

UPPER REPUBLICAN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

NOTICE OF ORDER ADOPTING
THE REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN-WIDE PLAN

Notice is hereby given that on Jan. 24, 2019, the Upper Republican Natural Resources District (URNRD) issued an order adopting the Republican River Basin-Wide Plan (Plan) jointly developed by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, URNRD, Middle Republican Natural Resources District, Lower Republican Natural Resources District, and Tri-Basin Natural Resources District (Districts) with consultation and collaboration with a group of stakeholders. The Plan will become effective March 1, 2019.

The sections and appendices of the Plan include: (1) Introduction; (2) Goals and Objectives; (3) Monitoring; (4) Plan Implementation Schedule; (5) Funding; (6) Plan Area; (7) Glossary; (A) Local Hydrology; (B) Data and Information Used During Plan Development; (C) Plan Development; (D) Relevant History of Groundwater and Surface Water Management; (E) Procedures for Addressing Conflicts Resulting from Implementation of the Republican River Basin-Wide Plan; (F) Watershed Management Presentation Materials; (G) Water Market Summary; (H) 2018-2022 Allocation Summary; and (I) Riparian Evapotranspiration and Removal of Invasive Vegetation. The Plan does not include any groundwater or surface water controls. The full text of the Plan and Order are available on the URNRD's website at www.urnrd.org/resources or by submitting a request to the URNRD, 511 East Fifth Street, P.O. Box 1140, Imperial, Nebraska 69033, or (308) 882-5173.

Upper Republican Natural Resources District

ORDER ADOPTING THE REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN WIDE PLAN

This matter came before the Upper Republican NRD (URNRD) Board of Directors for consideration pursuant to *Neb. Rev. Stat. 46-755*, which requires development and implementation of a Basin Wide Plan for the Republican River Basin in consultation and collaboration with stakeholders in the basin.

The Board of Directors Find:

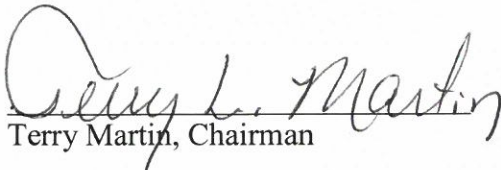
1. The URNRD, Middle Republican NRD, Lower Republican NRD, Tri-Basin NRD and Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (Department) consulted and collaborated on the development of the Republican River Basin Wide Plan (Basin-Wide Plan) with a group of stakeholders from across the basin (Stakeholder Advisory Committee) that included representatives of statutorily required entities.
2. The Stakeholder Advisory Committee held 15 meetings beginning in March 2015 and ending on June 26, 2018. The committee, NRDs and the Department, which combined represent all parties involved in development of the Basin-Wide Plan, reached agreement on 13 of 16 plan sections and appendices: Introduction; Goals and Objectives; Monitoring; Funding; Glossary; Local Hydrology; Data and Information Used During Plan Development; Plan Development; Relevant History of Groundwater and Surface Water Management; Watershed Management Presentation Materials; Water Market Summary; 2018-2022 Allocation Summary; and Riparian Evapotranspiration and Removal of Invasive Vegetation. Agreement was not reached on the following sections: Plan Implementation Schedule; Plan Area; and Procedures for Addressing Conflicts Resulting from Implementation of the Republican River Basin-Wide Plan.
3. In accordance with *Neb. Rev. Stat. 46-755 (5)(c)*, the NRDs and the Department continued to work on the Basin-Wide Plan and reached agreement on all components of the Basin-Wide Plan including all 16 plan sections listed in item 2 above. No groundwater nor surface water controls are contained in the Basin-Wide Plan. For the 13 plan sections and appendices on which all parties reached agreement, the language agreed upon by the NRDs and the Department is consistent with the language the Stakeholder Advisory Committee voted to approve. For the three remaining sections, the language agreed to by the NRDs and the Department for each section is consistent with the language and intentions most strongly supported, via votes, at the final Stakeholder Advisory Committee meeting. Letters acknowledging the agreement were exchanged between the NRDs and the Department.
4. The Department and URNRD held a joint public hearing on the proposed Basin-Wide Plan on Nov. 13, 2018, at the URNRD office. Joint public hearings were also held by the

Department and other NRDs. Notice of the joint, URNRD and Department public hearing was published in newspapers of general circulation within the URNRD. Copies of the hearing draft were made available to the public.

5. The testimony and exhibits received at the joint public hearings were discussed and considered by the Department and the NRDs. Modifications were made to the proposed Basin-Wide Plan after consideration of the testimony and exhibits. All modifications made that were based on the exhibits and testimony were non-substantive and no modifications were made to the goals and objectives, measurable hydrologic objectives, plan schedule, plan area, nor any other statutorily required plan component.
6. The URNRD Board of Directors on Dec. 11, 2018, approved a motion to adopt the final draft of the Basin-Wide Plan, including the agreed-upon changes from the hearing draft, with the exception that the placeholder for the effective date of the plan will be replaced with a date that is consistent with the effective date stated in this Order and the Orders issued by the NRDs. The Department responded with a letter agreeing with the URNRD's and the other NRDs' proposal to adopt the final draft of the proposed Basin-Wide Plan as described.
7. The Basin-Wide Plan is available on the Resources page of the URNRD website, www.urnrd.org/resources, at the URNRD office and the offices of the other NRDs, and the Department in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Order

BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN THE UPPER REPUBLICAN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS BY REISSUE REVISED STATUTES OF NEBRASKA, SECTIONS 46-701 TO 46-754, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT THE BASIN-WIDE PLAN FOR JOINT INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT OF THE REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN, NEBRASKA, AS DESCRIBED ABOVE, IS HEREBY ADOPTED BY THE URNRD AND WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2019.


Terry Martin, Chairman


Tom Terryberry, Secretary