

From: "Mike Clements" <lnrd@megavision.com>
 To: "Steve Gaul" <sgaul@dnr.state.ne.us>
 Subject: Re: Request for Information from Republican NRDs
 Date: Wed, 14 Sep 2005 09:21:45 -0500
 X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 6.00.2900.2670
 X-Virus-Scanned: amavisd-new at megavision.com
 X-Spam-Checker-Version: SpamAssassin 3.0 (1.5) on server100.dnr.state.ne.us
 X-Spam-Level:
 X-Spam-Status: "No, hits=-0.22 required=3.00
 tests=BAYES_10,VOWEL_FROM_5,NO_RDNS2 autolearn=Yes version=3.0"

Steve,

In my budgeted amounts I was figuring retiring 10,000 acres per year over the next five years. This would give us 50,000 acres new permanently retired acres in the Lower Republican. The EQIP acres I don't think you can count as they are for such a short period. The CREP will help but again after 10 or 15 years these acres will be irrigated again and then the problem compounds. The answer is permanent retirement and it's not going to be cheap. The question is does the State want to pay to fix the problem or litigate the problem. The other huge issue we face is no one at the State seems to know how much if any retirement is needed. So we're just kind of flying along by the seat of our pants. You know the old saying garbage in, garbage out. I think until we can get more modeling information and a better sense of direction the budgeting estimates you will receive will be guess work at best.

Mike

----- Original Message ----- From: "Steve Gaul" <sgaul@dnr.state.ne.us>
 To: <jasperfanning@urnrd.org>; <lnrd@megavision.com>; <dsmith@mnrnd.org>; <jthorburn@tribasinrd.org>
 Cc: <ableed@dnr.state.ne.us>
 Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2005 4:21 PM
 Subject: Request for Information from Republican NRDs

In addition to the e-mail I just sent to all NRD managers, I am sending this additional e-mail to Republican Basin managers because of the importance of activity in your districts. We are especially interested in the basis for your estimates of needed funds for incentives and related compliance activities in your basins. In our future discussions with those responsible for funding decisions they are likely to ask us why we are asking for specific amounts of money for incentives. Since incentives and regulation are both means of meeting Compact requirements, they may also ask about existing and anticipated allocations or other regulation. Incentives in your basins comprise most of the overall expense noted in the integrated management budget surveys the NRDs just returned. Our best understanding is that the estimates provided are based upon paying a certain amount of money per acre to retire a certain amount of acres from irrigation over a certain number of years. Any specific information you can provide on that topic would be helpful. If you are able to provide the number of acres, lease vs sale of easement, price assumptions and timeframe, that may be helpful to us in explaining how figures were derived.

Steve

From: "John Turnbull" <jturnbull@upperbigblue.org>
To: "Steve Gaul" <sgaul@dnr.state.ne.us>
Subject: RE: Request for Explanatory Material/Paragraph on NRD Integrated Management Budgets
Date: Wed, 14 Sep 2005 09:16:52 -0500
X-Mailer: Microsoft Office Outlook, Build 11.0.5510
Thread-Index: AcW4qNbwEUHt41E3TIifSsDVCz3wKAAjDXTwAABCE8A=
X-Spam-Checker-Version: SpamAssassin 3.0 (1.5) on server100.dnr.state.ne.us
X-Spam-Level:
X-Spam-Status: "No, hits=0.01 required=3.00 tests=BAYES_40,NO_RDNS2 autolearn=Yes version=3.0"

Steve,

We used our existing adopted groundwater management budget for the non-declared area worksheet. We estimated changes for future years. We have budgeted and carried out groundwater management activities every year since 1978.

The fully appropriated area worksheet has only the additional costs over and above the non-declared area estimates we expect in the next 3 years. No compliance costs are included, because by statute we have 3 years to complete an integrated management plan. Implementation and compliance will occur after the adoption of any integrated management plan. Stays on expansion are the only compliance to deal with until the plan goes into effect.

John C. Turnbull
General Manager
Upper Big Blue NRD
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York, Nebraska 68467
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From: "John Turnbull" <jturnbull@upperbigblue.org>
To: "Eugene T. Glock" <eugeneglock@risingcity.com>,
"Tom Schwarz" <tschwarz@atcjet.net>,
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"Ann Bleed" <ableed@dnr.state.ne.us>,
"Patrick Heath" <psheath@actcom.net>,
"Steve Gaul" <sgaul@dnr.state.ne.us>

Date: Fri, 16 Sep 2005 09:04:07 -0500

X-Mailer: Microsoft Office Outlook, Build 11.0.5510

Thread-Index: AcW6tPu41C9n8jcYS82/kpQENkRu9QAD+6tA

X-Spam-Checker-Version: SpamAssassin 3.0 (1.5) on server100.dnr.state.ne.us

X-Spam-Flag: YES

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tests=HTML_MESSAGE,US_DOLLARS_3,BAYES_60,VOWEL_TOCC_6,NO_RDNS2 autolearn=Yes version=3.0"

Subject: [Spam???] RE: Man from LaMancha

Gene,

It seems to me, after reviewing the summary worksheets, that by far the biggest costs are for retiring irrigated acres in the Republican Basin. We need to think about should the folks who have to reduce acres be compensated by government funds or not. Maybe you are right in that funding for such acre retirement programs need to be dealt with separately.

The Upper Big Blue NRD just made a major tax increase which includes additional funding for groundwater management. Our tax levy increased from \$.0286 to \$.0383 per \$100 of valuation. Our estimates that we provided the Funding Committee are based on our FY 2006 budget and estimated increases over that for managing fully appropriated basins. Our Groundwater Management Area Budget is based on 26 years of expenses that we have incurred in administering Groundwater Management Areas.

The additional costs for fully appropriated basin work in our case is less than our current costs to administer our groundwater management areas. We did include a potential Environmental Trust Fund grant in our budget for water meter cost sharing over the next 4 years. That cost sharing is planned to cost \$1,500,000 over that period, somewhat less than \$500,000 per year. If the grant does not come through then the budget for those years will not include the \$1,500,000.

No compliance costs were included in our estimate. Fully appropriated basins are not faced with mandatory reduction of irrigated acres, which makes things a lot easier to deal with.

John C. Turnbull
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