



## SUMMARY

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

In Attendance: S. Rock (HDR), K. Hatfield Edstrom (HDR), D. Kracman (Flatwater), D. Schulz (LPSNRD), M. Hart (UENRD), M. Petermann (PMRNRD), P. Woodward (PMRNRD), L. Angle (LPNNRD), R. Callan (LLNRD), R. Wozniak (LENRD), A. Rupe (JEO), D. Schueth (UENRD), A. Baum (ULNRD), A. Zoller (NDNR), T. Freed (NDNR), J. Wietjes (NDNR), J. Engel (HDR), J. Bradley (NDNR), D. Wilcox (NARD), T. Naprstek (LLNRD)

- I. **Introductions** were made and review of ground rules for the meeting was discussed.
- II. **Administrative Items:** John provided an update of changes in the Coalition president and vice-president positions.
- III. **Recap of January 27, 2015 Coalition Board Meeting:** John Engel discussed the presentation at the NARD conference.
- IV. **DNR depletion analysis tool:** Jessie Wietjes with the DNR presented the DNR depletion analysis tool under development as part of the Upper Platte Basin project. DNR anticipates the tool to go live for the Upper Platte basin in the next few months and eventually state wide by the end-of-summer. In addition, the tool will also be used for reporting water transfers to the Department. Jessie explained the inner workings of the tool and indicated that multiple climatic scenarios could be built into the tool.  
  
A question was asked regarding reporting M&I use. Jessie indicated that the reporting component of the tool is not currently set up for M&I reporting but could potentially be set up to include that in the future.
- V. **Materials for March 10, 2015 Water banking workshop:** David Kracman presented a detailed PowerPoint of the history and accepted definition of water banking as well as examples of various kinds of water banking both in Nebraska as well as an example in California. David also discussed a “menu of options” approach for the Water Banking workshop.

Discussion/suggestions for the format of the Water banking workshop included the following:

- a. Focus on the WHY. What is the NEED of each NRD for a water bank? Potential needs include:
  - i. Protect existing uses
  - ii. Establish consistency in accounting
  - iii. Facilitate transfers
  - iv. Prevent fully-appropriated status in the future
  - v. Allow for future development
  - vi. Sustainability in the non-hydrologically connected areas (outside 10/50 area)
- b. Address the types of banks.
  - i. Physical water storage bank (underground storage, reservoir storage, or NCORPE type project).
    - 1) Good for immediate delivery on demand (no lag).
  - ii. ‘Paper’ water - tracking of water conservation efforts –acre retirements; transfers to lower depletion lands; conservation easements; etc. Goals typically long term to offset depletions and protect water supplies.
- c. Both have utility and can be complimentary. Once a consistent accounting method is established and reporting/information sharing of water supplies and uses is initiated by all NRDs in the Basin, individual NRDs can then choose to pursue and manage banks.
- d. Costs for deposits, recharge, transfers, etc. will need to be determined – should not be current focus.
- e. Lessons learned from CPNRD and LLNRD would be helpful.



- VI. **Concept for basin-wide accounting:** John Engel presented a Power Point of a basin wide accounting concept where supplies and demands will be partitioned consistent with the INSIGHT methodology and could be further subdivided down to subbasin level with the goal of defining for each NRD a supply and demand number for management. The technical committee seemed in general supportive of such a concept.
  
- VII. **Unappropriated Water Analysis:** John Engel presented a Power Point of the components/methodology for calculating excess flow in the Loup, Elkhorn, and Lower Platte basins as well as subbasins. Example plots from the draft results for the North Loup basin were displayed and explained to the technical committee. The analysis is not yet complete for all the subbasins and final results will be provided at a later date.
  
- VIII. **Action items:** Time did not allow for discussion of this agenda item.
  
- IX. **Next Technical Committee Meeting:** Katie to send out doodle poll for March 16<sup>th</sup> or week of March 30<sup>th</sup>.
  
- X. **Upcoming Meetings:**
  - a. Management Committee meeting – February 19, 2015 at LENRD offices in Norfolk
  - b. Water banking workshop – March 10, 2015 1:00 to 3:00 p. m. Central Platte Community College, Columbus
  
- XI. **Adjourn at 1:00 pm**