

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Middle Republican Natural Resources District and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources will hold a joint public hearing for the purpose of receiving testimony with regard to proposed amendments to the Integrated Management Plan controls through the Ground Water Management Area Rules and Regulations, of the Middle Republican Natural Resources District. The hearing will be at the American Legion Building at 214 Center Avenue in Curtis, Nebraska on June 13th, 2006 at 7:00 P.M. Written testimony may be sent to the Middle Republican Natural Resources District at PO Box 81, Curtis, Nebraska, 69025, or the Department of Natural Resources at 301 Centennial Mall South, P.O. Box 94676, Lincoln, NE 68509-4676. Written testimony will be accepted until the close of the hearing on June 13th, 2006. The proposed amendments will be considered at the regular board meeting following the hearing.

The authority for the adoption and revision of such rules and regulations is found in the Nebraska Ground Water Management and Protection Act. NRRS 46-701 through 46-753. The requirement that a public hearing be held is specified in NRRS 46-718 and 46-743. This amendment to the Integrated Management Plan controls is through revisions to the Ground Water Management Area rules dealing with Subareas, Flow Meters, Reports, Certification, Incentive Program, Transfers and Allocation.

The contents of this management area include the rules and regulations to achieve the purpose of the management area which is to (1) protect the ground water quantity and (2) the prevention or resolutions of conflicts between users of ground water and appropriators of surface water, which ground water and surface water are hydrologically connected through implementation of the goals and objectives identified in the Integrated Management Plan.

The geographic area involved is the entire Middle Republican Natural Resources District.

The Integrated Management Plan controls that are proposed to be amended are as follows:

Chapter 1, General Provisions. Revision to state that a list of legal descriptions identifying the Quick Response and Platte sub-areas is on permanent file and available for inspection.

Chapter 4, General Management. Flow Meters. New requirements that installation or changes to location of flow meters be permanent and no higher than 6 feet above ground level and that electronic or digital readout meters must have uninterruptible power supply; that meters previously repaired for vibration damage be moved or modified; that meters be permanently mounted by the start of the 2008 crop year; and that additional information will be required of landowners in case of challenges of usage readings.

Reports. Revisions to the rule dealing with reports required by the district to require landowners with portable or easily removable tubes to report the location of storage of such meters, the reading on the meter when it was removed, the date of reinstallation and reading on reinstallation.

Certification. Revisions to the rule dealing with certification of irrigated acres to add new requirements that all certified acres be taxed as irrigated acres by the County Assessor by the beginning of the 2008 crop year, and that acres not assessed will not receive an allocation.

Incentive Program. Revisions to the rules to add a reference to programs that may provide for either the temporary or permanent retirement of acres.

Chapter 5, Management of Uses. Transfer Permits. Revision to the rule allowing for transfers to clarify that a permanent transfer includes transfer to a new location on property owned by the same landowner; to add a new provision allowing landowners to permanently transfer a portion of their certified acres to another party, and allowing the district to limit such transfers; to add new provisions specifying that the district may deny requests for transfer and the basis for such denials, and allowing the district to condition approval of a transfer request on the basis of capacity to pump.

Allocation. Revision to the rules for allocation of ground water for industrial uses to provide a consumptive use allocation of 80.65 acre feet per year for new industrial uses, and to provide that allocations over such amount are the responsibility of the user to offset by discontinuing an existing certified use.

Supplemental Wells. Revision to the rules for supplemental wells to clarify that the allocation for such wells shall be 39 inches minus the amount of surface water used on those acres also irrigated with ground water.

The full text of these rules and regulations are available on the district website at mrrnd.org or may be obtained by contacting the Middle Republican NRD, PO Box 81, Curtis NE, 69025 or at 308-367-4281.

Publish for three consecutive weeks. The first publication shall be no earlier than May 22, 2006 with the last notice published no later than June 6th, 2006.