

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Middle Republican Natural Resources District will hold a public hearing for the purpose of receiving testimony with regard to proposed revisions to the rules and regulations for the Ground Water Management Area for the Middle Republican Natural Resources District. The hearing will be at the Curtis Community Center, 201 Garlick Avenue, in Curtis Nebraska on January 10, at 10:00 A.M. Written testimony may be sent to the Middle Republican Natural Resources District at PO Box 81, Curtis, Nebraska, 69025. Written testimony will be accepted until the close of the hearing on January 10, 2012.

The authority for these rules and regulations is the authority granted in the Nebraska Ground Water Management and Protection Act. NRRS 46-701 through 46-754. Public Hearing requirements are in NRRS 46-743. This amendment to the Rules and Regulations for the Ground Water Management Area restructures several rules and includes revisions to the rules dealing with Transfers, new definitions and new rules on recertification of acres and new allocations for irrigation uses.

The purpose of this management area is to (1) protect ground water quantity and (2) the prevention or resolution of conflicts between users of ground water and appropriators of surface water, which ground water and surface water are hydrologically connected through implementation of the goals and objectives identified in the Integrated Management Plan.

The geographic area is the entire Middle Republican Natural Resources District.

The purpose and geographic area of the Management Area are not changed.

Rule 2-5 Penalties. This section is revised and penalties from all previous rules are included.

Rule 3-1 Definitions – Revised definitions related to certification and new definitions for compact call year and other items related to revisions in the new Integrated Management Plan.

Chapter 4, General Management

Rule 4-4 Flow Meters, 4-4.3 Installation requires that in 2013 all meters be located in compliance with district standards.

Rule 4-7 Recertification. New rules are added relating to the recertification of acres after a change of ownership.

Rule 4-8 Decertification of Use. New rules related to temporary or permanent non use.

Rule 4-10 Compact Call Year. New rules related to the compact call year procedure.

Chapter 5, Management of Uses.

Revision to Rules 5-1 and 5-2 relating to transfers. These revisions refine the existing transfer process. They will place some additional restrictions and conditions on transfers. Transfers of Use, unused allocation, and Permanent Transfer of a well are proposed to be

deleted. Additional restrictions on ownership and history of use are added to Permanent Transfer of Acres.

Rule 5-3 Allocations. A new concept for allocation is added for the 2013 crop year. There will no longer be an allocation period. Allocation will drop to 11 inches by 2014 and remain at 11 inches thereafter.

Appendix 1. This appendix establishes a procedure for adjustments to the base allocation in a compact call year.

This notice is only a general description of the contents of the proposed rules and regulations. The full text of these rules and regulations are available on the district website at mnrnd.org or may be obtained by contacting the Middle Republican NRD, PO Box 81, Curtis NE, 69025 or at 308-367-4281.

Publish for three consecutive weeks. The first publication shall be the week of December 19, 2011, the second publication the week of December 26, 2011 and the last publication shall be NO LATER THAN January 3, 2012