

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

Plan language		Comments
Goal 1: Maintain Nebraska’s compliance with the Republican River Compact and applicable state laws		
Objectives	Action Items	
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
Goal 2: Positive public relations, including information sharing, within and outside the Basin		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 st 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
Goal 3: Increase certainty for long range planning, decrease conflicts between water users, and reduce the need for regulatory actions		
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

<p>3.2. Improve water availability through conjunctive management projects within the Basin, such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Canal recharge 2. Reservoir recharge 3. Augmentation projects 	<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
<p>Goal 4: Basin-wide coordination of locally controlled water management to maximize Nebraska’s beneficial consumptive use of its portion of the water supply.</p>		<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>
<p>Objectives</p> <p>4.1. Promote the existing conservation programs available to the water users in the basin.</p>	<p>Action Items</p>	

Plan language		Comments
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.”		
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.	