Introduction and Project Overview

• Develop Basin-wide Water Management Plan
• Project initiated in response to LB1098
  – Revisions to the Natural Resources Commission
  – Water Sustainability Fund
  – Requirements for basin-wide water planning
Requirements of the Basin-wide Plan

1. Have clear **goals and objectives** with a purpose of **sustaining a balance** between water uses and water supplies so that the economic viability, social and environmental health, safety, and welfare of the river basin, sub-basin, or reach can be achieved and maintained for both the near term and the long term.

2. **Ensure that compliance** with any interstate compact or decree or other formal state contract or agreement or applicable state or federal law is maintained.

3. **Set forth a timeline** to meet the goals and objectives according to a timeline that does not exceed thirty years or April 17, 2044.
# Republican River BASIN-WIDE WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

## Schedule

### PROPOSED SCHEDULE

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summary of Existing Integrated Management Plans</td>
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<td>Groundwater and Surface Water Controls</td>
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<td>Data Summaries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Develop Goals and Objectives</td>
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<tr>
<td>Draft Basin-Wide Water Management Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finalize Basin-Wide Water Management Plan</td>
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### 2015 Meetings
- March 31, 2015
- June 16, 2015
- August 18, 2015
- October 20, 2015
- December 15, 2015

### 2016 Meetings
- To be scheduled later in 2015
Plan Development Partners

NOTE: Bi-monthly coordination meetings amongst plan development partners.
Expectations for Project Team

Republican River Basin-Wide Plan Stakeholder Advisory Committee
Meeting Agenda
March 13, 2013, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Cambridge Community Center, 209 Constitution Avenue, Cambridge, Nebraska

Meeting Objectives
The next Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting will provide an opportunity to introduce the basin-wide water management planning process, participants and stakeholders. We will discuss the overall Objectives and the groundwater and surface water controls with the current Integrated Management Plan (IMP). The group will begin to develop goals for the Basin-Wide Plan (BWP).

Welcome and Introductions
- Arkansas Department of Natural Resources
- Local, Municipal, Valley Agricultural, and Southern Natural Resources District
- Consulting Team Members

Introduction and Project Overview
- Schedule and Plan for Stakeholder Meetings
- Outline stakeholder roles and how stakeholder input will be incorporated into plan
- Basin-Wide Water Management Plan Components

Stakeholder Introductions
- Stakeholders: to discuss their background and interest in the project
- Each session will be 1 to 2 hours, 1.50 rates per person at the meeting

EDUCATION SESSION - Review/Discussion of Current IMPs
- Each IND manager will summarize the content of current IMPs and actions taken
- NASA representatives' role in BWP implementation

WORKING SESSION - Develop Goals and Objectives for BWP
- Public Comment
- The public is welcome to comment on the BWP at this time

Next Meeting
- 10:30 - 10:45, June 16, 2013, Cambridge Community Center
- BWP Water Day of the Republican River District - June 22-23, 2013
Expectations for Stakeholder Advisory Committee Members:

**Golden Rule:**
Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

“The meeting was well run. Most importantly anyone and everyone had the opportunity to be heard in a non threatening way.”

Gene Zuerlein, NE Game and Parks
Stakeholder Involvement

IAP2’s Public Participation Spectrum
Courtesy of The Perspectives Group

Inform
To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.

Consult
To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.

Involve
To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.

Collaborate
To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.

Empower
To place final decision-making in the hands of the public.
Basin-wide Plan Development

• NDNR and NRDs shall involve official participants (Stakeholders) in formulating, evaluating, and recommending plans and management actions.

• NDNR, NRDs and participants shall work to reach agreement among all official participants.

• If agreement is not reached by all parties, NDNR and NRDs shall adopt the agreed-upon basin-wide plan.
Stakeholders Committee Members

By statute must include:

- Irrigation Districts
- Reclamation Districts
- Public Power and Irrigation Districts
- Mutual Irrigation companies
- Canal companies
- Groundwater Users
- Range livestock owners
- Game and Parks Commission
- Municipalities
Tools of Public Involvement

- Educational Sessions
- Field trip options
- Small group exercises to facilitate discussions
Basin-wide Plan Components

- Executive Summary
- Introduction
  - Background and Purpose
  - Authority and Compliance
  - Basin-wide Planning Process
- Basin-wide Plan Area
  - Description – Fact sheet
  - Map of Plan Area
    - Surface Water
    - Groundwater
- Goals and Objectives
  - Goal 1
  - Goal 2
  - Goal 3
  - Goal 4
  - Actions to accomplish these goals.
  - Timeline to accomplish goals

→ Evaluation Every Five Years
Stakeholder Introductions

- **Surface Water Users**
  - Irrigation Districts
  - Reclamation Districts
  - Public Power and Irrigation Districts
  - Mutual Irrigation companies
  - Canal companies

- **Groundwater Users**

- **Range Livestock owners**

- **Game and Parks Commission**

- **Municipalities**
EDUCATION SESSION

- Current Integrated Management Plans
  - Tri-Basin NRD
  - Lower Republican NRD
  - Middle Republican NRD
  - Upper Republican NRD
  - NDNR

Brief Introduction on approve GW and SW Controls
Authorized Groundwater Controls

Generally from Neb. Rev. Stat. 46-739

1. Groundwater allocations
2. Rotations
3. Well-spacing requirements
4. Require well meters
5. Reductions of irrigated acres
6. Limit or prevent the expansion of irrigated acres
7. Require best management practices
8. Require water quality analysis
9. Mandatory educational requirements
10. Water quality monitoring
11. Approval of groundwater transfers
12. Replacement water wells be constructed to such a depth
13. Close the management area to the issuance of additional permits
14. Adopt and promulgate rules and regulations necessary to carry out the purposes of the management area
Authorized Surface Water Controls

Generally from Neb. Rev. Stat. 46-715

1. Increased monitoring
2. Prohibition or limitations
3. Reasonable conservation measures
4. Other reasonable restrictions on surface water use
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of Groundwater Control</th>
<th>URN RD</th>
<th>MRNRD</th>
<th>LRNRD</th>
<th>TBNRD</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 Meter all groundwater withdrawals</td>
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<td>2 Groundwater allocations</td>
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<td>3 Moratorium on new wells and irrigated acres</td>
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<td>4 Mandate reductions of irrigated acres</td>
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<td>5 Limit expansion of consumptive use and/or irrigated acres</td>
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<td>6 Require district approval of groundwater transfers</td>
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<td>7 Adopt and promulgate rules and regulations necessary to carry out the purposes of the management area</td>
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<td>- Irrigated acre certification</td>
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<td>- Provide for water transfers</td>
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<td>- other management actions such as sw or gw leasing, augmentation</td>
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<td>- Set a one year allocation as needed to meet compact compliance</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 More restrictive well spacing</td>
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<td>9 Groundwater use rotation scheduling</td>
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<td>10 Require replacements be built to appropriate depth</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 Require the use of best management practices</td>
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<td>12 Require water quality monitoring and reporting</td>
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<td>13 Require water quality analysis of water or deep soils</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 Mandatory educational requirements for water quality and quantity</td>
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Summary of IMP Surface Water Controls

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<th>MRNRD</th>
<th>LNRD</th>
<th>TBNRD</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 Increased monitoring and enforcement of surface water diversions</td>
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<td>2 Prohibition or limitation of additional surface water appropriations</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Other reasonable restrictions on surface water use</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Requirements for reasonable conservation measures consistent with good husbandry and are consistent with reasonable reliance by other surface water or ground water users on return flows or on seepage to the aquifer</td>
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Stakeholder Comments/Suggestions from Morning Session

- Future Speakers?
- Lunch time frame – or other logistical suggestions?
- Seating arrangements - preferences?

Please provide suggestions to Patti and Karen!
WORKING SESSION

• *Develop Goals and Objectives for Basin-wide Plan*
  – Handout – goals from current IMPs
  – Initial goals proposed by NRDs and NDNR
Requirements of the Basin-wide Plan

1. Have clear goals and objectives with a purpose of sustaining a balance between water uses and water supplies so that the economic viability, social and environmental health, safety, and welfare of the river basin, sub-basin, or reach can be achieved and maintained for both the near term and the long term.

2. Ensure that compliance with any interstate compact or decree or other formal state contract or agreement or applicable state or federal law is maintained.

3. Set forth a timeline to meet the goals and objectives according to a timeline that does not exceed thirty years or April 17, 2044.
Definition of Sustainability

Management for water sustainability allows the beneficial use of water, in an effective and efficient manner, to satisfy our socio-economic needs and obligations while minimizing the risk that water resources will be insufficient for future generations to meet their socio-economic needs and obligations.

Goals, Objectives and Action Items

- **Goals** Define what the group wants to accomplish.

- **Objectives** define the measurable outcomes that a group seeks to accomplish.

- **Actions items** are the specific tasks that the NRD and NDNR will undertake to achieve the goals and objectives.
What do you want to accomplish?

Sustainability goals of LB1098
• Increasing aquifer recharge
• Reducing aquifer depletion
• Increasing stream flow
What do you want to accomplish?

**PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS FROM COORDINATION GROUP DISCUSSION:**

**GOAL 1** – Better utilize existing Republican River Basin water resources while maintaining compact compliance.
- Examples of this may include diversion and storage during high flow events
- Identify potential methods to increase available supplies

**GOAL 2** – Minimize the burdens of compact compliance under the current IMPs

**GOAL 3** – Better understand the nature of conflicts between water users and identify potential resolutions

**GOAL 4** – Better understand the interconnectedness between water sustainability and economic viability

**GOAL 5** – Share Republican River Basin water resources data/information and inform the public through education programs
What do you want to accomplish?

NOTES FROM AFTERNOON STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSION

• Forecasting could be done better
• Change of priorities from legislation
• Equity
• Fairness to all
• Projects that make all whole
• Efficiency of systems
Public Comment

• Time limit of 2 minutes per speaker
• Please state your name and address
• Thank you!
Next Steps

• Next Meeting - June 16th, 2015, 10-3, Cambridge
• UNL Water Tour of the Republican River Basin
  – June 23-25, 2015
  – watercenter.unl.edu
  – Please consider attending!

• Project website:
  dnr.nebraska.gov/RRBWP/
PROJECT DESCRIPTION

There may be no subject more important to the citizens of the Republican River Basin than water. Its use, management, and stewardship have shaped their lives, economy, and their understanding of sustainability. This project, to develop a Basin-Wide Water Management Plan for the Republican River Basin, was initiated in response to the requirements in Nebraska Legislative Bill 1098 (LB1098) and Nebraska Revised Statute §46-755. Along with development of a new source of funding for water projects called the Water Sustainability Fund and expansion of the Natural Resources Commission, LB1098 requires basin-wide water planning in areas where three or more Natural Resources Districts in a river basin are required to complete Integrated Management Plans. Currently, the only river basin that the LB1098 basin-wide planning requirements apply to is the Republican River Basin. For this reason, the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, in collaboration with the four Natural Resources Districts within the Republican River Basin—the Upper, Middle, and Lower Republican and the Tri-Basin Natural Resources Districts—are preparing a Basin-Wide Water Management Plan.

According to the bill and state statute, the basin-wide plan shall:

1. Have clear goals and objectives with a purpose of sustaining a balance between water uses and water supplies so that the economic viability, social and environmental health, safety, and welfare of the river basin, sub-basin, or reach can be achieved and maintained for both the near term and the long term.
2. Ensure that compliance with any interstate compact or decree or other formal state contract or agreement or applicable state or federal law is maintained.
3. Set forth a timeline to meet the goals and objectives according to a timeline that does not exceed thirty years or April 17, 2044.
MEETING SCHEDULE

Stakeholder meetings will be held at the Cambridge Community Center located at 722 Patterson Avenue, Cambridge, Nebraska, from 10:00 AM to approximately 3:00 PM. Meetings are open to the public, and a public comment period is scheduled at the end of each meeting.

Meeting agendas, minutes, and presentations will be added to this website as they become available. Dates in 2016 will be identified in late 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Agendas</th>
<th>Meeting Minutes</th>
<th>Presentations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 31, 2014</td>
<td>View Agenda</td>
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<td>June 16, 2015</td>
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<td>December 15, 2015</td>
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<td>5 meetings in 2016</td>
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PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Public comments can be provided in several ways. A public comment period will be held at the end of each stakeholder meeting (see meeting dates, times, and agendas here).

Written comments sent via email or postal service can be submitted to:

Karen Griffin
kgriffin@olssonassociates.com
Olsson Associates
601 P Street
Lincoln, NE 68508

Patti Banks
patti@bevireo.com
Vireo
1111 N. 13th St.
Suite 116
Omaha, NE 68102