
Tri-Basin NRD
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Natural Resources District

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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TBNRD Directors to Meet with Landowners in May, Elk Creek Townships

Tri-Basin Natural Resources District's (NRD) directors held a public hearing on designating May Township in Kearney County as a Phase 2 Groundwater Quantity Management Area and Elk Creek in Gosper County as a Phase 3 Groundwater Quantity Management Area, in order to further protect the district's groundwater supply. Following the hearing, directors decided they needed more information and more input from residents in the affected areas before moving forward with the designations. They formed steering committees of landowners from each of the affected townships to meet with the board's Planning Committee to discuss the groundwater level decline issues facing those townships. Board members will revisit the issue at their November meeting. Phase 2 Groundwater Quantity Management areas are required to have flowmeters installed on all wells and report annual water use. Certified irrigated acres may not be transferred into Phase 2 areas. Under Phase 3 rules, groundwater use is allocated and stricter rules for well spacing are applied. The Phase 2 and Phase 3 designations are ways Tri-Basin's directors have developed to help protect the district's groundwater supplies from depletion.

In related board action, directors approved proposed changes to the district's groundwater management rules which focus mainly on issuing well permits for augmentation wells.

Directors also held a public hearing to set the final levy for their 2015-2016 fiscal year at a rate different from the prior fiscal year. Following the hearing, directors approved the proposed levy, at just over four cents per \$100 of valuation.

Upon recommendation of the board's executive committee, directors appointed Jeff Ryan of Kearney County to the vacant sub-district six director position. The seat became vacant when David Nickel moved out of Tri-Basin NRD. Ryan will serve the remainder of Nickel's term, until the end of 2016.

Directors selected David Raffety of Kearney as delegate and Larry Reynolds of Lexington as alternate for the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts Fall Conference in Kearney in late September.

Tri-Basin NRD's board also:

- Approved applications for two certified irrigated acre transfers.
- Approved one application for well decommissioning cost-share funds totaling \$500 and three NSWCP cost-share applications totaling \$22,668.00.

Tri-Basin NRD's next Board of Directors meeting will be Tuesday, October 13, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. at Tri-Basin NRD, 1723 Burlington in Holdrege, Nebraska.

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