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SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. And if, for example, it were a water meter program...

SPEAKER BROMM: Time. Senator Beutler, you may continue.

SENATOR BEUTLER: If it were a water meter program, would you expect some kind of cost share to be implemented in that case?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Depends on the program, Senator Beutler. Now that we have settled our dispute with Kansas, I can see a need in the Republican River Basin for some studies on the hydrology of the water in the basin, and I think this would be an appropriate use for that money. And this would probably not be used by an individual farmer. It would be used by an NRD. And the implementation of LB 108, and the studies of the hydrology underneath the ground as to what's happened to our water I think is going to be very important in some of our NRDs, and I would envision this to be...allow that type of a use for that money.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, it's been of increasing concern to me, as you well know, that we continue to press General Fund funding for a number of these things, and at the same time we don't seem to require reasonable fees on the part of the private owners with respect to some of these things. And I realize that that's a matter of perspective, and one may have different opinions. But for example, these...all the payments that would go out of the Soil and Water Conservation Fund, certainly a large number of these would be to people who are using either surface or ground water for irrigation purposes. Wouldn't you agree?

SENATOR SCHROCK: I would. But I would also tell you that, due to budget constraints, the Soil and Water Conservation Fund is receiving less appropriations every time. And so I think the NRDs are being pretty careful about how they appropriate that money and what it goes for, and they're making sure that the projects that they're being used for are something that is very beneficial, not only to the individual landowners, but to their NRD area...you know, to the complete benefit of everybody in their area, so.