



Little Blue Natural Resources District

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Water Resources Committee Meeting Minutes

May 7, 2019

Committee Members Present: Warren Brakhahn, Lyle Heinrichs, Mason Hoffman, Kevin Kissinger, Jay Meyer, Alan Wiedel, Lyle Schroer. Absent: Steve Shaw.

Staff: Kevin Orvis

Brakhahn called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at NRD Board Room in Davenport.

Kevin presented a slide show with information relating to the NET Grant submitted by Tri-Basin NRD and Little Blue NRD. Two test holes were drilled this spring in Adams county to obtain better geologic information for the cross sections being drawn by UNL, the agency developing the report through the grant. Preliminary cross sections were shown with some nitrate results from select wells in the cross section. Other water quality information was collected along with the nitrate samples to assist UNL geologists draw an opinion on any aquifer characteristics shared by the two NRDs. District staff has helped with finding sites for the test holes and will assist in collecting water samples in June.

The weighted average graphs for spring water levels were reviewed by the committee. Geologic Area 1 was up by +0.64, Geologic Area 2 up by +0.53. Both areas are now just slightly below the 2016 Base Line. The annual colored change map shows that most water levels were up, generally only areas with below average rainfall in 2018 had declines. The average 2018 inches per acre for irrigation were added to the map by Change in Feet areas. Staff did present two individual graphs of representative wells; one in the area of rise, the other in an area of decline. Both mimic the weighted average graphs and while spring of 2019 levels were positive, one year of rise doesn't re-bound levels to pre-drought conditions.

Committee members noted that positive comments have been heard concerning meters. Producers only using so much for a crop, not understanding how much they did use, and you need to measure what you use.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.