

March 5th, 2008
KRVN Report
Lower Republican Natural Resources District

I'm Mike Clements, Manager of the Lower Republican Natural Resources District in Alma, NE and this is the Natural Resources Report.

On May 1, 2007 Governor Heineman signed LB701 into law. Soon after that time the Lower, Middle, and Upper Republican NRD's formed the Republican River Basin Coalition to unify our efforts and function as one entity for augmentation projects.

Last June the Coalition purchased over 20,000 acre feet of surface water from three Irrigation Districts totaling 8.6 million dollars. In addition, the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources purchased 17,000 acre feet from Bostwick Irrigation District. The water purchased was more than enough to surpass Nebraska's average annual shortfall from 2003 through 2006.

Just as we were about to issue bonds in mid November The Friends of the River filed suit in Lancaster County District Court contesting the constitutionality of LB701. With pending litigation the bonds can not be issued. We now have over 350 irrigators who sold their surface water in good faith still waiting to be paid.

LB1094 introduced by Senator Carlson, which will be up for debate this week, will loan money to the NRD's so the irrigators can be paid.

It is our moral and fiscal responsibility to honor our obligations. LB1094 does just that. Thank you Senator Carlson.

Thank you for listening. This is Mike Clements, keeping you informed about your natural resources.