

2024

Financial Malfeasance at Eastsound Water

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Member money has been taken. Large sums have been mismanaged. The Eastsound Water Users Association Board has enabled this, excused it, and covered it up. We invite you to review the evidence and if you find it disturbing, to sign the petition calling for a meeting of the members to vote on the recall.

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Water Claim

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2004

Motivation

Why does the NRD board choose to make changes that will have a negative impact on the community when they do not have to? State law allows the NRD board to protect the community and keep its economy strong. Yet, most of the NRD board members argue that it is necessary to cut water allocations and to limit the use of water savings that farmers have made in previous years. Why do they feel it is important to make unrequired changes that will have a profound impact on our community?

The obvious place to go for the answer to these questions is directly to the board. WaterClaim has asked various board members why they choose to ask the legislature to allow them to increase property taxes by up to 60% and why they want to make the cuts in water allocation.

The answers from various board members are similar. Usually the response is:

- The State is requiring it.
- The Interrelated Water Review Board requires it
- The Settlement requires it
- The State will take control from the NRD, if it does not agree with our cuts.

However, the law specifically states otherwise. (See our "Nothing Required" article at www.waterclaim.org for a detailed review of the law.)

Even though the law contradicts the usual reasons, the

WATERCLAIM

Wed Aug 14 17:19:42 2024

SOS Account Number
10059239

Status
Inactive

Principal Office Address
554 KRAMER ST
IMPERIAL, NE 69033

Registered Agent and Office Address
STEVE SMITH
554 KRAMER STREET
IMPERIAL, NE 69033-0000

Nature of Business
PROACTIVELY DEFEND & EDUCATE ON THE
RIGHTS OF WATER USERS

Entity Type
Non Profit (Dom) Corp
Qualifying State: NE

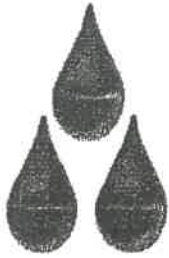
Date Filed
May 27 2004

Next Report Due Date
Inactive, Not Applicable

Nonprofit Type
Public Benefit

Has Members
Yes

Corporation Position	Name	Address
President	JEFF WALLIN	142 YUCCA DRIVE IMPERIAL, NE 69033
Secretary	JULIE FERGUSON	315 W 5TH ST IMPERIAL, NE 69033
Treasurer	SCOT GERMAN	73198 333 AVENUE IMPERIAL, NE 69033
Director	JULIE FERGUSON	315 W 5TH ST IMPERIAL, NE 69033
Director	SCOT GERMAN	73198 333 AVE IMPERIAL, NE 69033
Director	JEFF WALLIN	142 YUCCA DRIVE IMPERIAL, NE 69033



www.WaterClaim.org

-NR to handle
- Larry FYI
#103302/water

2005

WaterClaim

A Non-Profit 501 (c)(5) organization
P.O. Box 698
Imperial, NE 69033
308-882-3020
info@waterclaim.org

GOVERNORS OFFICE

SEP 08 2005

RECEIVED

September 5, 2005

Governor Dave Heineman
PO Box 94848
Lincoln, NE 68509-4848

Dear Governor Heineman:

Thank you for your letter indicating that actions already taken have dealt with the Republican River Compliance issue and that no further significant action is necessary. This is indeed very good news.

There are a couple of things that stop us from celebrating quite yet. One, this contradicts the private statements that Ann Bleed and Dave Cookson are giving directly to the NRD boards in the Republican River Basin. These boards are privately told something very different from what you, the legislature and the public are being told. Second, the data that the DNR has provided to the NRDs also contradicts this idea that Nebraska will be in compliance.

We encourage you to talk to NRD board members directly and ask them if they have been told that CREP, EQIP, and the new allocations are enough. If you need, we can provide you with the names of several NRD board members, on different boards, that will tell you they are told one thing publicly and something else in private.

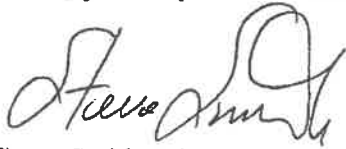
We strongly prefer the idea that Nebraska has already done enough to stay in compliance. WaterClaim will be happy to spread that word, if the State will provide us assurances that this area will not be held liable for failing to take further action. If further action is necessary, then let's acknowledge that now and act while we have time.

WaterClaim is made up of farmers and businesses in the southwest corner of the State. This is a political issue, not a water quantity issue. Politics will restrict our access to water long before the water physically disappears. Because of this, WaterClaim has decided to play an active role in politics. We campaigned against two NRD board members, and they lost in the last election -- getting only 28% and 33% of the vote.

As a service to the people of our District, WaterClaim will attempt to replace more NRD board members in the next election cycle and will also participate in legislative campaigns. We are looking for a candidate to support for governor. Tom Osborne is saying things that scare the agricultural community. We want to find a candidate who will help us protect the water and, at the same time, the communities. We hope we can find that in you. We simply want reliable information so that we can plan our future.

One other point. As you have been told by several people, the four individuals who are on the Water Policy Task Force do not represent the desires of most of the people in Southwest Nebraska. We hope you find a way to make sure the people giving you advice do so accurately.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Steve Smith".

Steve Smith, Director



"Ann Bleed"
<ableed@dnr.state.ne.us>

07/29/2005 11:40 AM

Please respond to
<ableed@dnr.state.ne.us>

To: <ctuma@notes.state.ne.us>

cc: "Larry Bare" <lbare@notes.state.ne.us>

bcc:

Subject: RE: WaterClaim

*NR preparing response
= water issues*

Carm - I talked with Larry Bare who talked with the Governor and the Governor said there was no need to schedule a meeting with Mr. Smith. I will prepare a response to the Mr. Smith for the Governor's signature.
Ann

-----Original Message-----

From: ctuma@notes.state.ne.us [mailto:ctuma@notes.state.ne.us]

Sent: Thursday, July 28, 2005 5:50 PM

To: ableed@dnr.state.ne.us; rpatterson@dnr.state.ne.us

Subject: Fw: WaterClaim

103302

FYI. I'm checking with the Gov to see if he wishes to meet.

Carmelee Tuma
Scheduler for Governor Dave Heineman
P. O. Box 94848
State Capitol
Lincoln, NE 68509
ctuma@notes.state.ne.us
402-471-1969
402-471-6031 fax

----- Forwarded by Carmelee Tuma/GOV/NEBRLN on 07/28/2005 05:49 PM -----

"Steve Smith"
<steve@waterclaim.org>

To

<ctuma@notes.state.ne.us>

07/27/2005 11:59

cc

AM

Subject

WaterClaim

Dear Carma Lee Tuma:

WaterClaim is a non-profit group of irrigators and businesses. Most of our members own land or businesses in the Upper Republican NRD, which is Perkins, Chase and Dundy counties. WaterClaim has collected a great deal of information regarding water and closely follows the various water stories. Based on recent events, we are convinced that Nebraska is highly likely to fail to comply with the Settlement Agreement regarding the Republican River at the end of 2007. We believe this will cause Nebraska to incur significant financial costs and will also cause the US Supreme Court to take action in 2008 or 2009 that will hurt our communities. The Governor's office must act within the next few months, if it wants to avert another court date with Kansas. We believe this action should be in the form of water transfers.

WaterClaim would like to review the issue with the Governor at his convenience. WaterClaim will meet wherever it is convenient for the

Governor. The Chase County Fair in mid August in Imperial is one of the largest and most successful fairs in western Nebraska. If the Governor attends that, it would be a good campaign opportunity. If we need to come to Lincoln, that will be fine. To keep the meeting productive, we would probably have 3 to 4 WaterClaim members attend. We ask for 30 minutes of the Governor's time.

I have included a letter that describes in more detail what we will say. If the Governor has time to read the material, it will give him a good idea of the points we would like to make and what we are asking for. The meeting in person is to confirm the information and to discuss any possible actions we can take that will help the State solve the problem.

Thank you, in advance, for your consideration.

Steve Smith, Director
WaterClaim
PO Box 698
Imperial, NE 69033
308 882 3020
www.waterclaim.org
(See attached file: WaterClaim to Governor.doc)



Dave Heineman
Governor

STATE OF NEBRASKA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
P.O. Box 94848 • Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4848
Phone: (402) 471-2244 • gov.heineman@gov.ne.gov

August 17, 2005

Steve Smith
PO Box 698
Imperial, NE 69033

Dear Mr. Smith:

Thank you for your letter regarding the need for water transfers into the Republican Basin to ensure that Nebraska remains in compliance with the Republican River Compact.

As your letter points out, Nebraska faces a challenge as we work to insure Compact compliance. I believe that the management tools that the NRDs' have adopted and the retirement of acres under the CREP and EQIP programs will get us where we need to be. Getting out from under the drought will also help.

As your letter points out, in order to implement a water transfer from another basin, agreements from people using the water in the other basin, federal permits, state permits, and funding would all have to be obtained. Perhaps for the long term, some kind of transfer may prove useful. However, in the short term, we all must remain vigilant and do what we must to remain in compliance with the Compact.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dave Heineman".

Dave Heineman
Governor