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Subject: Explanation on Integrated Management Budgets
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Steve,

Attached are a few paragraphs about how I arrived at the figures for the IM budgetary sheets. I felt I was being very conservative with the figures I listed.

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Budget for Water Management.doc

Upper Loup NRD

For Non Declared Basin

As far as administration activities if Upper Loup is not declared, I probably underestimated the \$12,000 cost at least in the FY2005-06. Updating well registrations is taking way more time than originally planned. Researching the current well registrations for current landowner and correct location, printing the current data and maps and mailing needed changes to landowners takes a lot of time. Many times calls and follow-up calls are needed. Rewording letters to fit each situation and postage take time and expense. The resources technician working on these checks back on the DNR database but the changes are pretty slow in coming so that means checking back several times. Apparently, some landowners are not taking this very seriously. Continued informational activities to inform the area water users about integrated water management and reduced pumping will continue to take time and expense.

For technical activities - We will be financially participating with Lower Loup NRD and the Elkhorn NRDs to develop a ground water model for the area. This will be in cooperation with DNR and USGS and will be at least a two year project.

Fully Appropriated Determination for Loup Basin

If the Loup Basin is determined fully appropriated, there will be increased costs to certify acres and monitor that there is being no increase in irrigated acres. Even though Upper Loup has less farmed acres than many districts, it will again take a substantial amount of staff time and expense to get this completed for eight counties.

Continued GIS, mapping, water levels database, etc. will take more staff time and extra staff will be needed. Our FY 2006 budget asks for a 20% increase in property taxes. Our conservative board may not realize the added staff time needed or look favorably at increasing the budget yearly.