

**MINUTES OF THE TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MEETING**  
**Tuesday, September 8, 2015, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Tri-Basin NRD**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regular monthly board meeting of the Tri-Basin Natural Resources District (NRD) was called to order by Chairman David Olsen, at 8:37 p.m. Olsen noted Public Meeting Law is posted in the boardroom. Two hearings were opened prior to this meeting to discuss the FY 2015-2016 Budget and a hearing to move Elk Creek Township to Phase III and May Township to Phase II Groundwater Management.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll call was taken with nine directors present: Bergstrom, Cavanaugh, Garrelts, Harris, Johnson, Lundeen, Olsen, Raffety and Winz. Bilka and Larson were absent. Notice of the meeting was published in the Holdrege Citizen, Bertrand Herald, Elwood Bulletin and Minden Courier and announced on radio stations KRVN, Lexington and KUVR, Holdrege.

**EXCUSE ABSENCES**

There were no absences to excuse.

**MINUTES**

Thorburn presented the minutes of the August 11, 2015, Board of Directors Meeting, Groundwater Management Hearing and Budget Hearing, August 7, 2015 Executive Committee Meeting, August 27, 2015 Planning Committee Meeting and August 27, 2015 Projects & Construction Committee Meeting. Moved by Harris, seconded by Johnson, to approve the minutes for the August 11, 2015 Board of Directors Meeting and public hearings. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Cavanaugh, Harris, Johnson, Lundeen, Olsen, Raffety, Reynolds and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Garrelts

ABSENT: Bilka and Larson

Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Garrelts, to approve the minutes for the August 7, 2015 Executive Committee Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Johnson, to approve the minutes for the August 27, 2015 Planning Committee Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Raffety, seconded by Cavanaugh, to approve the minutes for the August 27, 2015 Projects & Construction Committee Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Thorburn presented the financial report for the month of August 2015 as follows:

Accrual Expenditures for Month -----	\$174,367.66
Cash Expenditures for Month-----	\$512,374.10
Accrual Revenues for Month-----	\$160,957.55
Cash Revenues for Month-----	\$11,558.66
Bank Balance--August 31, 2015-----	\$89,453.03
Accounts Receivable – August 31, 2015-----	\$1,938.76
Investments – Pinnacle Bank – August 31, 2015-----	\$50,066.55
Building Sinking Fund – August 31, 2015-----	\$70,000.00
Vehicle Sinking Fund – August 31, 2015-----	\$49,937.41
Water Resources Fund – August 31, 2015-----	\$150,000.00
Whiskey Slough IPA Balance – August 31, 2015-----	\$18,304.75

## TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MINUTES

September 8, 2015

Page Two

Fort Kearny-West IPA Balance – August 31, 2015-----	\$10,174.03
South Dry Creek IPA Balance – August 31, 2015-----	\$11,824.83
Fort Kearny IPA Balance – August 31, 2015-----	\$11,370.45
North Dry Creek IPA Balance – August 31, 2015-----	\$15,680.63
Sacramento Creek IPA Balance – August 31, 2015-----	\$21,961.76
Water Jamboree – August 31, 2015-----	\$2,555.23
NRRMDA – August 31, 2015-----	\$7,623.89
Odessa IPA – August 31, 2015-----	\$14,092.91

Moved by Johnson, seconded by Raffety, to accept the August 2015 financial reports and file for audit. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Cavanaugh, Garrelts, Harris, Johnson, Lundeen, Olsen, Raffety, Reynolds and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bilka and Larson

### SPECIAL BILLS

Thorburn presented the VISA and attorney bills for approval. Moved by Garrelts, seconded Lundeen to approve the visa and attorney bills. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Cavanaugh, Garrelts, Harris, Johnson, Lundeen, Olsen, Raffety, Reynolds and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bilka and Larson

### NRCS REPORT

**FSA Farm Plans:** There were no farm plans for approval.

**Activity and Progress Report:** Kevin Breece reported staff has been working on CSP and EQIP payments and renewing CSP Contracts. Breece reported Scheele completed 24 ultrasonic flowmeter measurements to compare with readings taken 10-15 years ago.

### COST SHARE REPORT

**Well Abandonment** – Thorburn presented one well decommissioning application for approval. Moved by Lundeen, seconded Cavanaugh to approve one well decommissioning cost-share application. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Cavanaugh, Garrelts, Harris, Johnson, Lundeen, Olsen, Raffety, Reynolds and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bilka and Larson

**NSWCP & NRD Applications** – Thorburn recommended nine NSWCP cost-share, 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment for NSWCP and one TBNRD Cost-Share application for approval. Moved by Raffety, seconded Winz to approve nine NSWCP cost-share applications and a 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Cavanaugh, Garrelts, Harris, Johnson, Lundeen, Olsen, Raffety, Reynolds and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bilka and Larson

TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MINUTES

September 8, 2015

Page Three

**GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT**

**Groundwater & Certified Acre Transfers** – Thorburn presented two certified irrigated acre transfer requests for Gene Lundeen, Inc. Moved by Cavanaugh, seconded by Lundeen to approve two groundwater transfer requests for Gene Lundeen, Inc. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Cavanaugh, Garrelts, Harris, Johnson, Lundeen, Olsen, Raffety, Reynolds and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bilka and Larson

**Educational Land Leases** – There were no educational land leases to approve.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

The public was given the opportunity to bring other specific business or non-agenda items before the board for comment and/or discussion.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Appoint New Director for Sub-District #6:** Thorburn explained that six candidates applied for the position of Director for Sub-District #6 and the Executive Committee recommended appointment of Jeff Ryan as Director for Sub-District #6 to serve the remainder of David Nickel's term ending in December 2016. Olsen commented that it was a difficult decision between good candidates. Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Raffety to accept the Executive Committee's recommendation that Jeff Ryan be appointed as director for Sub-District #6 to fill the remainder of David Nickel's term ending in December 2016. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Cavanaugh, Garrelts, Harris, Johnson, Lundeen, Olsen, Raffety, Reynolds and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bilka and Larson

**Consider Approval of Augmentation Well Permit for Platte River Recovery Imp. Program:** Thorburn explained, PRRIP, is requesting a well permit in July for an augmentation well in Phelps County. The board tabled approving the well permit because the rules and regulations didn't allow TBNRD to regulate an augmentation well operated by another entity and the board wanted more information about the operating plan and information about well ownership in the event PRRIP operations cease. Thorburn mentioned that the groundwater management rules were revised to cover this issue. The Executive Committee suggested TBNRD drill the well and operate it on behalf of the PRRIP but the PRRIP declined. A condition could be attached to the well permit that stipulates that when the PRRIP ceases to exist, the well will be decommissioned. Thorburn mentioned he has been discussing offset credit for the well with NDNR. Reynolds commented that he would like to see the recharge studies, mod flow, how much they're going to pump and the diversion amount.

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Garrelts to amend the motion to approve an augmentation well permit for PRRIP and make it contingent upon TBNRD receiving credit for water pumped and that the well is decommissioned when the PRRIP ceases to exist. Motion carried.

TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MINUTES

September 8, 2015

Page Four

AYE: Bergstrom, Cavanaugh, Garrelts, Harris, Johnson, Lundeen, Olsen, Raffety, Reynolds, Ryan and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bilka and Larson

Moved by Bergstrom, seconded by Cavanaugh to untable a motion and make a motion to approve an augmentation well permit for PRRIP as amended in the previous motion. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Cavanaugh, Garrelts, Harris, Johnson, Lundeen, Olsen, Raffety, Reynolds, Ryan and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bilka and Larson

**Consider Approval of Revisions to NRD GW Mgt. Rules:** Approval of the Groundwater Management Rules and Regulations was delayed because of concerns expressed by CNPPID on Rule 7.2.2 which requires NRD review of transfers of water outside the district including surface water. Legal counsel advised that the rule 7.2.2 would only be enforceable if the Integrated Management Plan was revised to reflect the change. Moved by Winz, seconded by Johnson accept the recommendation of the Planning Committee and approve the Groundwater Management Rules and Regulations as presented at the August 2015 Board Meeting with an effective date of November 1, 2015. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Cavanaugh, Garrelts, Harris, Johnson, Lundeen, Olsen, Raffety, Reynolds, Ryan and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bilka and Larson

**Consider Approval of Levy Different from Previous Fiscal Year (After Hearing):** Moved by Garrelts, seconded by Lundeen to accept the levy as .040357 (property tax request - \$2,147,928.46) and to set the FY 2015-2016 levy different from the previous year. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Cavanaugh, Garrelts, Harris, Johnson, Lundeen, Olsen, Raffety, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY: Winz

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bilka and Larson

**NARD REPORT**

**Select Delegate and Alternate for NARD Conference:** Moved by Garrelts, seconded by Winz to select Dave Raffety as delegate and Larry Reynolds as alternate delegate for the NARD Fall Conference. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Cavanaugh, Garrelts, Harris, Johnson, Lundeen, Olsen, Ryan and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Reynolds and Raffety

ABSENT: Bilka and Larson

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Executive Committee:** The committee discussed the lease agreement for the PRRIP, the manager's evaluation and interviewed the candidates for Sub-District #6.

**Planning Committee:** This agenda item was covered under another agenda item.

**Projects & Construction:** The committee discussed the Platte/Republican Basin Diversion Project. Thorburn and directors will talk to landowners about easements and CNPPID is working to develop a scope of work. A cooperative agreement has been developed.

#### **STAFF REPORTS & NECESSARY ACTION**

**Board Directives to Staff:** There was nothing to report.

**Out-of-State Travel:** There was no out-of-state travel to approve.

#### **MONTHLY REPORTS**

**Republican Basin (NRRMDA):** A Basin-Wide Management Plan Stakeholder's meeting was held in August. Jeff Fasset attended the meeting.

**Platte Basin:** The Governance Committee meets September 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.

**South Dry Creek:** Nothing to report.

**Sacramento Creek:** Nothing to report.

**Middle Lost Creek:** Nothing to report.

**Fort Kearny West:** Nothing to report.

**Fort Kearny:** Nothing to report.

**North Dry Creek:** Nothing to report.

**Whiskey Slough:** Nothing to report.

**Odessa IPA:** Nothing to report.

**Lake Seldom:** RBJV and TBNRD have been working on a management plan.

**CoHyst/Platte Basin Coalition:** Platte Basin Coalition is holding pre-meetings for renewing the Platte Basin-Basin Wide Plan.

**Sand Creek/Little Blue Basin:** A meeting in Minden was held August 20, 2015 to discuss the groundwater management rules changes with landowners and the management plan with LBNRD.

**Weed Mgmt. Areas/Riparian Veg. TF:** Nothing to report.

**CNPPID:** Ford reported Lake McConaughay is at elevation 3257 and 88% capacity. There was discussion about diversions that might be available if the Platte River was above target flows. Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Winz to direct staff to negotiate short-term and long-term agreements for diversion of high-flows with CNPPID and NDNR. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Cavanaugh, Garrelts, Harris, Johnson, Lundeen, Olsen, Raffety, Reynolds, Ryan and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bilka and Larson

TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MINUTES

September 8, 2015

Page Six

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**Consider Designating May Township (6N-13W) as Phase 2 GW Quantity Mgt. (after hearing):** Moved by Raffety, seconded by Garrelts to table approval of designating May Township as Phase II for Groundwater Quantity Management until the November Board Meeting and have a steering committee, composed of local producers, present their concerns about the designation to the Planning Committee. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Cavanaugh, Garrelts, Harris, Johnson, Lundeen, Olsen, Raffety, Reynolds, Ryan and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bilka and Larson

*May Township Steering Committee: Terry Sorensen, Brian Petersen, Andy Thomsen, Ryan Lutkemeier and Matt Dornhoff.*

**Consider Designating Elk Creek Township (5N – 23W) as Phase 3 for GW Quantity Mgt. (after hearing):** Moved by Raffety, seconded by Winz to table approval of designating Elk Creek Township as Phase III for Groundwater Quantity Management until the November Board Meeting and have a steering committee, composed of local producers, present their concerns about the designation to the Planning Committee. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Cavanaugh, Garrelts, Harris, Johnson, Lundeen, Olsen, Raffety, Reynolds, Ryan and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bilka and Larson

*Elk Creek Township Steering Committee: Brad Schutz, Joel Schutz, Dick Helms, Craig Hilker and Erv Warner.*

**Consider Approval of MOU for NRCS - IWMS:** Moved by Harris, seconded by Johnson approve a Memorandum of Understanding for the Irrigation Water Management Specialist position with USDA/NRCS. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Cavanaugh, Garrelts, Harris, Johnson, Lundeen, Olsen, Raffety, Reynolds, Ryan and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bilka and Larson

PERSONNEL & LEGAL MATTERS

There were not legal or personnel issues to discuss.

COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

There were no comments or concerns.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

TBNRD Regular Board Meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 13, 2015.



TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MINUTES

September 8, 2015

Page Seven

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

**DIRECTORS PRESENT**

Brian Bergstrom, Mike Cavanaugh, Todd Garrelts, Ed Harris, Phyllis Johnson, Brad Lundeen, Dave Olsen, Dave Raffety, Larry Reynolds, Jeff Ryan and Ray Winz.

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Carie Lynch, John Thorburn, Nicole Salisbury, Tammy Fahrenbruch, Dave Ford, Kevin Breece, Charles Brooks, Nolan Little, Terry Sorensen, Joel Schutz, Doug Schutz, Dick Helms, Scott Jorgensen, Greg Jorgenson, Larry Wilcox, Craig Hilker, Steve Hilker, Gene Lundeen, Brad Lundeen, Andy Ruan, George Joyce, Mike Winter, Ryan Lutkemeier, Jerry Lutkemeier, Matt Dornhoff, Goldie Dornhoff, Erv Warner, Dave Nelson, Andy Tomsen, Jeff Ryan, Joel Kuehn, John Kuehn and Brad Schutz.

Respectfully Submitted:



Carie Lynch, Asst. Secretary

INDEX OF BOARD DECISIONS  
TRI-BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
September 8, 2015

ID	Motion #	Category	Subject	Aye	Nay	Abs	Motion
	2015-09-08-01	Meeting Administration		9		1	Moved by Harris, seconded by Johnson, to approve the minutes for the August 11, 2015 Board of Directors Meeting and public hearings. Motion carried.
	2015-09-08-02	Meeting Administration					Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Garrelts, to approve the minutes for the August 7, 2015 Executive Committee Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
	2015-09-08-03	Meeting Administration					Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Johnson, to approve the minutes for the August 27, 2015 Planning Committee Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
	2015-09-08-04	Meeting Administration					Moved by Raffety, seconded by Cavanaugh, to approve the minutes for the August 27, 2015 Projects & Construction Committee Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
	2015-09-08-05	Budget		10			Moved by Johnson, seconded by Raffety, to accept the August 2015 financial reports and file for audit. Motion carried.
	2015-09-08-06	Budget		10			Moved by Garrelts, seconded Lundeen to approve the visa and attorney bills. Motion carried.
	2015-09-08-07	Meeting Administration		10			Moved by Lundeen, seconded Cavanaugh to approve one well decommissioning cost-share application. Motion carried.
	2015-09-08-08	Meeting Administration		10			Moved by Raffety, seconded Winz to approve nine NSWCP cost-share applications and a 2nd amendment. Motion carried.



2015-09-08-09	Certification & Transfers	Gene Lundeen	10			Moved by Cavanaugh, seconded by Lundeen to approve two groundwater transfer requests for Gene Lundeen, Inc. Motion carried.
2015-09-08-10	Director	Jeff Ryan	10			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Raffety to accept the Executive Committee's recommendation that Jeff Ryan be appointed as director for Sub-District #6 to fill the remainder of David Nickel's term ending in December 2016. Motion carried.
2015-09-08-11	Certifications & Transfers	PRRIP Well Permit	11			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Garrelts to amend the motion to approve an augmentation well permit for PRRIP and make it contingent upon TBNRD receiving credit for water pumped and that the well is decommissioned when the PRRIP ceases to exist. Motion carried.
2015-09-08-12	Certifications & Transfers	PRRIP Well Permit	11			Moved by Bergstrom, seconded by Cavanaugh to untable a motion and make a motion to approve an augmentation well permit for PRRIP as amended in the previous motion. Motion carried.
2015-09-08-13	District Plans & Programs	Groundwater Management Rules approved	11			Moved by Winz, seconded by Johnson accept the recommendation of the Planning Committee and approve the Groundwater Management Rules and Regulations as presented at the August 2015 Board Meeting with an effective date of November 1, 2015. Motion carried.
2015-09-08-14	Budget	Levy	11	1		Moved by Garrelts, seconded by Lundeen to accept the levy as .040357 (property tax request - \$2,147,928.46) and to set the FY 2015-2016 levy different from the previous year. Motion carried.
2015-09-08-15	Directors	NARD Delegates	9		2	Moved by Garrelts, seconded by Winz to select Dave Raffety as delegate and Larry Reynolds as alternate delegate.

							for the NARD Fall Conference. Motion carried.
	2015-09-08-16	Agreements	CNPPID High-Flows	11			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Winz to direct staff to negotiate short-term and long-term agreements for diversion of high-flows with CNPPID and NDNR. Motion carried.
	2015-09-08-17	District Plans & Programs	May Township Phase II Table	11			Moved by Raffety, seconded by Garrelts to table approval of designating May Township as Phase II for Groundwater Quantity Management until the November Board Meeting and have a steering committee, composed of local producers, present their concerns about the designation to the Planning Committee. Motion carried.
	2015-09-08-18	District Plans & Programs	Elk Creek Phase III Table	11			Moved by Raffety, seconded by Winz to table approval of designating Elk Creek Township as Phase III for Groundwater Quantity Management until the November Board Meeting and have a steering committee, composed of local producers, present their concerns about the designation to the Planning Committee. Motion carried.
	2015-09-08-19	Agreements	MOU IWMS	11			Moved by Harris, seconded by Johnson approve a Memorandum of Understanding for the Irrigation Water Management Specialist position with USDA/NRCS. Motion carried.

**MINUTES OF THE TRI-BASIN NRD PUBLIC HEARING  
CONCERNING THE 2015/2016 BUDGET  
Tuesday, September 8, 2015 – 7:30 p.m.  
Tri-Basin NRD**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A Public Hearing of the Tri-Basin Natural Resources District on the proposed FY 2015/2016 Budget was called to order by Dave Olsen, Chairman, at 7:42 p.m. Thorburn read the public hearing notice and left the hearing open for 60 minutes.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll call was taken with nine directors present: Bergstrom, Cavanaugh, Harris, Johnson, Larson, Lundeen, Olsen, Raffety and Winz. Bilka, Reynolds, Garrelts and Nickel were absent. Notice of the meeting was published in the Holdrege Citizen, Elwood Bulletin and Minden Courier.

**BUSINESS**

The public was given the opportunity to bring other specific business or non-agenda items before the board for comment and/or discussion.

John L. Kuehn, Dist. 38 State Legislator, commented he is visiting all the political subdivisions that are requesting levy increases. He noted the changes over a ten year period for the record: 2005-2006 total property tax request was \$485,901.02 and in 2015-2016 it is approximately \$2.1 million. In FY2005-2006 the valuation for TBNRD was \$1,785 billion and in FY2014-2015 it was \$4.4 billion. In FY 2005-2006 the levy was .027221, in FY 2014-2015 - .034185 and FY 2015-2016 - .040357. In FY 2005-2006 Budgeted Disbursements were \$485,000, in FY 2014-2015 - \$1.5 million and FY 2015-2016 - \$2.4 million. The rate of inflation for the last decade was 21% and TBNRD has exceeded that by a factor of 10. He expressed concern over rising levies and asked the directors to cautiously make spending decisions. Both Olsen and Reynolds commented that TBNRD has unfunded state mandates that caused increased property taxes and that TBNRD Directors are very responsible and cautious about increasing taxes. Kuehn asked for a list of unfunded mandates with corresponding amounts to examine if TBNRD is being overburdened. Kuehn mentioned that TBNRD ranks 3<sup>rd</sup>. of all the NRDs when comparing percentage of increase over a decade. He commented that other NRDs have not increased their spending even though they're subject to the same requirements.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further testimony from the public, the hearing was closed at 8:47 p.m.

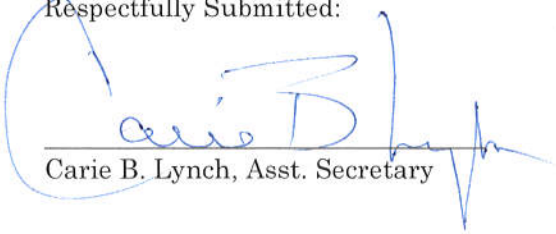
**DIRECTORS PRESENT**

Brian Bergstrom, Mike Cavanaugh, Todd Garrelts, Ed Harris, Phyllis Johnson, Brad Lundeen, Dave Olsen, Dave Raffety, Larry Reynolds, Jeff Ryan and Ray Winz.

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Carie Lynch, John Thorburn, Nicole Salisbury, Tammy Fahrenbruch, Dave Ford, Kevin Breece, Charles Brooks, Nolan Little, Terry Sorensen, Joel Schutz, Doug Schutz, Dick Helms, Scott Jorgensen, Greg Jorgenson, Larry Wilcox, Craig Hilker, Steve Hilker, Gene Lundeen, Brad Lundeen, Andy Ruan, George Joyce, Mike Winter, Ryan Lutkemeier, Jerry Lutkemeier, Matt Dornhoff, Goldie Dornhoff, Erv Warner, Dave Nelson, Andy Tomsen, Jeff Ryan, Joel Kuehn, John Kuehn and Brad Schutz.

Respectfully Submitted:



Carie B. Lynch, Asst. Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE TRI-BASIN NRD PUBLIC HEARING  
CONCERNING DESIGNATING MAY TOWNSHIP AS PHASE II AND ELK CREEK TOWNSHIP AS  
PHASE III GROUNDWATER QUANTITY MANAGEMENT**

**Tuesday, September 8, 2015 – 7:30 p.m.**

**Tri-Basin Natural Resources District**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A Public Hearing of the Tri-Basin Natural Resources District on the proposed Groundwater Management Rules & Regulations was called to order by Dave Olsen, Chairman, at 7:43 p.m. Thorburn gave a short presentation on the groundwater management rules, before the meeting opened and read the public hearing notice. The hearing will be left open for one hour.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll call was taken with nine directors present: Bergstrom, Cavanaugh, Harris, Johnson, Larson, Lundeen, Olsen, Raffety and Winz. Bilka, Reynolds and Garrelts were absent. Notice of the meeting was published in the Holdrege Citizen, Elwood Bulletin and Minden Courier.

**BUSINESS**

The public was allowed to comment on the proposed rules changes. The following comments were made:

John L. Kuehn, May Township Landowner AND State Senator, expressed concerns about May Township moving to Phase II Groundwater Quantity Management. He mentioned that he will be sharing these same comments with LBNRD. He explained that LBNRD has a common boundary with TBNRD and both Districts include a portion of the Little Blue Basin. He noted that the two NRDs do not mirror regulation and that LBNRD has little regulation on expansion of irrigated acres including the area adjacent to eastern Kearney County (over 31,000 acres were developed in the western half of Adams County and two townships of Webster County). Kuehn commented that TBNRD restrictions will decrease the value of the land and reduce property taxes. He asked respectfully that the board adopt an approach that would delay a decision to allow more time to understand the hydrology and impact to both NRDs. He commented that May Township landowners didn't have much notice of the rules change and have questions concerning the regulation. As a state legislator, Kuehn commented that he would like to see cooperation and coordination between the NRDs to avoid more state oversight or potential landowner litigation.

Ryan Lutkemeier presented a handout of information (hearing attachment) gathered from LBNRD's website showing a 5-10 feet drop in groundwater between 2000 and 2007 and a 10-30 ft. decrease from predevelopment levels in western Adams County, near Holstein and Kenesaw. LBNRD has allowed 290 additional wells, encompassing 31,000 acres in the two most western townships. The drop in May Township is five feet. Lutkemeier commented that he believes landowners in May Township have been supplementing lower groundwater levels in LBNRD, which are in the same watershed. Lutkemeier asked the board to work with LBNRD to coordinate efforts. Cavanaugh agreed. Thorburn mentioned TBNRD and LBNRD are working on a basin wide plan but have not started on regulations.

Terry Sorensen, May Township producer) presented a handout (attached to hearing minutes). He commented that May Township landowners are good stewards of the land. He commented that LBNRD has not restricted pumping in adjacent townships in Adams County and has allowed 31,641 additional acres of development and 286 new wells. Sorensen asked the board to delay the vote eighteen months to allow for more cooperation and data from LBNRD.

David Nelson, former TBNRD director, commented that TBNRD has been making hard decisions and that he and John Thorburn have been working with LBNRD on a Basin-Wide IMP. He commented that it's hard to allow additional regulations when landowners across the NRD boundary are increasing pumping. Nelson commented that LBNRD rules are not very restrictive.



Brad Schutz, landowner in Gosper County, commented that he's at been at several informational meetings. He commented on differing restrictions in different parts of the district. Landowners in May Township received a five foot variance allowing them to stay out of Phase II. He feels Elk Creek and Union Township landowners are facing discrimination by TBNRD. He asked the board to treat all irrigators the same.

Dick Helms, Gosper county landowner and former director, presented a power point presentation (attached to hearing minutes). Thorburn helped Helms put together data for the presentation. Helms presentation explained how well measurements of three wells are used to calculate the township levels. Helms mentioned in the early 2000's, levels dropped below the 1981-1985 levels but recovered without regulation. Currently, two of the wells, G-21 & G-34, are above 1981-1985 levels and the third well, G-33, is below. The third well, when averaged with the other two wells, brings the level below 1981-1985. G-33, is currently four feet below 1981-85 levels. Helms explained G-33 is a small well that pumps less than 400 gpm. When TBNRD recorded the decline in 2003, an observation well, G-131, was installed three quarters of a mile away from G-33. A chart comparing G-33 and G131 shows a mirroring effect with G131 slightly higher (.7 ft.) than G-33. Helms and Thorburn substituted G-131 for G-33 for levels from 2009 only and the result showed levels for Elk Creek Township above 1981-1985 levels. Helms had two suggestions for the board: Use G-131 in the calculations with the three other wells in Elk Creek Township and that the board consider drilling additional observations wells. Additional observation wells could allow TBNRD to manage the water in a more localized manner instead of on a township basis.

There was discussion about gravel thickness. Bergstrom asked May Township landowners if there was any irrigation development prior to the moratorium on development of additional irrigated land. May Township landowners replied that there wasn't much land available for new development.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further testimony from the public, the hearing was closed at 8:47 p.m.

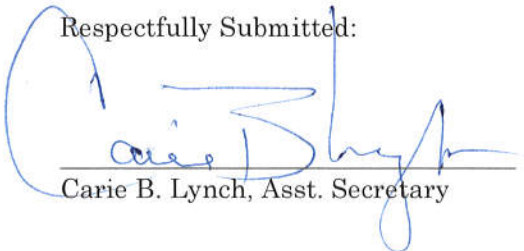
#### DIRECTORS PRESENT

Brian Bergstrom, Mike Cavanaugh, Todd Garrelts, Ed Harris, Phyllis Johnson, Brad Lundeen, Dave Olsen, Dave Raffety, Larry Reynolds, Jeff Ryan and Ray Winz.

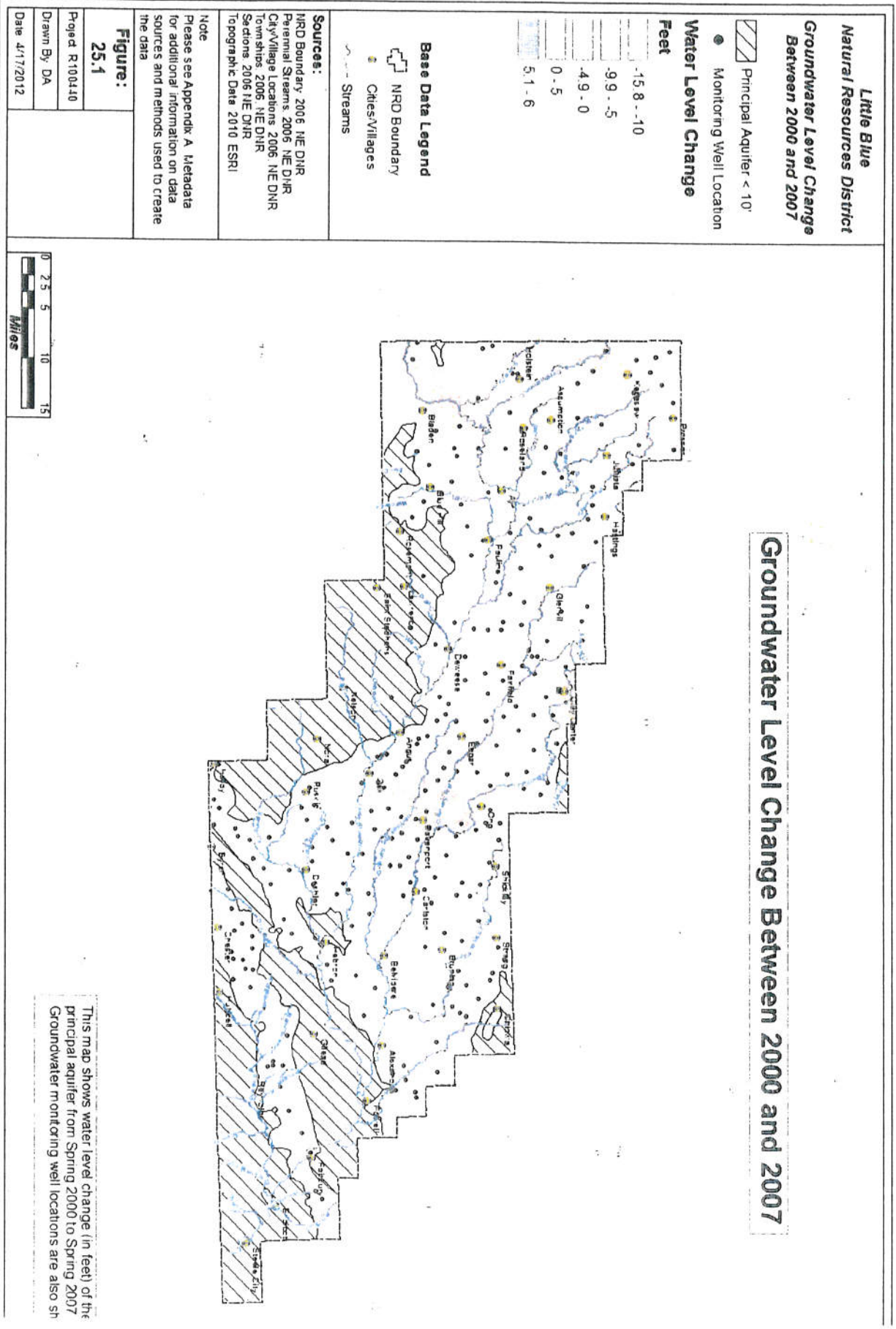
#### OTHERS PRESENT

Carie Lynch, John Thorburn, Nicole Salisbury, Tammy Fahrenbruch, Dave Ford, Kevin Breece, Charles Brooks, Nolan Little, Terry Sorensen, Joel Schutz, Doug Schutz, Dick Helms, Scott Jorgensen, Greg Jorgenson, Larry Wilcox, Craig Hilker, Steve Hilker, Gene Lundeen, Brad Lundeen, Andy Ruan, George Joyce, Mike Winter, Ryan Lutkemeier, Jerry Lutkemeier, Matt Dornhoff, Goldie Dornhoff, Erv Warner, Dave Nelson, Andy Tomsen, Jeff Ryan, Joel Kuehn, John Kuehn and Brad Schutz.

Respectfully Submitted:



Carie B. Lynch, Asst. Secretary

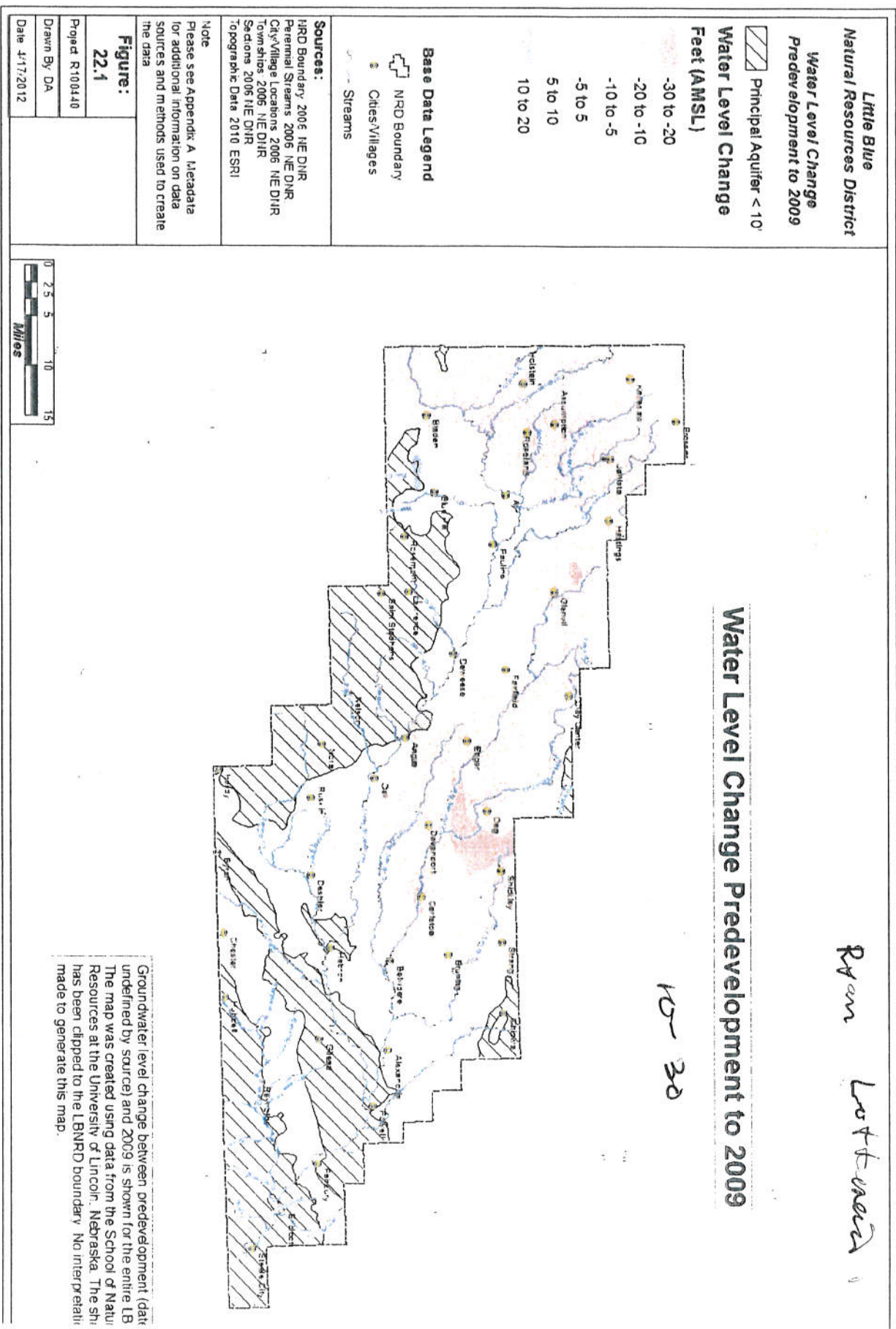




Ryan Lottman

# Water Level Change Predevelopment to 2009

15-30



# Little Blue Natural Resources District






## Aquifer Risk Levels Map

 Principal Aquifer < 10'

## Risk Level 2

-  Very Low Risk
-  Low Risk
-  Moderate Risk
-  High Risk
-  Very High Risk

## Base Data Legend

-  Cities/Villages
-  Streams
-  NRD Boundary
-  Townships
-  Sections

## Sources:

NRD Boundary 2006 NE DNR  
Perennial Streams 2006 NE DNR  
City/Village Locations 2006 NE DNR  
Townships 2006 NE DNR  
Sections 2006 NE DNR  
Topographic Data 2010 ESRI

Note  
Please see Appendix A, Metadata  
for additional information on data  
sources and methods used to create  
the data

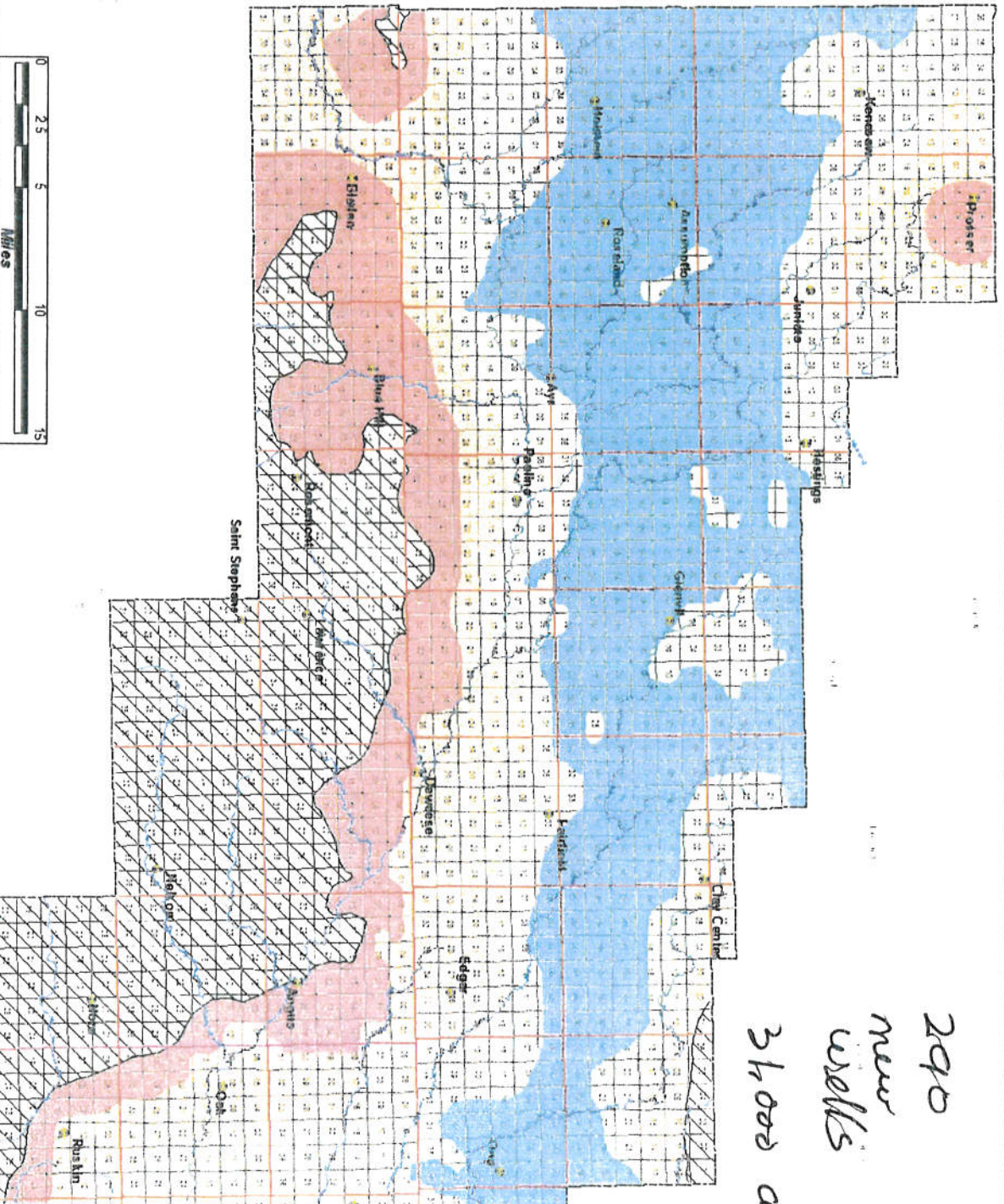
## Figure:

31A.2

Project R100440

Drawn By: DA

Date 5/7/2014





# **Little Blue Natural Resources District**

## **Aquifer Risk Levels Map**

- Principal Aquifer < 10'
- 10/50 Areas
- Risk Level 2**
- Very Low Risk
- Low Risk
- Moderate Risk
- High Risk
- Very High Risk

- Base Data Legend**
- NRD Boundary
  - Cities/Villages
  - Streams

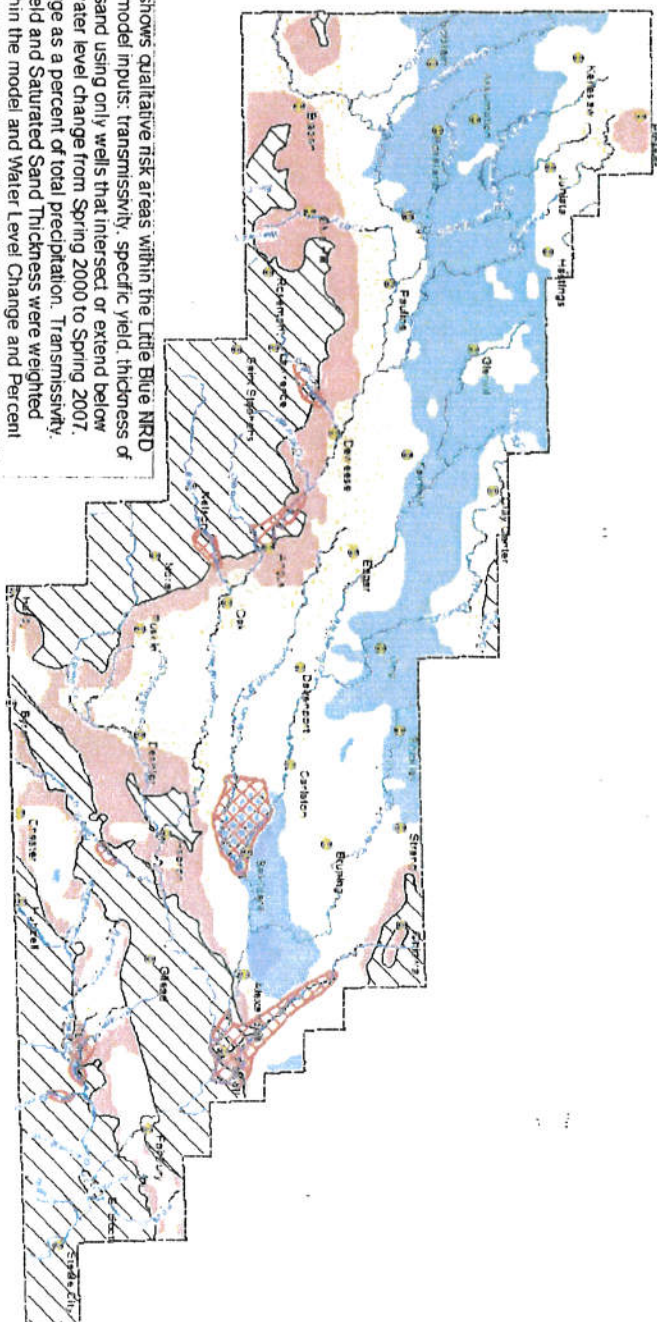
**Sources:**  
 NRD Boundary: 2006, NE DNR  
 Perennial Streams: 2006, NE DNR  
 City/Village Locations: 2006, NE DNR  
 Townships: 2006, NE DNR  
 Sections: 2006, NE DNR  
 Topographic Data: 2010, ESRI

**Note:**  
 Please see Appendix A, Metadata  
 for additional information on data  
 sources and methods used to create  
 the data

**Figure:**  
**31A.1**

Project: R100410  
 Drawn By: DA  
 Date: 4/17/2012

**Aquifer Risk Levels Map 2**



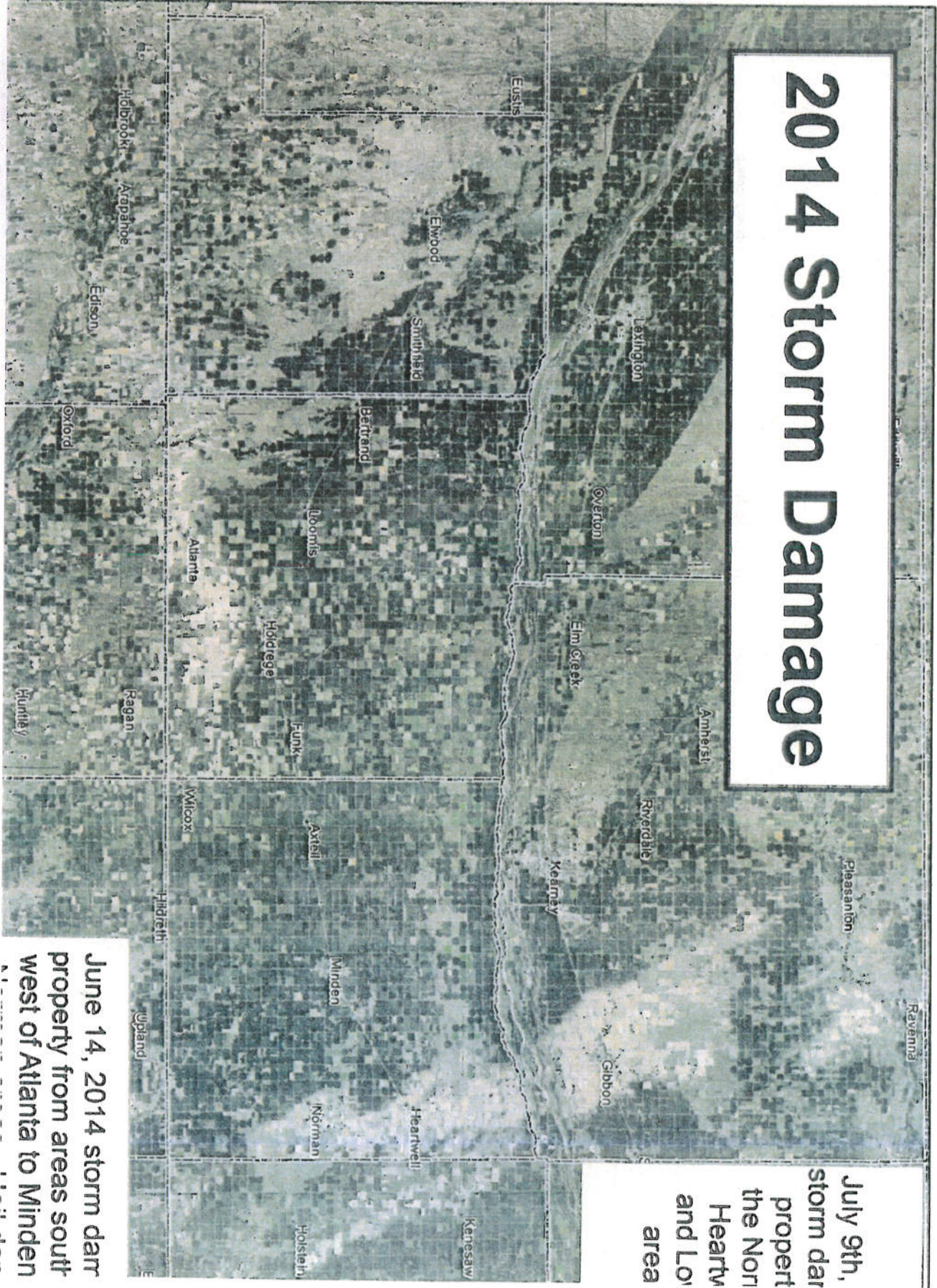
This map shows qualitative risk areas within the Little Blue NRD using five model inputs: transmissivity, specific yield, thickness of saturated sand using only wells that intersect or extend below bedrock, water level change from Spring 2000 to Spring 2007, and recharge as a percent of total precipitation. Transmissivity, Specific Yield and Saturated Sand Thickness were weighted at 25% within the model and Water Level Change and Percent Recharge were weighted at 12.5%. This process multiplied each reclassified grid by their respective weighted percentage. The total of the weights equals 100%.

The output risk map is a qualitative dataset where 1) lower values represent minimal risk from over-production across the NRD or greater aquifer viability, and 2) higher values represent higher risk from over-production across the NRD or lesser aquifer viability. The lines were smoothed slightly by dissolving small or isolated risk areas into larger risk areas for ease in management by the NRD. Areas of groundwater-stream connectivity are also shown for reference on this map.





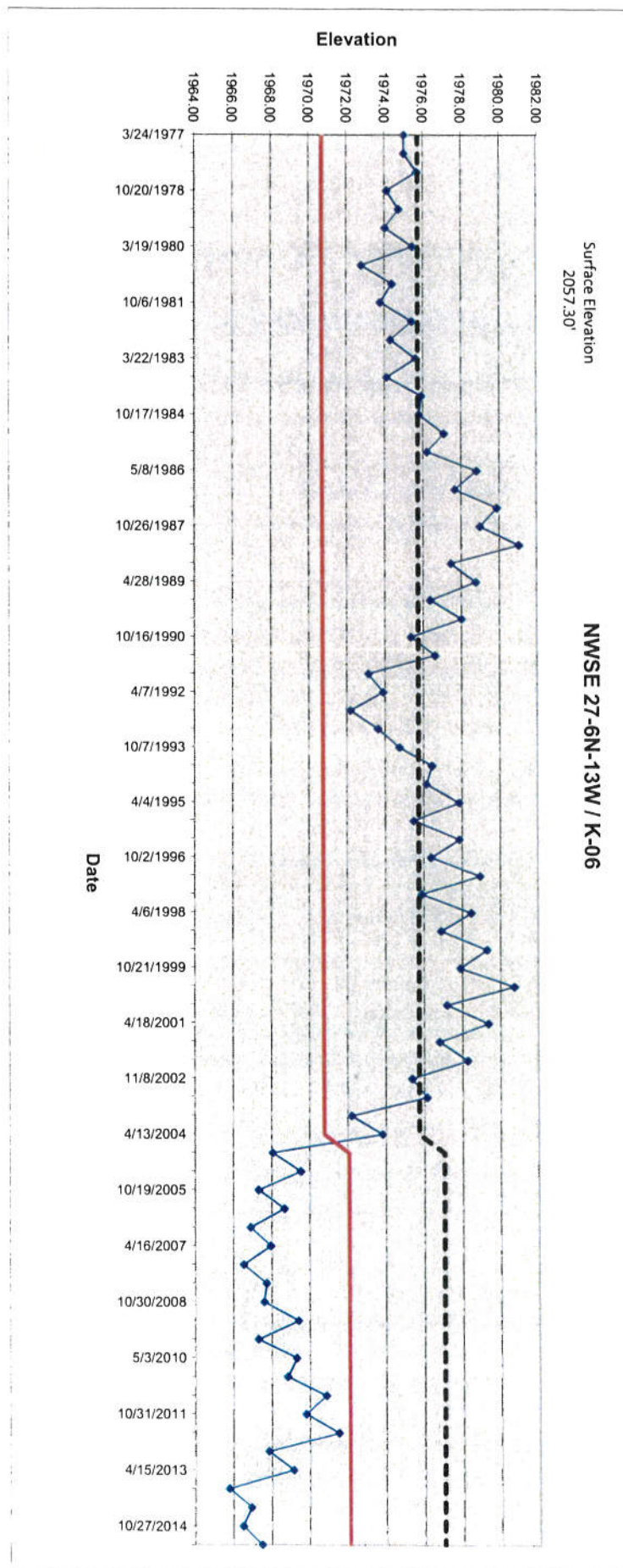
# 2014 Storm Damage



July 9th,  
storm dai  
proper the Nor  
Hearty  
and Lo  
area

June 14, 2014 storm dan  
property from areas south  
west of Atlanta to Minden







Sorenson Testimony

## Little Blue Natural Resources District

*"Serving The Public Since 1972"*

September 27, 2015

Jerry Lutkemeier  
2285 H Road  
Minden, NE 68959

Dear Jerry:

Here is the summary of wells and acres developed in the Little Blue NRD since January 2005 as you requested. I got the information from the DNR well registration web site. The number of wells constructed is accurate, however, the acres were also listed on the registration web site and may not be quite as reliable. Sometimes people indicate a full 160 acres to be watered on the registration forms, when in actuality, there may be a few acres less due to roads, etc.. Since we have not certified acres yet, this is the best estimate we have.

Sincerely,

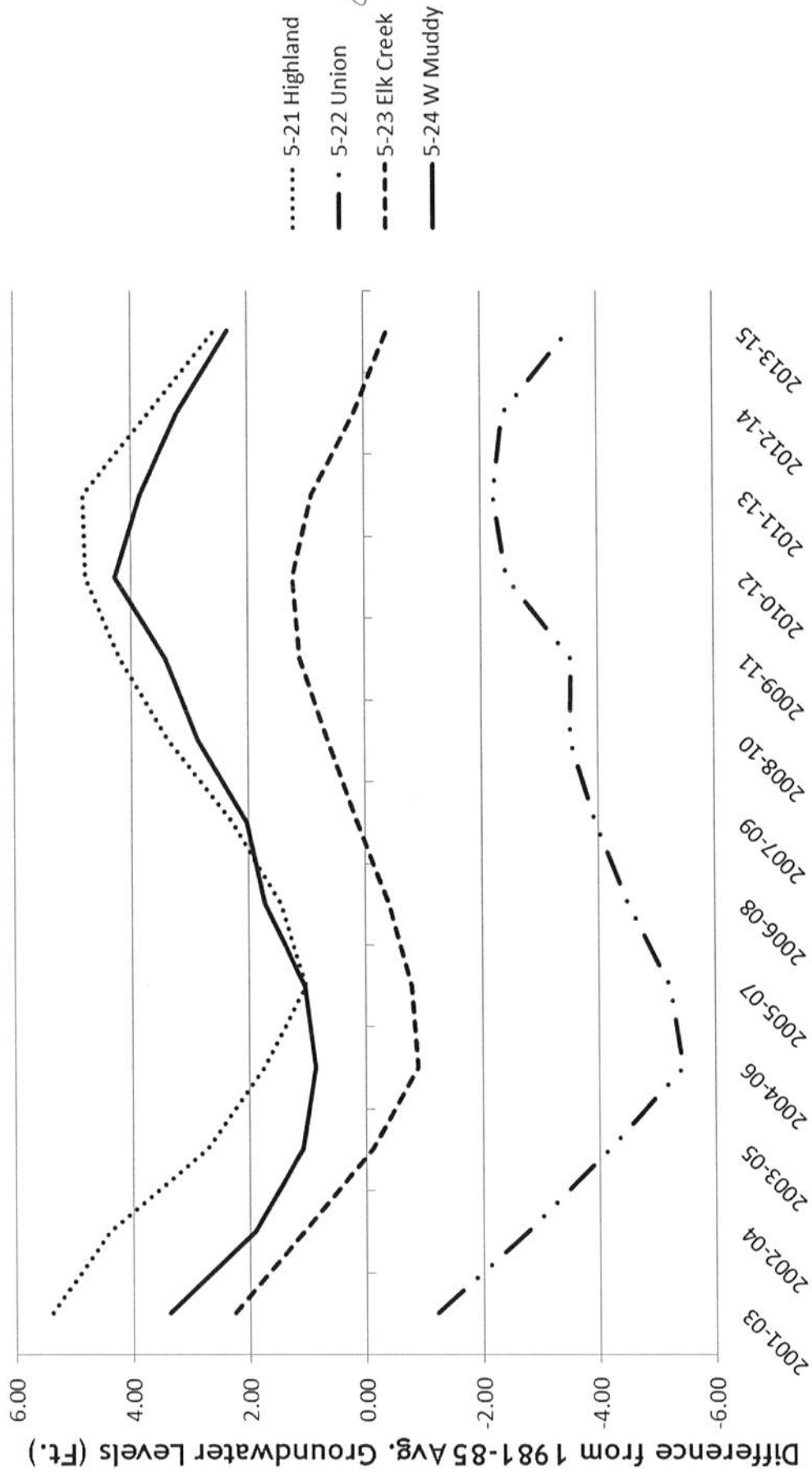
Mike Onnen  
Manager



Irrigated Acres Developed in Western Adams County January 1, 2005 through August 20, 2015  
(Includes West Half of Adams County and Two Northwest Townships of Webster County)

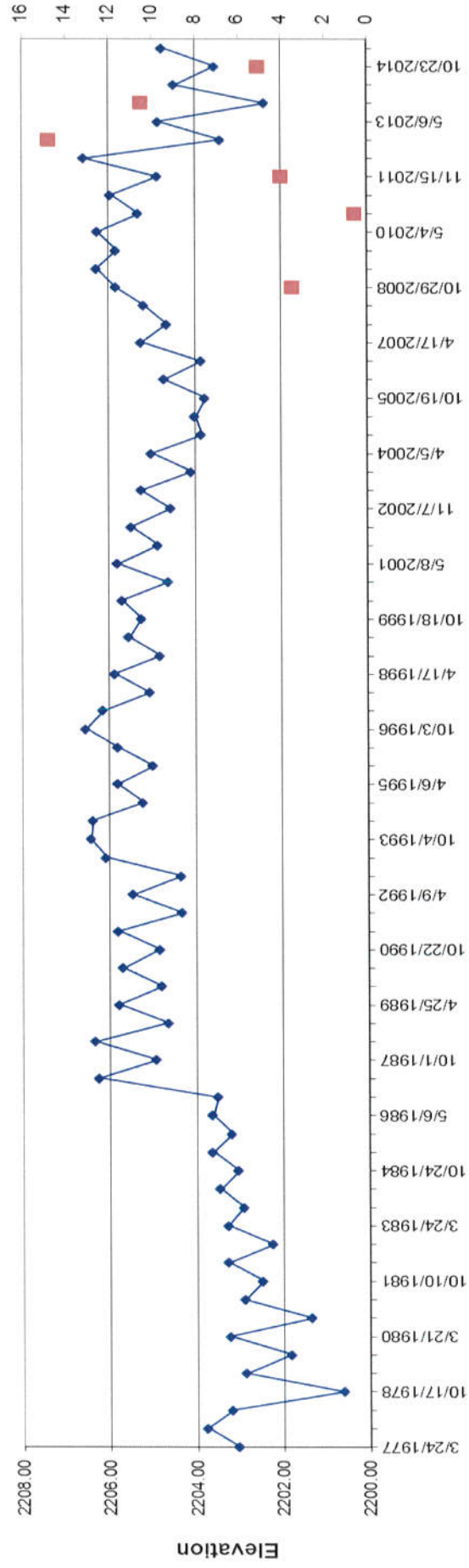
[illegible]

# Tri-Basin NRD Southern Gosper County Water Level Changes



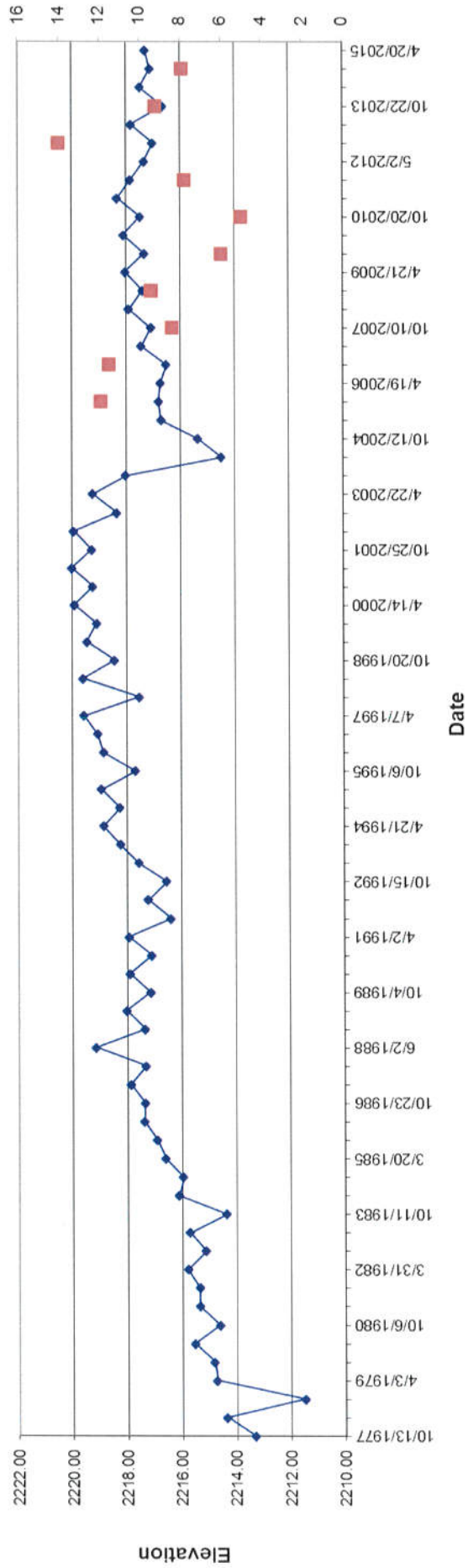
SESE 30-5N-23W / G-21

Surface Elevation  
2252.00'



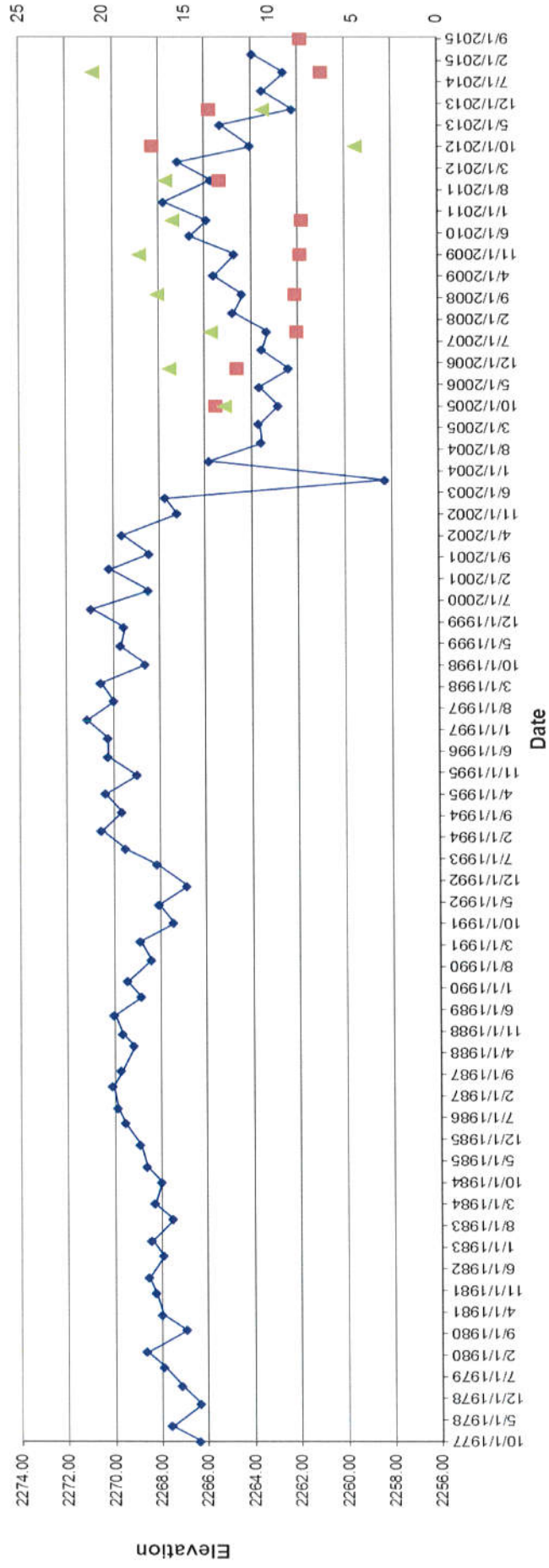
SWNE 34-5N-23W / G-34

Surface Elevation  
2312.40'

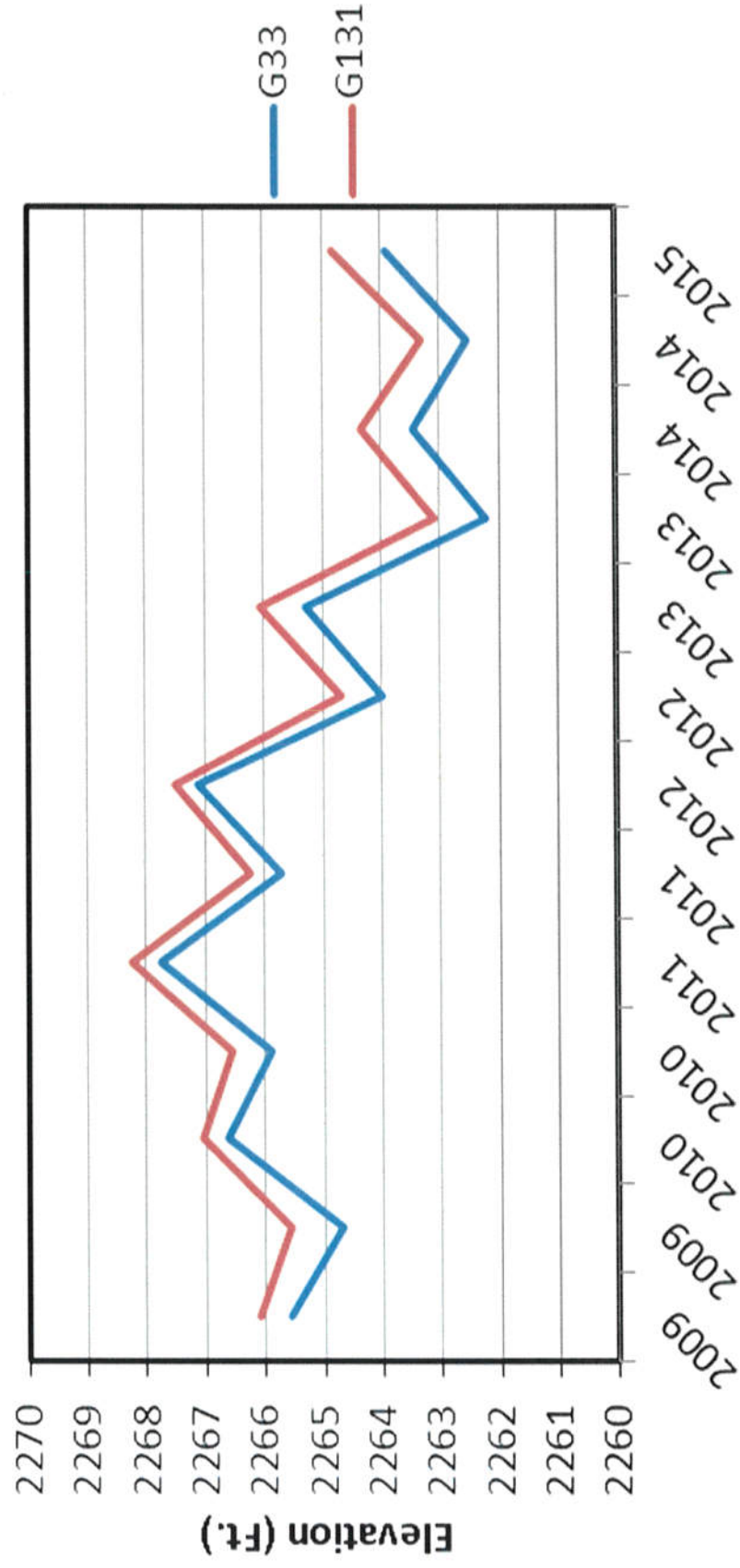


SWNE 16-5N-23W / G-33

Surface Elevation  
2381.40'

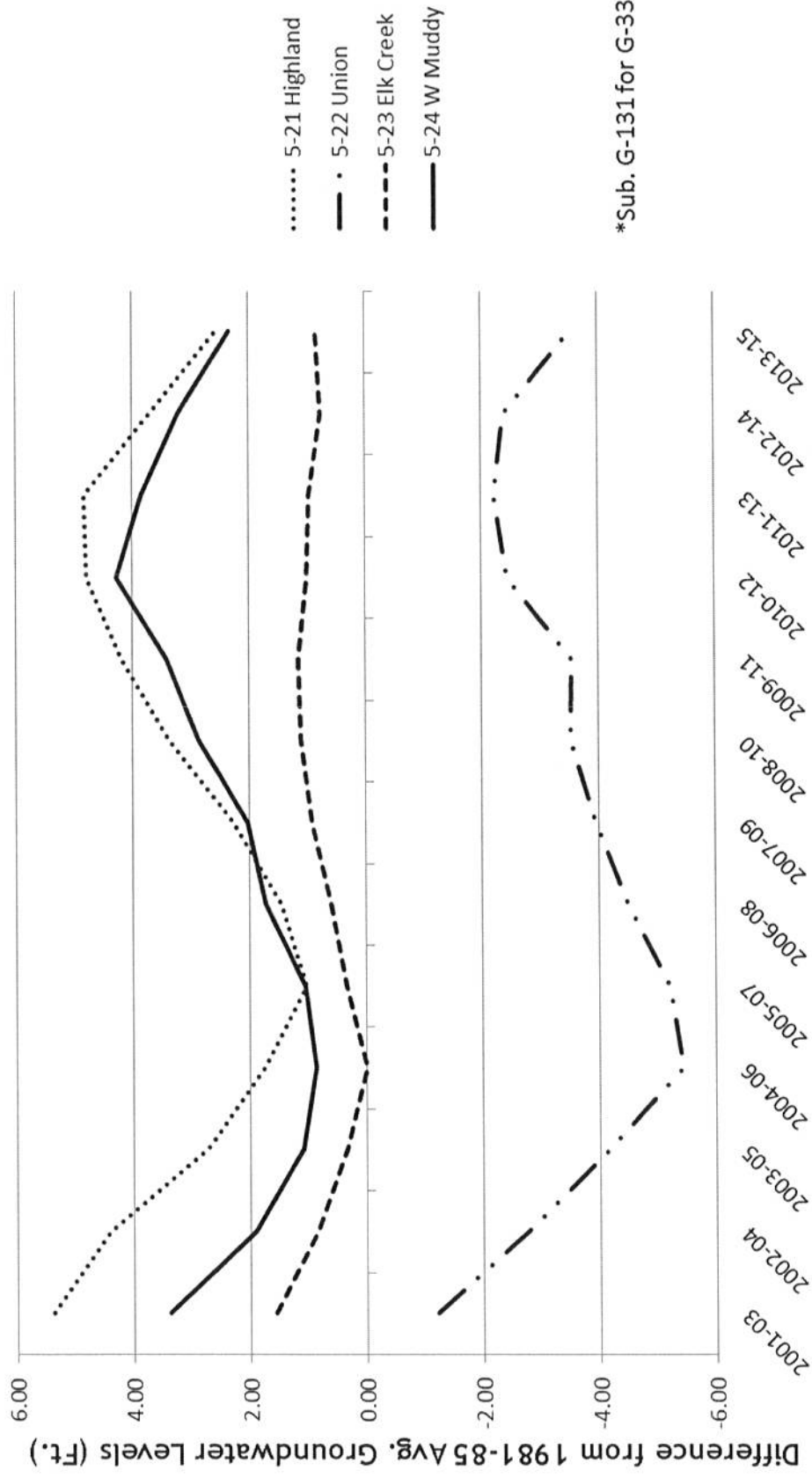


# Comparison of Wells G-33 and G-131 in Elk Creek Twp., Gosper County NE 2009-2015





# Tri-Basin NRD Southern Gosper County Water Level Changes\*



\*Sub. G-131 for G-33

**MINUTES OF THE TRI-BASIN NRD  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
Wednesday, September 2, 2015, 1:30 p.m.  
Tri-Basin NRD**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dave Olsen at 1:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll call was taken with three committee members present: Dave Olsen, Brad Lundeen and Joe Bilka. Todd Garrelts was absent. Larry Reynolds and Mike Cavanaugh were also present.

**OTHERS PRESENT**

John Thorburn and Carie Lynch

**DISCUSS POSSIBLE LEASE AGREEMENT WITH PRRIP TO OPERATE AUGMENTATION WELL**

There was discussion about options for approving the PRRIP Augmentation Well permit. Reynolds expressed the importance of getting credit for the offset and that TBNRD should propose an estimated credit. PRRIP owns the property where the well would be located. Reynolds suggested TBNRD offer to lease the property, drill the well and operate the well for PRRIP. The expense of drilling and operating the well would be an unbudgeted expense in FY2015-2016. TBNRD could charge PRRIP operating costs plus administrative fees or a flat fee per acre foot. TBNRD would be responsible for decommissioning the well at the end of the agreement. Thorburn commented that TBNRD's augmentation wells are registered in the name of the landowner. Reynolds commented that TBNRD might be more likely to get credit for the offset if TBNRD leased/operated the well. Thorburn explained that NDNR has maintained that the stored water would produce offset after 2020, but water pumped wouldn't have offset value after 2020. PRRIP claims that they are entitled to pump as much water as they put into storage. The potential pumping offset credit is 100%. Reynolds suggested Thorburn talk to Blankenau. Lundeen suggested talking to PRRIP to see if they're open to the possibility. Thorburn will present the results at the board meeting. Later in the meeting, the committee had a conference call with Blankenau in executive session.

**INTERVIEW CANDIDATES FOR SUB-DISTRICT #6**

The Executive Committee interviewed six candidates that applied for Director of Sub-District #6, replacing David Nickel. The candidates were: Jeff Ryan, Rodney Lind, Brian Petersen, Greg Jorgensen, Andrew Stade and Jerry Lutkemeier. David Nickel's term began January 1, 2013 and ends December 31, 2016.

Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Bilka to recommend to the board that Jeff Ryan be appointed as director for Sub-District #6 to fill the remainder of David Nickel's term ending in December 2016. Motion carried unanimously.

**MANAGER'S EVALUATION**

The Executive Committee met in executive session to discuss John Thorburn's evaluation with him present.

**COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

There were no comments or concerns.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

  
Carie B. Lynch, Secretary to the Board