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## Middle Republican Natural Resources District

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### PRESS RELEASE

February 16, 2011

#### **IMP Discussed: No Action Taken**

Curtis, NE – The Middle Republican Board of Directors met Tuesday for their regular monthly board meeting, postponed from the previous week due to weather. Board members had much discussion about the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) that was adopted...by the previous board. Members were interested in looking at working with the Department of Natural Resources to make some changes to the plan that would be hydrologically equivalent to the existing plan but perhaps contain something different than the current option 3.

The groundwater committee met earlier that day to discuss the proposed rules and regulations that would drive the IMP. Since the committee now contains new members to the committee with the exception of Brad Randel and James Uerling, most of the meeting was spent reviewing the existing proposal and the steps that were taken to arrive at that proposal. Other members include Steven Cappel, Rick Spencer and Rick McConville.

Jason Kennedy of the NRCS reported that they were allocated to spend up to \$170,000.00 for AWEP within our District. AWEP dollars will be spent to voluntarily retire irrigated acres within the District. The board voted to commit another \$250.00/ acre on top of the NRCS offer and an additional \$500.00 per acre for those properties that lie near the River and its tributaries. Interested persons are encouraged to contact their nearest NRCS field office.

Roger Lawson, Information & Education Coordinator reported that he has put out publicity that the District is again accepting college scholarship applications. The District awards two \$500.00 college scholarships a year to high school seniors and 1<sup>st</sup> year College students that have a home address in the District. College scholarship applications are due April 1<sup>st</sup>. He also reported that the District is now accepting nominations for its conservation award programs which include Outstanding Grassland, Outstanding Tree Planter and Honor Conservation. Nomination forms will be sent out to all NRCS offices and UNL Extension within the District. Winners become eligible for similar awards at the state level through the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts.

Lawson also reported that the District is making preparations Envirothon and the South West Nebraska Water Conference to be held Friday March 4<sup>th</sup> at the Red Willow County Fair Grounds in the community building. The Envirothon is a high school level team

competition in the natural resources including aquatics, environmental policy, forestry, range, soils, wildlife and a special current topic. The regional Envirothon will be held February 23<sup>rd</sup> at the NCTA campus in conjunction with the FFA event.

Stacie Owens, Board Secretary and Office Supervisor reported that the water use report for 2010 has been sent to the Department of Natural Resources. Owens also reported that the tentative average water use District-wide is 8.12 inches. Individual use reports are currently being mailed out to producers.

The Middle Republican NRD protects lives, property and the future of the this area through a wide range of stewardship, management and education programs—from flood control to groundwater monitoring, from irrigation management to soil conservation and more. Activities and projects of the Middle Republican NRD are reviewed and approved by a locally elected board of directors. For more information, visit [www.mrnrd.org](http://www.mrnrd.org) or call 1-800-873-5613.

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