



SUMMARY

**Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Plan Coalition
Technical Committee Meeting
May 12, 2015, 10:00 to 1:00 P.M.
Offices of Lower Loup NRD
2620 Airport Rd, Ord, NE**

In Attendance: S. Rock (HDR), A. Rupe (JEO), J. Engel (HDR), D. Kracman (TFG), P. Woodward (PMRNRD), M. Petermann (PMRNRD), A. Baum (ULNRD), D. Wilcox (NARD), D. Harris (LLNRD), R. Wozniak (LENRD), R. Callan (LLNRD), B. Koehlmoos (LLNRD), L. Angle (LPNNRD), A. Zoller (NDNR), M. Hart (UENRD), T. Naprstek (LLNRD), D. Schulz (LPSNRD), D. Ehrman (LPSNRD), J. Schellpeper (NDNR – via telephone)

I. **Introductions**

II. **Administrative Items**

III. **Recap of April 28, 2015 Management Committee Meeting (handout)**

- a. Item II, (c) from meeting summary: Make statement less firm. Coalition could act as a bookkeeper. NDNR could also act as bookkeeper.
 - i. Example: wetland banks and USACE oversight
 - ii. Example: DNR acts as bookkeeper for Republican basin
 - iii. DNR acts as bookkeeper/provides oversight for Upper Platte basin
 - iv. Discussion on structuring checks/balances so not just deals between NRDs; some oversight needs to be built into plan;
 - v. Possible annual reporting
 - vi. Suggestion that projects need to meet a set of goals or criteria in order to qualify for “approval”.
 - 1) Example: USACE wetland mitigation bank rules
 - a. Only use transfer as “last resort”. Can’t minimize impact or offset impact locally; must demonstrate need, etc.
 - b. Possible project oversight for first 5 years.
- b. Item V, (a) (i): Change ‘Isolated’ aquifer to ‘local aquifer’ or ‘tributary aquifer’
- c. Item V, (a) (iv): LENRD notes they are looking at canals for recharge/retiming.
- d. Item V, (a) (i): Discussions included the following:
 - i. Some question on how the Valparaiso project benefits the entire basin.
 - ii. Would water come from surface water diversion?
 - iii. Is this offsetting future demands or satisfying immediate need?
 - iv. Where does recharge come from now?
 - v. Noted that area crosses 3 NRD boundaries.
- e. Item V, (a) (iv): Some discussion on looking into reach-gain-loss to see if water can reach the lower Platte basin in drought scenario.
- f. Item V, (a) (iii): Check into USACE Skull Creek for reservoir site nearer to Lower Platte as potential project

IV. **Basinwide Accounting Concept**

- a. INSIGHT and benefits of using it as a basis
- b. Supply and Demand Methodology in INSIGHT
- c. Options for estimating allowable future consumptive uses



- i. Ideas included “Manage to the average, Plan for the drought” (Republican)
 - ii. How to define a “dry” or “water short” year
 - iii. Pull 2002 – 2005 data to compare to 25-year average
 - iv. Base % reduction of allowable use on ratio of high-to-low years
 - v. How to deal with average rainfall changes (seasonality/ intensity)?
 - vi. Look at peak rainfall events & snowpack for trends (Look at UNL Climate Study)
- d. Management and implementation at NRD level

V. **Anticipated topics to cover at second water banking workshop**

Time did not permit for this agenda item.

VI. **Goals/Objectives/Action Items**

Time did not permit for this agenda item.

VII. **Action items:** Technical committee members assigned “homework” to send goals of a water bank

VIII. **Next Technical Committee Meeting:** HDR to send out Doodle Poll once June 18th water banking workshop confirmed. Possible conference for next meeting.

IX. **Upcoming Meetings**

- a. Management Committee meeting – June 3, 2015 at MRNRD in Curtis, NE to immediately follow the NARD Manager’s meeting (tentatively 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM)
- b. Water banking workshop II – Tentatively June 18, 2015 at Platte College in Columbus, NE; 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

X. **Adjourn at 1:00 pm**