

By Russ Pankonin

The Imperial Republican

With the possibility that some irrigators in the Republican River Basin could be shut down in water-short years, water issues are generating lots of interest.

In addition, a number of water bills have been introduced in the Nebraska Legislature, of which several could have far-reaching effects throughout the basin.

As a result, Brad Dillan of Lamar Fertilizer decided irrigators and local business owners need to be aware of what's going on, especially in Lincoln, when it comes to water.

That's why he organized an informational meeting on Monday, Feb. 15, featuring 44th District Senator Mark Christensen of Imperial.

The meeting, which is open to the public, will begin at 1 p.m. MT at the Crossroads Wesleyan multi-purpose room at 1710 Wesley Drive.

Dillan said some of these water bills could be detrimental not just to farmers and irrigators but to businesses and the local economy, as well.

In the interest of the community and region, Dillan thought the info meeting would be timely.

Dillan said it also shows support for Christensen on what he's trying to get accomplished on water issues, such as fixing the occupation tax.

Meeting on recess day

Christensen expects a good crowd for the meeting. He's able to attend because the Legislature will be in recess Monday for President's Day.

Christensen said he will give a synopsis of the water bills now before the Legislature, either in committee or on the floor.

"We're going to talk about where these bills are at and where they're headed," he said Tuesday.

In addition, Christensen said there will be plenty of time for questions and he's sure there's going to be plenty.