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RECEIVED
NOV 13 2007
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

Nov 3, 2007

Chairman Greg Pelster and Board members
Upper Republican Natural Resource District (URNRD)
135 W 5th St
Imperial, NE 69033

Subject: IMP's

Attached is a document to be added as to the testimony in determining allocations for the Upper Republican NRD.

The litigation that is being considered certainly is a cause of concern as it questions the role of NRD's and what they can do. It also had a very negative affect on how the hearing was conducted Thursday Nov 1st. I am very concerned about where we are heading.

I attended the informational meeting in Holyoke, CO and listened to the State Engineer give his presentation. It was a top down presentation and it was very clear the decisions were made in Denver with limited input from the local people. If we let the state capitols dictate policy the results will be devastating. The regulatory agencies located in Lincoln, Topeka and Denver see the issues from an entirely different perspective. We must do everything reasonably possible to not allow that to happen. If it does, the contribution the three Republican River NRD's will make is limited. We must not allow ourselves to be intimidated.

I have done enough research to know we have the technical management skills available to solve the challenges relating to the river basin. We must get the people living in the basin to sit down and intelligently develop long range plans on what needs to be done.

You have my support and encourage each of you to stand together in resolving the challenges facing us.

Sincerely, Yours


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Nov 1, 2007

Greg Pelster, Chairman and Board members
 Upper Republican Natural Resource District (URNRD)
 135 W 5th St
 Imperial, NE 69033

Subject: Integrated Management Plan (IMP)

As a landowner and irrigator I am making the following recommendation for the Board to consider:

The Upper, Middle and Lower NRD's are required to participate and contribute to solving the KS Republican River compact compliance issues, so it is logical to include all three in some of the recommendations.

The base line was determined by averaging the 1998 to 2002 pumping volumes

NRD	1998-2002 Baseline in Acre Feet	2002 Certified Acres	2002 Average Water use in inches
Upper	532,763	448,000	9.891
Middle	266,426	309,478	9.680
Lower	295,000 (Est)	242,289	6.844
Surface	?	?	
Total	1,009,426	1,083,530	8.945

Projected Pumping allocations for 2008 with a 20% reduction from the base line

NRD	2008 Allocation in A Ft	2008 Certified Acres	2008 To meet Compliance	2007 CREP/EQIP Acres*
Upper	425,104	448,000	11.39"/A	(12,274)
Middle	247,580	312,043	9.52"/A	(18,552)
Lower	193,831	325,876	7.14"/A	(14,820)
Surface	?	?		
Total	866,515	1,085,919	9.58"/A	(45,970)

* The CREP & EQIP acres are not included in the calculations as I don't know how they will be treated in the plan.

As I understand it there are some that prefer to cut irrigated acres and leave the allocations the same as they were in 2007. That certainly is an option, but do not have enough information at this time to comment on those considerations.

My current recommendation for the Upper Republican River NRD is to cut the allocations to 11.39 inches/ certified irrigated acres or round it off to 11¼" with the following conditions: Pooling and carry forward should be included in the 5yr agreement with DNR.

How CREP/EQIP acres are dealt with is open for further discussion as is the purchase of surface water rights for 2008 and beyond. The above recommendations are based on the data that have been presented. If the data have changed, the recommendation will require review.

Why the allocation in inches is preferable to other proposals?

1. Meters are in place and available for recorded yearly.
2. Encourages more efficient water management by the grower.
3. Pooling and carry forward, gives the user more flexibility.
4. Gives greater flexibility in cropping systems.
5. Fits the farm programs better than other considerations.
6. Would encourage the elimination of end guns on center pivots.
7. Would encourage the adoption of more efficient irrigation equipment

Since the original compact was agreed to in 1943 significant management and conservation practices have affected the Republican River basin. Examples:

Tillage practices

1. Conventional tillage. Water intake rate on a silty clay loam soil was .70"/hr. vs strip till residue management. Strip till has increased the water intake rate from 4.7-5.3"/hr for the first hour of rainfall.
3. Increased the organic matter in soils by approximately 1%, which increases water holding capacity.
4. Residue management has reduced both water and wind erosion.
5. Better stewardship of our farms gives the farm operators and landowners the opportunity to pass them to the next generation in better condition than they originally received them.
6. Flat terraces keep the water where it falls and increases infiltration.
7. New drought resistant cultivars will positively affect water use efficiencies in the future.

Additional considerations for the three NRD's:

1. Maintaining adequate amounts of water in the Harlan County Reservoir is critical to meeting the compact requires. Therefore, we need to do everything possible to make sure an adequate amount of water is available.
2. Make sure the Bootlick Irrigation Canal is properly maintained and used to its fullest potential.
 - A. Consider winterizing the channel so that water transfers to Lovewell Reservoir can take place during the off season when evaporation is minimal.


- B. Consider increasing the storage capacity of Lovewell Reservoir another 35,000 acre feet.
3. Remove invasive plants from the River channel and floodplain. Replace the Undesirable vegetation in the flood plain with more desirable grasses, forbs and shrubs that enhance grazing, increases water infiltration and improves wildlife habitat.
 4. Consider installing monitoring equipment so that the NRD's, DNR, Corp of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation can do real time measuring. The objective is to better plan water releases and to make adjustments in management strategies that would help in meeting compact compliance.
 5. The current computer model is so complicated that no one understands how it works. There also appears to be disagreement on what data are to be used in determining compliance. The computer model should also have the capacity to predicting probable results.
 6. It would be nice to have meter readings earlier so that better management decisions can be made by both the operator and the NRD's.

Recommendations for the next five years.

1. Develop a long range strategy on how we want the Republican River and it tributaries to look like 30 years and beyond. The people living in the basin should be the driving force in determining this vision
2. Develop strategies to stabilize the Ogallala Aquifer without impairing the agricultural economy.
3. Improve the working relationships with CO, KS so that together we solve the issues before us. "There are no innocent parties".
4. Continue conservation practices that support the theme "Keep the Water Where It Falls".

If some of the comments are not clear, feel free to call me for further clarification.

Copies to:
Jasper Fanning, manager URNRD
Ann Bleed, Director, NE-DNR

Sincerely Yours

Ted Tietjen

Republican River Riparian Partnership

Sponsored by the following RC&D's

Website: www.swrcd.org

Colorado

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Northeast CO RC&D

Kansas

Kansas Cross Roads RC&D
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Western Prairie RC&D

Nebraska

Southwest NE RC&D
Trailblazer RC&D

The Republican River YR2037 & Beyond

At the 4H Building, Red Willow Fair Grounds, McCook, NE

9:30 AM CT

Tue, Nov 27, 2007

To: The Upper, Middle and Lower NRD boards.
From: Ted Tietjen, President

Subject: YR 2037 and Beyond

Attached are copies of the agenda for the first Republican River conference on what we want the Republican River to look like in 30 years and beyond.

You will hear from farmers living in each state to give an overview of what they see as well as agencies involved with the river basin.

Gary Wells, from the National Agroforestry Center, one of the contributing authors to the "Stream Corridor Restoration" manual, will give an overview of how a stream corridor functions. One can go to an Internet search engine and type in Stream Corridor Restoration and download sections that are of interest. Those that are not familiar with how a stream corridor functions will find this presentation very interesting. The information should help guide decision makers in making better policy decisions.

Examples:

We are currently clearing out the main river channel in the Republican River and several concerns have not been addressed. Sedimentation and what kind of vegetation will replace the invasive species we are taking out. Mother Nature will replace the vegetation with something, and sediment may fill our dams, so we need to develop a strategy to reduce the unintended consequences.

(Over)

It is extremely important to have all three states to work together if we are to solve the Republican River issues as Mother Nature does not recognize state lines, Also there are no innocent parties. We hope to get all interested parties to participate and contribute to the process.

Our goal is to start the process of developing team leaders for category 8 watersheds. It is important that we break the river basin into smaller watersheds in order to get local involvement. Below are the USGS 17 category 8 watersheds.

To get more information on Internet go to: USGS—Water Resources of the United States- Hydrologic Unit Maps. <http://water.usgs.gov/GIS/huc.html>
 Hydrologic unit 10 is the Missouri River Basin
 Hydrologic unit 1025 is the Republican R Basin 24,700 Sq Miles. 15,808,000 A.
 Cataloging units 10250000 (8 digit watersheds)

Catalog units	Watershed	Square Miles	Acres	Leader
10250001	Arikaree.....	1710.....	1,094,400..	_____
10250002	North Fork Republican.....	3290.....	2,105,600..	_____
10250003	South Fork Republican.....	2720.....	1,740,800..	_____
10250004	Upper Republican.....	2160.....	1,382,400..	_____
10250005	Frenchman.....	1350.....	864,000..	_____
10250006	Stinking Water.....	1470.....	940,800..	_____
10250007	Red Willow.....	783.....	501,120..	_____
10250008	Medicine.....	916.....	586,240..	_____
10250009	Harlan County Reservoir...1350.....	1350.....	864,000..	_____
10250010	Upper Sappa.....	1020.....	652,800..	_____
10250011	Lower Sappa.....	644.....	412,160..	_____
10250012	South Fork Beaver.....	771.....	493,440..	_____
10250013	Little Beaver.....	604.....	386,560..	_____
10250014	Beaver.....	731.....	467,840..	_____
10250015	Prairie Dog.....	1060.....	678,400..	_____
10250016	Middle Republican.....	2130.....	1,363,200..	_____
10250017	Lower Republican.....	1960.....	1,254,400..	_____

640 acres = 1 Sq Mile

Please pass this out to the board members and inform other interested people about this meeting. For more information go to our website: www.swrcd.org or call:

The RRRP Exec Board

Jennifer TenBensel, Administrator, 888-585-1085

Ted Tietjen, President. 308-352-4336

Bob Martin, Vice President 785-332-5563

Nellie Zion, Sec/Treas 970-597-0370 or any of the above RC&D offices.

Republican River Riparian Partnership

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Nebraska

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Trailblazer RC&D

The Republican River YR2037 & Beyond

At the 4H Building, Red Willow Fair Grounds, McCook, NE

9:30 AM CT

Tue, Nov 27, 2007

Agenda

9:30 AM	Welcome (Announcements)	Stockton-Tietjen
9:35	Introductions/ Roll Call	Jennifer TenBensel
9:40	What will the River basin look like 30 years & beyond Panel	
	Bob Martin, KS Alan Welp CO Steve Godeken, NE	
10:00	Current status of the Harlan County Reservoir	Jim Bowen
10:20	Bureau of Reclamation vision 30 years& beyond	Aaron Thompson
10:40	Coffee Break	
11:00	NRCS vision 30 years & beyond	Dave Griffith
11:20	Forestry's vision 30 yrs & beyond	Greg Sundstrom
11:40	Drought projections 30 years & beyond	Brian Fuchs
12:00	Lunch	
12:30	Invasive Species PowerPoint presentation	Merle Illian
1:00	Fish & Wildlife vision 30 years & beyond	Scott Chartier
1:20	How a stream corridor functions	Gary Wells
2:35	Coffee Break	

(Over)

2:55	Vegetation changes in 30 years and beyond	Jim Richardson
3:15	Developing Watershed leadership teams	Darla Juhl
3:35	Watershed modeling	Gary Wells
3:50	Summary (Recap)	Jen TenBensel
4:00	Board direction Including watershed leadership development	Attendees
4:10	Where will the next meeting be?	Attendees
4:15	Adjourn	

For additional information call: Ted Tietjen, 308-352-4336 or 308-289-5740 cell

About the Speakers

Producer Panel

Bob Martin, Occupation: Grower,
Rt 2 Box 104 Herndon, KS 67739 785-322-5563

Steve Godeken, Occupation: Grower
RT 1 Naponee, NE 68971, 308-269-2586, sgodeken@gtmc.net

Alan Welp Occupation: Grower
Wray, CO 970-630-1843, awelp@plains.net

Current status of Harlan County Reservoir

Jim Bowen, Superintendent Harlan County Reservoir,
Corps of Engineers, 70788 Corps Rd Republican City, NE 68701
308-799-2105 jim.bowen@nwk02.usace.army.mil

Bureau of Reclamation Vision 30 years and Beyond

Aaron Thompson, Area Manager, Bureau of Reclamation, Kansas-Nebraska Area.
203 West 2nd St, Box 1607, Grand Island, NE 68802. 308-389-4622
athompson@gp.usbr.gov

Natural Resource & Conservation Service vision 30 years and beyond

David Griffith, Rapid Watershed Response Assessment Coordinator for Nebraska.
100 Centennial Mall N, Fed Bldg, Room 152, Lincoln, NE 68508-3866
402-437-4114 david.griffith@me.usda.gov

Forestry's Vision 30 years and Beyond

Greg Sundstrom CO Forester,
Forest Service CO State U, 5060 Campus Delivery, Ft Collins CO 80523
970-491-6303 gregory.sundstrom@colostate.edu

Drought Projections 30 years and beyond

Brian Fuchs Climatologist
Drought Mitigation Center, 824 Harden Hall, Lincoln, NE 68583-0988
402-472-6775 bfuchs2@unl.edu

Invasive Species Power Point Presentation

Merle Illian Coordinator Trailblazer RC&D
437 North Elm St Red Cloud, NE 68970,
402-746-3560 merle.illian@ne.usda.gov

Fish and Wildlife 30 years and beyond

Scott Chartier Fish expert and life time resident of Yuma County CO
35679 County Rd, Wray CO 90758,
970-332-5382. chartiersarts4u@yahoo.com

(Over)

How a Stream Corridor functions

Gary Wells Landscape Architecture
USDA National Agroforestry Center, East Campus, UNL,
Lincoln, NE 68583-0822, 402-437-5178-ext 41, gary.wells@ftw.usda.gov

Vegetation Changes in the next 30 years

Jim Richardson Soil Scientist, Range Management
NRCS National Soil Survey, 100 Centennial Mall,
Lincoln, NE 68508-3866 402-437-5321, jim.richardson@lin.usda.gov

Developing Watershed Leadership Teams

Darla Juhl Coordinator, Solomon Valley RC&D
320 S 6th St Stockton, KS 67669-2218,
785-425-6647, darla.juhl@ks.usda.gov

Watershed Modeling

Gary Wells Landscape Architecture
USDA National Agroforestry Center, East Campus, UNL,
Lincoln, NE 68583-0822, 402-437-5178-ext 41, gary.wells@ftw.usda.gov

Summary of the program

Jennifer TenBensel, Executive Administrator, SWN RC&D
611 Paxton St, Cambridge, NE 69022, 800-858-1085
jtbensel@swnebr.net

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The Republican River YR2037 & Beyond

4H Building, Red Willow Fair Grounds, McCook, NE

9:30 AM CT

Tue, Nov 27, 2007

Registration Information

800-585-1085

Due by Nov 23, 2007

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone # _____

Cell # _____

E-mail _____

Representing _____

No Registration fee if registered before Nov 23rd. After Nov 23 \$10.00

Proceeding will be available.

Send registration to:

SWN RC&D

611 Paxton

Box 86

Cambridge, NE 69140