

Tri-Basin NRD
Kansas v Nebraska Settlement Implementation Activities
9/30/2004
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Introduction: Tri-Basin Natural Resources District (NRD) is cooperating with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NDNR) to implement the *Kansas v Nebraska* settlement. Following is a brief summary of NRD activities related to settlement implementation.

Establish groundwater quantity management area- The Tri-Basin NRD Board of Directors established a district-wide groundwater quantity management area, effective September 15, 2004. The management area has three phases. The entire district was designated as a Phase I groundwater quantity management area. Phase II is linked to groundwater levels in any portion of the district falling below 1981-85 levels. Phase III management would be activated in any area where phase II regulations have not reversed a decline within five years. A complete copy of NRD groundwater management rules has been provided to NDNR under separate cover.

Establish integrated management area- The NRD board established an integrated management area in the Republican basin and a portion of the Platte River basin. This management area also became effective on September 15, 2004. The main regulation associated with the integrated management area is a restriction on adding any irrigated acres within this management area. This restriction results in a limitation on consumptive water use in the Republican basin portion of the district.

Certifying irrigated acres- Tri-Basin NRD has initiated a stringent process for certifying irrigated acres in this management area. All certified irrigated acres must be taxed as irrigated land. All landowners who developed land for irrigation after property tax rolls were fixed in July had to demonstrate, either through inspection by NRD personnel or other independently verifiable means, that they actually irrigated a crop on or before September 15, 2004. Tri-Basin will complete certification of irrigated acres in compliance with the deadline of December 31, 2004 set by the *Kansas v Nebraska* settlement implementation agreement.

Republican Basin integrated management plan- Tri-Basin NRD and the NE Department of Natural Resources agreed on the "key objective" for an integrated management plan for the Republican River Basin portion of Tri-Basin NRD before LB 962 took effect. That objective is: "to maintain, at sufficient levels to offset depletions to the Republican River caused by groundwater pumping within the Tri-Basin NRD, the Republican River Compact credit that Nebraska receives because of discharges from the "groundwater mound" to

the surface water supplies in the Republican River Basin.” Work on the integrated management plan, which is being developed in conjunction with NDNR and the Central NE Public Power and Irrigation District, is ongoing.

“Cross Border” regulatory issues- Tri-Basin NRD directors want to discuss “cross border” regulatory issues with directors from Lower and Middle Republican NRDs. Issues that we believe should be addressed by common policies include:

- 1.) A process to regulate irrigated fields that straddle district boundaries;
- 2.) A process to regulate existing and planned inter-district transfers of groundwater; and
- 3.) Whether to allow transfer of certified irrigated acres across NRD boundaries.

Other potential cross-border regulatory issues and general issues of common interest need to be discussed. Continuing the series of inter-district director meetings begun last winter might be a useful way to advance discussion and development of policies for issues of common interest.

Permanent Flowmeters- Tri-Basin NRD requires that permanent flowmeters be installed on all wells within the Republican Basin portion of the district by December 31, 2005. Flowmeters have already been installed on more than half of the 1600 wells in this part of the district, therefore, we are ahead of the planned implementation schedule.

Southwest NE CREP- Tri-Basin NRD supports the establishment of the Southwest NE CREP area. We have sent a letter of support and committed \$400,000 of NRD funds as “in-kind” match for the project.

Water data collection- Tri-Basin NRD staff have collected groundwater and surface water data for many years. These efforts are intensifying in the Republican basin as the district tries to improve understanding of the integrated groundwater-surface water system and the “groundwater mound”. The NRD contracted with Sargent Well Drilling to construct twelve dedicated observation wells in ten locations in southern Gosper County. Continuous recording data loggers have been installed on all these wells. Funds are budgeted this fiscal year to construct stream gages on Muddy Creek and Turkey Creek in Gosper County. The purpose of these new gages will be to gather data about stream gains and losses in these “mound influenced” watersheds.

Tri-Basin NRD Republican River Settlement Implementation Costs

3/31/2004

Fiscal Year 2003-2004

| | NRD | | NRD | | Total NRD Matching | State Funding | Reimbursed | | Qtr. Ending 9/30/03 Reimb. | Qtr. Ending 12/31/03 Reim. | Qtr. Ending 03/31/04 Reim. | Reimbursed to Date | Remainder of State Funding | % |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|------------|--------------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|---------|
| | Matching Ending 09/30/03 | Ending 12/31/03 | Matching Qtr Ending 03/31/04 | 08/05/03 | | | 12/31/03 | 03/31/04 | | | | | | |
| Total Estimated Expenses | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Equipment: One-Time Costs | \$2,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$1,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$343.48 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$343.48 | \$656.52 | 34.35% |
| Office furniture, telephones, etc. | \$5,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$249.95 | \$0.00 | \$249.95 | \$5,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$3,660.95 | \$1,339.05 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$5,000.00 | \$0.00 | 100.00% |
| 2 Computers | \$2,500.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$2,500.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$54.98 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$602.97 | \$1,897.03 | 24.12% |
| Field Equipment | \$6,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | 0.00% |
| Field Flowmeter | \$25,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$25,000.00 | \$23,800.00 | \$996.63 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$24,796.63 | \$203.37 | 99.19% |
| 1 Pickup truck | \$8,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$8,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$989.50 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$989.50 | \$7,010.50 | 12.37% |
| 8 Data Loggers | \$20,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$20,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$20,000.00 | 0.00% |
| 16 Groundwater Observation Wells | \$68,500.00 | \$0.00 | \$249.95 | \$0.00 | \$249.95 | \$61,500.00 | \$23,800.00 | \$5,647.08 | \$1,737.51 | \$547.99 | \$31,732.58 | \$29,767.42 | \$1,600.00 | 51.60% |
| Equipment Sub-total: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Personnel: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| FTE Conservation Tech. Salary | \$48,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$24,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$3,729.58 | \$5,342.46 | \$4,787.81 | \$13,859.84 | \$10,140.16 | \$10,140.16 | 57.75% |
| 1.5 (including benefits) | \$33,750.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$22,500.00 | \$0.00 | \$4,809.55 | \$12,459.82 | \$5,230.63 | \$22,500.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | 100.00% |
| FTE Clerical Salary (including benefits) | \$81,750.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$46,500.00 | \$0.00 | \$5,539.13 | \$17,802.28 | \$10,018.44 | \$36,359.84 | \$10,140.16 | \$10,140.16 | 78.19% |
| Personnel Sub-total: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Office Supplies/Misc.: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Office Supplies, Field Supplies | \$3,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$1,218.53 | \$1,915.37 | \$3,133.90 | \$1,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$452.82 | \$547.18 | \$0.00 | \$1,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | 100.00% |
| Expenses, training | \$2,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$750.00 | \$0.00 | \$312.45 | \$189.59 | \$0.00 | \$502.04 | \$247.96 | \$247.96 | 66.94% |
| Publication Costs | \$3,000.00 | \$457.73 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$457.73 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | 0.00% |
| Professional Services (legal, technical) | \$10,000.00 | \$378.00 | \$580.00 | \$2,316.00 | \$3,274.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | 0.00% |
| Vehicle Operating Costs | \$4,000.00 | \$270.49 | \$85.33 | \$107.18 | \$463.01 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | 0.00% |
| Sub-Total | \$22,000.00 | \$1,106.22 | \$1,883.86 | \$4,338.56 | \$7,328.64 | \$1,750.00 | \$0.00 | \$765.27 | \$736.77 | \$0.00 | \$1,502.04 | \$247.96 | \$247.96 | 85.83% |
| 2003-2004 Fiscal Year Total: | \$172,250.00 | \$1,106.22 | \$2,135.81 | \$4,338.56 | \$7,578.59 | \$109,750.00 | \$23,800.00 | \$14,951.48 | \$20,276.56 | \$10,566.43 | \$69,594.46 | \$40,155.54 | \$40,155.54 | 63.41% |