

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING RELATING TO THE TRI-BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES
DISTRICT AND NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES VOLUNTARY
INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT PLAN, LITTLE BLUE BASIN PORTION**

Pursuant to *Neb. Rev. Stat.* § 46-718, the Tri-Basin Natural Resources District (TBNRD) and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NeDNR) hereby provide notice that the TBNRD and the NeDNR shall hold a public hearing on February 11, 2020 at 1:30 PM at the Tri-Basin Natural Resources District Office, 1723 Burlington St., Holdrege, NE. As required by *Neb. Rev. Stat.* § 46-718(1), the purpose of the hearing is to take testimony concerning the proposed Voluntary Integrated Management Plan (VIMP) and proposed groundwater controls and surface water controls. The proposed VIMP was jointly prepared by the TBNRD and the NeDNR. The geographic area subject to the proposed VIMP and proposed controls encompasses the area of the TBNRD within the Little Blue River surface water basin. A general description of the contents and chapters of the proposed VIMP includes: 1. Authority and Effective Date; 2. Legislative Background, 3. Public Participation, 4. Geographic Area and Physical Description, 5. Goals, Objectives and Action Items, 6. Groundwater and Surface Water Controls, 7. Monitoring Plan, 8. Funding Options, 9. Information Considered, and 10. Review Process and Modification of the VIMP.

Chapter 6 of the VIMP describes the proposed controls for groundwater management and proposed controls for surface water management which apply to the VIMP geographic area, a map of which is provided in Chapter 4. The proposed groundwater controls to be implemented by TBNRD are: 1. Continue a moratorium on drilling new wells for new water uses, 2. Continue certification of irrigation land and other non de minimis consumptive water uses, and 3. Continued regulation of transfers of groundwater and of certified irrigated land. The proposed surface controls to be implemented by NeDNR are: 1. Continue to assess surface water irrigation appropriations, investigate their use, and initiate an adjudication process through preliminary determinations of non-use, 2. Continue to enforce Nebraska Statutes and Department Rules and Regulations as these pertain to surface water appropriations, 3. Continue to evaluate proposed transfers of surface water appropriations, in accordance with Nebraska Statutes and Department Rules and Regulations, 4. Require metered measuring devices on all new high-capacity surface water irrigation uses; and 5. Institute mandatory reporting for all high-capacity surface water irrigation uses when water availability trigger is met.

Any interested person may appear at the hearing and present written or oral testimony concerning the proposed VIMP and proposed groundwater and surface water controls. Written testimony may also be submitted in advance to the Tri-Basin Natural Resources District, 1723 Burlington St., Holdrege, NE 68949, attention John Thorburn, or Department of Natural Resources, P.O.

Box 94676, Lincoln, NE 68509-4676, attention Amy Zoller, or by electronic mail to jthorburn@tribasinrd.org, or amy.zoller@nebraska.gov. Advance written testimony must be received by 5:00 pm (CDT) February 10, 2020 to be considered.

Individuals with disabilities may request auxiliary aids and service necessary for participation by contacting the Carie Lynch at TBNRD at (308) 995-6688 by 5:00 pm (CDT), Thursday, February 6, 2020.

The full text of the proposed VIMP and proposed controls may be obtained via the TBNRD's website at www.tribasinrd.org or by telephone at (308) 995-6688, or NeDNR's website at dnr.nebraska.gov or by telephone at (402) 471-2363. Within 60 days after the public hearing, the TBNRD and NeDNR will make a joint decision on whether to implement the proposed VIMP with or without modifications, and whether to adopt and implement the groundwater controls and surface water controls proposed in the VIMP.