield. The community is under a state mandate due to high levels of uranium.

Discussion was held on the size of the wells that would be required. Discussion also occurred on whether the NRD would be interested in being in charge of the Rural Water System.

There is a meeting scheduled April 1 at 5:30 in McCook to meet with the communities of Indianola, Bartley, and Cambridge. At 7p.m. the same evening there is a meeting scheduled with all the communities through the Republican Basin. Haag and Madsen will plan to attend the meeting with Smith.

LEGAL MATTERS

Smith gave a brief update on lawsuits. Judge Murphy has taken the Lincoln County case under advisement. Two of the Frontier County cases have already been sent to Court of Appeals. It is anticipated that the last 3 that Judge Battershell decided will also be sent to Court of Appeals.

FINANCIAL ACTIONS

The financial report for February was presented. The County Treasurer's Balance was \$52,216.33.

- ◆ A motion was made by Anderjaska and second by Hoyt to approve the February financial report as presented.

Ayes-10 Nays-0 Motion carried

A copy of this report is on file with the minutes.

The monthly budget comparison was presented and reviewed. A summary of the lawsuit settlement funds was also mailed to Directors.

HEALTH INSURANCE ASSESSMENT

Anderjaska reviewed the status on health insurance. The NARD has a special fund that a portion of the insurance claims are paid out of. This fund helps to keep premiums down. There have been a lot of claims that have come through and the account has been drained. NARD is asking that all NRDs pay a special assessment of \$500 per employee to the fund immediately. Discussion was held on whether other NRDs would approve the assessment. The Association is also looking at making changes to the insurance for fiscal 2004-2005. The committee is considering making changes such as raising deductibles, raising co-pays, having a tier pharmacy plan, and a variety of other options.

- ◆ A motion was made by Anderjaska and second by Madsen to pay the special assessment of \$500 per employee if at least 11 other NRDs approved paying the assessment.

Ayes-10

Nays-0

Motion carried

OPEN FORUM

Rod Spencer circulated a report to Directors that showed usage on two of his wells for years 1998-2003. The information was based on kilowatt hours the wells ran. The flood ground averaged around 30 inches of water per year. Placing pivots on the fields decreased usage to 17-20 inches. Spencer is concerned that an allocation of 15 inches or below would have a disastrous effect on the economics in southwest Nebraska.

Claude Cappel circulated a report showing FSA certified irrigated acres for 1998-2003. The report showed acres for Red Willow, Hayes, Hitchcock, and Frontier Counties. Smith reported that Lincoln County had approximately 77,500 acres certified in 2003 that are not on this report.

Copies of these reports are on file with the minutes.

NRCS REPORT

Dave Griffith gave a report on NRCS activities. The EQIP work group meeting was held on February 18, 2004. Dodson represented the District at the meeting. Griffith reviewed some of the issues the group looked at. Discussion was held on the possibility of using EQIP dollars to pay landowners \$50 per acre for 3 years for leaving previously irrigated acres dry land. The group chose to table this issue until next year. The initial allocation for 2004 is approximately \$1,000,000.

NARD

NARD met in Lincoln on March 8, 2004 at the Governor's Mansion. Anderjaska reported on the meeting. A considerable amount of time was spent discussing the health insurance issue. Dave Nelson was elected as the new President of the group. Anderjaska was elected as the secretary-treasurer. Anderjaska reviewed the status on the budget for fiscal year 2005. The Association plans to order 1,300,000 trees the next two years. They will sell the trees with a 3 cent margin.

NARD Legislative updates for February 20 and 27 were mailed to Directors. The Legislative update for March 3, as well as the Bill Summary Tracking Report, was handed out at the meeting. Discussion was held on LB 962, the Water Policy Task Force bill, and LB 895, the funding bill related to LB962.

In other business, it was reported that John Thornburn was made chairman of the Manager's Committee. Anderjaska also reported that 48 people are registered to go to the Washington D.C. trip. The Smithsonian Institute wants funds to put together a permanent soil exhibit for each state. The Institute is looking for \$10,000 from each state.

NACD

E-notes for 2-24-04 and 3-2-04 were mailed to Directors.

NNRC

The Commission has a new member. The next meeting will be March 24 and 25.

INFORMATION & EDUCATION

The Information & Education Activities report was mailed to Directors. Cheryl Griffith reviewed the report. Southwest Nebraska Water Conference was held March 3 in McCook. 118 people signed in. Griffith reviewed the results of the Envirothon. The forms for Camp Scholarships were circulated. Griffith reported that registration fees for 4-H camps have more than double. An information sheet was handed out on the natural resource 4-H camp Route 66. The registration fee is \$270. Previously two scholarships have been offered for each county in the District. Approved camps were the natural resource camp and the Range Camp.

- ◆ A motion was made by Roberts and second by Fornoff to spend a maximum of \$1000 for scholarship.
- ◆ A motion was made by Anderjaska and second by Wertz to amend the motion to offer a total of 5 scholarships, one per county.

Ayes-9 Nays Roberts Motion carried

Vote on amended motion.

Ayes-10 Nays-0 Motion carried

Flyers for several upcoming meetings were handed out. A copy of an editorial from the McCook Gazette was also circulated.

NEBRASKA REPUBLICAN RIVER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS ASSOC.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 5.

LEGISLATION

The NARD Legislative Updates were discussed during the NARD report.

GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT

The well permits report was handed out at the meeting. No new permits have been approved. The District received a letter concerning an industrial transfer permit for Tom Baker. DNR has scheduled a hearing for this permit on April 7 at the Hitchcock County Courthouse. The well is being used by the new ethanol plant at Trenton. The District has the option to object to the permit or to offer testimony either in favor of or opposed to the permit. Discussion was held on nitrate levels in the area.

- ◆ A motion was made by Roberts and second by Hoyt to direct District staff to send a letter of favorable comments concerning the transfer request.

Ayes-9 Nays-0 Abstain-Madsen Motion carried

RIPARIAN TREES-SEWARD

George Seward wrote a letter to the boards of the Upper Republican NRD, Middle Republican NRD, and the Lower Republican NRD concerning the trees located in the alluvium of the Republican River and its tributaries. Seward feels that the trees should be removed. He indicates in his letter that, in his opinion, if the trees are removed this will save enough water to put Nebraska in compliance with the Compact.

Discussion was held concerning the letter. Smith will acknowledge receipt of Seward's letter and thank him for his input.

CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES TO SUBMIT TO DNR

At the March 1 meeting in Holdrege, DNR indicated that they would like each of the boards to submit scenarios of how they would like to handle allocations and water short years. These scenarios can then be run through the model. A meeting is then scheduled for March 17 to review the scenarios. Smith reviewed the timeline for the joint action plan. The deadlines would be extended if LB 962 passes. With LB 962, the District would develop an integrated management plan instead of a joint action plan. The two are very similar.

Smith reviewed several possibilities that the Directors could consider. Mike Thomas, McCook resident, suggested that allocations be based on consumptive use. This would give different allocations for pivot and flood irrigated fields. Thomas explained that flood irrigated fields use more water but also have more runoff.

Smith also reviewed a summary showing upland and quick response wells and the irrigated acres related to each. Approximately 1/3 of the acres in the District are irrigated using quick response wells. A report showing average water use reported from meters installed was handed out. The report showed usage from 1999-2002. 2003 records are still being compiled. General consensus was to have Smith submit scenarios to the DNR.

CERTIFIED ACRES

Smith reviewed a request for certified acres received from Lincoln Farms. They currently have an inactive well that last irrigated 128 acres in 1998. After 1998 the pivot was removed and the ground was changed to a feedlot. Lincoln Farms would like to use this well for irrigation again but would like to move the acres west of where the pivot had been located.

- ◆ A motion was made by Anderjaska and second by Wertz to deny the request for 128.3 certified acres from Lincoln Farms.

Ayes-9 Nays-Hoyt Motion carried

Merrigan reported that he had received certified acre forms from several owners who missed the December 31, 2003 deadline. These are all acres that are currently irrigated. The paperwork for certification is late though and must have board approval.

The requests are as follows:

AgService of America 530 acres	James Gundell 162 acres
Robert Gundell 181 acres	Donna Arnett 342 acres
William Arnett 138 acres	Moore & Sons Inc. 18.1 acres
Schroeder Cattle Co. 200 acres	Neiman & Solomon 75 acres
John R. Solomon 120 acres	William & Barbara Broomfield 231 acres
Frances Trail 52 acres	Kevin Koch 62 acres

- ◆ A motion was made by Fornoff and second by Hoyt to approve the certification of the acres as listed in the minutes.

Ayes-9 Nays-Madsen Motion carried

OTHER GROUND WATER ACTIVITY

Bob Merrigan and Mike Keahey will be attending a workshop on bacterial testing on March 10, 2004.

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT FUNDS

Smith reviewed the cost-share summary report and the cost-share summary report on flow meters. The cost-share summary report includes new applications for tree cost-share.

- ◆ A motion was made by Hoyt and second by Dodson to accept these reports as presented and approve the applications.

Ayes-10 Nays-0 Motion carried

A copy of these reports is on file with the minutes.

CHEMIGATION

Renewal forms went out February 27. Some have already been returned.

TREE PLANTING

Smith reported that sales are way down this year, especially for machine plantings. With numbers as low as they are the District staff recommends the District plant its own trees this year. Quotes were received from Demud's for installing mulch for 39 cents a foot. The Tree Guys would install mulch for 32 cents a foot or 50 cents a foot if they use their own material.

- ◆ A motion was made by Anderjaska and second by Roberts to have District staff plant trees and contract with the lowest quote to install mulch.

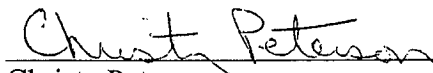
Ayes-10 Nays-0 Motion carried.

PERSONNEL AND OPERATIONS

Smith reported that Personnel and Operations Committee meeting needs to be held March 25, 2004. Madsen, Peters, and Harsh were appointed to the committee at the February meeting. Madsen has a NNRC meeting on the 25th so Dodson will take his place. District staff will contact Harsh to see if he will be available on this date. If not, Haag will attend the meeting.

Chairman Haag adjourned the board meeting at 10:28 p.m.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 13, 2004 in Curtis, Nebraska starting at 7:00 p.m.



Christy Peterson
Secretary to the Board

MINUTES
Middle Republican Natural Resources District
Public Hearing
March 9, 2004
McCook, Nebraska

Board Members Present: Joe Anderjaska, Duane Dodson, Kevin Fornoff, Gayle Haag, Dennis Hoyt, Wayne Madsen, Stan Moore, Mike Peters, Don Roberts, and Kelly Wertz

Board Members Absent: Del Harsh

NRD Staff: Dan Smith, Bob Merrigan, Cheryl Griffith and Christy Peterson

NRCS Staff: Dave Griffith

Others: Brad Hock, Jerry Mustion, Jerry Wilcox, Lyle Grabenstein, Claude Cappel, Connie Jo Dicoe, Brad Johnson, Rick Spencer, Rod Spencer, Chris Miller, and Mike Thomas

PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Haag called the public hearing to order at 7:08 p.m. The agenda and roster were circulated to those present.

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF THIS PUBLIC HEARING WAS PUBLISHED NOT LESS THAN TEN DAYS PRIOR TO THE HEARING IN THE NORTH PLATTE TELEGRAPH AND THE MCCOOK GAZETTE. INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN THE HEARING WERE NOTIFIED BY MAIL.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of this hearing is to hear requests for a variance from the rules and regulations for the Temporary Suspension of the Drilling of New Wells and other applicable rules and regulations of the District.


TESTIMONY

A copy of the Permit to Construct and variance request for an industrial well for Clara Grabenstein was mailed to directors. The proposed industrial well would be located in section 8 of township 8 and range 27 in Frontier County. Smith reviewed the application.

Jerry Wilcox, representative from Medicine Valley Economic Development Commission, reported that the Commission would like to help Grabenstein's develop this ground for possible ethanol production or some type of agricultural processing. The Frontier County zoning commission will be holding hearings in order to change the zoning on this ground from agricultural to industrial. The last of these hearings is scheduled for April 5. Lyle Grabenstein, the family representative, also offered testimony. The well would be located west of Moorefield where the railroad tracks cross Highway 23. This well would be located just north of an area in Frontier County that has shown a decline in the last few years.

Madsen expressed concern about ethanol plants being built just to collect State funds. Wilcox assured the board that this was not their intention.

Chairman Haag closed the hearing at 7:18 p.m.



Christy Peterson
Board Secretary

MINUTES
OPERATIONS AND PERSONNEL MEETING
March 25, 2004
Curtis, NE

The general session of the annual Operations and Personnel Committee Meeting was called to order at 10:10a.m.

Those present were: Duane Dodson, Del Harsh, Mike Peters, Betty Fritsch, Sandy Miller, Kathy Barger, Dan Smith, Dave Griffith, Chris Berke, Cheryl Griffith, Christy Peterson, Bob Merrigan, Richard Karre, Mike Keahey, and Mardee Studnicka.

NRCS Comments:

Dave Griffith gave a report on the activities of the NRCS. Jason Gross is the new technician in McCook. Griffith reviewed the current workload. A handout on the current agreements between the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Middle Republican NRD was circulated. The Committee recommended the continuation of the NRCS Cooperative Agreements.

Other Agreements

Smith reviewed the contract services and the other agreements the District has in place. The Committee recommended the continuation of the contract services and other agreements.

Price List:

The current price list was reviewed. The District is expecting a shipment of poison milo. This will be dispersed among the field offices. Some will also be kept at the NRD office. The District has also been carrying Rozol when the poison milo runs low. A copy of this report is on file with the minutes.

Policy Review

A proposed policy concerning electronic communication was handed out. Smith reviewed the policy. The proposed policy states that Directors need to be cautious concerning communication of any form with other Directors and District staff. Any item that may lead to Board action needs to be presented at a properly publicized meeting. The Committee recommended that the board consider adopting the policy concerning electronic communication.

Reports

The Annual Report for 2003 was sent out with the regular February newsletter. The Long Range Plan will be due for review in October. Mardee Studnicka noted that the field office secretaries were not listed with the staff on page 29. This will be looked at while the plan is reviewed.

Staffing

Smith reviewed a handout showing the workload of the District headquarter's staff and the estimate of days per year spent in each area.

Smith reviewed the projected salaries with the annual \$500 raise. Insurance premiums and benefits will be changing. It is still uncertain what the changes will be. Smith reviewed the employee benefits and salary report.

FY'04 Budget:

The budget draft for the fiscal year 2004 was reviewed. The working budget illustrates one year of actual expenditures and income, current and proposed expenditures and income. Smith gave an explanation of the proposed line changes. The budget includes hiring an additional technician.

A report showing the funds the State set aside for Settlement Implementation Costs was handed out as well as a report showing what has been used year-to-date.

The meeting broke for lunch at 11:40 a.m.

The meeting resumed at 12:55 p.m.

Smith presented a copy of last year's pay raises to Directors.

The Committee met with employees to discuss salary and employee concerns.

The Committee recommended the annual \$500 pay raise plus an additional \$500 for all employees.

The Committee recommended the District staff meet every Monday morning to review calendars.

The Committee recommended the board consider funding a Southwest Nebraska Ground Water Program.

The Committee recommended that personnel reviews be completed prior to the Personnel & Operation Committee meeting next year.

The Committee recommended that the manager and assistant manager not be absent on the same day if at all possible.

The Committee recommended a non-smoking office.

The Committee recommended that the District purchase Adobe Acrobat for Cheryl Griffith.

The Committee recommended the purchase of side toolboxes for the pickups and torches for working in the field.

The Committee recommended purchasing another ATV ramp.

The Committee recommended greater supervision on rental equipment going out and being returned.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Permit to Construct
Summary
April 8, 2004

	# of Apps	Completed	Open	EXP/CNX Suspended	Replacement
FY 97-98 (SPA only)	44	34	0	10	0
FY 99	53	46	0	7	6
FY 2000	42	32	0	10	7
FY 2001	71	56	0	15	14
FY 2002	111	100	0	11	18
FY 2003	46	26	12	8	32

Open Applications FY2001

Name	CO	Legal	Status
Don Hagan & Sons	HI	NW 26-4-34	EXP
George Seward	HA	SE 15-8-31	EXP
Scheel Investment	HA	NW 28-7-35	Completed
Paul Nichols	HI	NE 27-3-32	EXP
Paul Nichols	HI	NW 27-3-32	EXP

Open Applications FY2002

Jack Wagner	HI	SW 8-3-31	EXP	Replacement
Jinx Cattle Co.	FR	SW 36-8-30	Suspended	
Jinx Cattle Co.	FR	SE 12-8-30	Suspended	
Don Olson	RW	SW 22-3-30	EXP	Replacement
Albert Holm	LI	NE 14-10-34	Suspended	
Tom Evans	HI	SE 20-3-31	Suspended	
Stan Moore	FR	NW 27-5-27	Suspended	
Tim Lundvall	LI	NW 9-9-34	Suspended	
Scheel Investments	HA	NE 25-8-35	Suspended	
Robert Wilcox Sr.	RW	NW 6-2-29	EXP	Replacement

Bruce McDermott	LI	SW 8-10-31	Suspended
Doug McDermott	LI	NE 17-10-31	Suspended
Doug McDermott	LI	NW 19-10-31	Suspended
Doug McDermott	LI	NW 24-10-32	Suspended
Doug McDermott	LI	NE 19-10-31	Complete

FY 2003

Spring Water Farms	HI	SW 30-3-32	Complete	
Spring Water Farms	HI	SW 30-3-32	Complete	
Spring Water Farms	HI	SW 30-3-32	Complete	
Spring Water Farms	HI	SW 30-3-32	EXP	
Les Schmidt	RW	SE 13-4-28	Complete	Replacement
Ron Montross	HI	SE 20-2-35	Complete	Replacement
City of McCook	RW	NE 4-4-30	Complete	(Dave Unger)
City of McCook	RW	SW 1-4-30	EXP	(Solomon)
City of McCook	RW	NW 31-3-27	EXP	(Ervin Schaffert)

City of McCook	RW	SE 16-4-29	Complete	(Gayle Ruggles)
Ron Montross	HI	SW 20-2-35	Complete	Replacement
Ron Montross	HI	SW 20-2-35	EXP	Replacement
Terry Ellinger	HI	SE 22-4-31	Complete	Replacement
Willow Farms Inc	HA	SW 2-6-31	Complete	Replacement
Larry Burke	FR	NW 20-6-34	Complete	Replacement
Darrel Deterding	RW	SE 10-3-26	Complete	Replacement
Richard Drake	RW	SW 16-3-30	Complete	Replacement
Dorsey Resler	HA	NW 33-8-35	EXP	Replacement
Pat Stritt	RW	NW 12-3-27	Complete	Replacement
Orville Kaschke	LI	NW 36-11-30	Complete	Replacement
Hohensee Land Co.	HI	SE 19-3-35	EXP	Replacement
Kester Land Co.	FR	NW 31-6-25	Complete	Replacement
Witte Inc.	RW	NE 11-3-26	Complete	Replacement
Jeannie Eisenach	HI	NE 22-4-33	EXP	Replacement
Claude Cappel	RW	SW 20-3-30	Complete	Replacement
Claude Cappel	RW	SW 20-3-30	Complete	Replacement
Claude Cappel	RW	SW 20-3-30	Complete	Replacement
Richard Wilcox	RW	SE 36-3-30		Replacement
Gene Kleinschmidt	HI	NW 18-2-34	Complete	Replacement
Wendell Peterson	FR	SW 26-8-28	Complete	Replacement
J. T. Kiplinger	RW	SE 7-2-29	Complete	Replacement
Darrell Wulf	RW	NE 13-4-26	Complete	Replacement (LP)
Village of Bartley	RW	NE 12-4-27	CNX	Test Well
Tom Remus	LI	SE 4-10-30	done	Replacement
Village of Maywood	FR	NW 21-8-29		Replacement
Nina Wagner	HI	SW 8-3-31		Replacement
Southwest Biofuels	RW	SE 20-3-30		
Southwest Biofuels	RW	SE 20-3-30		
Southwest Biofuels	RW	SE 20-3-30		Replacement
Village of Bartley	RW	SE 6-4-26		Test Well-Expedited
Mary Jane McKillip Trust	RW	NW 7-3-26	done	Replacement
K & R Farms	HA	SW 7-5-35		Replacement
Tom Baker	HI	NW 7-3-32		Replacement (Ind)
Kester Land Co.	FR	SW 25-6-26		Replacement
Clara Grabenstein	FR	NW 8-8-27		Industrial
Warren Schaffert	HI	NW 4-2-32		Replacement

35 34 33 32 31 30 29 28 27 26 25 24

	35	34	33	32	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24
11	-2.77	-2.97	-3.69	-1.05								
10	-2.38	-1.79 -2.86	-6.47 -2.81	-1.6	-0.43							
9	-1.76	-1.23 -1.77	-2.29 -1.42	-0.08	-3.76	-0.53	-1.12 -1.25 -1.31	-1.14				
8	-2.93	-0.87	-0.83	-0.72	-1.42	0.2 -0.8	0 -1.13	-1.53 -1.4	-1.08			
7		-1.55 -2.33	-0.73 -0.72	-1.34 -1.17	0 -0.39	-0.64 -0.58 -0.69 -0.84	-0.74	-0.67 -1.14	-0.19			-0.27 -0.26
6	-1.59	-1.37 -1.29	-1.17	-0.54	-1.98 -0.97	-0.56	-0.55 1.93	0.51	-0.4 -0.12			-0.78
5		-1.36 -0.45		-0.39		-0.08 -0.64						
4	-1.27	-1.64 2.49	0	-1.43	-1.9	-0.14 -0.27	-0.97	-0.36 -0.65 -0.19 -0.78	-0.55			
3	-0.69	-0.54	-0.72	-1.37 -6.92	0 -0.38	-2.53	-1.43	-0.39				
2	-2.5	0.37	-0.55 0.01	-0.96 -0.05 -0.61	0	-1.24 0.54 0.09	-0.39	-0.2				
1	-1.75 -1.45 -0.15	-1.09 -0.48 0.14	-0.37	0	-0.42	-1.15		-0.53 -1.21				

Middle Republican
Natural Resources District
Observation Wells

WATER LEVEL CHANGES Spring 2003 - Spring 2004

MIDDLE REPUBLICAN NRD
GROUNDWATER MONITORING PROGRAM

Summary Comparison of Spring 2003 to Spring 2004

	FRONTIER	HAYES	HITCHCOCK	LINCOLN	RED WILLOW	NRD
No. Wells lower than <u>Spring2004</u>	29	21	17	22	22	111
No. Wells higher than <u>Spring2004</u>	3	0	4	0	2	9
No. Wells not changed from <u>Spring2004</u>	0	0	0	0	0	0
No. Well <u>not</u> measured	2	0	6	1	3	12
Total No. of Wells in Monitoring Program	34	21	27	23	27	132
Greatest decline in 1 well	-1.53	-2.93	-2.5	-6.47	-6.92	-6.92
Greatest rise in 1 well	1.93	0.16	2.49	0.08	0.54	2.49
Average Water Level Change Spring 2004	-0.53294	-1.23286	-0.48667	-2.02087	-0.86889	-0.9628
Average Annual Decline Since 1974						-0.1663

Spring Precipitation Critical for Adequate Soil Moisture

LINCOLN, Neb. -- Despite recent rains and snow, soil moisture conditions continue to vary across Nebraska, the University of Nebraska state climatologist said.

As producers gear up for spring planting, soil moisture ranges from significant deficits in western Nebraska to abundant in the southeast part of the state, said Al Dutcher, state climatologist.

In southeast Nebraska, there's 6 or 7 inches of moisture in the top 4 feet of soil while there's less than 1 to 1.5 inches in the west, Dutcher said. Northeast and north central Nebraska range from 3 to 5 inches of soil moisture.

Moisture in the southeastern corner of Nebraska can be tied to heavy thunderstorms in late October and early November. This region also had significant snowfall in late January and early February.

Western Nebraska missed most of this precipitation, Dutcher said. The southwestern corner of the state and the southern Panhandle remain in the worst shape.

"The next few weeks will be very critical precipitation-wise," Dutcher said.

Statewide, based on 100 years of data, there is less than a 25 percent chance that the soil moisture deficits incurred from Oct. 1, 2003, to Feb. 29 will be made up by May 1 and less than a 35 percent chance that they will be made up by June 1, Dutcher said. He analyzed 100 years of weather data to estimate the likelihood that soil moisture will be replenished this season.

West central, north central, south central and central Nebraska have about a 35 percent to 40 percent chance of eliminating soil moisture deficits by May 1. The odds increase to 40 percent to 48 percent by June 1.

For east central and northeast Nebraska, the odds increase to 45-50 percent by May 1 and 50-55 percent by June 1.

In southeastern Nebraska, which has seen surplus precipitation, there is a 65 percent chance that the soil moisture profile will be at least 80 percent full by May 1 and a 90 percent chance by June 1, Dutcher said.

Forecasts for March, April and May are showing above normal precipitation for the state, except for east central Nebraska and the Panhandle, which are showing normal precipitation, said Steve Hu, a climatologist with the university's Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

"However, I wouldn't get overly excited if we get a period of moisture, because it will take a long time to get out of this drought," said Mike Hayes, climate impacts specialist at the university's National Drought Mitigation Center. "Producers should be planning ahead this year and be prepared for drought."

Precipitation forecasts for June, July and August call for below normal precipitation except in south central Nebraska, which is showing normal precipitation, Hu said.

If normal weather persists from now through the growing season, irrigators across central and western Nebraska should anticipate needing 1 to 1.5 inches of additional water to compensate for the soil moisture deficits since October, Dutcher said.

If weather patterns are similar to the driest 30 years out of the last 100 years through June 1, an additional 2 inches of irrigation will be needed, along with normal summer precipitation.

If moisture is similar to the driest 10 years in the past century, irrigators may need to apply an additional 4 to 6 inches of water to compensate for the accumulated precipitation deficits, Dutcher said.

To eliminate the Oct. 1-Feb. 29 deficits by June 1, the western half of the state will need to experience conditions similar to the wettest 30 years out of the last 100 years. Irrigators east of Grand Island will need to see conditions similar to the wettest 40 years of the last 100 years.

Snow pack also will be important this year, Hayes said.

"So far, the central Rocky Mountains are better than this time last year, but still below normal," he said. "We were looking for a banner snowfall year, but we haven't gotten that. However, March and April are big snowfall months. There is some hope."

Estimated available soil moisture to the nearest 0.5 inch at sites across the state as of Feb. 29 was: Ainsworth, 1.5; Alliance, 1; Arthur, 3.5; Beatrice, 7; Brownville, 6.5; Concord, 4; Curtis, 1; Elgin, 5; Gothenburg, 1; Holdrege, 3; Imperial, 0.5; McCook, 3.5; Mead, 3.5; Mitchell, 1; O'Neill, 3; Ord, 4.5; Red Cloud, 1.5; Sidney, 0.5; West Point, 3; York, 4.

Soil moisture information comes from the university's High Plains Regional Climate Center's monitoring project. To monitor these levels, visit the Web site at <http://www.hprcc.unl.edu/soilm/>.

Economic and Legal Issues

- What study results are available both for NRD operations and for District wide regarding potential economic impacts?
- What are/will be the differences between LB 108 and LB 962?
-
- Changes in allocation have significant property impacts, these impacts on city and county government must be evaluated.
- Impacts on the NRDs
 - Legal costs of District members suing the NRD for implementing the Compact
 - What will be the financial impacts on NRDs budget as result of fulfilling the Compact Requirements?

Mound

- Mound credit dwindling how will this be addressed
- Mound credit – who is responsible if there are increased depletions?
- How does the mound need to be isolated in the compact –how is the beneficial use of the mound treated in the Compact?
- Water table under mound is rising now but lining of ditches and other conservation methods will lower the water table

Concerns with the Ground Water Model

- Accuracy of data input for MRNRD – acres irrigated, pumping rates these need to be corrected
- Questions about the model – is it truly reflecting the depletion from a particular area or class of wells
- How often will the model be adjusted?
- Need flexibility so if things change in the future, we can adapt
- What opportunities exist to improve the data?
- There needs to be a distinction made between the use of the model for the Compact vs. use by the NRDs for planning. It was noted that the model used for the Compact was not created for intra-NRD issues.
- From TBNRD standpoint, will be difficult to change concept to allocations when have been worrying about water table being too high for years. As long and CNPPID canal is in operation, will probably o.k. but if that changes there could be a problem

Consumptive Use

- Perhaps the NRDs could cooperate on increasing or optimizing the water supply – cloud seeding etc.

- What are our options to decrease CU and increase water supply?
- What remedies do we have to address the depletion of stream flow above Harlan County Dam?

Other Concerns

- Calculation of compact compliance parameters – written explanation of the sources of data, how they are calculated and what the limitations of the data and calculations are
- Need more explanation of data charts from DNR and dates of sheet – a narrative summary would be helpful
- How is the water table decline impacting LRNRD
- Land retirement and funding – how do we do that?

Schedule

It was noted that there is a need to quickly:

- Reach agreement on the baseline for dividing the allocation – stream flow depletions and associated pumping by NRD
- Reach agreement on how we will allocate the responsibility for any remaining dry year gap
- Agree on a timeline for adopting rules and regulations (by August 2004 rules and regulations need to be in place.

- II.** The following notes are from the discussion of how to establish the baseline, percentage reduction from the baseline to address the lag effect across NRDs, and addressing the dry-year problem to meet the requirements of the Compact. The following notes are taken from this discussion and are also reflected in the meeting summary.

Baseline

An approach to establish the baseline was suggested:

- Fairness is a big deal – fairest way is to use stream flow depletions at the 2002 level – the date on which the state told the NRDs they need to stop development
- As the baseline for all the NRDs, utilize the pumping associated with the five-year average depletions to stream flow preceding 2002 (1998-2002)
- Any lands added after 2002 would be the responsibility of the NRD that added those lands. For URNRD, any water used on satellite land is reflected

in existing pumping numbers. DNR will work with each NRD to establish that the numbers are accurate.

- Establish the pumping based on the 1998-2002 depletion. Look only at Upper, Middle and Lower and treat Tri-Basin differently related to the mound.

Each district should come forward with their idea of how to comply and let them present that to the group after the next board meeting.

MRNRD concern is that the pumpage and acre numbers are too low.

Wells in other NRDs do not contribute much to the streamflow depletion – 0%.

URNRD wanted group to note:

Since 1998-2003 the number of acres added according to the State well registration data base by NRD is:

URNRD	8,600 acres
MRNRD	54,311
LRNRD	86,410

URNRD can live with the baseline of pumpage from 1998-2002 but want people to recognize what URNRD is giving up. These numbers are probably high because people report higher than reality numbers and some wells in the data base were drilled previously and are just now being registered.

~~MRNRD could probably support using as a base pumpage 1998-2002~~

LRNRD – we realize we have added a number of acres and in retrospect, allowing people to add acres until end of 2004, we didn't know how bleak the outcome would be. We still do not see that we have had a problem because the water table was not declining. We were supplying all the water Kansas needed from the LRNRD. The problem is perceived to be caused by pumping above Harlan Co.

However, the compact is not based on the amount of water passing Hardy, the compact is not a delivery compact.

Roger sent a letter to the LRNRD in early 2002 indicating they should not increase the number of irrigated acres in the district.

Tri-Basin is the one district that is not contributing to shortages and in fact is providing extra water and in spite of that the TBNRD will likely be limiting irrigated acres within the district. So 2004 will be the year in which irrigated acres are limited.

Compliance with the compact is whether our CU is more than our allocation, although the amount of water going into Harlan does cause us to be in a water short year.

There was agreement but not full consensus on the suggestion to use a 5 year average (1998 – 2002) for depletions along with associated pumping. However it was used as a working suggestion in determining the percentage of reduction from the baseline.

Lag Effect

One option suggested was to reduce pumping by 10% across each NRD to deal with the lag effect. In three years there would be a review on how we are doing and make adjustments. There will probably need to be additional cuts, beyond 10%, to deal with the lag effect in the future.

The lag effect could possibly be distributed by NRD. To get 10% reduction in pumping may have to reduce allocation by 15%. Perhaps there could be a normal year allocation and a dry-year allocation

Concern is that the lag effect is different for each NRD and so perhaps we should take a 5% reduction in lag and then add a percentage of lag for each NRD on top of the 5% to keep up with the lag by district.

DNR will develop two scenarios to look at the options in percent reduction in pumping. The 5% and 10 % scenarios will be reviewed by the NRDs. It was noted that cutting only 5% would place more of an emphasis upon addressing the dry-year problem.

Dry-Year Problem

The dry-year problem could be addressed on a statewide basis, or by allocation of the dry-year problem to each NRD based on the percentage of NRD depletion 1998-2002. Each NRD could develop their own dry-year scheme. In other words, whatever is not done on the baseline could be allocated among NRDs base for dry-years. The percentage reduction must be a reduction in acres that were actually irrigated, not a reduction of paper acres.

There are a number of ways to deal with the dry year problem. There may need to be a specific meeting to discuss and address the dry-year problem and potential tools available.

For dry-year leasing, 1) the state could run the program under a basin board if the state had the money, or 2) the NRDs could do their own dry-year program, or 3) we could split the responsibility between the state and the NRDs.

Mound Credit

Tri-basin – for internal reasons alone, they want to maintain the mound. Current Groundwater Management Plan goal is to perpetually maintain water supply. Using

ground water levels from 1981-1985 as the floor of the water table. In sum, TB wants to protect the mound and see that it remains stable. This will maintain the credit that is going into the Republican basin. It is unlikely that acres in the TBNRD acres will increase because when convert from gravity flow to center pivot, there is usually a loss in acres.

Will there be consideration for alluvial wells that pump more but may have less consumption? A: don't think should make the distinction to allocate but when each NRD makes their allocations, perhaps could make distinctions based on alluvial or date of well completion etc.

Why should we use an average as opposed to a single year period? Because pumping jumps around a lot from one year to another.

Economic Impact

An economic study may not be required by law but politically will be necessary. A study has been contracted by several power districts and the commercial community.

Modeling Numbers and Questions

Regarding the model – if people want to schedule a separate session to review the model, we should schedule a technical session for those interested rather than spend time on this issue with the larger group.

Separate DNR follow-up meetings with the LRNRD and MRNRD will be scheduled to discuss the individual NRD total pumpage numbers.

Coordination with SW Irrigators

How do we involve the surface water irrigators? DNR will meet with the surface water irrigators specifically at the April 5th meeting.

Next Meeting(s) and

The next meeting will be held April 20th, 2004, 10:00 to 4:00 in Cambridge. Group members will hold both May 6 or 7, 2004 for future meetings.

Agenda items for the April meeting include presentations by individual NRD regarding how they will meet the Compact Obligations, based on input from elected boards. Each NRD is responsible for communicating the concepts outlined above in the summary to their elected boards.

The meetings will continue to include only a small group from each NRD and will not be publicly advertised.

Ground Water Management Items
April 13, 2004

This package contains a report of recent meetings, tables generated by myself or DRN and items that should be considered at the April 13, 2004 board meeting. I am sending this out ahead of the regular package so you have additional time to look at it. I welcome any other thoughts you may have. We have received an alternate proposal from a board member and it is enclosed for your consideration.

1. Joint Committee Meeting – These are items that were discussed by the two Districts.
2. Joint Action Plan Meetings – This is a report of the recent meetings since the Special Meeting on March 1st.
3. DNR – Ann Bleed – March 30, 2004 – This is the output from the first facilitated meeting with the Districts and DNR. We are expected to consider a position on the 5 items listed.
4. Allocation Considerations and Proposal April 13, 2004 – My thoughts on the process so far and an allocation proposal that generally has the support of DNR.
5. Irrigated acres in MRNRD – table
6. District data – table
7. Pumpage and Acres (DNR) – tables for URNRD, MRNRD and LRNRD
8. Alternate proposal

Joint Committee Meeting
MRNRD and LRNRD
March 24th, 2004

MRNRD staff and directors present: Smith, Merrigan, Haag,
Fornoff, Moore

LRNRD staff and directors present: Clements, Lubeck, Nelson
Trambley, Jack Frear, Jim Moore, Roger Nelson, JF Hoffman

The following are some recommendations suggested at this meeting. The intent is to address the common goals and needs of the districts. It is recognized that these suggestions do not necessarily represent the current policies of the respective boards.

1. 10 % reduction in acres district wide.
2. No less than a 15" allocation.
3. Immediate release of the economic impact study.
4. Need to know more about % of use in each district and impact on depletion.
5. Should individual district allocations be based on past pumping rather than stream flow depletion?
6. Consider a basin wide independent consultant to evaluate and translate existing modeling data.

Joint Action Plan Meetings

Since the March 1st special meeting in Holdrege we have had several other meetings to try and sort out the differences between DNR and the NRDs. I'm not sure anything has been resolved but we continue to move forward.

March 17, Cambridge – No real progress, URNRD proposed using a facilitated process to move forward. (Haag, Moore, Fornoff, Smith, Merrigan)

March 23, Lincoln – Met with Ann Bleed to go over our records on pumping and acres. (Smith)

March 24, Cambridge – Met with LRNRD to discuss future actions (see report)
(Haag, Moore, Fornoff, Smith Merrigan)

March 29, Cambridge – DNR and Districts. First facilitated meeting. List of actions to be considered. See Ann 30 March 2004. (Haag, Moore, Fornoff, Smith, Merrigan)

March 31, Lincoln – Met with Roger, Ann and others to discuss irrigated acres and pumping numbers. DNR agreed irrigated acres should be higher, but did not agree to adjust pumping numbers. Discussed proposed allocation plan. See JAP Allocation considerations April 13, 2004

April 20, Cambridge – Next scheduled facilitated meeting.

May 6 or 7, - Possible meeting days

Next meeting will be April 20th 10:00 to 4:00 at the Cambridge Community Center

Hold May 6 or 7 for future meetings.

The meetings will continue to include a small group from each NRD and will not be advertised.

A key question that needs to be resolved: How do we involve the surface water irrigators? This will be raised at the basin association meeting on April 5th.

For the next meeting on the 20th, each NRD needs to get confirmation from their board on whether to proceed with the proposal discussed at the 3-29th meeting. The confirmation should be on the basic concept, not the details of any numbers. The following is a summary of the proposal.

Summary

In order to apply the principles of fairness to meet the compact obligations and still make the regulations acceptable within each NRD, the following will be considered:

1. Five-year average 1998-2002 depletions and associated pumping will be used as the baseline for allocating the available water supply. Some agreement will be made on the pumpage numbers for each NRD.
2. Either a five or ten percent pumping reduction from the baseline will be adopted by the NRDs. All NRDs will have the same amount of annual percentage reduction. Each NRD can work with DNR to determine whether reductions will be in pumpage per acre or in number of irrigated acres.
3. Any additional dry-year reduction will be allocated to each NRD in accordance with the historic percentage of depletions.
4. NRDs will discuss this concept with their boards to develop individual proposals to meet their annual reduction. These proposals will be reviewed for sufficiency at the next meeting.
5. Tri-Basin NRD's responsibility will be to maintain the ground water levels in the mound at the 1981-1985 average level.

Joint Action Plan
Allocation Considerations
April 13, 2004

Reducing consumptive use in normal years and the need for additional reductions in “water short years” are the situations we need to address. As I see it the only way to reduce consumptive use is to deficit irrigate or reduce irrigated (certified) acres. Effective growing season moisture on an average of 12”. If the crop requirement for corn were 24” then the allocation would have to be less than 12” to save any consumptive use. If we cut irrigated acres by 10%, we should be able to save about 12,000 acre-feet.

Total Acres	333,500	
Alluvial Acres	63,000	6,300 acft (1 to 1)
Upland acres	270,500	5,400 acft (1 – 20%)

2003 is the first year of accounting for the Compact. DNR has said the basin overused by about 40,000 acre-feet in 2003. It is projected that we will overuse by 50,000 acre-feet in 2004. We will have only three years to catch up with this over use to be able to keep the 5-year rolling average a positive value.

DNR says our base (5 yr average) pumping for 2002 crop year was 309,479 acft and has agreed that irrigated acres were about 295,000, which includes commingled (ground and surface water) acres of about 35,000. A majority of these acres are in the H&RW FV districts and will probably be irrigated only with ground water. The difference between what they have used in the model and what we say existed is in the difference between the data that was used. I have been using Nebraska NASS numbers and the model used Federal NASS numbers. One would think that they would be the same but they are not. The model also used harvested acres, which are less than planted acres.

The model records indicate only about 14.5” average irrigation application. This is based on a formula developed from power records and applied to a percentage of the wells in our district. I don’t know why it is different from what I think to be higher uses but I don’t expect it to be adjusted.

The next issue to be addressed is the continuing lag effect. If the system was regulated to a balance in a given year, the next year would result in overuse even if it were identical parameters because of the ever increasing lag effect.

Another issue and I’m sure its not the last one is the credit for the mound areas. The Republican River Basin does not control this area and while we benefit from the credits now, those credits may disappear in the future. The individual districts will have to adjust to make up for that loss of credit.

The following proposal is the base for your consideration. We need to develop the concept of what we intend to do by April 20th. DNR will look at our proposal and the proposed actions of the other NRDs and will determine if compliance can be achieved.

Proposal: April 13, 2004

1. 15" base allocation. (DNR says 15" is the maximum we should consider)
3 year allocation beginning in the 2005 crop year.
Limit reserve to 6 inches.
No more than 3" overuse in any year.
Not allowed to use reserve in "water short year"
2. 10% reduction in certified irrigated acres.
Acres identified for reduction may change from year to year but must have a history of use.

10" of allocation in lieu of 10% reduction?
3. New wells since January 2001- 1" less than base.
4. New acres developed in 2003 – 1" less than base.
5. Additional 5 to 10% reduction in certified irrigated acres in "water short year"
6. Incentive program to temporarily or permanently retire irrigated acres.
7. Significant penalties for overuse, especially in "water short years"

* Water short year is the trigger year(s) when water in Harlan County is less than 119,000 acre-feet of storage.

Irrigated acres in MRNRD

Apr-04

County	Years											FSA		
	1985	1987	1989	1991	1993	1995	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	
Frontier	80000	81000	81000	76000	76000	71000	70000	70000	70000	70000	67000	60358	62975	
Hayes	50000	46000	43000	42000	42000	42000	41000	43000	44000	46000	50000	56127	59251	
Hitchcock	62000	53000	55000	58000	45000	36000	35000	35000	35000	36000	37000	38493	36882	
Red Willow	81000	76000	78000	82000	72000	70000	66000	65000	64000	64000	65000	62692	61529	
	273000	256000	257000	258000	235000	219000	212000	213000	213000	216000	219000	217670	220637	
Lincoln	201000	206000	210000	217000	220000	220000	227000	230000	229000	228000	227000	230000	234924	
LI MRNRD 30%?	60300	62000	64000	65100	66000	66000	68100	69000	68700	68400	68100	69000	70477	
MRNRD	333300	318000	321000	323100	301000	285000	280100	282000	281700	284400	287100	286670	291114	

1998-2002 Avg 284374

	Min	Max	Avg	Certified
Frontier	60358	81000	71948.7	84963
Hayes	41000	59251	46490.6	69733
Hitchcock	35000	62000	43259.6	40068
Red Willow	61529	82000	69786.2	61422
Lincoln	60300	70477	66552.1	77142
	258187	354728	298037	333328

Data from Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service 1985 thru 2001
 FSA data 2002 & 2003

District Data
April, 2004

<u>Wells</u>	3318	(active, inactive and suspended)
Alluvial	1100	
Quick Response (QR)	1569	

New wells since January 2001

	Wells		Acres	
	Upland	QR	Upland	QR
Frontier	15	2	1371.4	486
Hayes	60	0	9460.4	0
Hitchcock	7	4	929.1	627
Lincoln	24	1	3133.5	132
<u>Red Willow</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>636</u>	<u>338</u>
Totals	111	12	15,530.4	1,583
			(17,113.4)	

New wells: 1998 – 108 (10 permitted) 1999 – 32 2000 - 26
Unregistered wells since 1998 – 117

These wells were registered after 1998 but completed before 1996

Pumping 2003

Acres Reported	231823	16.22" average
RW	50,530	16.07"
HA	47,950	16.10"
HI	30,797	17.32"
LI	57,323	18.95"
RW	45,221	12.72"

Acres 333,500

Quick Response - 106,000	Alluvial – 63,405
FR 21990.9	FR 4314.2
HA 11364.6	HA 6496.8
HI 26507.3	HI 21498.7
LI 9580.6	LI 162.0
RW 36505.8	RW 30933.3

Upland (not alluvial) 270,000
Upland (not QR) 227,500

H&RW ID 11,695
Frenchman Valley 9,242
Frenchman Camb. 23,350 18,912 (RW Co.) 4,438 (Hi Co.)

Upper Republican NRD											
Year	Total Pumpage	Acres as Reported by NRD	Inches per Acre	12.5		Year	GW Only Pumpage	Acres as Reported by NRD	Inches per Acre	12.5	
				86%	NASS Acres in NRD					NASS Acres in NRD	Inches Per Acre
2002	644,833	441,955	17.51	5.01	439,211	2003	541,457	446,540	17.48	4.98	427,020
2001	466,841	441,955	12.68	0.18	439,940	2002	643,849	441,955	17.48	0.15	426,010
2000	663,490	441,955	18.02	5.52	397,241	2001	465,924	441,955	12.65	5.50	383,371
1999	380,234	441,955	10.32	0.00	382,597	2000	662,758	441,955	18.00	0.00	368,395
1998	503,415	441,955	13.67	1.17	385,072	1999	379,790	441,955	10.31	1.15	370,954
1997	489,546	454,402	12.93	0.43	390,955	1998	502,817	441,955	13.65	0.41	376,528
1996	328,475	454,402	8.67	0.00	398,564	1997	489,008	454,402	12.91	0.00	384,156
1995	439,376	454,402	11.60	0.00	388,507	1996	328,157	454,402	8.67	0.00	373,972
1994	494,951	454,402	13.07	0.57	382,793	1995	438,950	454,402	11.59	0.56	368,186
1993	256,709	454,402	6.78	0.00	373,894	1994	494,491	454,402	13.06	0.00	359,287
1992	334,973	454,402	8.85	0.00	380,394	1993	256,517	454,402	6.77	0.00	367,348
1991	463,137				382,286	1992	334,672			0.00	369,124
1990	505,015		Savings	12.87	368,072	1991	462,725			12.75	354,819
					16.46	1990	504,479				

Note: 2003 estimates are preliminary. 2003 estimates use 2002 acreage and active well values with 2003 hours of operation data current as of Feb 2004.

MRNRD		MRNRD		NASS		NASS				
Year	Total Pumpage	Acres as Reported by NRD		Inches per Acres in NRD		Acres as Reported by NRD		Inches per Acres in NRD		
		291,114	13.66	278,722	18.35	331,422	2003	331,422	17.47	
2002	426,294	286,670	17.84	278,722	18.35	2002	398,720	0.00	227,604	21.02
2001	307,861	287,100	12.87	283,150	13.05	2001	279,212	0.00	219,726	15.25
2000	380,069	284,400	16.04	260,253	17.52	2000	342,389	0.00	204,594	20.08
1999	135,750	281,700	5.78	251,025	6.49	1999	122,328	0.00	195,690	7.50
1998	297,421	282,000	12.66	254,114	14.05	1998	264,412	0.00	198,694	15.97
1997	288,260	251,795		251,795	13.74	1997	258,485	0.00	196,214	15.81
1996	174,909	247,432		247,432	8.48	1996	155,139	0.00	191,329	9.73
1995	280,015	228,734		228,734	14.69	1995	244,970	0.00	172,756	17.02
1994	271,512	242,202		242,202	13.45	1994	241,160	0.00	185,592	15.59
1993	60,881	226,062		226,062	3.23	1993	53,685	0.00	169,453	3.80
1992	169,657	238,453		238,453	8.54	1992	153,048	0.00	187,158	9.81
1991	300,297	239,888		239,888	15.02	1991	272,189	0.00	187,693	17.40
1990	298,455	239,825		239,825	14.93	1990	269,608	0.00	186,747	17.32

Note: 2003 estimates are preliminary. 2003 estimates use 2002 acreage and active well values with 2003 hours of operation data current as of Feb 2004.

LRNRD		LRNRD		LRNRD		LRNRD		LRNRD		LRNRD	
Year	Total Pumpage	Acres as Reported by NRD	Inches per Acre	NASS Acres in NRD	Inches Per Acre	Year	GW Only Pumpage	Acres as Reported by NRD	Inches per Acre	NASS Acres in NRD	Inches Per Acre
2002	361,303			285,482	15.19	2003	284,532			222,563	15.34
2001	238,542			282,181	10.14	2002	342,520			222,563	18.47
2000	263,751			306,489	10.33	2001	226,686			220,245	12.35
1999	153,409			292,542	6.29	2000	253,700			223,030	13.65
1998	194,440			295,116	7.91	1999	146,927			208,859	8.44
1997	237,626			298,631	9.55	1998	186,360			211,201	10.59
1996	124,411			277,387	5.38	1997	228,107			214,079	12.79
1995	246,010			270,410	10.92	1996	119,036			193,202	7.39
1994	174,458			276,374	7.57	1995	235,022			185,889	15.17
1993	41,515			262,889	1.90	1994	167,212			192,557	10.42
1992	145,458			268,464	6.50	1993	39,673			179,075	2.66
1991	275,895			268,890	12.31	1992	139,767			186,330	9.00
1990	214,375			268,552	9.58	1991	265,796			187,511	17.01
						1990	206,988			187,623	13.24

Note: 2003 estimates are preliminary. 2003 estimates use 2002 acreage and active well values with 2003 hours of operation data current as of Feb 2004.

Alternate Allocation Proposal
April 13, 2004

Five year allocation

Principle allocation: 10"

Option to purchase extra five inches for a cost of \$10.00 per inch (per acre) per year.

Reserve 5" per year
5" maximum to carry over to next allocation.

Revenue from purchase of extra water would be used to pay for buy out of irrigated land.

Republican River Compact Compliance

March 29, 2004

Draft Notes

Attendees:

Brad Lundeen	John Thorburn
Mike Clements	Phyllis Johnson
Bryan Lubeck	Ray D. Winz
Bob Hipple	Stan Moore
Justin Lavene	Kevin Fornoff
Dave Cookson	Gayle Haag
Roger Patterson	Dan Smith
Ann Bleed	Terry Martin
Jonathan Bartsch	Kenny Owens
Brad Edgerton	Greg Pelster
Bob Merrigan	Tom Terryberry
Gary Brown	Jack Frear
Mike Thompson	Nelson Trambly
Dean Large	

Agenda

Welcome and Agenda Review

Discussion: Issues and Concerns

- Establishing a baseline
 - Percentage reduction from baseline to address lag effect
- Dry-year gap responsibility
- Mound Credit

Procedural Issues and Next Steps

Summary

In order to apply the principles of fairness to meet the compact obligations and still make the regulations acceptable within each NRD, the following will be considered:

1. Five-year average 1998-2002 depletions and associated pumping will be used as the baseline for allocating the available water supply. Some agreement will be made on the total pumpage numbers with each NRD.

2. Either a five or ten percent pumping reduction from the baseline will be adopted by the NRDs. DNR will develop scenarios using a five and ten percent pumping reduction for consideration to the NRDs. All NRDs will have the same amount of annual percentage reduction. Each NRD may work with DNR to determine whether reductions will be in pumpage per acre or in number of irrigated acres.
3. Any additional dry-year reduction will be allocated to each NRD in accordance with the historic percentage of depletions.
4. NRDs will discuss this concept with their boards to develop individual proposals meet their annual reduction. These proposals will be presented and reviewed for sufficiency in addressing the Compact Compliance requirements at the next meeting April 20, 2004.
5. Tri-Basin NRD's responsibility will be to maintain the ground water levels in the mound at the 1981-1985 average level.

Meeting Notes

The NRDs and DNR each outlined their major concerns related to developing a joint action plan to meet the compliance targets for the Republican River Compact. The following are notes captured during this discussion.

Allocating Nebraska's Water Supply Among the NRDs

Concerns related to reaching an agreement on baseline for allocation

- Nature of the data used for total ground water pumpage
- Adequacy of irrigation acres numbers are they accurate? There is a need to reach agreement on these numbers.
- As an allocation is developed for each NRD, we need to be sure that the State is meeting its goal of being in compliance, we need to know where the responsibility for noncompliance lies of this does not occur
- How allocations amongst NRD will be distributed among the NRDs using stream flow depletions as a basis
- What is the relationship between percentage of depletion and pumping?
- What is the percentage of Quick Response Well Areas (QRW) in each NRD and how will this impact the LRNRD?
- How will the basin lag effect be distributed among NRDs
- Percentage of QRW and how it impacts the LRNRD
- How do we account for the amount of acreage increase since the settlement in 2002?
- Historic pumping of wells – where is the MRNRD and LRNRD pumping numbers going in the future?
- The NRDs and DNR need to have some quantitative compliance targets to provide definite measuring points for compliance.