

## **Order Adopting Revised Integrated Management Plan Middle Republican Natural Resources District**

In the Matter of the  
Middle Republican Natural Resources  
District Groundwater Management Area  
Rules and Regulations

Order Adopting the Middle Republican  
Natural Resources District Integrated  
Management Plan and Associated  
Groundwater Controls

This matter came before the Middle Republican NRD Board of Directors (MRNRD) for consideration pursuant to The Ground Water Management and Protection Act, *Neb. Rev. Stat.* §§ 46-701 to 46-756, which requires the affected natural resources district and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NeDNR) to jointly develop an Integrated Management Plan (IMP) for a fully appropriated river basin, subbasin, or reach, and associated controls.

### THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FIND:

1. The Ground Water Management and Protection Act provides the authority for the designation of a Ground Water Management Area and the adoption of rules and regulations to administer that area. It also provides for the amendment of existing rules.
2. The Ground Water Management and Protection Act provides the authority for the joint adoption, by a natural resources district and the NeDNR, of an IMP in a fully appropriated river basin, sub basin or reach.
3. The IMP subject to this order and jointly developed by the NeDNR and MRNRD pursuant to The Ground Water Management and Protection Act is the fifth revision to the IMP since the first IMP was jointly approved by NeDNR and MRNRD in 2005.
4. On March 24, 2021, NeDNR and the MRNRD held a stakeholder meeting to receive comments on the proposed modifications to the IMP, and stakeholders from the MRNRD were also invited to provide comments on the proposed modifications to the IMP at meetings in the Middle Republican NRD and Lower Republican NRD on March 25, 2021.
5. In accordance with *Neb. Rev. Stat.* § 46-718, the NeDNR and the MRNRD agreed on: (a) goals and objectives of the Plan; (b) the geographic area to be subject to controls; (c) the surface water controls, ground water controls and incentive programs that are proposed for adoption and implementation in the Plan for the MRNRD.
6. Proposed modifications agreed upon by NeDNR and the MRNRD on March 28, 2021, included an updated in-state accounting equation used to assess compliance; changes related to the Republican River Basin-Wide Plan including a proposed new goal; and updates related to changes in Republican River Compact Administration procedures. The NeDNR and MRNRD determined that adoption of the IMP should be considered in accordance with *Neb. Rev. Stat.* § 46-718.
7. Notice of a July 6, 2021, joint public hearing by NeDNR and the MRNRD on the proposed IMP revisions was published in accordance with *Neb. Rev. Stat.* § 46-743 in the following newspapers in the MRNRD:
  - (a) North Platte Telegraph
  - (b) McCook Daily Gazette

The notice was posted at MRNRD offices and copies of the proposed IMP were also made available by the MRNRD at the time of publication of the newspaper notices.

8. A public hearing on the proposed IMP was held on July 6, 2021, as advertised. No comments were received at the hearing, nor in writing.
9. On August 10, 2021, the MRNRD Board of Directors voted to adopt the IMP.
10. On August 18, 2021, the MRNRD sent NeDNR a letter agreeing to adopt the proposed IMP.
11. On August 20, 2021, NeDNR sent the MRNRD a letter agreeing to adopt the proposed IMP.

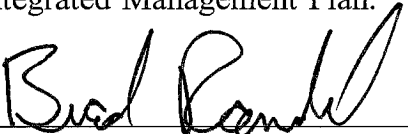
#### IMP GROUNDWATER CONTROLS:

1. Groundwater allocations
2. Moratorium on new wells and irrigated acres
3. Ability to reduce irrigated acres and target acres with high impacts on stream flow as alternatives to district-wide reductions in water-use allocations or irrigated acres
4. Assurance via rules and regulations that no new groundwater uses initiated after July 14, 2004, will adversely impact surface water appropriators or groundwater users whose wells are dependent on recharge from the stream or river.
5. A 20 percent reduction in pumping over the long term from the baseline pumping volume, using a combination of regulation and supplemental programs, that the average annual groundwater pumping is no greater than 433,926 acre feet over the long term.
6. Maintain net groundwater depletions to stream flow within the MRNRD's allowable depletions, applying two-year or five-year averaging as appropriate.
7. Management actions during Compact Call Years to ensure compliance with the Republican River Compact and associated settlement agreement.
8. Metering of all irrigation wells.
9. Regulation of transfers according to MRNRD rules and statutory standards.

BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN THE MIDDLE REPUBLICAN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS BY REISSUE REVISED STATUTES OF NEBRASKA, SECTIONS 46-701 TO 46-754, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. The Integrated Management Plan attached hereto is hereby adopted and shall be implemented by the MRNRD and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources in accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. 46-701 to 46-754.
2. The geographic and stratigraphic boundaries of the management area coincide with the existing geographic and stratigraphic boundaries of the existing management area. The geographic boundary of the management area is the boundary of the Middle Republican Natural Resources District. The stratigraphic boundary of the management area is from the land surface to the base of the underlying water bearing material.

3. The revised INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT Plan attached hereto shall be EFFECTIVE September 27, 2021.
4. It is therefore ORDERED the Integrated Management Plan Jointly Developed by the Department of Natural Resources and the Middle Republican Natural Resources District are hereby ADOPTED and will become effective on **September 27, 2021**; thus superseding the January 15, 2016, Middle Republican Natural Resources District Integrated Management Plan.

  
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Brad Randel, Chairman

  
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Stacie M. Owens, Secretary