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Middle Republican Natural Resources District

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For Immediate Release

Dennis Peterson Hired as NRD Technician

Curtis – The Middle Republican NRD held their monthly board meeting on Tuesday, July 12, 2005 at the Red Willow Fairgrounds Community Building. Manager Dan Smith reported that the District office hired Dennis Peterson as technician. Peterson, who worked for Ag Valley Coop for 10 years, brings to the position a familiarity with the local producers. The District now employs three technicians, who are responsible for providing technical service for metering, chemigation, wildlife, and tree planting throughout the district's five counties. Peterson joins Rich Karre, technician since 1994 and Tom Hansen, newly hired at the beginning of June.

Ben Hardin, irrigation specialist from McCook, gave a report on NRCS activities, indicating that approximately 15 EQIP applications are left to complete. NRCS has been assisting the York office with the Conservation Security Program (CSP) sign-up. This has prepared the NRCS staff in the Middle Republican NRD to inform producers in the Republican River Basin of conservation practices they can implement now to increase their chances of eligibility if CSP should be approved in this area. The CSP contracts are for 5-10 years and award conservation practices already in place. Hardin commented that CSP would significantly increase the local NRCS offices' workload.

Information and Education Coordinator Kara Gall reported that she is working on a grant application to fund an irrigation pocket guide for the Republican River Basin. The guide would be made available to all irrigators in the Republican River Basin and would include such things as instructions on how to read flow meters, who to contact for flow meter repair or replacement, conversion formulas from gallons of water pumped to acre-inches, irrigation schedules, watering requirements for various crops, and contact information for local organizations and agencies. Gall has scheduled Wednesday, September 21 for the Frontier County 5th Grade Outdoor Education Day in Mill Park. The Legion Hall has been reserved for in case of rain.

The district considered three variance requests. Jeff Ruggles presented testimony. Ruggles' aunt, Sina Ruggles, had a well that was not registered with DNR. The well since has been registered and metered. Ruggles is requesting 20.3 acres be certified in section 15 of township 3 and range 29 in Red Willow County. The districted approved the request.

Steve Wolford and John Bingham presented testimony concerning the City of McCook's request for a new well. The City is looking for a lower nitrate water source. One well will be a replacement well and one would be a new well. 2 domestic and one irrigation well will be abandoned. Bingham indicated that the total usage of the City of McCook is less then the usage of the one irrigation well that is being replaced. The district approved the request.

Dennis Egle filed a variance for certified acres. Egle has a well that belonged to his father, who recently passed away. The well was drilled in 1970. The ground was irrigated until 1982. At that time the ground was converted to dryland. Dennis Egle has now inherited the property and wants to certify acres on this property. Egle is requesting 132 acres. Smith indicated he could find record of 119 acres irrigated prior to 1982. The ground is currently taxed as dryland and the well is not metered. The district denied the request in a 7-3 vote.

There were no requests for water transfers.

The next regular meeting will be on August 9 in Curtis at the NRD Office beginning at 7:30 p.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.mrnrd.org.

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For more information contact: Kara Gall
Information and Education Coordinator