

**Republican River Basin-Wide Plan  
Stakeholder Advisory Meeting Minutes  
March 21, 2017 | Community Center; Cambridge, Nebraska**

**Stakeholder Advisory Committee members in attendance were:**

Jared Baker	Max Kaiser	John Rundel
Brad Edgerton	Bradly Knuth	Richard Siel
Troy Fletcher	Kent Lorens	Daniel Smith
Josh Friesen	Jeff Loschen	Craig Scott for
Jerda Garey Vickers	Gale Lush	Aaron Thompson
Wayne Haarberg	Cedric McDaniel	Marcia Trompke
Dale Helms	Dave Oxford	Tom Vickers
Bill Hoyt	Roric Paulman	

**Plan Development Team members in attendance were:**

John Thorburn	Carol Flaute	Patti Banks
Mike Clements	Jennifer Schellpeper	Ray Winz
Tatiana Height	Amy Zoller	Jack Russell
Sylvia Johnson	Beth Eckles	Emily Bausch
Jeff Fassett	Scott Dicke	Nate Jenkins

**Individuals from the community present during the meeting included:**

Jean Eichorst  
Robert Martin  
Mark Christenson  
Larry Reynolds  
Phillis Johnson  
Dale Cramer  
Chelsea Erickson  
Kenny S Wertz

Note: See [Attachment A](#) for a copy of the sign-in sheets.

**NOTICE OF THE MEETING**

Notice of the meeting was published on the Department of Natural Resources web site ([dnr.nebraska.gov](http://dnr.nebraska.gov)). Notices were also published in the Holdrege Daily Citizen, McCook Gazette, Imperial Republican, and the Benkelman Post & News Chronicle.

## **INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**

The following informational materials were distributed to stakeholders:

- Meeting agenda (Attachment B)
- Compiled written stakeholder comments on draft plan language handout (Attachment C)
- Other comments handout (Attachment D)
- Vision statement handout (Attachment E)
- December coordination meeting summary (Attachment F)
- February coordination meeting summary (Attachment G)
- Draft November meeting minutes (Unattached)
- Calendar of Remaining Meetings (Attachment H)
- Areas of agreement and challenges remaining for discussion handout (Attachment I)

### **1. WELCOME**

- Jennifer Schellpeper, NeDNR, welcomed everyone and reviewed the agenda and stated that this meeting is subject to the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.
- Jeff Fassett, NeDNR Director, provided general updates. He informed the group that the legislature was currently in session and there are proposed budget cuts. Any budget cuts to the general fund will directly impact NeDNR. He went on to share that the Supreme Court has decided on the Hill case. The Cappel and FCID (Frenchman-Cambridge Irrigation District) cases are undergoing briefing. The fifth case, NBID (Nebraska Bostwick Irrigation District), is going to trial at the District Court.
- There is a three-states meeting scheduled for March 23<sup>rd</sup> in which the states would try to build on some of the previous resolutions.
- Lastly, N-CORPE and Rock Creek are set to pump 15,000 acre-feet in 2017.
- Scott Dicke, LRNRD Assistant Manager, provided an update on the Platte-Republican diversion feasibility study. The project began a year ago and East Turkey Creek has now been evaluated. Some things the study was looking at were cost/benefit and if there is a match between excess flows in the Platte and compact compliance needs. The gist of the study is that a diversion is feasible. There are still some steps to be taken including preparing an application for a water right but the NRDs would like to get started within a few months, if possible.
- Jennifer Schellpeper then asked the group to review the November meeting minutes and provide comments within 15 days. If no comments are submitted then the minutes will be considered final.
- The group was also asked to read the December and February coordination meeting notes. The December coordination meeting notes say "draft" but they were finalized after printing, so the December and February coordination meeting notes are both final.

### **2. VISION STATEMENT**

- Jennifer opened the vision statement discussion and distinguished the difference between a vision statement and a mission statement.
- The first item presented, as a part of this discussion, was a draft mission statement which was based on statutory language.
  - The mission statement was approved as drafted which was "To sustain a balance between water uses and water supplies so that the economic viability, social and

environmental health, safety, and welfare of the Republican River Basin can be achieved and maintain for both the near term and long term.

- The group was informed of some of the ideas that go into drafting a vision statement. It should be future oriented, clear, and concise and it really is a part of the plan language because it goes into the plan. The vision is important to focus the group on the same end goal. It provides a foundation to discuss the goals and objectives. Additionally, the mission statement was presented as a part of the conversation around sustainability.
- The draft vision statement was created from stakeholder feedback and from the community vitality activity which was conducted during the August 2015 stakeholder meeting.
- The vision statement's purpose should be clear to anyone reading the plan and to people in the community as we go out and talk to them about the plan.
- Example vision statements were reviewed and the group was asked if there were any ideas they had for what the plan would contain which were not captured by the draft vision statement "Republican River Basin is economically vibrant and water is responsibly used"
  - Some of the suggested revisions were:
    - "Water from the aquifer is responsibly used so that the Republican River Basin remains economically vibrant."
    - "Achieving water supply equilibrium, throughout the basin" for all time."
    - "Waters responsibly used."
    - "Waters responsibly and sustainably used."
    - "Plentiful water, today and tomorrow, for our communities, homes, farms, and industries."
    - "The Republican River Basin is economically vibrant and water responsibly used, achieving water use and supply equilibrium."
  - There was back and forth discussion about specific wording contained in the vision statement and what needs to be defined more clearly in the goals and objectives. The goals and objectives detail how the vision statement will be achieved.
  - Some of the comments regarding the vision statement were:
    - The word "water" will cover both surface and groundwater so that the word "aquifer" doesn't need to be stated.
    - We want to augment the water supply, not just reach equilibrium.
    - Flexibility should be maintained within the vision.
    - Lead with water.

**A vote was taken and it was agreed that the final vision is "Waters responsibly used and the Republican River Basin is economically vibrant." 3. PLAN LANGUAGE**

- Jennifer Schellpeper reviewed the handouts to be used in the plan language discussion: Compiled written stakeholder comments on draft plan language received following the November 2016 stakeholder meeting, areas of agreement and challenges remaining for discussion after the November 2016 stakeholder meeting.

- It was noted that a fifth goal has been added since what was presented in November in order to encompass some of the comments received that did not fit into the first four goals.
- Goal 1
  - There was a review of all stakeholder comments received relating to goal 1 and its respective objectives and action items.
  - There were some suggestions that addressed the point of having a reliable supply. This was not added to the goal, but will be included elsewhere in the plan.
  - **A vote was taken and Goal 1 was approved as “Maintain Nebraska’s compliance with the Republican River Compact and applicable state laws”**
    - More specific language about state laws will be added to the objectives or action items, at a later date.
    - Action item 1.1.2 was approved with a revision to state “Determine appropriate offsets for any basin-wide plan action that would exceed Nebraska’s consumptive use under the Compact.”
    - No revisions were made to objective 1.1 or action item 1.1.1
- Goal 2
  - There was a review of, and response to, all stakeholder comments received relating to goal 2 and its respective objectives and action items.
    - In response to the stakeholder comment suggesting not to address public relations, because it isn’t a goal of LB1098, it was stated that the plan can go beyond statutory requirements. Anything in statute must be included in the plan, but additional things can be added if they are within the authority of NeDNR and the NRDs.
    - The last comment “It would also be beneficial for NRD and Irrigation District board members to better understand what makes a healthy stream. NRCS has an excellent manual on “Stream Corridor Restoration” that would prevent adopting policies that may have negative consequences. Making training available to board members should be considered” was removed from goal 2 but it may be addressed elsewhere in the plan.
    - It was explained that this goal is meant to capture education components of the plan which have not yet been agreed upon, but may be added at a later date.
    - No revisions were made to Objective 2.1 or action items 2.1.1 and 2.1.2

- **A vote was taken and goal 2 was approved as “Positive public relations, including information sharing, within and outside the Basin”**
  - More specificity about providing information online, in addition to providing information to decision-makers, will be included in the objectives or action items. The goal was originally drafted to address specific concerns that decision-makers in “the east” were unaware about efforts currently being undertaken in the Basin.
- Goal 3
  - There was a review of all stakeholder comments received relating to goal 3 and its respective objectives and action items.
  - Various goal, objective, and action item revisions were discussed.
    - It was decided to remove stakeholder proposed action item 3.2.5 “Include small dams and terraces in the project plans” and instead replace it with “aquifer recharge” as a part of objective 3.2.
    - The idea of flooding reduction will be included elsewhere in the plan, possibly in an introduction statement about the goal.
    - Decreasing conflicts between water users will be included as an objective.
    - No revisions were made to objective 3.1 or action items 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.1.3, 3.2.1, 3.2.2, 3.2.3, or 3.2.4.
  - **A vote was taken and goal 3 was approved as “Increase certainty for long range planning to reduce the need for regulatory actions and increase collaborative efforts among water users across the basin”**
- Goal 4
  - It was explained that sharing information about existing funding sources, desired management actions of water users in the basin, and the concept of allocations would be the types of objectives and action items that could fit under goal 4.
  - There was a review of all stakeholder comments received relating to goal 4.
  - No revisions were made to objective 4.1.
  - **A vote was taken and goal 4 was approved as “Basin-wide collaboration of locally controlled water management to maximize Nebraska’s efficient and beneficial consumptive use of its portion of the water supply.”**
- The group ran out of time to discuss goal 5, the geographic area, and the Plan’s role in water use needs. Those items will be discussed at a future meeting.

- It was announced that a one year extension is underway in order to allow time for the remainder of stakeholder meetings, public hearings, and finalizing the plan. It was also proposed that the January stakeholder meeting, which was postponed due to weather, be rescheduled to August 15, 2017. There was mention of adding an additional meeting after August, but that will be discussed further at the June stakeholder meeting, because the group will be able to check progress at that time.

#### **4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

#### **5. STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS**

There were no stakeholder comments.

#### **6. PARKING LOT**

When members of the group brought up topics that should be addressed, but best discussed at another time, they were written down, and added to the "Parking Lot" for future discussion. As of the end of the meeting, items in the Parking Lot included:

- Delineation of the basin-wide plan's geographic area
- Definition of sustainability
- Dr. Goeke speaking to the group
- Reliable supply
- Information sharing with public and on website
- Board member training on healthy streams
- Stakeholder role after the plan is adopted and reporting

The parking lot will be reviewed at the close of every Stakeholder Advisory Committee meeting. Items which have been addressed and resolved will be removed from the parking lot and new items may also be added to the parking lot. Items recorded during the March meeting, as other plan language comments or suggestions to be addressed at a later date, have been added to the parking lot.

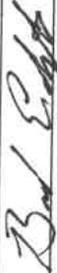
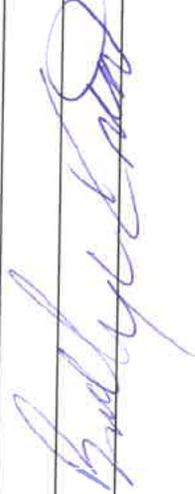
#### **7. NEXT MEETING**

On behalf of the entire basin-wide plan development team, including the four NRDs and NeDNR, Schellpeper thanked the stakeholders for attending and participating in this process. The next meeting will be held at the Cambridge Community Center from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm on June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

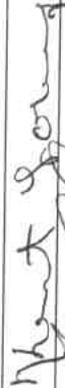
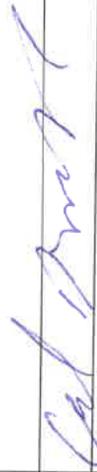
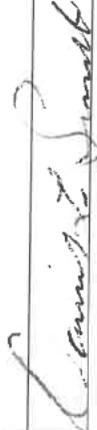
Project Website = <https://rrbwp.nebraska.gov/>  
*(Please note that this web address has recently changed)*

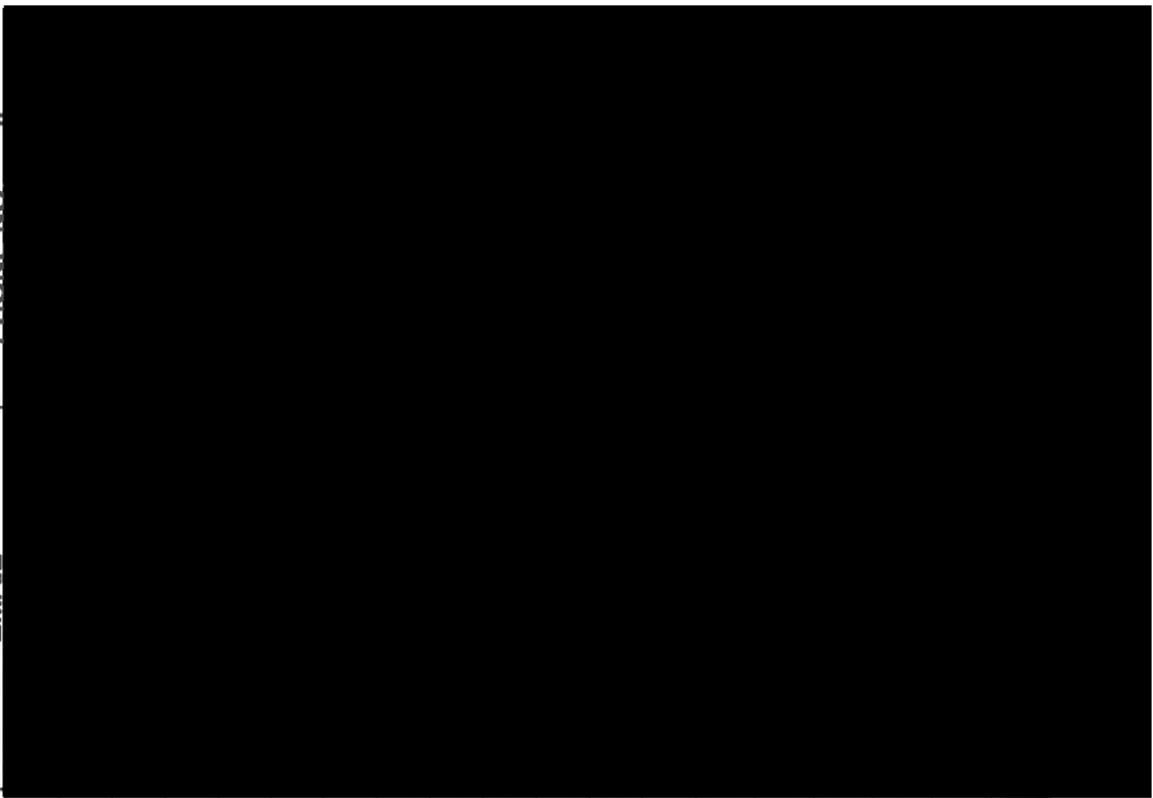
**Attachment A – Sign-in Sheets**

**STAKEHOLDER ATTENDANCE RECORD**  
 Republican River Basin-Wide Plan  
 March 21, 2017 10:00 AM  
 Community Center -Cambridge, NE

NAME	SIGNATURE	EMAIL	PHONE NO.
Jared Baker			
Kurt Bernhardt			
Mike Delka			
Brad Edgerton			
Jerry Ehrke			
Chris Flaming			
Troy Fletcher			
Josh Friesen			
Mike George			
Wayne Haarberg			
Dale Helms			
Dick Helms			
Robin Hinrichs			
Bill Hoyt			
Michael J. Kahrs			
Max Kaiser			
Curtis Kayton			
Jim Kent			
Bradly Knuth			

**STAKEHOLDER ATTENDANCE RECORD**  
 Republican River Basin-Wide Plan  
 March 21, 2017 10:00 AM  
 Community Center -Cambridge, NE

NAME	SIGNATURE	EMAIL	PHONE NO
Jerry Kuenning			
Kent Lorens			
Jeff Loschen			
Gale Lush			
Scott Lutz			
Timothy McCoy			
Cedric McDaniel			
Dan Nelsen			
Dave Oxford			
Roric Paulman			
John Rundel			
Nate Schneider			
George Schortberger			
Richard Siel			
Kevin Slocum			
Steve Smith			
Daniel Smith			
Shad Stamm			
Glenn Taubenheim			



STAKEHOLDER ATTENDANCE RECORD  
 Republican River Basin-Wide Plan  
 March 21, 2017 10:00 AM  
 Community Center -Cambridge, NE

NAME	SIGNATURE
Aaron Thompson	
Ted Tietjen	
Marcia Trompke	
Dack Vesta	
Jerda Garey Vickers	
Tom Vickers	
Todd Watson	
	<b>PUBLIC</b>
Robert Martin	
Mark Christensen	
Larry Reynolds	
Craig Scott	USBR
Phillip Johnson	TRT BRGIN
Rene V. White	TRT USB
Dale Cameron	
Janet Glick	Jan Eichhorst

STAKEHOLDER ATTENDANCE RECORD  
 Republican River Basin-Wide Plan  
 March 21, 2017 10:00 AM  
 Community Center -Cambridge, NE

NAME	SIGNATURE	AGENCY	EMAIL	PHONE NO
John Thorburn	<i>John Thorburn</i>	Tri-Basin NRD		
Ray Winz		Tri-Basin NRD		
Mike Clements	<i>Mike Clements</i>	Lower Rep NRD		
Scott Dicke	<i>Scott Dicke</i>	Lower Rep NRD		
Sylvia Johnson	<i>Sylvia Johnson</i>	Middle Rep NRD		
Jack Russell	<i>Jack Russell</i>	Middle Rep NRD		
Nate Jenkins	<i>Nate</i>	Upper Rep NRD		
Jasper Fanning		Upper Rep NRD		
Carol Flaute	<i>Carol Flaute</i>	NDNR		
Jennifer Schellpeper		NDNR		
Amy Zoller	<i>Amy Zoller</i>	NDNR		
Jeff Fassett		NDNR		
Tatiana Height	<i>Tatiana Height</i>	NE DNR		
Beth Eckles	<i>Beth Eckles</i>	NE DNR		
Nate Erickson	<i>Nate Erickson</i>	NRND		
Chelsea Erickson	<i>Chelsea Erickson</i>	KS DWR		
Bradly Knuth	<i>Bradly Knuth</i>	LRNDR		
Troy Fletcher	<i>Troy Fletcher</i>	LRNDR		

**Attachment B – Meeting Agenda**

# Republican River Basin-Wide Plan Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

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*Tuesday, March 21, 2017, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM  
Cambridge Community Center, 722 Patterson Avenue, Cambridge, Nebraska*

## Meeting Objectives

At this meeting, participants will build upon the discussion from the November stakeholder meeting, including discussion of stakeholder feedback on the draft plan language presented at the November stakeholder meeting.

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## 1. Welcome

## 2. Vision Statement

## 3. Plan Language

*Working Lunch – 12:00 to 12:30*

*(Lunch is provided for Stakeholder Advisory Committee, NDNR, NRD, and Consultant Staff only)*

## 4. Plan's Role in Water User Needs

## 5. Parking Lot

## 6. Stakeholder Comment

- a. Ted's Letter

## 7. Public comment

## 8. Next meeting

- a. June 20, 2017

Project Website = <http://dnr.nebraska.gov/RRBWP/>

## **Attachment C – Stakeholder Comments on Plan Language**

## Compiled Written Stakeholder Comments on Draft Plan Language Received Following the November 2016 Stakeholder Meeting

Plan language		Comments
<b>Goal 1: Maintain Nebraska’s compliance with the Republican River Compact and applicable state laws</b>		
<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Action Items</b>	
1.1. Coordinate basin-wide plan management actions with Nebraska’s Compact compliance efforts	1.1.1. Review each basin-wide plan management action prior to implementation to ensure it does not negatively impact efforts to achieve Compact compliance in the most efficient and cost-effective way practicable and adherence to state laws	
	1.1.2. Determine appropriate offsets for any basin-wide plan action that would increase Nebraska’s consumptive use under the Compact	The action item doesn’t make sense because the goal would be to reduce consumptive use rather than increase it making water available for other uses. Also it would take watershed management to achieve water balance.

Plan language		Comments
<b>Goal 2: Positive public relations, including information sharing, within and outside the Basin</b>		Public relations are not part of LB1098. Rework Goal 2 into a separate public relations section of the plan.
Objectives	Action Items	
2.1. Improve information sharing with decision-makers about solutions formed within the Basin	2.1.1. Use existing resources to share information about Basin progress and activities with outside entities.	The reports and documents received at the Nov 1 <sup>st</sup> meeting were helpful in identifying the problems in the basin.
	2.1.2. Educate civic leaders and the public on implementation efforts within the Basin.	Agree.
?	?	It would also be beneficial for NRD and Irrigation District board members to better understand what makes a healthy stream. NRCS has an excellent manual on "Stream Corridor Restoration" that would prevent adopting policies that may have negative consequences. Making training available to board members should be considered.

Plan Language		Comments
<b>Goal 3: Increase certainty for long range planning, decrease conflicts between water users, and reduce the need for regulatory actions</b>		
Objectives	Action Items	
3.1. Increase water supply through interbasin transfers during periods of high flows	3.1.1. For each new project, study hydrologic and regulatory feasibility and evaluate potential economic and environmental impacts	Great to see that environmental impacts will be evaluated for each new project. Please ensure this language remains intact for those action items.
	3.1.2. Where feasible and beneficial, apply for necessary permits, establish new or utilize existing infrastructure, then begin operations.	Imported water moved to existing wetlands or newly created wetlands would benefit ducks, cranes, etc. while also providing aquifer recharge. Tri-Basin NRD has done this in the past.
	3.1.3. Operate interbasin transfers as opportunities arise.	OK. I would encourage active involvement. Support for trans-basin diversions will be difficult at best and perhaps impossible if Republican NRDs and producers are not doing everything they can to manage water in the entire basin. Many objectors in the Platte Basin are expected to come forward when an application for a water right is submitted.

Green = stakeholder comment or suggestion

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<p>3.2. Improve water availability through conjunctive management projects within the Basin, such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Canal recharge</li> <li>2. Reservoir recharge</li> <li>3. Augmentation projects</li> </ol>	<p>3.2.1. For each new project, conduct a feasibility study and evaluate potential economic and environmental impacts.</p>	<p>Great to see that environmental impacts will be evaluated for each new project. Please ensure this language remains intact for those action items.</p>
	<p>3.2.2. Where feasible and beneficial, apply for necessary permits, establish new or utilize existing infrastructure, then begin operations.</p>	
	<p>3.2.3. Operate conjunctive management projects as opportunities arise.</p>	
	<p>3.2.4. Where appropriate, work with partners such as the Bureau of Reclamation to identify, evaluate, and operate potential new projects.</p>	<p>I would encourage active participation</p>
	<p>3.2.5. Include small dams and terraces in the project plans.</p>	

Plan language		Comments
<b>Goal 4: Basin-wide coordination of locally controlled water management to maximize Nebraska’s beneficial consumptive use of its portion of the water supply.</b>		<p>These seem pretty generic and I see no reason to oppose them other than Goal 4. I don’t know what it means and would withhold support until there is clearer language. It would seem that it is only applicable to ground water because of the “locally controlled” phrase.</p> <p>I don’t know how to do it without going to watershed management.</p>
<b>Objectives</b> 4.1. Promote the existing conservation programs available to the water users in the basin.	<b>Action Items</b>	

Plan language		Comments
<b>Goal 5: “When possible, pursue projects that not only benefit water supplies and uses, but also create benefits for fish, wildlife, and recreation on the Republican River.”</b>		
Objectives	Action Items	
5.1. Where feasible, protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat along with outdoor recreational opportunities.	5.1.1. Where feasible and beneficial, partner with various groups such as (Game and Parks, Ducks Unlimited, Crane Trust, etc.) to share costs to establish new or utilize existing infrastructure and pay costs for imported water from interbasin transfers during periods of high flows to benefit the group’s habitat and wildlife interests, while also providing aquifer recharge.”	
	5.1.2 Promote recreational floating on the river (tubing, kayaking and canoeing).	
5.2. Riparian wetland assessment and restoration.		This could also provide recharge to the alluvial wells in the valley.
5.3. Where feasible, remove undesirable vegetation impacting water conveyance.	5.3.1. Develop a strategy to remove undesirable vegetation and prevent reinfestation.	

**Attachment D- Other Stakeholder Comments handout**

# Other Compiled Written Stakeholder Comments Received Following the November 2016 Stakeholder Meeting

## **DRAFT Basin-Wide Plan Table of Contents**

1. Introduction
  - a. Authority and effective date
  - b. Background, purpose, and intent
  - c. Integrated management planning process or framework
    - i. Stakeholder selections
    - ii. Meetings
    - iii. Parties to the plan
2. Plan Area
  - a. Map
  - b. Land use
  - c. Local hydrology
  - d. Surface water
  - e. Groundwater
3. Goals and Objectives
  - ~~a. Timeline~~ *(the following items need to be included somewhere in this section)*
  - b. Near term goals
  - c. Long term goals
  - d. End date
  - e. Management activities to be taken to achieve objectives
  - f. Intermediate schedule for measurable objectives
4. Actions Items and Controls
  - a. Action items for each of the goals
  - b. Surface water controls
  - c. Groundwater controls
5. Funding
  - a. Incentive programs
- ~~6. Incentive Programs~~
7. Monitoring
  - a. Tracking and reporting
  - b. Five Year Review and Evaluation
8. Modifications to the plan
9. Information considered during plan development
  - a. Data and methods
10. *Public relations (rework Goal 2 for this area as public relations is not a goal of LB1098)*
11. Definitions or Glossary of Terms

## **Blue= Stakeholder comment or suggestion**

### ***Aquifer/sustainability/targeting water use Comments***

In our perspective, the objectives and actions are not addressing the problem of how to use less water in this basin to sustain the aquifer. Our only solution appears to be to bring in water from somewhere else instead of reducing our consumption. Where do we state, "Sustain the water supply based on today's level." Therefore, we cannot use more than we have. The Compact is not the only issue--sustainability is the main problem.

While I have no specific objection to green topic language, it clearly focuses on importing water rather than the underlying causation IE depletion of aquifer/sustainability. Augmentation either through transfers or groundwater pumping to temporarily increase stream flow is not sustainable and only serves to further exacerbate the issues the basin is facing from the overuse of our groundwater supply. Much like the use of a tourniquet on a gushing wound will eventually create more problems. Sustainability of the Aquifer must be priority one. Any plan that does not address that goal is destined to fail.

A volume of water needed for NE surface water irrigation should be known and a plan to make it available should be stated in a basin wide plan, just as a plan for Kansas surface water is stated in the compact. LB 1098 leaves little doubt that sustaining a balance between water uses and water supplies is the purpose of the legislation. I would suggest we ask the Republican irrigation districts to come up with a draft plan.

Include an assessment of the stream flow of the tributaries to the Republican River to determine the flow trends.

### ***Monitoring/data Comments***

A significant monitoring system for groundwater elevation should be installed. I believe TBNRD has installed one in each township now. A rough cost would be in the \$2000-3000 range per observation well.

### ***Geographic area Comments***

The plan map should include the entire basin in Nebraska, divided by sub-basins that match the Compact Compliance Accounting map. Perhaps the compromise is to have one set of rules inside the 10/50 line and another set outside the line with the ability to make changes or regulate as necessary in either area. The ability to only make suggestions outside the 10/50 line with no funding mechanism is not enough. Please consider;

- The sub-basin management brings problem areas into focus where political boundaries do not. The RR model should be able to determine target groundwater levels that provide sustainability throughout the basin or at least provide an adjustable starting level. Good management will not reduce allocations further in areas where ground-water levels are consistently rising and I see some of them are. Conversely, areas where wells collectively pump a volume that on average exceeds recharge are not sustainable. For example, NCORPE can help URNRD wells meet compliance with the compact but cannot help them recharge their upstream area of the aquifer. This area is on the leeward side of the Rocky Mountains and the water supply is not there to meet current demand. Unfortunately, we cannot negotiate geography. Producers are asking for

## Blue= Stakeholder comment or suggestion

certainty and sustainability; they want and need goals to reach and groundwater elevation numbers will let them know what they are up against and how far they have to go. They are good problem solvers when given the facts. Is it a matter of turning end guns off or does money need to be set aside to buy irrigation rights from willing sellers or something else? Wells do go dry, but long before that time, the aquifer material can compact as the draining occurs so that the water holding capacity is lost for all time.

- The Frenchman, North Fork, Arikaree, South Fork and minor portions of Beaver and Buffalo Creeks cross the CO-NE state line. At some point Nebraska should try to work at the sub-basin level with CO, and in other sub-basins with KS to jointly resolve any severe aquifer declines in those sub-basins. CO will help NE wells dry up faster than our producers can do it on their own.
- According to DNR well database, some of the wells outside the 10/50 line have been in for 50 years or soon will be. Excluding those wells from a long-term basin plan may be the political preference in the short term but is poor water management and poor policy for the long term.

### ***Plan Format/Organization Comments***

From LB1098

- Determine the means to sustain a balance between water uses and water supplies so that the economic viability, social and environmental health, safety, and welfare of the river basin, subbasin, or reach can be achieved and maintained for the near term and the long term.
  - **We should separate objectives into near and long term categories.**
- Determine methodologies information, data and science to be used to evaluate effect of existing uses of hydrologically connected water on existing surface and groundwater users.
  - (a) Processes
  - (b) Testing validity of plan conclusions, information and assumptions
- **This needs to be added somewhere**

There must be goals set and consequences for not meeting those goals. I believe that is expected of this plan and the individual IMPs.

**Attachment E- Vision Statement handout**

# A Vision Statement for the Republican River Basin-Wide Plan

## Vision Statements

Answering the question: What do you see in the future for this basin?

**Vision statements represent a desired end-state:** A vision statement is a one-sentence statement describing the clear and inspirational long-term desired result of the plan; a vivid idealized description of a desired outcome that inspires; focusing on the goals and aspirations of the plan. These statements are designed to be uplifting and inspiring. They're also timeless: even if strategies change, the vision will stay the same. *The function of a vision statement is to concisely declare the aspiration of the plan in a **future-oriented manner**. It will help focus the discussion of what makes sense to include in the Plan and in what context. Vision statements are typically one concise, clear sentence.*

## Vision Statement Guidelines

The best vision statements for result areas describe outcomes that are ten or more years away, although some look even further out. For projects the vision statement should focus on the desired outcome of the project/goal at its completion date.

## A Vision Statement Should Describe the Best Possible Outcome

In general, a vision statement is based on the best possible outcome. In fact, you might want to envision something even better than what you consider to be the best possible outcome.

## Summarize the Vision in a Powerful Phrase

If possible, try to summarize your vision using a powerful phrase. Capturing the essence of your vision using a simple memorable phrase can greatly enhance the effectiveness of your vision statement.

Take for instance Microsoft's vision of "A personal computer in every home running Microsoft software." This simple yet very powerful phrase can be used to remind everyone of the vision.

## Other Example Vision Statements:

**Ducks Unlimited:** Wetlands sufficient to fill the skies with waterfowl today, tomorrow and forever (13 words)

**Smithsonian:** Shaping the future by preserving our heritage, discovering new knowledge, and sharing our resources with the world (17 words)

**Boy Scouts of America:** To prepare every eligible youth in America to become a responsible, participating citizen and leader who is guided by the Scout Oath and Law. (24 words)

**VFW:** Ensure that veterans are respected for their service, always receive their earned entitlements, and are recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country (32 words)

**Oxfam:** A just world without poverty (5 words)

**Feeding America:** A hunger-free America (4 words)

**Human Rights Campaign:** Equality for everyone (3 words)

**National Multiple Sclerosis Society:** A World Free of MS (5 words)

**Alzheimer's Association:** Our vision is a world without Alzheimer's (7 words)

**Habitat for Humanity:** A world where everyone has a decent place to live (10 words)

**Oceana** seeks to make our oceans as rich, healthy and abundant as they once were (14 words)

**Make-A-Wish:** Our vision is that people everywhere will share the power of a wish (13 words)

**charity: water** believes that we can end the water crisis in our lifetime by ensuring that every person on the planet has access to life's most basic need — clean drinking water (28 words)

## What we've heard from you:

Excerpts from the Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting on August 18, 2015

### ***Community Vitality, what is it?***

- **What do you see? - vision**
  - Maintain the tax base
  - Aquifer health and longevity
  - Stable water supply
- **How do you get there? – mission/goals/objectives**
  - A stable irrigated economy = community vitality
  - Jobs, specifically the water necessary to support jobs
  - Retaining and attracting young people
  - Investment in infrastructure
  - High quality schools are important to community vitality and a healthy agricultural tax base supports high quality schools
  - Increased efficient use of resources including human resources – increased non-water related jobs
  - Grain and animals
  - Predictable, stable regulations over the long haul
  - Water must be regulated to achieve sustainability
  - Continued Compact Compliance is essential

### Vision for Discussion:

"Republican River Basin is economically vibrant and water responsibly used."

## Mission Statements, Goals, Objectives and Action Items

### Vision and Mission Statements do distinctly different jobs.

**Vision Statements** are inspiring, uplifting, and aspirational. They tend to focus on the distant future looking forward more than ten years. They represent an ideal outcome.

**Mission statements**, in contrast, answer the question why the plan exists and defines the plan's purpose. These statements are set in the present tense, and they explain why you exist. Mission statements tend to be short, clear and powerful. This is a short practical, tangible tool used to make decisions about priorities, actions and responsibilities. A mission statement clearly communicates what the plan does. Good mission statements should be **clear, memorable, and concise**.

Mission and vision statements are complementary to each other. Vision statements show you an idealized description of your ultimate destination, while mission statements represent your chosen path or how you get there.

### Example Mission Statements

**Ducks Unlimited** conserves, restores, and manages wetlands and associated habitats for North America's waterfowl. These habitats also benefit other wildlife and people. (20 words)

**Smithsonian:** The increase and diffusion of knowledge. (6 words)

**Make-A-Wish:** We grant the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy. (21 words)

**Boy Scouts of America:** To prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law. (25 words)

**Oxfam:** To create lasting solutions to poverty, hunger, and social injustice. (10 words)

**charity: water:** We're a non-profit organization bringing clean, safe drinking water to people in developing countries. (14 words)

**Habitat for Humanity International:** Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope. (16 words)

**National Multiple Sclerosis Society:** We mobilize people and resources to drive research for a cure and to address the challenges of everyone affected by MS. (21 words)

**Feeding America:** To feed America's hungry through a nationwide network of member food banks and engage our country in the fight to end hunger. (22 words)

### **For the Republican River Basin-Wide Plan the Mission is clearly defined in statute:**

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

Goals, Objectives and Actions Items will be the substance of the plan. Detailed work to be done by this plan fits into these categories.

**Attachment F- December Coordination Meeting Summary**

# Republican River Basin-Wide Plan Coordination Meeting Notes

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

## Attendance

Emily Bausch (Olsson)	Carol Flaute (NeDNR)	Tatiana Height (NeDNR)
Scott Dicke (LRNRD)	Jennifer Schellpeper (NeDNR)	Karen Griffin (Olsson)
Nate Jenkins (URNRD)	Jack Russell (MRNRD)	Patti Banks (Vireo)
John Thorburn (TBNRD)	Sylvia Johnson (MRNRD)	

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The meeting opened with a synopsis of the November 29<sup>th</sup> 3-states meeting. Kansas is considering adding another irrigation district but there are multiple considerations to be weighed in order to decide if that would be a worthwhile endeavor. In addition, Colorado will be pumping 10,000 acre feet (af) from their pipeline and a 68,000 af trigger has been added to the resolution for Compact Call Years.

The group then reviewed the process for formally extending the basin-wide plan deadline beyond April 2017, as allowed by statute. NeDNR shared sample extension letters with the NRDs. The group will revisit the question of how long to extend the process following the January 2017 stakeholder meeting.

The next topic of discussion was action items for the group following the November stakeholder meeting,, including stakeholder data requests. The group reviewed draft new and revised handouts; some of which are for use at the January stakeholder meeting and some of which will be sent to stakeholders via mail or email. One particular revision from a handout from the November 2017 meeting is that the groundwater pumping data was corrected to include commingled acres. NRD managers will check the updated numbers for accuracy. The group also discussed which time periods of data would be most useful and meaningful to include on the various data handouts.

The group also reviewed the January stakeholder meeting agenda as well as feedback received from stakeholders on the draft plan language distributed at the November stakeholder meeting. The draft plan language and compiled feedback from stakeholders will be shared with stakeholders and discussed at the January stakeholder meeting.

The next Republican River Basin-Wide Plan coordination meeting will be held Tuesday February 21, 2017.

Last Updated 1/10/2017

For distribution at 1/17/2017 stakeholder meeting for the Republican River Basin-Wide Plan

**Attachment G- February Coordination Meeting Summary**

# Republican River Basin-Wide Plan February Coordination Meeting Notes

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*Tuesday, February, 2017 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM  
Via Conference Call*

## Attendance

Scott Dicke (LRNRD)	Jennifer Schellpeper (NeDNR)	Jeff Fassett (NeDNR)
Nate Jenkins (URNRD)	Jack Russell (MRNRD)	Amy Zoller (NeDNR)
John Thorburn (TBNRD)	Sylvia Johnson (MRNRD)	Mike Clements (LRNRD)
Carol Flaute (NeDNR)	Tatiana Height (NeDNR)	

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The meeting opened with a discussion of the extension for the Republican River Basin-wide Plan. The group discussed what an appropriate extension length would be and when the extension letters need to be exchanged. It was decided that a one year extension would be appropriate as the stakeholder group has stated that they would like to conclude the meeting process in summer 2017 and the group would like to keep with the stakeholders' requested schedule as closely as possible. A one year extension will leave 8 months to hold hearings and other administrative plan requirements. Up to one more year can be extended later, if needed.

The group then reviewed the March stakeholder meeting agenda. It is basically the agenda for the postponed January stakeholder meeting except for the updated meeting date. It requested that one of the NRD managers provide an update on the Platte-Republican diversion feasibility study at the March meeting. Additionally, the group decided to add a component to the "Water User Needs" discussion about what the role of a basin-wide plan is.

The next topic of discussion was stakeholder data requests. The group reviewed a list of items being developed for stakeholder data and information packet. The items on the list will be posted to the plan's website and the stakeholders will be notified via email.

The group closed the meeting with a brief discussion of the January management letter and new RRCA resolutions. It was decided that discussions should take place later this year regarding what changes and updates need to be made to the IMPs.

The next Republican River Basin-Wide Plan coordination meeting will be held Tuesday April 18, 2017.

**Attachment H- Calendar of Remaining Meetings handout**

# REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN-WIDE PLANNING MEETING SCHEDULE

 COORDINATION MEETINGS  
 Holdrege, NE 10am

 STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS  
 Cambridge, NE 10am

\*JULY COORDINATION MEETING TBA

## MARCH 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## APRIL 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

## MAY 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## JUNE 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

## JULY 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## AUGUST 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

**Attachment I – Areas of Agreement and Challenges Remaining for Discussion handout**

## Areas of Agreement and Challenges Remaining for Discussion after November 2016 Meeting

These challenges will be further discussed so the group can come to an understanding of the issue and provide input on suitable solutions

DISCUSS FURTHER TO DEFINE THE CHALLENGE	<b>1. Inequitable distribution of compact compliance burden</b>		
	a. Allocations should be across the whole basin ★★★★★		
	b. What is a good metric for fairness and balance of different uses ★★		
	d. Allocations based on model area		
	f. Allocations by sub-basin based on recharge		
	h. Consider importing water from the east end of Republican		
	<b>2. Limited understanding of Water Supply &amp; Use</b>		
	a. Our farming practices have changed dramatically - effects on stream flow		
	b. What do we work towards? (How short are we?) ★★		
	c. What is a good metric? ★		
	d. Need to address areas of depletions ★		
	e. Needs to be based on entire Basin not just DNR 10-50 policy ★★		
	f. How much flow is needed at the head gates to sustain your system? Solution has to be based on science rather than politics ★★		
	<b>3. Over consumption of water has not been adequately addressed</b>		
	a. Are we fully or over appropriated (Use scientific approach) ★★★★★		
	b. Response times vary widely for actions we may propose. Think short, mid & long term ★		
	c. Deal with depletions - no additional depletions on starting point ★★		
	d. We are using more water than we have		
	e. Is the amount pumped from N-Corpe an indication of how far we over developed ★		
	f. Remove non-beneficial vegetation ★		
g. Find ways to reduce evaporation			
h. Over consumption is based off compliance, how do we know what the "right" stream flow was? Was it right when the compact was signed?			
i. No way to make the river flow again			
<b>4. Regulatory measures have been inconsistent through time and water use</b>			
a. State law has created conflict between GW & SW			
b. If Regulation; Can trade \$ for water ★			
c. Regulations don't work without consequences ★			

These items were voted on at the Stakeholder Advisory Committee meeting in August 2016. The group decided to move forward to create plan language on these items, which was brought back at the November Stakeholder Advisory Committee meeting.

PRIOR DECISION INCLUDED IN DRAFT PLAN LANGUAGE	<b>1. Inequitable distribution of compact compliance burden</b>		
	The Plan will include opportunities to increase water supplies so that the burden of compact compliance is less reliant on regulatory actions on the water users across the basin.		
	c. State Plan for recharge to aquifer		
	e. Excess water in the Platte needs to be transferred to the Republican ★★★★★		
	i. When there's excess water in the Platte and we need water here, why is the burden on wells and surface water ★★		
	The Plan will follow the law while minimizing the burden on water users.		
	g. Should have a plan to avoid 2 year compliance test		
	The Plan will ensure compact compliance and will consider strategies to maximize Nebraska's beneficial consumptive use of its portion of the water supply		
	<b>5. Compact compliance and accounting always a challenge</b>		
	a. Must comply		
	b. Can we build a reserve? ★		
	The Plan will include solutions that come from within the basin.		
	<b>6. Someone else will fix our problem (east) if we don't fix it ourselves</b>		
	a. Lincoln is watching us		
	b. This is a basin problem, there needs to be some compromise here		
	c. We've gotten more efficient and reduced our pumping. So we're not just paying \$10/acre. I've paid \$1000 to be more efficient		
	The Plan will include solutions that increase certainty for agricultural planning.		
	<b>7. Lack of certainty for agricultural planning</b>		
	a. Certainty of knowing surface water receives an allocation. Notice so we can plan long range ★		
	b. Reliability for planning and community viability ★		
c. How many surface H2O acres have underground well? Did original federal permits guarantee a certain supply of H2O ★★			
The Plan will include consideration of the economic impacts of proposed solutions.			
<b>8. Loss of economic returns on investments in irrigated agriculture</b>			
a. Effects on economy as a whole ★			
b. This is a likely reality if based on false or absent water supply			
c. H2O = life			
<b>1. Inequitable distribution of compact compliance burden</b>			
Answered at the June meeting with consensus vote to move forward despite litigation.			
i. Impossible to have open dialogue when litigation is constantly occurring. What is amount of money being spent on legal fees? ★			