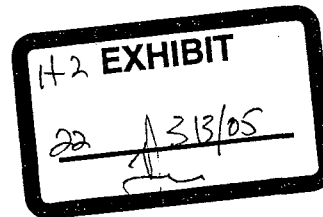


PO Box 213
Grant, NE 69140
March 3, 2005



Board Of Directors
Upper Republican NRD
135 W 5th Street
Imperial, NE 69033

RE: Integrated Management Plan

I first want to thank the Board for their efforts and labor in bringing this necessary document thus far. I am very happy to see that most of our traditional methods of management and usage of water have been preserved for the present, especially "Carryforward".

I have discussed 1.46.03 with Mr. Fanning of the necessity of providing water for certain non-certified acres i.e. satellites and it is my understanding that this will happen.

A few items that I would like the Board to consider changing or adding to this are:

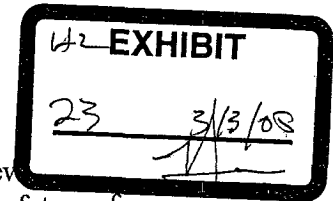
1. There has been discussion of an economic impact study being required. Is this a fact and if so, has it been performed and sent to the Governor's office?
2. As water uses and water sources change, could there be a chance for reconsideration of our 44% depletion responsibility if necessary? As we are on the upper edge of the underground lake, our usage may decrease by the difficulty of lowered pumping levels. If our usage declines more than other districts, then our depletion responsibility should also be less.
3. I have not looked into water transfer in great detail, but I would like to see it added as a possible future solution. If it is feasible, the inclusion should not be overlooked. If it turns out to not be workable, it didn't cost anything to include it.

Thank you for this opportunity to address the Board on these important issues.

Sincerely,

Mark Wendell

Upper Republican NRD
135 West 5th
Imperial, Ne. 69033



URNRD Board Members,

First, I wish to commend you on your dedication to what probably seems to be a new. There are many difficult decisions that lay ahead of you that will certainly effect the future of your own operations, other farmers in this district, yours and others children, and businesses in Imperial, Grant, & Benkelman. What probably seems a cut and dried decision to one person is surely contrary to another persons ideas. Herein lies your dilemma.

Probably a very large percentage of our water users in the district do not fully understand the IMP and what all it entails. I fall into that percentage as well even though I have tried hard to digest what it is all about. My hope is that all of you truly recognize what it is all about and have a good grasp on the repercussions. There appears to be a lot of loopholes in this IMP. A question that I have is; are we signing off on a lot of unknowns or blanks that can be filled in later on areas that may not seem clear today? Another concern of mine is have we really followed up on alternative plans that may alleviate part of the problems. That is:

1. Really looking into tree removal in waterways.
2. Water diversion to Harlan County Reservoir.
3. Retirement of some wells. (even this could be a detriment to the community)
4. Enhancements for irrigators using under the allocated limit.

I'm sure the list could go on and on. Some may be legitimate and some not but all deserve your due diligence. No one person has a total grip on this problem but there are several good ideas out there. Sometimes if we are not the one to give birth to an idea we immediately reject it. Please give all ideas the creditability they might deserve.

I have just become privy to information from the Nebraska Water Policy Task Force meeting this past week. I couldn't believe what I was reading. People from our district and a past board member are recommending a 6 or 7 inch allocation. Can any of you irrigators live within these parameters? Is this what you as board members are supporting? It is certainly not mine. If not, then we need to be sending a message to the governor that this is not the wishes of this district. I think we have people sending bad signals from our area and we need to counteract them.

I have no personal agenda nor am I aligned with any special interest group, only the survival of my community but cutting water use back to slightly above dry land use will not be survival. Listen to the people who have elected you and use common sence in making the decisions that will surely effect your family and mine and the future of our community.

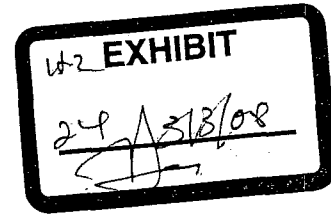
Sincerely,

Bob Colson

P.S. Take plenty of time on your decisions. Remember last year we were told we had to have something in place by October. Apparently that wasn't so. We still have time to make sure we are on the right track.

March 3, 2005

Upper Republican NRD Board
135 West 5th Street
Imperial, NE. 69033



To: Board Members of Upper Republican NRD;

As a native of this community I have never been so disappointed in our appointed board members as I am today. If you are trying to remove Imperial, Grant and Benkelman from the maps of this country, you have taken a major step in doing so. Have you all lost what back bone you had when you were elected to the board and have you forgotten that you are to represent us in the Southwest corner and not be a puppet for Lincoln?

As a past farmer and irrigator and who is now in real estate I want each and everyone on the board to know how this will effect all three of these counties, their schools, churches and businesses. If you continue to do what the officials in Lincoln want you to do, we will be past history as an irrigating community. We are fortunate in this area to have some young farmers, but that will be a thing of the past also.

The people that have been appointed to the Nebraska Water Policy Task Force from this area and who testified yesterday to cutting our water allocations to 6 or 7 inches are not speaking for US. The ones that testified yesterday do not speak for the farmers in Southwest Nebraska.

We need people with a vision and a plan and to carry forth with that plan. This is not totally our problem as the State is trying to make us feel. This is a Nebraska problem, there is plenty of water in other parts of Nebraska, lets stand tall and have them do their part to correct the problem they laid on us. It will hurt much less if spread over the State than we try to carry the whole load. Don't be afraid to be called a radical. For the sake of our communities stand up for them and make us all feel that YOU are working for this corner of Nebraska.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Les Smith in cursive.

Board of Directors of URNRD

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Frenchman Valley Coop I would like to thank the URNRD Board for their efforts and dedication to our water interests in this area.

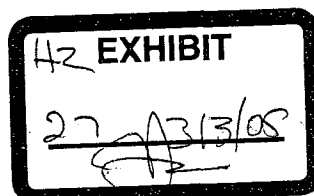
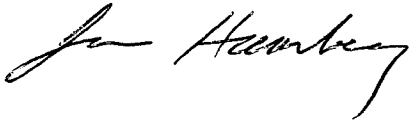
We often hear our legislators state that people and water are Nebraska's most important resources. We all know that water is essential to the viability of agriculture and to the businesses that rely on agriculture in SW Nebraska. FVC, being one of those Agri business with sales of \$140 million and has 150 employees, relies entirely on the farmer – rancher producers in SW Nebraska, in essence whatever happens to the farmer happens to us.

If the water allocation continues to drop from the present 13.5", the inputs that producers use to raise these crops will drop whether it is seed, fuel, fertilizer, insurance or machinery as well as the number of bushels of grain received. If this is the case, FVC will need to become more efficient in its operations and services it offers to its customer base. Some of these efficiencies will have to be achieved by decreasing personnel and services. It is estimated that a cut below 13.5" could curtail inputs by 30% and grain received could drop by 25% or more, due to producers changing cropping plans due to the availability of water.

Therefore, we strongly urge the URNRD to consider and pursue all viable options available to achieve an equitable allocation for our district.

In SW Nebraska water is the most important asset. Without it, net worth's deteriorate, communities becomes less viable, and investment in the area will disappear. We as a board encourage your board to pursue the highest allocation possible to keep our district strong and viable.

Respectfully Submitted
Jim Haarberg
Chairman of Board FVC



March 3, 2005

Dear NRD Board Member,

First of all, we would like to thank you for all the work you have done sitting on the Board and for all the time, energy, and thought that you have put into the Integrated Management Plan. We applaud your hard work!

We do have some very real concerns. We feel that we need to be careful not to cut into what we have now and to be able to keep our options open. We are wary of what it will do to our area economy. Economic studies show that we will take a major hit if we keep cutting water use in the future. Cutting water in this end of the state is piddly compared to how awesome the Ogallala Aquifer is. There are other areas that enter into taking water from the aquifer and into it's future depletion. And in how many years is this depletion to happen? Do we really need to solve this entire problem ourselves? We are concerned about our quality of drinking water and maintaining the aquifer for future generations but what good will that do if we cut back so much that we aren't even here for future generations?

You are playing right into the hand of Jack Maddux and Robert Ambrosek - people on the Water Task Force that want our water rights taken away so the land will be put back to rangeland so they can get more land for their cattle. After all the improvements that have been made in this area in irrigation, it would be a crime to let it all go down the tubes because of an IMP which you institute now.

We need to take time and slow down and not jump into something now because what happens next year or maybe in another year which is a water short year? What happens then could devastate this area. Let's take time now to get things done right and to get all our bases covered.

At a consistent rate of water use decline, there will only be a few farms and ranches left in this area and there will be no economy. That will affect the whole state because the taxes to run this state need to come from somewhere.

We think that perhaps you have been listening to Roger Patterson and others in the DNR. They are trying to get us to do things that are right for him and his job - perhaps the easy way out for him but not the best way for us. The DNR is apparently listening to lobbyists, environmental groups, the big guns, the tree huggers. You need to be our voice at the DNR in this negotiation. He has us all scared and that is not a pleasant place to be. Please listen to all the people that you represent and take our interests to heart.

We wish you would listen to some of the ideas presented by Steve and Greg Smith. They have some good ideas based on facts and information they have received both from the DNR and research. We need to look into the water transer idea that Steve and Greg Smith have been investigating. They have done so much work and provided us with some concrete information of alternatives to the IMP or ways to improve the IMP as written

EXHIBIT

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now. We hope that you will take the time to consider the things that they are saying. Maybe we need to consider a water transfer from an area where the water table is much too high or areas where the water is running off into the Gulf of Mexico as they told us about. Maybe there is something to their ideas. We need to get more water into the basin because even a 5% reduction in water usage cuts how many jobs?

We do not think CREP is an option. It only takes good land out of production and the tax base out of the area. But maybe we aren't seeing the whole picture.

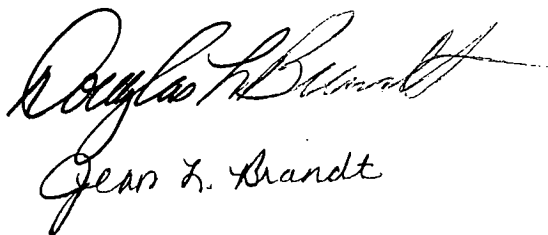
I worked in the irrigation business for many years and now we are working as ranchers, but realize as we have for years, that irrigation is the lifeblood of this area and specifically this community. Irrigation and the other businesses related to it show us a good hospital, a good school, good churches, a main street that is full and thriving, a good and healthy place to raise our families.

I was born and raised here. I raised my two daughters here. This is home to us and them. When they want to come home, it is here that they come. If we can't stay in business, then they can no longer "come home" and that is a crime. With our mobile society, we think that staying put in a community and having a place for your grown-up kids and grandchildren to come home to is the best! Also we are concerned with an elderly parent in the area. What happens to her when we are no longer able to make a living here and have to relocate? Who helps her? There are so many issues here that I don't know if you have even considered them all. My wife's main concern is if we can make our land payments and continue to live in this community if you pass this IMP as is. We need the water to pay for our irrigated land that we purchased in 2002. You told us that if we wanted irrigated land to raise hay on, we should buy irrigated land because of the moratorium. So we did. Now you say we have to cut our water and then will we still be able to raise the amount of hay to feed our cattle and will we have cornstalks to winter the cattle on? We thought we had a 5 year agreement for 14.5" and you are going to take it away from us now and give us a 3 year agreement for 13.5". How can any of us make long term plans and what's to say you won't cut us again into a year by year agreement. Then where is our future and what is our future?

Thank you so much for considering our thoughts in your decision making process.

Your friends and neighbors,

Doug and Jean Brandt

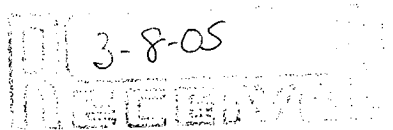
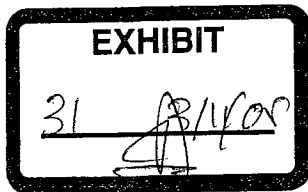
The image shows two handwritten signatures in cursive. The top signature is for Doug Brandt and the bottom signature is for Jean Brandt. Both signatures are written in dark ink and are positioned below the typed names.

Members of the Upper Republican Natural Resources District Board;

I would urge you to adopt rules and regulations to stem the decline of the water table in our District. I know this is a painful process and would generate a large protest but if opportunities are to be maintained for our grandchildren and beyond it is time to tighten our belt and make the hard decisions necessary.

I also would like to say that I believe Water Claims proposal to obtain water from the ground water hump under CNIPPD irrigation area would do nothing to alleviate the problem in our district.

Gerald Coates
70994 Rock Creek Rd.
Parks, NE, 69041



March 8, 2005

Upper Republican NRD Board
135 W. 5th Street
Imperial, NE 69033

Dear Board Members,

I would like to offer my opinion on the upcoming decision that you as a Board Member of the Upper Republican Natural Resource District will be asked to make pertaining to the acceptance or rejection as written of the final draft of the Integrated Management Plan.

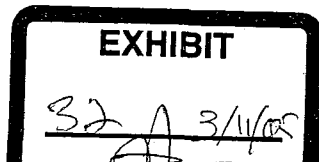
My name is Stacy Cochran and I moved here directly out of Colorado State University in January of 1991 accepting a job offer with Servi Tech Inc. as an agronomist. I was placed in Imperial as the first Servi Tech field man in the area. I went about building a business for Servi Tech and at its' height involved 10 field men and over 100,000 acres from North Platte and McCook west to the State line of Colorado. I have personally visited with and/or worked on many of your farms in the last 13 years. In 1994, I married Michele Francis, who grew up in Imperial, and we have 4 children, 3 sons age 6, 5, 2 and a 7 month old daughter. About a year ago I purchased a lawn spraying business and became self employed, supplementing that business with crop consultation. I had a great first year and the probability of 2005 being good looks likely as well. In 1994, we purchased a home built in 1906 and have spent evenings and weekends for 11 years remodeling and updating. The home has appreciated in value in addition to the improvements and we have a fair bit of equity built right now. Likewise, we have worked hard to eliminate our debt and are finally making some real progress towards that goal. The business is building equity for us as well, and things were really looking good, like the American dream was still possible. We are happy here and would love to stay and raise our family here among good friends and neighbors.

I grew up on a 2200 acre ranch and farm at Briggsdale, Colorado. For those of you who know where that is you also know that it is desolate, sparsely populated and dry. It rains or snows an average of 12" annually there. It takes 20 acres for a cow/calf unit and the county average for wheat/fallow dry land wheat is about 25 bushel. So I was very acquainted with drought like conditions almost every year growing up. We had no irrigation. If I had a desire to return to the financial conservatism it took to live there I would have, I would rather it not find me here.

Not only is the annual rainfall ½ again as much here as where I grew up, the gift of irrigation has made this area an economic wonder and a prosperous place for my wife and I to start our lives together, a family, and now a business. I have felt fairly secure up until recently as far as our future here. I cannot predict the weather patterns for the next 2 years any more than the local meteorologists seem to be able to predict the weather next week. Based on the last 5 years I would sooner bet that precipitation will be below average than normal or above. Based on that, and what I can glean from the IMP, colored even bleaker by some peoples' calculations, it would seem wise to advertise my home and business for sale right now before anyone else wakes up. If you approve the IMP as currently written I will have that decision to make.

If there is any way to rewrite some security into the plan I would sure be more likely to stay and fight. Leaving future reductions open ended seems dangerous and irresponsible to me. It would be like leasing a pivot from your neighbor for 3 years and leaving the rent payment to the landlords' discretion without any power to negotiate or relinquish the lease if the price is too high.

I personally would like to see a minimum allocation set. Even if an 8" lower constraint were set some business planning could be done to work around that minimum amount of irrigation. Even if it were to farm every other year, at least some plans could be made with security. If I read and understand the IMP correctly we could be taken to 0 on as many as all of the acres in the District if stream flow and



3-8-05

aquifer levels continue to decline. We are just banking on Mother Nature to turn around for us here. I personally think it will not make enough difference, quick enough even if we have two back to back 150%+ precipitation years to help us out. CREP and EQUIP cannot be seen as any more than minimal protection for the landowner and will hurt the community and those of us who rely on providing sales and services to those landowners. Odds are even the landowner is likely to move away as managing those acres will not be proximity sensitive and as local services fail he or she will be more comfortable nearer to the services that used to be local. Thankfully these programs look to be available on very limited acres so far.

I think there are definitely two issues on the venue and they need to be considered separately. First by forced issue of the RR Settlement, is the delivery of the agreed amount of water to Kansas. This is undeniably the short term issue and water importation and distribution options really are valid options to solve this. There may be others but this seems the most logical as there are working examples of water projects and diversions to study in use today in many states. Really, in my mind, water importation/ re-distribution may be the only hope we have to satisfy the Settlement Agreement in the next 1-5 years. I would strongly encourage re-writing the IMP to include water importation as an option. If it is not included now it will just be another long drawn out process to get it through DNR and State approval channels later. It would be good to be ready to go to work on an alternate plan before 2007 rolls around and the doors start closing.

The second issue is the decline of the aquifer. This ultimately is more of an economic threat than the Kansas Settlement, but is really another whole issue of its own. Declining groundwater levels is a much longer term issue as there no doubt are many wells that will survive for 20, 30 or even more years without decreasing pumpage. Thus, this issue seems to me more threatening long term but economically less of a threat short term. In my humble opinion it is very important not to cloud these two issues, even as related as they may be, in any way shape or form, or the danger of inflicting irreversible short term economic damage may render the aquifer issue a mute point. Technology may catch up in time to facilitate a solution to aquifer decline if we can remain economically viable enough to afford it down the road.

Also, aquifer decline is a local problem while I see the RR Settlement as a State of Nebraska dilemma. Had the Republican River NRD's been solely liable; Kansas would have no doubt named only those entities in the lawsuit. I know many of you feel alienated and pitted against the public in this deal and rightly so as that is where Roger Patterson and the DNR wanted to put you. This is a sure sign to me that they are playing a high stakes poker game of which you, as board members, and the rest of us as the public, become pawns. Divide and conquer may very well be the States agenda to take Nebraska off the hook at our expense.

I want to extend my appreciation of the time, effort and emotional tension I know each of you have and continue to endure. I thank each and every one of you for your service. We all have some tough decisions to make in the coming months and I hope we all find an answer that will serve to benefit and maintain our quality of life and our community's long term viability.

Sincerely,



Stacy, Michele, Roper, Cassidy,
Triston and Ali Cochran.
Small Business Owners and proud
but tentative members of the
Imperial and Champion
communities.

Douglas and Judy Gaswick
1020 Chase Street, P.O. Box 218, Imperial, Nebraska 69033

March 8, 2005

HAND DELIVERED

Board of Directors
Upper Republican Natural Resources District
135 West 5th Street
Imperial, NE 69033

Re: Testimony for the Integrated Management Plan Public Hearing

Dear Board of Directors:

It was suggested I put in writing the information I presented at the Public Hearing on March 3, 2005 regarding the IMP so here it goes . . .

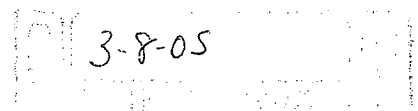
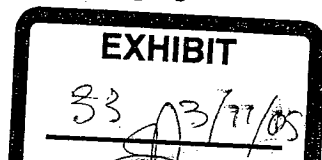
I am a resident of Imperial and take a great interest in the economy of our community and area. We all know this IMP is going to have an economic impact to us; how much and how fast is anyone's guess, because there are so many variables and uncontrollable factors.

I do believe the retirement of acres is the one item of the IMP that is going to have the most substantial impact to our economy. Retirement of acres will dramatically change the nature of business and how residents earn a living in our area. Retirement, whether it is for a person, piece of equipment or agricultural land in the URNRD, is the beginning of the end. It will be the beginning of the end of southwest Nebraska as we know it.

We will lose people and businesses during the transition of our economy. We can start over with new businesses and new employees, which will be very expensive to gain. It is much more expensive to replace something we already have than it is to maintain and preserve it. For example, in business, it costs one to two times the annual salary of a position to replace an employee, and to replace a lost customer it costs six times the amount it takes to maintain a customer. The cost of replacing portions of our economy with what it lost from the retirement of acres will be on a much larger scale in terms of dollars, as in millions of dollars.

Regardless of the amount of money spent to replace our economy, I do not believe the level of agricultural economy that would be lost in southwest Nebraska will be able to be fully replaced due to our rural and remote location. We are not on an interstate, major railroad or waterway, which is necessary for major economic development.

Is it really necessary to offer the retirement of acres in this IMP at this time? The URNRD has done an excellent job managing our water resources for the past 25 years and the additional



Upper Republican Natural Resources District
March 8, 2005
Page Two

reduction in water allocation is a generous step for the continuance of water management. I do not believe it is necessary to offer the retirement of acres and start the major economic change that will result from it. I feel this would be the last chapter on what the URNRD has worked so hard to maintain and preserve for so many years. Retirement of acres is taking the passive approach to the situation; this is not like us, instead we are a progressive agricultural community. Please consider removing the retirement of acres from the IMP due to the major economic impact it would have to our area.

Instead of the retirement of acres, please consider including in the IMP some of the other ideas that have been offered. Moving water around in our "water-rich" state deserves some research. This would cost a small fraction of what it has cost to build interstates, highways and railroads to move people and goods around our state. Why not do the same with water to maintain and grow the economy we already have rather than spend much more to start over? Let's take a proactive approach rather than the passive, reactive one.

I truly appreciate and respect everything you have done for the water management for southwest Nebraska and the process you are going through for our future. You have the most difficult position in the area, and I doubt anyone would trade places with you. Thank you for your time and efforts with this matter.

Sincerely,



Douglas Gaswick

P.S. You still have plenty of time before you are required to adopt the IMP. Please at least take the time to properly evaluate the information that has been provided to you before adopting the IMP.

**Testimony to the URNRD
March 7, 2005**

**Thomas Gaschler
831 Park St.
Imperial, NE 69033-1334**

Water conservation is an expense that the farmers of the URNRD must bear because of the low rainfall, 14.5 inch allocation, and the expense of pumping water. Reducing irrigation, changing crops grown, or over pumping water costs the farmer in lost opportunity costs, lost revenue or higher pumping cost and grain dry down costs.

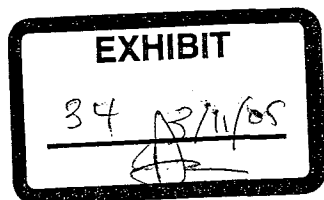
The URNRD board has 3 proposals suggested to them; 13.5 inches per year with a floating township and an allocation, 13.5 inches per year with an 85,000 acre reduction in pumping during drought years, and 6 inches per year.

The information that I will present is based off of a study written by Dr. Raymond Sappalla of the University of Nebraska. Several businesses in southwest Nebraska commissioned the study and requested that the information was not for quotation. I will not quote the study, but I will use the information from the study to discuss the impact of irrigation reduction on the URNRD.

Based on the current 14.5 inch per year allocation, a 13.5 inch allocation is a 7% reduction, and a 6 inch allocation is a 59 % reduction in pumping. Proponents of the 6 inch allocation say they can produce 180 bushels per acre on 6 inches. They are assuming that rain fall will be at average levels, and that the price of corn will remain at the \$ 1.75 to 1.85 per bushel value. As the price of corn rises the lost opportunity cost of not raising more bushels increases. And the loss of that income increases as farmers spend less in the communities in and around the URNRD.

As proposed in the most recent Irrigation Management Plan of 13.5 inch allocation with floating townships and a carry forward allocation, the URNRD area could expect a \$ 5.3 million reduction in production, a loss of \$ 1.4 million in net agricultural returns, a loss of \$ 11.4 million in economic output, \$ 5.6 million in value added, and a loss of 68 jobs in the district.

As proposed by the NDNR for drought years the 13.5 inch allocation plus 85,000 acre placed in USDA CREP conservation program, would add to the losses mentioned above. There would be \$ 30.7 million less in grain sales and \$ 29.8 million lost in agricultural products and services sold on the 85,000 acres. These losses would be offset by the \$ 125 per acre CREP payment which would total \$ 10.6 million. Not all land lords live in the URNRD district or the state of Nebraska. Total losses to the district would be \$ 40 million reduction in production, \$ 10.4 million less in net agricultural income, a loss of \$ 54 million in economic output, a loss of \$ 26 million in value added, and a loss of 1060 jobs.



3-8-05
DNR

The 6 inch allocation is a reduction of 59 % of the 14.5 inch allocation. Economic losses are estimated at \$ 43.9 million in lost production, \$ 19.8 million in lost agricultural net income, a loss of \$ 108.4 million in economic output, a loss of \$ 51.8 million in value added and a loss of 1602 jobs.

Any action taken by the board in restricting pumping will have a negative impact on farms and businesses in and around the URNRD. The most serious economic impacts on the district are those proposals made by the NDNR pulling acres out of production, and the proponents of the 6 inch allocation. These proposals will hurt farmers and main street businesses. Those who have the potential to loose everything are tenant farmers, farm workers, and those who work in agricultural service jobs (mechanics, elevator operators, fertilizer and agricultural chemical applicators). Not only will they loose their jobs, but because of an abundance of homes on the market they will loose equity in their homes. If the allocation follows the NDNR 13.5 inch allocation plus 85,000 acres, or the 6 inch allocation the chance of these individuals loosing their homes, equity and credit ratings increases.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Thomas Garckley". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the main text block.



T. C. ENGINEERING INC.
520 EAST FRANCIS STREET
P. O. BOX 832
NORTH PLATTE, NEBRASKA 69103
(308) 534-9245
email: tcwerblow@tcengineeringinc.com

March 5, 2005

Mr. Jasper Fanning, Manager
URNRD
P.O.Box 1140
Imperial, NE 69033

Dear Mr. Fanning;

Mr. Joe Morris asked me to forward an explanation of the Excel spreadsheet I did on behalf of the City of Grant regarding " Impact of New NRD Integrated Mgmt. Plan on the City of Grant, Nebraska ".

The City population is 1225.

The average annual gallons pumped from the years 2001 – 2003 was 210211133 gallons. Dividing by the population gives an annual per person gallonage of 171601 gallons as compared to your proposed 91260 gallonage. Dividing by 365 give the average gallons daily per person for the period given.

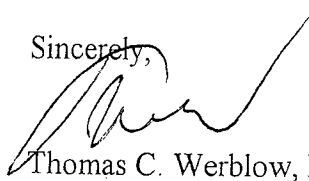
You have assigned 185.94 non-agricultural acres to Grant based upon 1/3 of the total area of the City in accordance with your records. Your annual allocation is 13.5 acre-inches. Multiplying the two and converting results in the next line of 68157683 gallons. Dividing by the population again gives the non-ag annual per person allocation of 55639. Dividing by 365 gives the daily non-ag per person gallons of 152. Adding the allocation for domestic use with the non-ag daily per person use results in 250 + 152 or 402 gallons per person per day average water allocation. This compares with the 470 gallons per day used during 2001-2003. Multiplying the daily per person figures with the population gives the annual basis per person in gallons. Multiplying this number by 365 gives the annual total gallonage.

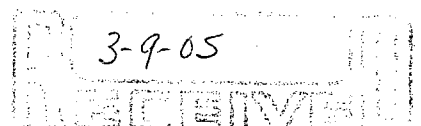
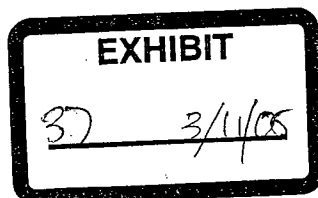
The change given is the difference between what has historically been used (210148750) and the new proposed value of 179951183, or a decrease of 30197567. Dividing by the population results in a value of 24651 decrease from what the historical value has been. Dividing by 365 gives the decrease for each person per day.

Taking the decrease of 30197567 and dividing by 365 gives the net decrease per day and dividing by 1440 gives the net decrease in water to the City of Grant in a gallons per minute figure on a continuous basis.

I hope that this clarifies this spreadsheet. If you still have questions, feel free to call or write.

Sincerely,


Thomas C. Werblow, P.E.



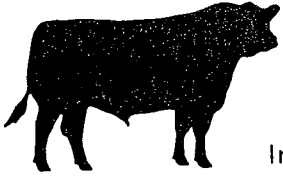
IMPACT OF NEW NRD INTEGRATED MGMT. PLAN ON THE
CITY OF GRANT, NEBRASKA

by
TC Engineering Inc. - North Platte, Nebraska
FEBRUARY 2005

POPULATION:

1225

	CURRENT USE:	ALLOCATION
		ALLOWED:
AVG. ANNUAL GALLONS PUMPED 2001-2003	210211133	
ANNUAL PER PERSON: (GAL)	171601	91260
DAILY PER PERSON:(GAL)	470	250
NON-AG ACRES		185.94
NON-AG ANNUAL ALLOCATION: (AC-IN)		13.5
NON-AG ANNUAL (GAL)		68157683
NON-AG ANNUAL PER PERSON (GAL)		55639
NON-AG DAILY PER PERSON (GAL)		152
TOTAL DAILY ALLOCATION PER PERSON PER DAY:	470	402
ANNUAL BASIS PER PERSON:(GAL)	575750	493017
ANNUAL BASIS:(GAL)	210148750	179951183
CHANGE IN ANNUAL: (GAL)	-30197567	
CHANGE IN ANNUAL PER PERSON (GAL)	-24651	
CHANGE IN DAILY PER PERSON (GAL)	-68	
CHANGE FOR CITY OF GRANT PER DAY:	-82733	
CHANGE FOR CITY OF GRANT PER MINUTE:	-57	



Hoffmeister Farms

Imperial, Nebr. 69033

Max W. Hoffmeister

Phone 308-882-4753

March 8, 2005

Dear N.R.D. Board Members

the Upper Republican Natural Resources District board has had a hard time coming up with a Integrated Management Plan.

Having read this plan over twice, I think it is a good compromise, and you have left this N.R.D. with some out of the other N.R.D. do not come up with our or the NE. Dept. of natural resources agreements.

things that need to be addressed in the future are 1) the transfer and sale of water. 2) how to help finance shut down wells in water short years. I know you have been thinking about these problem, and should be in separate plans.

Can the N.R.D. pay for this because this amount of money will be way over the statute limits to pay

Sincerely
Max W. Hoffmeister
33151 738 R.D.

EXHIBIT
35 3/11/05

3-9-05
RECEIVED

Quality Angus Cattle

9 March 2005

URNRD BOARD:

The following notes are some of my thoughts and concerns about the Integrated Management Plan you are considering. Under the current economic climate it is difficult to keep any farm/ranch operation viable. Further restrictions will greatly increase the stress on the system and the people involved! My son represents the fifth generation on this same land. Does society not have some responsibility to ensure these operations are continued?

My recollection is that Enders Dam and many others were built for flood control and irrigation not recreation etc. Those things that have evolved from their being there have helped the areas with more entertainment economic activity. The fact remains that this area is still in the drought and it's predicted to continue. The focus of the board has to be on the effect on production agriculture in Nebraska, and require the promotion of a cohesive basin wide approach to the solution of the situation, not water uses outside of agriculture. Farming practices have changed since the dams were built. We now have little or no run off from rain or snow. That has a major effect on surface water available.

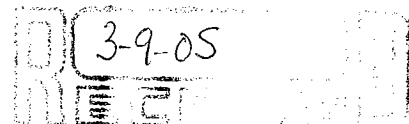
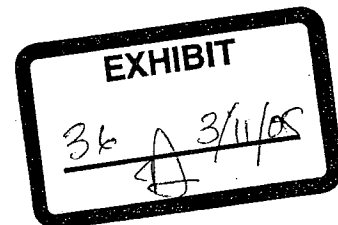
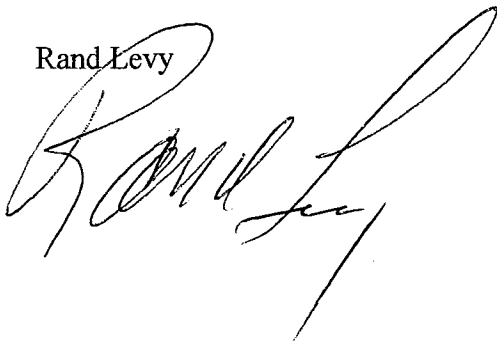
Carryforward must be maintained. Those produces who have made the effort to conserve and manage their allocation should not be penalized for there efforts.

If you need to buy out acres why not put a price on end-gun removal. Across the district that could help spread the cost of water savings. At the same time, keep looking for ways to satisfy the compact other than more cuts.

Any attempt to use the quick response area map and not include the entire state will probably be met with maximum resistance.

Most of this is not new to the board. I hope you will make the right decisions for URNRD and the state of Nebraska.

Rand Levy



Testimony

To all member of the UPNRD Board of Directors

First, I want to thank each of you for working hard to protect our water rights in the Upper Republican. I know each of you have taken personal time to do this sometimes "thankless job".

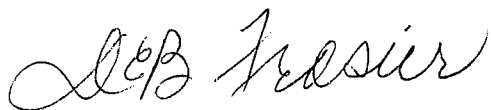
As a concerned landowner I would like to make these suggestions:

1. Take some time off to reflect on what you have accomplished. Then just before the deadline to set the IMP in operation. Rethink it and be sure you haven't missed a point or idea or suggestion that might be of great value to us down the road.
2. Please add wording in the IMP that would allow transfers if the local board was no longer able to make those decisions.
3. Please add wording that would allow piping water to the Upper Republican in case that opportunity would arise and if the local board was no longer able to make those decisions.

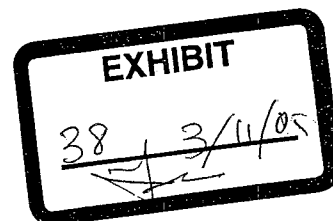
Thank you for all your hard work. Now table it, reflect and take your time putting your signature on it. Take advantage of the deadline. Don't be in a hurry even though I am sure you are tired of going over it in your mine.

Thank you!

Sincerely,



Deb Frasier



3-10-05

s & Opinion

3-10-05
RECEIVED

Letter to the Editor

Water meters not needed in Grant

Dear Editor:

It's not that often that I agree with Lyle 100 percent, but on this issue I do.

Being a newcomer to Grant (having only lived here 10 years so far) I've felt that I didn't have the right to butt in so I've been keeping low key.

However, if you've never lived in an area that has had water meters you really don't know what's going on, or what the future could have in store.

When I lived in Sacramento, my family moved into a brand new subdivision that was on water meters. Several times my neighbors and I had our water shut off because of accounting errors. This happened many times, mainly because we were in the Elk Grove Water District.

To clarify this a little, Elk Grove was a small growing town (big town wanna be) South of Sacramento which was just getting into the water meter business and must have felt that reading meters was a "no-brainer" or a low end of the food chain kind of job.

Even if the meter reading and billing is done automatically or by computer, who runs the computer? And who makes certain it's programmed and operating properly?

And in Grant, a town that has more lightning strikes than Carter has little liver pills, who tests and replaces the EMP fried senders or computers after every thunderstorm? How many times has your phone service been interrupted by near miss strikes?

After I retired and moved to Nooksack, Wash., (yes, Virginia, that's really the town's name) I got acquainted with the city government there since I was helping my brother build his bakery. Nooksack had a computer used for billing, but the hired help changed often so no one person was trained properly.

The owner of the building I was helping with owned several rental properties in Nooksack and therefore had several water meters that he received bills on every two months.

There was seldom a billing cycle that went by that he didn't have something messed up on at least one of the bills. Sometimes it was transposed meter readings, other times it was the wrong meter (each meter had its own serial number, so how could you mess that up?) etc. etc. Murphy's law at work, "if

something can go wrong it will."

I would think that it would be smart business to check out alternatives before blowing money that wasn't mine.

Instead of making everyone pay for the few abusers that don't know what day it is, just go after the abusers, and if that doesn't work then go to plan 'B'.

For \$500,000 you could hire someone for \$25,000 per annum for the next 20 years to report violators, and the fines could even offset the salary.

I did this last math part to show you that "figures don't lie, but liars can sure figure," do your own math and figure out if I'm selling just fertilizer.

A really good example of how "if things can go wrong in billing" is this month's Midwest Electric bill. I like the new format, BUT it wasn't quite ready for birth yet.

You'll have two identical items, water and water. No, we aren't billed for water twice, really, (yet).

One is water in and the other is for water out or commonly referred to in the trade as WIWO (pronounced "wee-whoa") the WO part obviously being sewage. Hopefully it won't be re-defined to WIWO 1 (one) and WIWO 2 (two) since we obviously don't have our number 2 together.

In the computer trade we are accustomed to garbage in and garbage out or GIGO which could be shown on our statement as groceries in and groceries out, but I digress.

I also love the part about calling the "FPU Natural Gas Department for our free Fall light up and safety inspection" although I haven't figured out how Florida Public Utilities has anything to do with Grant Neb., and I'm in no hurry to do Fall stuff right now since I'm avoiding Spring housecleaning as best I can.

The moral of this story is: I'm not certain. But I am curious how much of my payment, either through the Electric Company or the City coffers, did this beautiful example of GIGO cost me? And was it from being Taxed? or Serviced?

"I don't care Who ya are, now that thar's FUNNY"
(stolen from "Larry the cable guy")
Been There DT

Roy Godbolt,
Grant

Voices of our Community

The river of life

By Chet Harger
Madrid Resident

Editor's Note: Harger is a member of the Wheatland School Board. He is the father of four and owner and auctioneer of Charger

system.

Midwest Region Blood Services collects blood in 93 counties, covering 62,000 square miles, throughout Nebraska, portions of Iowa, Colorado and Kansas.

They hold six to eight blood

which I talked to them about when I called. I called immediately and they looked up the code number off of the letter. They said that my blood had tested positive for Hepatitis B and I should contact my doctor for an exam.

EXHIBIT
Ba 3/11/05

Water meters not needed in Grant

Dear Editor:

The City of Grant is moving forward with its mission to spend taxpayer money for water meters for Grant.

The facts do not in any way justify the spending of at least \$500,000 to install meters. I know that there will be those who say we will get grants or something or other and it won't cost this much.

The fact is it will cost a lot of money somewhere. Grant is spending \$49,500 this year for water meters and it appears that this is only for planning and probably will not have one meter installed for this kind of expenditure.

Let's look at the overall picture. According to the Natural Resource District, there are 950 irrigation wells in Perkins County. Using the NRD's 2004 figures and assuming that all are center pivots with 125 acres with an allocation of 14.5 inches of water per acre, that means that each center pivot system is entitled to 49,216,625 gallons of water each growing season.

Grant is allocated 189,991,064 gallons of water each year or slightly less than what is allocated for four center pivots each year. This amounts to .4 of one percent of the water set aside for the county.

The City allocation is based on three considerations: 250 gallons of water per person each day, an allowance for outside watering of one-third of the area within the city limits, and an industrial allowance.

Grant, through its policy of water conservation, has managed to accumulate over 750 million gallons carried forward from unused prior year's allocations, even though there are over 30 users of city water outside the city limits for which Grant receives no allocation.

We are doing fine as far as water usage is concerned, let there be no doubt about it.

There is, located in Grant, approximately 1,350,000 square feet of turf maintained by public entities (parks, well sites, ballfields, courthouse, etc.) equal

to about 140 average-sized home lawns.

If meters are installed, the city would charge for the water used for these areas.

We, the taxpayers will pay for this water usage through increases in annual budgets; therefore, it becomes another hidden tax.

Grant is a great looking community and it is this way partly because of its current policy of water usage. There are those few who abuse the water policy that is currently in place and ordinances should be enforced.

But overall, the facts illustrate that we are doing a good job the way things are and a change to metering will only have negative effects, especially cost increase to the home owner, more money in the city treasury, another excuse to hire more staff, more regulation and a deteriorating effect on the appearance of Grant.

A look at towns that have water meters reveals what is in store for us. One Paxton resident, for example, recently paid \$105 per month for winter time use for water, sewer and waste.

A resident of Imperial told me that his family chooses to live in an air-conditioned house rather than have a green yard because of the cost.

Wallace uses its recently installed water meters only part-time and some Wallace residents have their own wells for outside watering because they want a green yard and using city water would cost too much. There are many other examples of what may be involved for us.

In conclusion, it is my opinion that the Mayor and City of Grant only want to fleece us of more money and what we have is working just fine. Conservation of water is not the City Council's priority. It's time for Grant citizens to stand up for what is right. It won't do any good for anyone to complain after the meters are installed.

Sincerely,
Lyle Holway
Grant

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Classifieds and Thank Yous: Tuesday by 10:30 a.m.

Inserts: The Tuesday of the week it will run

Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the Editor must be signed to be considered for publication.

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