

Protecting Lives,  
Protecting Property,  
Protecting the Future

# Lower Republican NRD REVIEW



January 2016  
Volume 45

## Irrigated Taxes

The Lower Republican NRD is working with the county assessors in the district to make our certified acres match more closely with the assessors' irrigated acres. This is a reminder that you must be paying irrigated taxes on acres certified as irrigated with the LRNRD whether you are irrigating them or not. If irrigated taxes are not being paid on acres certified with the LRNRD, those acres may be taken off of your LRNRD certification.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**January 1**—New Year's Day,  
Office Closed

**January 14**—Board Meeting  
2 pm, LRNRD Meeting Room

**January 18**—Martin Luther King  
Jr Day, Office Closed

**February 11**—Board Meeting  
2 pm, LRNRD Meeting Room

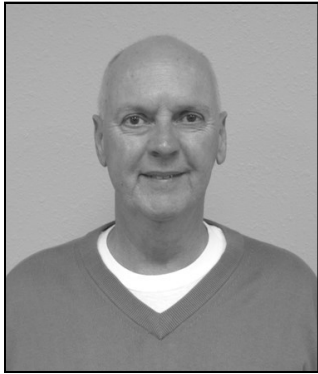
**February 15**—President's Day,  
Office Closed

**March 10**—Board Meeting  
2 pm, LRNRD Meeting Room

## Occupation Tax Exemption

LB701 says that the Occupation Tax is based on the activity of irrigation and only those lands that actually receive water should be charged the tax. This applies to both surface water and ground water. The statute further states that the record owner can certify to the NRD on or before June 1 for the non-irrigation status for that particular year.

For 2016, to be exempt from the tax, you must fill out an exemption form that identifies the amount and location of acres that will not be irrigated in 2016. This form is available at the LRNRD office in Alma or on our website [LRNRD.org](http://LRNRD.org). **The form must be submitted by June 1, 2016.** Ground water acres that are exempted from the tax for the particular year will receive no allocation for that year. Surface water allocations can be moved and pooled on other surface water acres without losing allocation. **If you are enrolled in a program such as EQIP, AWEP, or CREP you still need to fill out an exemption form each year it is in the program.** The district will be closely monitoring the acres being excluded from the tax and strict penalties will apply to anyone in violation of the exemption status.



## *Mike's Message*

As you know the Platte River has experienced extensive flooding in recent years. The flood waters have damaged homes, caused millions of dollars in crop loss and created extensive erosion concerns in some areas. The high flows far exceeded any water right or appropriation downstream and eventually ended up in the Gulf of Mexico providing only damage and no benefit to the State of Nebraska.

Recently the Lower Republican NRD, Tri-Basin NRD and Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District have partnered to evaluate a project called the Platte-Republican Diversion Project that would divert excess flows from the Platte River to the Republican River via Turkey Creek which runs through Gosper and Furnas Counties. I can't emphasize enough the fact that this project is in the very early planning stage and is by no means a reality at this time.

The plan would be to divert excess water from the Platte River into Central's E65 canal which passes by the upper end of the east branch of Turkey Creek near Smithfield. The water would be pumped from the canal into a 24 inch diameter pipeline, routed under railroad tracks and a highway, and discharged into the very north end of the east branch of Turkey Creek. Preliminary engineering reports indicate the maximum diversion capability would be approximately 40 cubic feet per second.

The project would provide valuable recharge to the underground aquifer as well as providing augmentation benefits to the Lower Republican and Tri-Basin NRD's for compact compliance. Increasing the water supply in the Republican Basin through augmentation projects like Rock Creek, N-CORPE, and now this project will help to insure that our irrigators will be able to irrigate in the future without the threat of further irrigation restrictions.

Landowner easements have been drafted and a landowner meeting will be held in Oxford in early January to discuss the project in further detail and answer questions. An engineering firm will be hired in the near future to provide important design and analysis of the impacts to Turkey Creek.

Finally, it is important to know that the excess flow permit will be junior to any existing Platte River permits and possibly junior to any future Platte River permits. With that said we are excited about exploring the possibility of this project and the benefits it would provide to the irrigators in the Tri-Basin and Lower Republican NRD's.

## LRNRD Tree Cost Share Program

To promote the numerous benefits of planting trees, the Lower Republican NRD provides cost share on orders of at least 100 trees and the planting. Orders are now being accepted at local Natural Resources Conservation offices for planting this spring. The deadline to apply for cost share in this program is the first Friday in March.

# Chemigation

The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) requires that all applicators of chemicals to land or crops through the use of Chemigation, must obtain a permit. The Lower Republican NRD will be mailing out renewal permits within the next couple of months. These renewal permits must be returned to the LRNRD no later than June 1, 2016.

According to the Rules and Regulations of DEQ, Chemigation systems, must be inspected on a regular four-year rotating basis. However, Chemigation in or near Wellhead Protection areas may be inspected at any time. You will be notified by the LRNRD if you are due for an inspection and a technician will set up an appointment to inspect your site. All permit fees and replacement parts must be paid for prior to or at the time of inspection.

If you did not renew your Chemigation permit last year, or you have a new site in which you will be applying chemical, you will need to apply for a new Chemigation permit and it will also need to be inspected by a LRNRD technician before chemical can be applied.

Please contact the LRNRD at 308-928-2182 or 800-353-1297 if you have any questions or need to apply for a New Chemigation permit.

## Scholarships Available

The Lower Republican NRD has a post high school scholarship program with two \$1,000.00 scholarships available. These scholarships are available to first, second, and third year college students. Applicants must attend college in Nebraska and be registered to attend their college of choice. Applicants must also have a permanent residence in the LRNRD and plan to major in a natural resources related field (i.e. forestry, park management, agronomy, agribusiness, etc.). Applications and additional information regarding these scholarships are available at the LRNRD, high schools within the District, and at colleges within Nebraska. Applications are also available on our website—[www.lrnrd.org](http://www.lrnrd.org).



## New Franklin Field Office Secretary

Mary Goebel is the Lower Republican NRD's new Franklin County Field Office Secretary. Mary and her husband Chris reside on a farm outside of Franklin. They have 2 grown children, Brandon who works for Landmark in Holdrege and Brittany who works at Luv Bugs daycare in Kearney. Chris works for Bostwick Irrigation and also farms. In her spare time Mary enjoys reading and also helping Chris on the farm.



Mary Goebel

**LOWER REPUBLICAN NATURAL  
RESOURCES DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Subdistrict 1 Clark Andrews, Holbrook  
 Subdistrict 1 Toby tenBensel, Holbrook - Treasurer  
 Subdistrict 2 Bill Bose, Orleans - Vice-chairman  
 Subdistrict 2 Marlin Murdoch, Orleans - Chairman  
 Subdistrict 3 Tim Kahrs, Franklin  
 Subdistrict 3 Matt Harrison, Naponee  
 Subdistrict 4 Nelson Trambly, Campbell  
 Subdistrict 4 David Bartels, Riverton - Secretary  
 Subdistrict 5 Terry Hoyt, Red Cloud  
 Subdistrict 5 Roger Nelson, Superior  
 At-Large Bradley Wulf, Red Cloud

**Nebraska  
Trivia**

The Lowest Temperature Ever Recorded in  
Nebraska was 47 Degrees Below Zero  
(1989 in Oshkosh).

**Lower Republican NRD Review**

is a publication of the  
 Lower Republican Natural Resources District  
 30 North John Street—PO Box 618, Alma NE 68920  
 308-928-2182

Toll Free: 800-353-1297

E-mail: [lmrd@lmrd.org](mailto:lmrd@lmrd.org) website: [lmrd.org](http://lmrd.org)

Mike Clements	General Manager
Scott Dicke	Assistant Manager
Shirlee Poyser	Administrative Assistant
Kristi Heft	Water Resources Administrator
Jo Siel	Water Resources Secretary
	I/E Coordinator / Rural Water Sec
Scot Lennemann	Water Resources Technician
Allan McCoy	Water Resources Technician
Ron McConnell	Water Resources Technician
Lonnie Knehans	Rural Water Superintendent
Mary Goebel	Franklin County Office Secretary
Samantha Kemp	Furnas County Office Secretary
Brittnay Numberg	Harlan County Office Secretary
Carolyn Janda	Nuckolls County Office Secretary
Lynetta Snelling	Webster County Office Secretary

Non-Profit Permit  
 U.S. Postage  
 PAID  
 Alma, NE 68920  
 Permit No. 55

Lower Republican Natural Resources District  
 PO Box 618 - 30 North John Street  
 Alma NE 68920

