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Middle Republican Natural Resources District

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For Immediate Release

District wide Occupation Tax Applied to Certified Acres

Curtis, NE – The Middle Republican NRD Board of Directors voted last month to approve a new “occupation” tax that will take affect this fall and raise just over 2 million dollars to be used solely for the purposes of underwriting a bond to be issued this fall. That bond purchased 26,000 acre feet of water from the Frenchman Cambridge Irrigation District and 13,000 acre feet from the Frenchman Valley Irrigation District and the Riverside Irrigation Co. This purchased water will be used to offset the impacts from groundwater pumping.

The Occupation Tax is assessed on all irrigated acres within the District. The Middle Republican NRD just completed a review of the assessed irrigated acres from the county assessors offices. During that review, the assessors’ records for groundwater irrigated acres were corrected to those acres certified by the NRD. Both ground and surface water irrigated acres were reviewed and will be assessed. However, acres enrolled in CREP will not be subject to the occupation tax within the Middle Republican NRD. Acres permanently retired through the EQIP special initiative will also not be taxed.

While the per acre tax was originally projected to be at or about \$7.30, that amount may come down as low as \$7.10 as a result of the above accounting.

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