

# Republican River Basin-Wide Plan Coordination Meeting, **DRAFT** Notes

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*Tuesday, April 19, 2016 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM*  
*Tri-Basin Natural Resources District – 1723 Burlington Street, Holdrege, NE*

## Attendance

Mike Clements (LRNRD)	Nate Jenkins (URNRD)	Jennifer Schellpeper (NeDNR)
Scott Dicke (LRNRD)	Tammy Fahrenbruch (TBNRD)	Amy Zoller (NeDNR)
Sylvia Johnson (MRNRD)	Nolan Little (TBNRD)	Jeff Fassett (NeDNR)
Jack Russell (MRNRD)	Carol Flaute (NeDNR)	

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NeDNR Director Fassett introduced the April coordination meeting by describing the concerns this meeting and the March stakeholder meeting: he has been getting feedback that the process has not been as productive as it could be, and he also wonders whether, in light of the ongoing litigation in the basin, the process should continue to move forward or should pause. The main purposes of this meeting were for NeDNR and the NRDs to discuss these concerns and to share and discuss the feedback received from stakeholders at and about the March stakeholder meeting. A summary of the discussion follows.

In light of current litigation in the basin, it is unclear whether the basin-wide planning process should continue to be developed according to the original schedule or should pause. Both NeDNR and the NRDs have concerns about this issue, but also can see some benefits to proceeding. Concerns center around whether the necessary open dialog can occur when stakeholders, NeDNR, and the NRDs may be constrained by the litigation. Is it practical or possible for NeDNR and the NRDs to develop a plan in collaboration with parties who are suing them? On the other hand, it may make sense to continue the process to take advantage of current stakeholder enthusiasm to address some basic questions that can help build a foundation for the plan. It was unclear at the March 2016 meeting whether the stakeholders preferred to proceed or pause, due to the litigation.

NeDNR summarized the stakeholder input from the March stakeholder meeting with NeDNR Director Fassett and shared this information with the NRDs. The NRD managers reported that the stakeholders they had spoken with following the meeting provided very positive feedback. The stakeholders indicated they felt a part of the process for the first time. In order to continue the positive working relationship, both NeDNR and the NRDs proposed to modify the stakeholder involvement process to encourage more open discussion.

The objectives for the upcoming stakeholder meeting in May will be to delve further into some of the issues and ideas brought forth at the March stakeholder meeting and to specifically garner a consensus of whether to proceed or pause during litigation.