



220 Center Ave.
PO Box 81
Curtis, NE 69025

Phone: 800-873-5613
Fax: 308-367-4285
Email: kgall@mnrnd.org
www.mnrnd.org

Middle Republican Natural Resources District

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For Immediate Release

Middle Republican NRD Adopts Water Management Area Rules and Regulations and Integrated Management Plan

Curtis – In a unanimous 9-0 vote, the Middle Republican NRD Board of Directors adopted the new Water Management Area Rules and Regulations and Integrated Management Plan at their November 9 meeting. Available to the public on the District website at <http://www.mnrnd.org>, these rules and regulations will help Nebraska maintain compliance with the Republican River Compact Settlement.

The rules, which continue the management actions of the NRD first started in 1998, and the Integrated Management Plan, the first such plan approved in Nebraska, will limit pumping to a total of 39 inches over a three-year period beginning in 2005. In order to achieve the reductions necessary to maintain compliance with the Republican River Compact settlement, the Department of Natural Resources and the Middle Republican NRD will work toward developing and funding existing and new water conservation incentive programs that will permanently or temporarily retire irrigated acres.

Manager Dan Smith shared a letter from Roger Patterson, Director of the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, indicating that the projected irrigation supply from Harlan County Lake for 2005 is less than 119,000 acre-feet, which will trigger a “Water-Short Year.” Smith emphasized that the Rules and Regulations make no additional restrictions on Water-Short Years and that to take further action in a Water-Short Year, the District will have to hold a public hearing.

The board also discussed the results of the November 2 election. Rick Spencer will replace Wayne Madsen, who has served 12 years on the board. Incumbent Del Harsh or newcomer Jerry Mustion will fill the fifth open seat on the board, as soon as a recount is complete.

For more information contact: Kara Gall
Information and Education Coordinator