

NRD not asking for property taxes next year.

By Russ Pankonin

The Imperial Republican

After months of consideration, the Upper Republican Natural Resources District (URNRD) board finally gave approval to an integrated management plan (IMP) agreeable to the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The action at last week's regular NRD meeting culminated months of deliberation and negotiations between the NRD and DNR.

At a hearing on the plan in June, the biggest local concern centered on the lack of compensation for irrigators in rapid response areas (RRA). They will likely be shut down in water-short years for compliance purposes.

While the IMP does not include any compensation plan, it provides for other alternatives intended to avoid a shutdown of these areas. These alternatives include efforts such as surface water leasing and purchase, irrigation retirement, and stream flow augmentation.

A shutdown of irrigators in the RRA will be a last-resort action but is still part of the IMP.

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