

**March 4, 2010**

Red Willow Co. Fairgrounds Community Bldg.  
Master of Ceremonies: Josh Friesen

- 8:30 a.m.— Registration Opens
- 9:00 a.m.—Welcome & Introduction  
*Roger Lawson, MRNRD*
- 9:15 a.m.— Middle Republican NRD Update  
*Dan Smith, MRNRD*
- 9:50 a.m.— Research Update on Water Use of Riparian Vegetation  
*Dr. Derrel Martin, UNL*
- 10:30 a.m.—Coffee Break,  
Meet Exhibitors
- 10:45 a.m.— Public Power District Panel  
*Jim Phinny, MPPD*  
*Don Suda, SWPPD*  
*James Dietz, TVPPD*  
Hayes Center School Wind Project  
*Gary Hanken, SWPPD*
- 11:30 a.m.—The Events of 2009, and the Future for Integrated Water Management in the Republican River Basin  
*Jim Schneider*  
& *Jason Kepler, DNR*
- 12:00 p.m.— Lunch, Provided by MRNRD
- 12:45 p.m.—Surface Water Supplies in the Republican River Basin & Update on Red Willow Dam  
*Marv Swanda, USBR*
- 1:20 p.m.— Candidate Forum: How Will I Address the Water Issues in the Republican River Basin?  
*Senator Mark Christensen*  
*Tom Baker*
- 2:20 p.m.— Wrap-Up  
*Roger Lawson, MRNRD*

**Middle Republican NRD**

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*Protecting Lives. Protecting Property. Protecting the Future.*

**2010 Southwest Nebraska Water Conference**

*Water: Learning From The Past & Looking To The Future*



**Thursday, March 4**  
**9 a.m.—2:30 p.m.**  
Red Willow County Fairgrounds  
Community Building  
McCook Nebraska

The Southwest Nebraska Water Conference began in 1987 as a means to educate irrigators dealing with water quality problems. Our current focus is to educate producers and professionals about integrated management and the future of irrigation in the Republican Basin.

## The State of the District

Dan Smith, Middle Republican NRD Manager, will give an update regarding programs and happenings in the MRNRD. New conservation measures, the status of current legislation and litigation regarding property and occupation taxes will all be on-topic.

## Riparian Vegetation Study

The ongoing joint Republican River Riparian Management Study that partnered the University of Nebraska—Lincoln, the Middle Republican NRD and Southwest Nebraska RC & D, has looked into water use of riparian plant life. UNL's Dr. Derrel Martin will discuss preliminary results of this continuing research project.

## Public Power District Panel

The relationship of Public Power entities and irrigators will be on-topic during this forum with three area PPD representatives: James Phinny of McCook Public Power District, Don Suda of Southwest Public Power District, and James Dietz of

Twin Valley Public Power District. Additionally, Gary Hanken of Southwest PPD will update the public on Hayes Center School's Wind Power Project.

## The Future for Integrated Water Management

Republican River Compact compliance has been a hot issue over the past two decades—not only in the Republican Basin, but statewide. Over the past year, “compliance options” for dry years have been discussed to further structure NRD Integrated Management Plans. Jason Kepler, Integrated Water Management Analyst, and Jim Schneider, Deputy Director of the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources will be on-hand to explain these options and where the Department would like to see irrigators move over the coming years.

## Surface Water Supplies In The Republican Basin

Roughly 23,500 acres in the Middle Republican NRD have the ability to be irrigated by the basin's surface water systems, which draw water from Swanson, Hugh Butler and Harry Strunk Reservoirs. Marv Swanda of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation will discuss the state of Republican River surface water projects from a federal perspective. Probable repairs and a reconstruction timeline for the Red Willow Dam will also be discussed.

## Candidate Forum

The two current 2010 candidate for Nebraska's District 44 State Senate seat, Thomas Baker and Mark Christensen will answer your questions regarding their stance on water issues in the Republican Basin in this pre-campaign trail stop.

## 2010 Speaker Notes

**Thomas Baker**, Former State Senator, Trenton, 2010 Candidate for District 44

**Mark Christensen**, State Senator, Imperial, 2010 Candidate for District 44

**James Dietz**, General Manager, Twin Valley Public Power District

**Gary Hanken**, System Engineer, Southwest Public Power District

**Jason Kepler**, Integrated Water Management Analyst, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources

**Roger Lawson**, Information and Education Coordinator, Middle Republican NRD

**Derrel Martin, PhD, PE**, University of Nebraska—Lincoln, Extension Specialist in Irrigation and Water Resources Engineering

**James Phinny**, General Manager, McCook Public Power District

**Jim Schneider, PhD**, Deputy Director, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources

**Dan Smith**, Manager, Middle Republican NRD

**Don Suda**, General Manager, Southwest Public Power District

**Marv Swanda**, McCook Field Office Manager, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Southwest NE Water Conference sponsored by:  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
University of Nebraska—Lincoln Extension (Red Willow)  
Republican River Water Conservation & Education Coalition  
Middle Republican NRD