

Proposed actions for August 2016 Stakeholder Advisory Committee 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	1. Inequitable distribution of compact compliance burden		
	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		
	2. Limited understanding of Water Supply & Use		
	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 ★★		
	3. Over consumption of water has not been adequately addressed		
	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" streamflow was? Was it right when the compact was signed?			
i. No way to make the river flow again			
4. Regulatory measures have been inconsistent through time and water use			
a. State law has created conflict between GW & SW			
b. If Regulation; Can trade \$ for water ★			
c. Regulations don't work without consequences ★			

There will be language in the plan to address these challenges. NeDNR and the NRDs will draft language that will be brought back to the stakeholders for consideration and a vote.

INCLUDE IN THE PLAN?	1. Inequitable distribution of compact compliance burden		
	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 ensure compliance with controlling statutes and laws 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		
	5. Compact compliance and accounting always a challenge		
	a. Must comply		
	b. Can we build a reserve? ★		
	The Plan will include solutions that come from within the basin .		
	6. Someone else will fix our problem (east) if we don't fix it ourselves		
	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.			
7. Lack of certainty for agricultural planning			
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.			
8. Loss of economic returns on investments in irrigated agriculture			
a. Effects on economy as a whole ★			
b. This is a likely reality if based on false or absent water supply			
c. H2O = life			

PRIOR DECISION	1. Inequitable distribution of compact compliance burden		
	Answered at the June meeting with consensus vote to move forward despite litigation.		
	j. Impossible to have open dialogue when litigation is constantly occurring. What is amount of money being spent on legal fees? ★		