

***By Russ Pankonin***

***The Imperial Republican***

Members of the Upper Republican Natural Resources District (URNRD) board will hold a special meeting Friday morning to address negotiations on a new augmentation project.

The special session has been called to consider approval of a joint inter-local agreement with other NRDs in the region to join together on a new augmentation project; approval of a purchase contract to purchase land for the new project; and approval of a resolution to authorize bonding the purchase.

On Tuesday, Oct. 2, the board met in executive session for more than an hour during their regular meeting to discuss real estate acquisition for augmentation projects.

The board followed the session with a directive to management to pursue a joint augmentation project with NRDs in the region.

According to Nate Jenkins, assistant URNRD manager, this project would not be connected to the URNRD's Rock Creek augmentation project in southwest Dundy County.

Jenkins said details of the proposed project would be released once land negotiations are completed.

What he did say was that this new augmentation project, along with the URNRD's Rock Creek project, would provide enough water to offset any pumping overages that have occurred in the Republican River Basin.

This project could keep Nebraska in compliance with their settlement with Kansas over water use in the Republican Basin.

Friday's meeting will start at 8 a.m. at the NRD office.