

Republican River Basin-Wide Plan September Coordination Meeting Summary

*Tuesday, September 19, 2017 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Tri-Basin Natural Resources District – 1723 Burlington Street, Holdrege, NE*

Attendance

Scott Dicke (LRNRD)	Sylvia Johnson (MRNRD)	Jasper Fanning (URNRD)
Nate Jenkins (URNRD)	Shea Winkler (NeDNR)	Larry Reynolds (TBNRD)
John Thorburn (TBNRD)	Alex Boyce (MRNRD)	Todd Siel (LRNRD)
Carol Flaute (NeDNR)	Jeff Fassett (NeDNR)	Aaron Thompson (USBR)
Jennifer Schellpeper (NeDNR)	Patti Banks (Vireo)	Craig Scott (USBR)
Jack Russell (MRNRD)	Marcia Trompke (CNPPID)	Brad Edgerton (FCID)

The meeting opened with general updates and a report on DNR news. The USBR has awarded new WaterSmart funding for LRNRD for a real-time allocation tracking system. Discussed updates to the Platte-Republican Diversion project.

The group then reviewed and discussed the Agenda for the November 30, 2017 Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting.

The next issue was the discussion of a water market as a means to reduce consumptive use in the Republican Basin. USBR delivered an idea for a framework for the market to be based off of in order to run a pilot program. Details about how to include language for a potential water market study and eventual water market in the Basin-Wide Plan were discussed. DNR will make a summary of the concepts discussed and send to everyone for review and comment. The plan is to finalize discussion about this at October 24, 2017 Coordination Meeting.

After water markets, the group did a quick walk-through of a hand-out relating to measurable hydrologic objectives. Input was sought from NRDs to ensure the framework makes sense and all measurable hydrologic objectives are being represented on the hand-out. Further discussion on this topic will occur at the October 24, 2017 Coordination Meeting.

Future meeting dates were discussed and there will likely be an additional Stakeholder meeting in December and will finalize the date at the next Coordination Meeting. The next Stakeholder meeting will be November 30, 2017. There will also be another Stakeholder meeting on March 20, 2018. Coordination Meetings are scheduled for November 14, 2017 and January 16, 2018.

The next Republican River Basin-Wide Plan coordination meeting will be held Tuesday, October 24, 2017.

For distribution at 11/30/2017 Stakeholder meeting for the Republican River Basin-Wide Plan

Republican River Basin-Wide Plan

October Coordination Meeting Notes

Tuesday, October 24, 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)	Todd Siel (LRNRD)
John Thorburn (TBNRD)	Aaron Thompson (USBR)	Patti Banks (Vireo)
Carol Flaute (NeDNR)	Shea Winkler (NeDNR)	Craig Scott (USBR)

The meeting opened with project updates in the basin. TBNRD is working with Olsson and Central to develop an application for the necessary water right for the Platte River Diversion project. Jeff mentioned that this week NeDNR was meeting with NBID and LRNRD to discuss specifics of the work plan Jesse Bradley had developed for NBID as well as tour the NBID facilities. Jeff also shared details on the 3-states meeting scheduled for 10/26.

The group then discussed the November 30th Stakeholder Advisory Committee meeting. Plan language items and remaining discussion items will be addressed at this meeting.

Next, the water markets discussion from the September Coordination meeting was recapped and the hand-out for the November SAC meeting was reviewed. The language about water markets to be included in the plan will also be presented at the November SAC meeting. It was agreed that, with some minor changes, both the summary language and the draft plan language was ready to be presented to the SAC. In relation to funding for the water markets study, a WATERSMART informational meeting is being held in McCook on November 2nd.

The next topic discussed was the updates to plan language for the measurable hydrologic objectives for the Basin-Wide Plan. There was a general discussion about whether or not the plan language should discuss maintaining groundwater levels (and what to compare to) or maintaining levels of depletions. The Stakeholder group will have an opportunity to give their input about the groundwater levels. There was also discussion of managing water resources better in average and above-average precipitation years in order to be prepared for years of drought. The group will continue to revise plan language to present at the November Stakeholder meeting.

Lastly, the benefits of updated IMPs and recent RRCA resolutions were reviewed. Some of the information will have additional details added for clarity before it is posted to the website for Stakeholders.

Upcoming meetings include the following: Forecast meeting on November 14th, SAC Meeting November 30th, if necessary SAC Meeting December 13th, and the next Coordination meeting is January 16th, 2018.

For distribution at 11/30/2017 stakeholder meeting for the Republican River Basin-Wide Plan