

Republican River Basin-Wide Plan

April Coordination Meeting Notes

Tuesday, April 18, 2017 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Tri-Basin Natural Resources District – 1723 Burlington Street, Holdrege, NE

Attendance

Scott Dicke (LRNRD)	Jennifer Schellpeper (NeDNR)	Jeff Fassett (NeDNR)
Nate Jenkins (URNRD)	Jack Russell (MRNRD)	Carrie Wiese (NeDNR)
John Thorburn (TBNRD)	Sylvia Johnson (MRNRD)	Patti Banks (Vireo)
Carol Flaute (NeDNR)	Tatiana Height (NeDNR)	Mike Clements (LRNRD)

The meeting opened with a welcome. It was confirmed that the exchange of letters with each NRD is now complete. The completion date for the Republican River Basin-Wide Plan is officially extended to April 17, 2018. Updates were given on the budget, lawsuits, bills affecting NeDNR, and the Platte-Republican diversion project.

The group then reviewed the vision statement which was approved at the March stakeholder meeting. Minor edits to the vision statement were proposed in order to make it more grammatically appealing. It was decided to leave the vision as it was approved by the stakeholders.

The next topic of discussion was the June stakeholder meeting agenda. The group brainstormed how to walk through the four remaining challenges which may lead to additional plan language and potential outcomes of that agenda item. Measurements already being tracked, as a part of the IMPs, were discussed. It was also decided to draft a history of legislation in the basin.

Additional language for goals 1-4, including explanations of all goals, objectives, and action items was reviewed. The NRDs will review this handout in greater detail and provide feedback to NeDNR. The feedback on goal language may determine whether or not the next coordination meeting will take place, as scheduled, on May 16, 2017.

The group closed the meeting with a progress report on the data and information packet being developed for the stakeholders and setting a date of July 20, 2017, for the July coordination meeting.

Republican River Basin-Wide Plan May Coordination Meeting Notes

*Tuesday, May 16, 2017 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Tri-Basin Natural Resources District – 1723 Burlington Street, Holdrege, NE*

Attendance

Scott Dicke (LRNRD)	Jennifer Schellpeper (NeDNR)	Carrie Wiese (NeDNR)
Nate Jenkins (URNRD)	Jack Russell (MRNRD)	Mike Clements (LRNRD)
Tammy Fahrenbruch (TBNRD)	Sylvia Johnson (MRNRD)	
Carol Flaute (NeDNR)	Tatiana Height (NeDNR)	

The meeting opened with a discussion of the RRCA's efforts to update their accounting procedures and rules and regulations for consistency with the August 2016 RRCA resolutions, and also to finalize RRCA accounting data through 2015. It was anticipated that these changes would be adopted at an upcoming Special Meeting of the RRCA on May 25th. It was noted that the NRDs and NeDNR will soon need to work together to update the Republican IMPs for consistency with the August 2016 resolution on the operation of Harlan County Lake. NeDNR agreed to take the lead on revisions to the IMPs. There was also a discussion about the possibility of meeting a water supply threshold that would bring the Basin out of a Water Short Year under the new resolution, and what it would mean if that were to happen. Specific questions were noted for further follow-up by NeDNR staff. Lower Republican NRD then provided an update on the Platte-Republican Diversion project. The status is that the NRDs are still working on a water service agreement for the project.

The next topic of discussion was the June stakeholder meeting as well as other future stakeholder meetings. Draft Procedures for Addressing Conflicts were discussed in detail. The group agreed on the concepts to include in said procedures. NeDNR will make an updated draft, send it back to the NRDs for review, and bring it to a future Stakeholder Advisory Committee meeting for stakeholder input.

The idea of adding a November stakeholder meeting was discussed. A date was proposed and the idea will be brought to the stakeholders at a future Stakeholder Advisory Committee meeting. A date was also selected for the December coordination meeting.

The next Republican River Basin-Wide Plan coordination meeting will be held Thursday, July 20, 2017.