

Memo

To: Jasper Fanning, Dan Smith, Michael Clements, John Thorburn
From: Lee Orton
CC: Ann Bleed, Steve Ronshaugen
Date: 6/18/2007
Re: Republican Basin Irrigation Districts Council

I have been asked by the members of the new "Republican Basin Irrigation Districts Council" to let you each officially know about the establishment of this organization and to assure you all that the body was established to assist all water interests in the Republican River Basin in the important work of planning, developing and implementing critical programs for water management in the basin. I am certain you already have heard about our organization plans. We hope the rumors have not misinformed about our purposes.

The "Council" includes every surface irrigation project sponsor in the Republican Basin [Bostwick Irrigation District in Nebraska, Frenchman Cambridge Irrigation District, Frenchman Valley Irrigation District, Hitchcock Red Willow Irrigation District, Riverside Irrigation District and Pioneer Irrigation District].

The establishment of this "Council" is intended to improve the ability of these important water interests to participate in water resources planning and project implementation in a meaningful manner in the Basin. Be assured that it was not formed to create conflict; but rather to avoid conflict in a real sense and in a perceived public sense.

We sincerely hope that our existence and our ability to contribute to important policy discussions will be the basis for including us and our members in every discussion related to water policy determinations for the Basin. While the current laws do not always provide for "surface irrigation project sponsors" to be official members of planning bodies, our interests and our water resources responsibilities make it critical for us to be regularly recognized "stake holders" in every Basin policy discussion.

We will be represented at the scheduled meeting in Holdrege on Friday, June 22; and because we are still working on implementation details, we are likely to have representatives from most, if not all, irrigation project interests in attendance. We apologize if we cause the meeting to grow in attendance numbers; but please understand that our interest in learning and participating is the reason for that attendance.

Please include our organization in all your future contacts regarding meetings and working sessions about Basin water details. You may use my office address for those notices and contacts. My address is Orton Law Office, 1233 Lincoln Mall, Suite 201, Lincoln, NE 68508. The telephone number is 402-476-1101. The FAX is 402-476-2469. My email is lee@h2oboy.net.

We look forward to a productive partnership together with you and others interested in Republican River water policy developments.