

ORDER

BEFORE THE TRI-BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In the matter of expanding the boundaries of the Integrated Water Management Area (IWMA) of the Tri-Basin Natural Resources District (Tri-Basin NRD, or NRD).

THE BOARD FINDS THAT:

1. Groundwater and surface water measurements made throughout the district indicate that groundwater and surface water resources within the district are inter-connected.
2. Groundwater levels within the district need to be maintained at or above average water levels for the years 1981-1985 to maintain streamflows in Republican River tributaries that originate within the district as a key objective of a Joint Action Plan with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources for management of integrated water resources within the Republican River Basin.
3. The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources has designated the Platte Basin downstream of the Kearney Canal diversion "fully appropriated" and, concurrent with this designation, has imposed stays on drilling certain wells and development of additional irrigated cropland within lands so designated.

IT IS CONCLUDED THAT:

1. The Board of Directors, in order to effectively enforce the Nebraska Groundwater Management and Protection Act, to conserve integrated groundwater and surface water resources within the district, and to carry out the objectives of a Joint Action Plan for the Republican River Basin, find that it is necessary to designate portions of the district within the Platte River Basin and the Little Blue River Basin declared fully appropriated by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources as part of the district IWMA.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. The Tri-Basin Natural Resources District IWMA will be expanded to include portions of the district within the Platte River Basin and the Little Blue River Basin designated as fully appropriated by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources as fully appropriated. A description of all lands included within the expanded integrated management area is provided below.

Integrated Water Management Area Designation and Delineation

The legal descriptions for all lands included within the IWMA are listed below. This management area includes all land within the Republican River Basin and selected sections within the Platte River Basin and the Little Blue River Basin. This management area includes the communities of Elwood, Smithfield, Bertrand, Loomis, Atlanta, Holdrege, Funk, Axtell, Minden, Wilcox and Keene. The extent of the IWMA is delineated below by county, then by township and then by section and sub-section (where necessary).

Gosper County

All lands within the political boundaries of the County of Gosper.

Phelps County

All lands within the political boundaries of the County of Phelps.

Kearney County

All lands within the political boundaries of the following Townships: 7N-14W (Liberty), 8N-14W (Newark and Lowell), 7N-15W (Logan), 8N-15W (Newark), 5N-16W (Oneida), 6N-16W (Mirage) 7N-16W (Blaine) and 8N-16W (Blaine). Certain listed sections or portions of sections within the political boundaries of the following townships: 5N-14W (Cosmo) Sections 19 (SE ¼ only), 30, 31, 32 (SW ¼, NW ¼ only), 5N-15W (Sherman) Sections 6 (SE ¼ and SW ¼ only), 7, 8, 9, 13 (SW ¼ only), 14 (NW ¼, SW ¼ and SE ¼ only), 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24 (NW ¼, SW ¼ and SE ¼ only), 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 7N-13W (Eaton) Sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 17, 18, 19, 30, 31, 8N-13W (Lowell) Sections 1, 2, 7-35 inclusive, 6N-15W (Lincoln), Sections 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 6N-15W, sections 1-12 inclusive, 18.

Integrated Water Management Area Stratigraphic Extent

The IWMA includes all geologic strata within the management area boundaries listed above that are believed to contribute to streamflows or receive water from canals, streams, wetlands or other surface water bodies, beginning

with soils and sediments at the ground surface downward through all aquifer units supplying potable water. These aquifer units include the Quaternary Grand Island formation and the Tertiary Ogallala formation defined by the CSD-UNL.

Pursuant to the majority vote of the Tri-Basin NRD Board of Directors on April 11, 2006, the expansion of the IWMA shall become effective June 15, 2006. All rules and controls adopted by Tri-Basin NRD are available upon request by contacting the district office. Tri-Basin NRD is located at 1308 2nd St., Holdrege, Nebraska 68949. You can contact the Tri-Basin NRD office toll-free at (877) 995-6688 or tribasin@tribasinnr.org.

For the Tri-Basin Natural Resources District

Bradley Lundeen, Chairman
Tuesday, April 11, 2006