

**Republican River Basin-Wide Plan  
Stakeholder Advisory Meeting Minutes  
December 13, 2017 | Community Building; Arapahoe, Nebraska**

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

Jared Baker	Bradly Knuth	Richard Siel
Brad Edgerton	Kent Lorens	Shad Stamm
Josh Friesen	Gale Lush	Craig Scott <u>for Aaron</u>
Wayne Haarberg	Cedric McDaniel	<u>Thompson</u>
Dale Helms	Dave Oxford	Ted Tietjen
Dick Helms	Ross Montgomery	Marcia Trompke
Max Kaiser	Roric Paulman	Todd Watson
Jim Kent	John Rundel	

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

Patti Banks	Carol Flaute	Brian Harmon
Todd Siel	Tatiana Height	Stacey Roach
Scott Dicke	Nate Jenkins	John Thorburn
Beth Eckles	Jack Russell	
Jeff Fassett	Jennifer Schellpeper	

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

Phyllis Johnson	Larry Reynolds
Dan (illegible)	Rick Spencer

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)
- Draft Republican River Basin-Wide Plan Table of Contents and Summary of Progress handout (Attachment C)
- Draft Objective 4.3 and Action Items handout (Attachment D)
- Draft Allocations Language handout (Attachment E)

### **1. WELCOME**

- Jennifer Schellpeper, NeDNR, welcomed everyone and reviewed the agenda (Attachment B) and stated that this meeting is subject to the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.
- There were no basin updates since the last meeting two week prior.
- Draft November 2017 stakeholder meeting minutes were distributed, and the group was asked to provide feedback within 15 days. If no written comments are received within 15 days, the minutes will be considered final and will be posted to the plan website.
- The group was also reminded that the deadline to review the draft August meeting meetings, which were distributed at the November stakeholder meeting, is Friday December 15, 2017.
- Schellpeper provided a brief overview of the Draft Republican River Basin-Wide Plan Table of Contents and Summary of Progress handout (Attachment C)

### **2. OTHER REMAINING DISCUSSION LEADING TO ADDITIONAL GOALS**

- Measurable Hydrologic Objectives
  - The current draft measurable hydrologic objectives, as well as stakeholder comments received on the measurable hydrologic objectives from the November meeting, were projected in front of the group. The group was asked if anyone had any ideas for measurable hydrologic objectives that were not already included.
  - Stakeholder ideas for additional concepts to incorporate into the measurable hydrologic objectives or elsewhere in the plan included decreasing pumping in combination with monitoring groundwater levels, setting a cap on irrigated acres, measuring groundwater irrigated acres, monitoring the amount of surface water sent away for compact compliance, voluntarily retiring or leasing groundwater and surface water irrigated acres (temporary or permanent retirements), setting criteria to target the timing and location of retirements, maintaining current retirements, conserving water in wet years for use during dry years, increasing efficiency of use, measuring economic impacts, and considering economic viability.
  - When considering the first two draft measurable hydrologic objectives related to streamflow depletions, group discussed whether the plan ought to aim to maintain stream depletions or decrease stream depletions.



management actions to determine long-term availability trends that provide carry-over storage to meeting crop-water needs during drought.”

- Discussion included whether and how this objective is measurable.
- The idea of the proposed objective was restated by its original proponent as whether management actions resulted in their being available for irrigation and other uses during times of drought.
- The group discussed the fourth and fifth draft proposed measurable hydrologic objectives, “Take actions that help prevent special regulations in the Rapid Response Area for compact compliance” and “Take actions that help prevent administration of surface water use for compact compliance”
  - There was no opposition to these concepts.

### 3. PLAN LANGUAGE

- Stakeholders discussed the topic of efficiency in conjunction with objective 4.3 and associated action items (Attachment D)
  - Some of the ideas discussed included removing or regulating the use of end guns, pro-rating occupation taxes, residue management, watershed management, allocations, and creating a reliable surface water supply.
- Jennifer Schellpeper provided an update about the process of drafting language related to a watershed water balance study, which was proposed and discussed at previous stakeholder meetings. NeDNR, the NRDs, and the stakeholder who originally proposed the idea have been working on draft language, and Schellpeper shared the ideas currently under consideration with the group. NeDNR and the NRDs will continue to work on this language and will bring it back to the group.
- Draft language about how the plan can address allocations was distributed to the stakeholders for consideration and discussion (Attachment E). This draft language was developed by NeDNR and the NRDs, taking into account stakeholder discussion at past stakeholder meetings.
  - Discussion about allocations focused on whether surface water users could have anything like allocations that would similarly guarantee the amount of water available to surface water users each year.
  - Following from the above discussion, a stakeholder proposed an augmentation project that would provide greater reliability to surface water users. Stakeholders mentioned that because there are other augmentation projects, one targeted towards surface water use could be a possibility. Stakeholders also discussed whether payment not to irrigate by irrigation districts could be an incentive.
  - **A thumb vote was taken and it was decided by consensus to include the following concept in the plan: “Determine the feasibility of focused augmentation project(s) that would assure minimum, reliable surface water availability in challenged parts of the basin.”**

- Feedback from the December stakeholder meeting will be discussed at the January and February coordination meetings and incorporated into a complete draft of the plan, which will be presented at the next Stakeholder meeting.

#### **4. PARKING LOT**

In past meetings, 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. No new items were added during this meeting. The parking lot is reviewed at the close of every Stakeholder Advisory Committee meeting, and items which have been addressed at that meeting are removed from the parking lot. At the December 2017 meeting, no items were added to the parking lot. One item was crossed off at this meeting, which was discussion of objective 4.3 and its associated action items, as indicated in strikethrough below.

- Dr. Goeke speaking to the group
- Delineation of the basin-wide plan's geographic area
- Definition of sustainability
- ~~Objective 4.3 with action items 4.3.1 and 4.3.2~~

#### **5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments

#### **6. STAKEHOLDER COMMENT**

No stakeholder comments

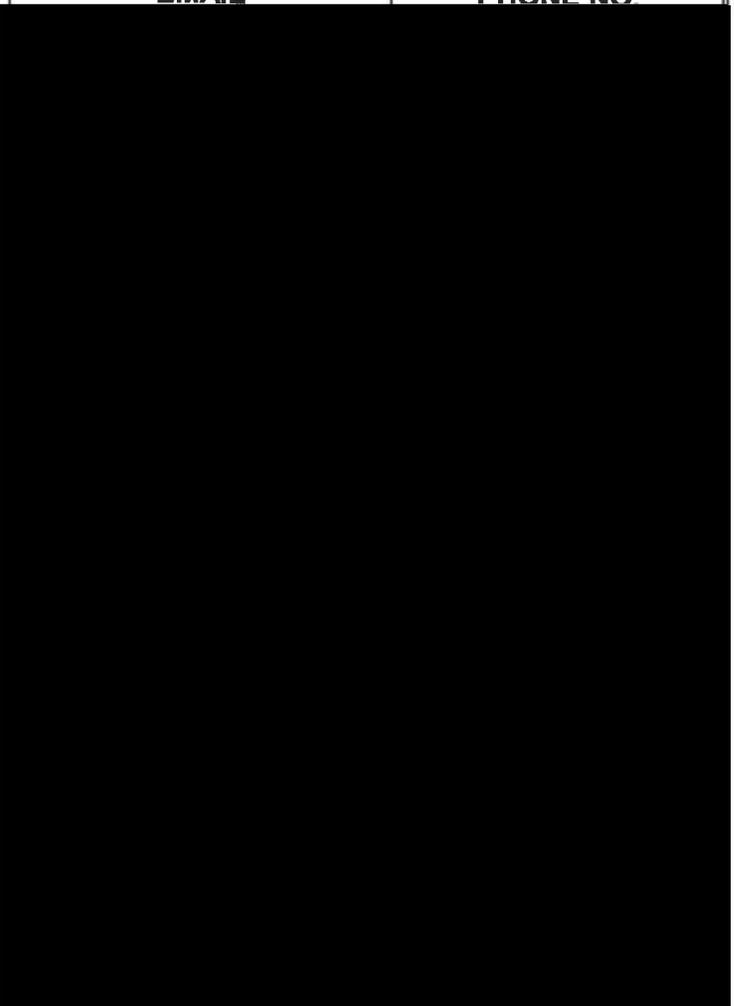
#### **7. NEXT MEETING**

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, in Cambridge, NE, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm C.S.T. on March 20, 2018.

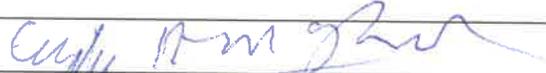
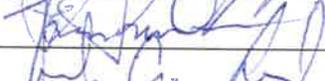
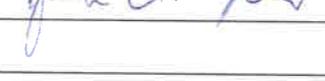
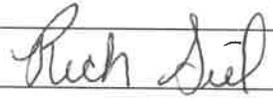
Project Website = <http://rrbwp.nebraska.gov/>

**Attachment A – Sign-in Sheets**

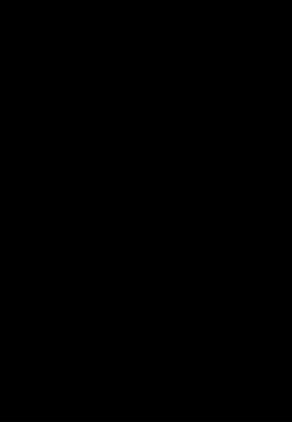
**STAKEHOLDER ATTENDANCE RECORD**  
**Republican River Basin-Wide Plan**  
**December 13, 10:00 AM**  
**Community Center – Arapahoe, NE**

NAME	SIGNATURE	EMAIL	PHONE NO
Jared Baker			
Kurt Bernhardt			
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			

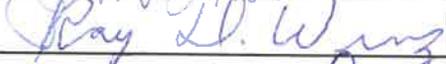
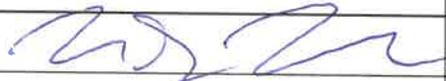
**STAKEHOLDER ATTENDANCE RECORD**  
**Republican River Basin-Wide Plan**  
**December 13, 10:00 AM**  
**Community Center – Arapahoe, NE**

NAME	SIGNATURE	EMAIL	PHONE NO.
Jerry Kuenning			
Kent Lorens			
Jeff Loschen			
Gale Lush			
Scott Lutz			
Timothy McCoy			
Cedric McDaniel			
Ross Montgomery			
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**  
**December 13, 10:00 AM**  
**Community Center – Arapahoe, NE**

NAME	SIGNATURE	EMAIL	PHONE NO.
Aaron Thompson	<i>[Handwritten Signature]</i>		
Ted Tietjen	<i>[Handwritten Signature]</i>		
Marcia Trompke	<i>[Handwritten Signature]</i>		
Dack Vesta	<i>[Handwritten Signature]</i>		
Jerda Garey Vickers			
Tom Vickers			
Todd Watson	<i>[Handwritten Signature]</i>		
	<b>PUBLIC</b>		
<i>Phyllis Johnson</i>	<i>T&amp;T Basin</i>		
<i>Larry Reynolds</i>	<i>Tri Basin</i>		
<i>Rick Spencer</i>	<i>↑</i>		
<i>Don Z...</i>	<i>M<sup>o</sup> Cook NE</i>		
<i>Dick Helms</i>	<i>DICK Helms</i>		

**STAKEHOLDER ATTENDANCE RECORD**  
**Republican River Basin-Wide Plan**  
**December 13, 10:00 AM**  
**Community Center – Arapahoe, NE**

NAME	SIGNATURE	AGENCY	EMAIL	PHONE NO.		
John Thorburn		Tri-Basin NRD				
Ray Winz		Tri-Basin NRD				
Todd Siel		Lower Rep NRD				
Scott Dicke		Lower Rep NRD				
Sylvia Johnson		Middle Rep NRD				
Jack Russell		Middle Rep NRD				
Nate Jenkins		Upper Rep NRD				
Jasper Fanning		Upper Rep NRD				
Carol Flaute	✓	NDNR				
Jennifer Schellpeper		NDNR				
Amy Zoller		NDNR				
Jeff Fassett	✓	NDNR				
Tatiana Height		NDNR				
Beth Eckles		NDNR				
Shea Winkler		NDNR				
Brian Harmon		NDNR				
						

**Attachment B - Meeting Agenda**

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

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*Wednesday, December 13, 2017, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM  
Ella Missing Community Building, 411 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Arapahoe, Nebraska*

## Meeting Objectives

At this meeting, stakeholders will build upon discussion from the November 2017 Stakeholder meeting.

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### 1. Welcome

### 2. Other Remaining Discussion Leading to Additional Goals

- a. How can the plan help to balance water supply and use?

*Working Lunch – 12:00 to 12:30*

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

### 3. Plan Language

### 4. Parking Lot

### 5. Public Comment

### 6. Next Meeting

- a. 03/20/2018

Project Website = <https://rrbwp.nebraska.gov/>

**Attachment C – Draft Republican River Basin-Wide Plan Table of Contents and Summary of Progress handout**

# DRAFT Republican River Basin-Wide Plan Table of Contents and summary of progress

Plan Outline	Status Notes	Approximate Percent Complete
	(As of 12/12/2017)	
<p><b>1. Introduction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Section Overview</li> <li>b. Section Contents</li> <li>c. Effective Date</li> <li>d. Authority</li> <li>e. Background</li> <li>f. Background, purpose, and intent               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Vision Statement for the Plan</li> <li>II. Mission Statement for the Plan</li> </ul> </li> <li>g. Integrated Management Plans and Basin-Wide Plan in the Basin               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Integrated Management Plans</li> <li>II. Basin-Wide Plan</li> </ul> </li> <li>h. Planning process               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Parties to the Plan</li> <li>II. Stakeholder Selection</li> <li>III. Planning Meetings</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>All parts of this introduction have been drafted. Internal review and revisions of all sections are ongoing.</p>	<p>90%</p>
<p><b>2. Goals and Objectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Section Overview</li> <li>b. Section Contents</li> <li>c. List of Goals and Objectives               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Measurable Hydrologic Objectives</li> <li>II. Other Goals and Objectives of the Plan</li> </ul> </li> <li>d. Management Activities to Achieve Objectives               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Measurable Hydrologic Objectives</li> <li>II. Other Goals and Objectives of the Plan</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Remaining tasks after 11/30 and 12/13 stakeholder meetings include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Descriptive language for and updates to draft measurable hydrologic objectives</li> <li>- Any new goals, objectives, or action items that result from 11/30 and 12/13 discussion</li> <li>- Evaluation of whether measurable hydrologic objectives belong here or elsewhere in the plan</li> </ul>	<p>75%</p>

Plan Outline	Status Notes	Approximate Percent Complete
	(As of 12/12/2017)	
<b>3. Monitoring</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Section Overview</li> <li>b. Section Contents</li> <li>c. Tracking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Measurable Hydrologic Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Timeline</li> </ul> </li> <li>II. Other Goals and Objectives of the Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Timeline</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>d. Reporting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Between NeDNR and the NRDs</li> <li>II. To the Public</li> <li>III. To the Legislature</li> </ul> </li> <li>e. Review and Modifications to the Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Annual Meeting</li> <li>II. Five-Year Review</li> <li>III. Modifications to the Plan</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>More progress will be able to be made on this following 11/30 and 12/13 stakeholder meetings, once discussion of measurable hydrologic objectives and other remaining topics for discussion is complete.</p>	10%
<b>4. Schedule</b>	<p>Details of this section will be worked out when goals and objectives and monitoring sections are complete.</p>	0%
<b>5. Funding</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Section Overview</li> <li>b. Section Contents</li> <li>c. Guidelines</li> <li>d. Limitations</li> </ul>	<p>Approved by stakeholder vote at 11/30/17 stakeholder meeting.</p>	100%
<b>6. Plan Area</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Section Overview</li> <li>b. Section Contents</li> <li>c. Plan Area</li> <li>d. Description of Plan Area</li> </ul>	<p>Map of Plan Area has been drafted by NeDNR and the NRDs but has not yet been approved by stakeholders. Still needs to be formatted for consistency with other sections.</p>	95%
<b>7. Information Considered During Plan Development</b>	<p>This is fairly complete, but will need to be reviewed and updated at the end of the plan development process to make sure we didn't leave anything out.</p>	80%

Plan Outline	Status Notes	Approximate Percent Complete
	(As of 12/12/2017)	
<b>8. Glossary of Terms</b>	We have compiled numerous terms and definitions. All definitions still need to be reviewed, and additional terms will likely need to be added as additional details are added to the other sections of the plan.	75%
<b>9. Appendix: Procedures for Addressing Conflict</b> <i>(note: appendices are listed in no particular order at this time and will be reordered based on their order of reference in the body of the plan)</i>	NeDNR and the NRDs discussed a straw dog rough draft and what everyone thought should and shouldn't be included. The rough draft will be completely rewritten based on that discussion. We have notes from that meeting, but no re-draft has been started.	10%
<b>10. Appendix: Management History</b> <i>(note: appendices are listed in no particular order at this time and will be reordered based on their order of reference in the body of the plan)</i>	An early version of this was taken to stakeholders in August. Additional changes have been made. Additional information will be added as a result of discussion at the August stakeholder meeting.	75%
<b>11. Appendix: Planning Meeting Schedule</b> <i>(note: appendices are listed in no particular order at this time and will be reordered based on their order of reference in the body of the plan)</i>	Meetings to date are listed. Will need to be updated to reflect final meeting schedule. Will need to be reformatted to match the style of the rest of the plan.  Descriptions of what stakeholder advisory committee meetings and coordination meetings are need to be added.	75%

Plan Outline	Status Notes	Approximate Percent Complete
	(As of 12/12/2017)	
<p><b>12. Appendix: Riparian Evapotranspiration and Removal of Invasive Vegetation</b>  <i>(note: appendices are listed in no particular order at this time and will be reordered based on their order of reference in the body of the plan)</i></p>	<p>Bulk of content was developed previously for a stakeholder handout.</p> <p>Small amounts of text were added to convert that handout to a plan section (primarily an introduction). This additional text needs final review.</p> <p>Needs reformatted to match the style of the rest of the plan.</p>	95%
<p><b>13. Appendix: Local Hydrology and Land Use</b>  <i>(note: appendices are listed in no particular order at this time and will be reordered based on their order of reference in the body of the plan)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Local Hydrology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Basic Hydrologic Principles</li> <li>II. Precipitation</li> <li>III. Surface Water Supplies</li> <li>IV. Groundwater Supplies</li> <li>V. Human Activities Related to Hydrology</li> <li>VI. Land Use Development Through Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Surface Water <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Permits/Infrastructure (Canals &amp; Reservoirs)</li> <li>b. Acres</li> <li>c. Diversions</li> <li>d. Deliveries</li> <li>e. Consumptive Use (SW CBCU)</li> </ul> </li> <li>ii. Groundwater <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Wells</li> <li>b. Acres</li> <li>c. Pumping</li> <li>d. Depletions (GW CBCU)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>A considerable amount of brainstorming, drafting rough content, and gathering information to see what is available has been generated. Now an outline for this section has been agreed upon, and staff are working on updating and organizing their previous drafts and data to fit the agreed-upon outline.</p> <p>Numerous maps and charts need to be created and/or polished</p>	50%
<p><b>14. Additional Appendices??</b></p>		0%

**Attachment D – Draft Objective 4.3 and Action Items handout**

**Draft Objective 4.3 and action items  
as presented at 11/30/2017 stakeholder meeting:**

4.3. Improve the availability and reliability of water supplies for current surface water irrigators	4.3.1. Work with irrigation districts to identify opportunities to improve the efficiency of the Basin’s surface water delivery systems, when it is both feasible and beneficial to Nebraska’s Compact accounting balance to do so
	4.3.2. Encourage the conversion of surface water irrigated acres to a more efficient and reliable method of irrigation, when it is both feasible and beneficial to Nebraska’s Compact accounting balance to do so

**Revised Draft Objective 4.3 and action items  
based on discussion at 11/30/2017 stakeholder meeting:**

4.3. Improve the <b>efficiency of use</b> , availability, and reliability of water supplies for current <del>surface water</del> irrigators	4.3.1. Work with irrigation districts to identify opportunities to improve the efficiency of the Basin’s surface water delivery systems, when it is both feasible and beneficial for Nebraska’s Compact accounting balance
	4.3.2. <b>Work with surface water irrigators to increase efficiency of irrigation water use</b>
	4.3.3. <b>Work with groundwater irrigators to increase efficiency of irrigation water use</b>
	4.3.4. Encourage the conversion of surface water irrigated acres to a more <b>efficient and</b> reliable method of irrigation, when it is both feasible and beneficial for Nebraska’s Compact Accounting balance

**Attachment E – Draft Allocations Language handout**

## **DRAFT** Allocations Language

At this time, the Basin-wide plan will support the NRDs and surface water districts in administration of allocations for irrigation purposes. The Basin-wide plan will periodically (every 5 years) evaluate, as a part of the 5 year review, the effectiveness of the allocation system as a whole, and as needed, recommendations will be made regarding changes or improvements at that time. A synopsis of the current allocation system is provided in Appendix X.