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Middle Republican Natural Resources District

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For Immediate Release

NRD Board Discusses Implications of Rainfall

Curtis – Middle Republican NRD Manager Dan Smith presented the NRD Board of Directors with a monthly reservoir report from the Bureau of Reclamation at the NRD's June 14 board meeting. With the recent intensive rainfall, peaks at Cambridge and Orleans exceeded the historical record. Strunk is full and McCook has come up a few feet. Harlan jumped nearly two feet in the last 30 days. Director Kevin Fornoff of Hayes County asked Smith, "How does this recent rainfall affect our compliance in the Republican River settlement?" Smith then presented a handout from the RRCA Compact Accounting, which showed that, basin wide, the computed beneficial consumptive use for 2003 and 2004 exceeded the allocation by over 65,000 acre-feet, a number which includes a lag effect for the year 2002. "What this means is that we're going to be making up for nearly 65,000 acre-feet over the next three years."

Smith reviewed requests for temporary water transfers. The first request was two transfers from Brian Wright to Jerry Mustion. Mustion is requesting a transfer of the allocation for 204 acres. The Board approved the transfers from Wright to Mustion.

Smith presented a draft budget. The budget needs to be approved for publication in August and the public hearing scheduled for September.

The Water Policy Task Force Tour is scheduled for August. The tour will start in Holdrege on Tuesday, August 2, travel to McCook, touring various facilities along the way, and return to Holdrege on Wednesday, August 3. The tour will stop at the Fairgrounds Building in McCook from 3:00 – 4:00 PM on Tuesday, August 2, where Governor Heinemann will be speaking. This meeting will be open to the public.

Smith reviewed summaries from the Nebraska Association of Resource Districts (NARD). “There was not a whole lot of legislation approved this year that was significant to districts.” Smith did add that the general consensus from legislature is that districts ought to be funding incentive programs instead of the State.

Assistant Manager Bob Merrigan reviewed a Livestock Waste Control Application for Furnas County Farms. The board voted to accept this application with the condition that monitoring wells be installed.

In Personnel matters, Smith reported that the District office hired Tom Hansen as technician and encouraged the board to make a decision on whether they wanted to hire a third technician. A motion was made by Moore and second by Fornoff to hire a third technician and passed unanimously. Directors also resolved tabled items from the May meeting, voting to approve annual salaries for the 2005-2006 fiscal year.

As a final agenda item, Smith reported that the building next to the NRD office sold. The NRD had previously used the unoccupied space behind this building to store equipment and park vehicles. In addition, the NRD has stored equipment during off-season on the hill at Judy Nutt’s for 33 years. Smith recommended that the District work out an agreement with Judy Nutt for the remaining equipment. The board voted to engage in written agreement with Judy Nutt to store equipment on her property.

The next regular meeting will be on July 12 in McCook at the Fairground Community Building beginning at 8:00 a.m.

Full text of the meeting minutes, kept current, is available during regular business hours at the NRD office in Curtis or on the web at www.mnrnd.org.

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