

By Russ Pankonin

The Imperial Republican

Irrigators and stakeholders in the water issues in the Republican Basin can hear more specific actions under consideration by the Upper Republican Natural Resources District during a series of community coffees.

Office staff and board members will be present at the four coffees planned. The NRD will give a brief overview of recent activity to address water-short years and other compliance and regulatory issues.

Two coffees will be held this Friday, Feb. 19, and two on Wednesday, Feb. 24.

The first one on Friday will be held in Wauneta at the American Legion Hall, 323 North Tecumseh, beginning at 10 a.m.

The second will be held at the Benkelman Community Center, 908 Huron Street, beginning at 2 p.m.

The Feb. 24 coffees will begin at Lamar Fertilizer, 73994 Ave 314 Rd, at 10 a.m. followed by one at the Champion Community Center, 265 Broadway, at 2 p.m.

People are asked to RSVP if possible by calling the URNRD office at 308-882-5173 or by e-mail at urnrd@urnrd.org.

Work continuing on IMP

Members of the URNRD board met with representatives from the Department of Natural Resources to review a draft of the proposed integrated management plan (IMP).

The new plan under consideration includes regulatory language that would shut off certain rapid response areas near streams and tributaries during water-short years.

A closer look at the IMP will appear in next week's issue since the draft is no longer considered confidential by DNR.