



220 Center Ave.
PO Box 81
Curtis, NE 69025

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

Middle Republican Natural Resources District

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For Immediate Release

Middle Republican NRD Directors Support Trails Project in McCook

Curtis – At their April 12 meeting, the Middle Republican Natural Resources District Board of Directors, in a 6-5 vote, adopted a resolution to support the building of recreational trails in McCook. Doyle Wineland, Engineer for the City of McCook, and Becky Kilpatrick, McCook Parks Advisory Board Member, presented a request for \$6000 for each of the next two years to assist with Phase I of this project, which will stretch from East “H” Street NW to East 5th Street, approximately 3302 feet. Red Willow County and City of McCook are also being asked to provide the same level of support. The total cost of the completed project is \$3.8 million. Discussion was held concerning other projects that have been funded, whether there is a limit on how much the District can fund, and whether the District should contribute at the same level as the City and the County. The board voted to provide funding of \$6,000 per year for two years.

A variance request from Jerry Mustion to certify 209 acres was considered. The request was to adjust acres to 209 acres per FSA records. The District approved the request.

NRD Manager Dan Smith reviewed three requests for water transfers. All three requests are temporary agreements. Well measurements for 2004 were handed out to Directors. Discussion was held concerning moving water and the pumping capabilities. In accordance with the Rules and Regulations, water may be transferred from a Quick Response Area to an Upland Area. Water may also be transferred within an Upland Area or within a Quick Response Area. Requests to transfer water from an Upland Area into a Quick Response Area will not be approved. The board approved all three transfer requests. Smith also reported that RMA (Resource Management Assessment) has determined that producers are not eligible for prevented planting because of the 13-inch allocation. “The RMA views the allocation as a governmental regulation, not an act of God,” said Smith.

In other business, NRCS District Conservationist Doug Whisenhunt reported that CREP signup seems to be going well. “The CREP program is set up so that, if you meet the criteria, you are approved until the signup is full.” Smith reported that 7,460 acres have been submitted for CREP in the Middle Republican

NRD that are irrigated by groundwater. Whisenhunt reported that the district NRCS offices are currently working on EQIP contracts.

Assistant Manager Bob Merrigan reported that Chemigation renewals have been coming in and that the district will be planting approximately 20,000 trees this year.

Kara Gall, Information and Education Coordinator, presented applications for the MRNRD College Scholarships to the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture and McCook Community College. Recipients will be announced in a later press release. Gall also reported that four regional schools, Wauneta-Palisade, Medicine Valley, Southwest, and Arapahoe, will be participating in the State Envirothon Contest at Halsey, May 7.

The next regular meeting will be on May 10 in McCook at the Red Willow County Fairgrounds 4-H Building beginning at 7:30 p.m.

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For more information contact: Kara Gall
Information and Education Coordinator