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LB 32

SENATOR SCHROCK: Well, let me just give you an example of one NRD. The Lower Republican NRD at Alma is now working with issues pertaining to curtailing the use of water. They are in the final stage of putting all meters on wells. So the wells that they are pumping in that NRD will all be metered this year. And they are in negotiations with the...Roger Patterson of the Department of Natural Resources, on the quantity of water they're using. So it's my understanding, sometime in the next week or two, they're going to have a public hearing to get public input on the controlled use of the quantity of water pumped, so that they can meet the requirements of the compact that we have with Kansas, and our agreement with Kansas on water use. And so they'll be holding a hearing there. There's just a lot of things that they're doing now that they didn't have to do before. This is just one example.

SENATOR BEUTLER: With all these increases in responsibilities, Senator...and part of these responsibilities involve their relationship with municipalities in their particular areas, does it not?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Yes, that is correct.

SENATOR BEUTLER: In fact, you have some disputes going now, subsequent to LB 962, with regard to the relationship between NRDs and municipalities, right?

SENATOR SCHROCK: That is correct. Let me state, Senator Beutler, that it's my perception that with a few exceptions, the NRDs are getting along quite well with municipalities, and they're wanting to work with municipalities on economic development and adequate water for the future. Now, the task force is going...which I believe meets in Kearney either this week or next week. Meets tomorrow in Kearney. It's my understanding they're going to have a subcommittee meet with the League of Municipalities and other interested parties to try and resolve these differences...these differences. And I would expect there may be some legislation on that next year. There's legislation in front of us now, but we're not quite ready to act upon it until we have better input. And so I would expect legislation next year to try and make sure that our