Tri-Basin NRD
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LEGAL NOTICE

DATE: October 21, 2026

PUBLISH BEGINNING: October 26, 2026 for three consecutive weeks

TO: Holdrege Citizen
Minden Courier
Valley Voice

FROM: John Thorburn
Manager

Please forward Proof of Publication for the following Notice:

ORDER

BEFORE THE TRI-BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In the matter of revising Rules and Regulations for Management and Protection of Land and Water Resources ("management rules") of the Tri-Basin Natural Resources District (Tri-Basin NRD, or NRD). A public hearing was conducted by the Board of Directors of Tri-Basin Natural Resources District on August 19, 2026 at 1:30 PM at the Regional Engagement Center in Kearney, Nebraska, and all members of the public were allowed to provide oral and/or written testimony regarding the changes to the rules. Written testimony was received from the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy and Environment. After the public hearing the NRD Board of Directors voted to approve the rules revisions as presented.

THE BOARD FINDS THAT:

It is necessary to revise the Tri-Basin NRD management rules to more effectively protect the quality and quantity of groundwater resources within the district. Following is a summary of revisions to the rules:

- Add, remove and revise definitions in Section One- GENERAL DEFINITIONS.
- Simplify and expedite rules enforcement, as described in Section Two- GENERAL PROVISIONS AND PROCEDURES FOR ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES.
- Clarify and simplify rules for groundwater quality protection in Section 3- GROUNDWATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA REGULATIONS.
- Define setback requirements for protection of domestic wells in Section 4- WELL INTERFERENCE.
- Clarify flowmeter configuration and rules enforcement in Section 6- GROUNDWATER USE DATA ACQUISITION.
- Remove certain provisions related to inter-district transfers in Section 7- GROUND WATER TRANSFERS.
- Revise provisions related to well construction permits and allocation of groundwater use in Phase 3 Groundwater Quantity Management Areas in Section 8- QUANTITY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA RULES AND REGULATIONS.
- Revise rules related to transfers of certified irrigated acres and the process associated with decertification of certified irrigated acres in Section 10- IRRIGATED LAND CERTIFICATION.
- Renumbering of rules, correction of misspellings, statutory references and grammatical errors throughout the document to improve clarity and readability of the rules.

IT IS CONCLUDED THAT:

The Board of Directors, in order to more effectively enforce the Nebraska Groundwater Management and Protection Act, have determined that is necessary to revise the Rules and Regulations for Management and Protection of Land and Water Resources of the Tri-Basin Natural Resources District.

Copies of the revised rules and regulations are available during normal business hours at the Tri-Basin NRD Office, 1723 Burlington St., Holdrege, Nebraska. District residents can also read the complete text of the district rules on the Tri-Basin NRD website, www.tribasinnrd.org, or receive a copy by mail by calling the NRD toll-free number, (877) 995-6688.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

Pursuant to approval of a motion by a majority vote of the Tri-Basin NRD Board of Directors on August 19, 2026, directing that these rules be implemented and that this order be published in accordance with the requirements of Nebraska Revised Statute 46-744, the aforesaid rules shall become effective December 1, 2026.

For the Tri-Basin Natural Resources District

Todd Garrelts, Chairman

Tuesday, August 19, 2026

About Tri-Basin Natural Resources District

The Tri-Basin Natural Resources District (NRD) protects lives, property, and the future of Gosper, Phelps, and Kearney counties through stewardship, management, and education programs — ranging from tree planting to groundwater quality and quantity monitoring, from irrigation management to outdoor recreation. Activities and projects of Tri-Basin NRD are reviewed and approved by a locally elected board of directors. Tri-Basin NRD is one of 23 Natural Resources Districts across Nebraska. For more information, visit tribasinnrd.org or call 308.995.6688.

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