

## “SOUTHWEST NEBRASKA’S WATER LEADER”

The Middle Republican NRD has been very busy making changes to their district the last few months. These changes have been rewarding but yet challenging at the same time while trying to reflect all of their goals and objectives.

They recently adopted their 2015-2016 Fiscal Year’s Budget at their September Board meeting. They set the Mill Levy at 0.031846 and the Occupation Tax amount per acre at \$10.00. The new fiscal budget will highlight new projects as well.

One of the new projects will be working with the Frenchman Valley Irrigation District in Culbertson, NE. The MRNRD is currently working on an agreement with the Frenchman Valley Irrigation District (FVID) to use their irrigation delivery system to study the effects and benefits of recharging groundwater. While they will be delivering water to those irrigators requesting it, the MRNRD and FVID will be gathering and collecting data to quantify the recharge benefit. The benefits of this project are unlimited but the NRD is hoping to see some domestic, livestock and irrigation wells rebound. The MRNRD has taken several actions that support the innovative farmers in the district.

The Board will offer a new Irrigation Efficiency Project, offering full service irrigation monitoring and scheduling. The information (ET, Weekly irrigation level, etc) for the project area will be posted on the MRNRD website.

The Board will also be looking into doing some Streambank Restoration to the Medicine Creek.

At the September Board meeting the Board of Directors voted to have the MRNRD board be elected by voting Districts within the MRNRD boundaries. This means there will be districts broke out into six districts with 2 board members in each of them and one board member to be elected at large. This will make to Middle Republican NRD’s Board a 13 member board. The voting districts will be: #1 – All of Frontier County, #2 – All of Lincoln & Hayes Counties, #3 – Hitchcock County, #4 – NW Red Willow County, #5 – SW Red Willow County, #6 – E Red Willow County, and 1 at large.

Please watch for more information to follow on these and other projects.

- The Middle Republican NRD recently hired a Hydrologist/Engineer, Alex Boyce, a graduate from UNL- Lincoln. He will be working with the Medicine Creek Hydrological model as well as working on the technical aspects of depletions, groundwater declines and compact compliance. We are excited to have Alex on staff.

- Kevin Fornoff, a current MRNRD Board Member, has now served one year as the chairman on the Natural Resources Committee. The NRC committee is a 27 member state wide board that aids in funding of \$30 million for Natural Resources Development, Small Watersheds Flood Control, Soil and Water Conservation, Water Sustainability, and Water Well Decommissioning.
- James Uerling, a current MRNRD Board Member, is serving on the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD) board.

The Middle Republican Natural Resources District wants to remind producers that their technicians will be entering property beginning Oct. 1, and continue through the end of December for the purpose of recording the readings of flow meters. This will include all irrigation wells you may have on your property. Flow meters within the NRD district are on a maintenance schedule. All irrigation meters in Red Willow County will be serviced at the time of reading. Other meters throughout the district will be serviced, as needed, at the time of reading. Producers are reminded that if they continue to run their irrigation system after the flow meter has been read it is your responsibility to notify the NRD office with the current reading. Water Programs staff will calculate the water pumped for the past water year and annual water reports will be issued beginning February 2016. Contact NRD Water Programs staff at 308-367-4281 if you have any questions or concerns.

The Middle Republican NRD will be holding there next Regular meeting Tuesday, November 10, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center at 201 Garlic Ave., Curtis, Nebraska with the IMP Hearing to begin at 6:30 p.m. Also the MRNRD will be at the McCook Farm and Ranch Expo in McCook, NE November 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, we look forward to seeing you there!