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Middle Republican Natural Resources District

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Revised Integrated Management Plan Approved

Curtis, NE – The Middle Republican NRD Board of Directors continued with its momentum of moving forward Tuesday afternoon with the approval of the revised Integrated Management Plan (IMP) at its regular January Board Meeting. This revised plan was developed and presented jointly by both the Middle Republican NRD and the Nebraska Dept. of Natural Resources (NDNR).

A public hearing to hear comments on the proposed IMP was held prior to the Board Meeting at the McCook City Auditorium. Dan Smith, General Manager of the MRNRD, provided a brief summary of the proposed revised IMP for the benefit of the public in attendance. Ann Bleed, Director of the NDNR was also in attendance. Testimony was heard from Dan Nelsen, a MRNRD Director; Arron Thompson, Area Manager for the Bureau of Reclamation; and one member of the general public.

The revised plan updates the agreements between the MRNRD and the NDNR and the IMP goals. The first and overall goal states that “In cooperation with the other Basin Natural Resources Districts and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, maintain compliance with the Republican River Compact as adopted in 1943 and as impacted by the United States Supreme Court on May 19, 2003”. In working towards that goal, the IMP also states that “groundwater and surface water users within the MRNRD assume their share of the responsibility to keep Nebraska in compliance with the Republican River Compact.”

The IMP includes compliance standards to achieve the goals of the plan which include “providing for a 20% reduction in pumping from the 98-02 pumping volume using a combination of regulation and supplemental programs so that the average ground water pumping volume is no greater than 247,580 acre-feet over the long term.” The other compliance standard states that the MRNRD’s net depletions shall average no greater than 30% of the State of Nebraska’s allowable ground water depletions as accounted by the Republican River Compact Administration.”

The revised Groundwater Area Management Rules and Regulations, which will be used to implement the IMP, were approved at the November 13, 2007 MRNRD Board of Directors meeting.

Also during the Board Meeting, three temporary water transfers were approved, Traci Whithuhn provided a report for the Republican River Basin Coalition and Board Members were reminded that February 15th is the deadline for incumbent Directors to file for re-election to the District Board.

The revised Groundwater Rules and Regulations and the Integrated Management Plan are both available for viewing and downloading on the MRNRD website www.mrnrd.org

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