

NRD hearing on pooling, transfer rule changes Monday

Written by Wauneta Breeze

Thursday, 16 February 2012 22:26 - Last Updated Thursday, 16 February 2012 22:27

By Russ Pankonin

The Imperial Republican

With little fanfare Monday, board members of the Upper Republican Natural Resources (URNRD) approved the proposed changes in rules governing pooling and transfers.

The board conducted a public hearing on the proposed changes in conjunction with their monthly meeting Monday, Feb. 13.

When Hearing Officer Joel Burke outlined the testimony procedure, no one stepped forward to comment on the proposed changes.

Only attorney Blake Edwards of Ogallala addressed the board with several questions about the changes but offered no testimony.

The hearing was kept open during the meeting but no additional input was received from the public.

After closing the hearing, the board approved the changes, which will take effect in March after publication of the rules in newspapers throughout the district.

One change in the rules requires a tract to have a positive allocation before it can be added to a pool.

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The board approved one request to move tracts with negative allocations into another pool with positive allocation.

This move would not be possible after the new rules take effect.

More acreage retirement \$

The Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS) in Imperial has received another \$254,000 to help retire irrigated acres in the URNRD.

The board voted to match that amount to make the offer similar to last year. The money, which is enough to permanently retire about 260 acres, must be allocated by Feb. 20.

Irrigators interested in the program should contact the URNRD or NRCS offices in Imperial as soon as possible.