

November 3, 2012

Dear Editor,

The Steel Wheels lyrics from a song performed at 4th and Main's Listening Room in Wray on October 24<sup>th</sup> included a line that suggested traveling through Kansas was a cross to bear for getting to Colorado! It was a line well received by the majority, not so much to the few patrons who had driven in from Kansas to hear this talented bluegrass group.

Kansas won a lawsuit against Colorado regarding the amount of water delivered to that state by the Republican River. It's our cross to bear. The pipeline is finished and waiting for Kansas to recognize that Colorado took them seriously when David Barfield clearly stated at a meeting in Imperial Nebraska, "We don't want money. We just want our (your) water!"

The reason Colorado is in the position to deliver water and meet one of the criteria for compact compliance is because the board, staff, and professional advisors of the RRWCD took advantage of acquiring the right land (hydrologically and proximity to state-line measuring gauge) at the right time and have the state in position to respond by rules allowed in the final settlement stipulation and reinforced by a ruling, non-binding, from an independent judge in an appeal initiated by the state of Colorado.

While the RRWCD's primary focus is compliance, the rationale for its deliberate response has been met with challenges concerning cost and keeping the public fully informed while balancing confidentiality as negotiations require. Without the effort directed toward accomplishing its most important task, agriculture producers were at risk of a court ruling or state rules shutting wells down, and agriculture in the RRWCD may well have been denied the last few years of returns on investment, the highest in the history of our life using the Ogallala aquifer. These have been years which have helped farms pay down debt, communities to thrive, and even newspapers to sell more ads while being fair to present both sides.

If you appreciate the significance of what the RRWCD pipeline dedication means, thank one of the current RRWCD board members for serving as the representative of their county, appointed by their county commissioners, or as an appointee of one of the water districts by its board, and the appointed representative of the Colorado State Groundwater Commission. Thank them for recognizing the costs of inaction, and taking seriously the risks of waiting too long.

Rick Seedorf