



## SUMMARY

**Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Plan Coalition  
Management Committee Meeting  
August 22, 2016, 10:00 to 12:00 P.M.  
Offices of Lower Elkhorn NRD  
601 E Benjamin Ave, Norfolk, NE**

In Attendance: S. Rock (HDR), J. Engel (HDR), A. Rupe (JEO), D. Kracman (TFG), M. Petermann (PMRNRD), P. Woodward (PMRNRD), D. Wilcox (NARD), M. Sousek (LENRD), B. Bruckner (LENRD), B. Koehlmoos (LLNRD), R. Callan (LLNRD), J. Schellpeper (NDNR), J. Miyoshi (LPNNRD), P. Zillig (LPSNRD), A. Baum (ULNRD), D. Schueth (UENRD), K. Tillotson (UENRD)

### I. **Introductions & Administrative Items**

II. **Review water supplies, uses, and net between supplies and uses.** The HDR team presented the 40% demand scenario excess flow numbers based on the Louisville gage discussed at the previous meeting, in addition to the 10% of “allowable new use” target for the first increment. The allowable new use targets for each of the 3 subbasins (Elkhorn, Loup, and Lower Platte) based on %BWS (as discussed in the previous meeting) were presented and discussed. The HDR team facilitated a discussion between the member NRDs on whether or not this demand scenario and 10% target limit for new uses over the first increment (5-years) was appropriate. Additional discussion items included whether this new use target limit should be based on stream depletions or consumptive use, and that the new use target limit pertained to allowable depletions/consumptive use during the peak season (estimated to be 30% of total annual groundwater depletion/consumptive use based generalized lag in the watershed; 100% of agricultural surface water use). At the conclusion of discussions, committee members reached consensus to include the following in the plan for Coalition Board consideration:

- a. Recommend allowable new uses based on:
  - i. Available flow evaluation completed at Louisville for entire basin
  - ii. Maintaining 40% of historic Louisville gage flow as downstream demand
  - iii. Average of most recent 25 year period used
  - iv. Peak Season used (June, July, August) in analysis with check of non-peak season
  - v. Computed available flow at Louisville distributed among the Elkhorn (32%), Loup (44%), and Lower Platte River (24%) sub-basins based on proportion of supply provided by each at Louisville
  - vi. Hydropower demands not included – special constraint for adding new uses in the Loup River basin above Genoa.
  - vii. Limit cumulative impact of new uses in first 5-yr increment to 10% of the average annual available flow during the peak season as determined based on i-vi above
  - viii. Limits of impacts of new uses will be based on depletions, primarily based on consistency with current tracking and prioritization methods used in evaluating new uses by the NRDs. Full consumptive use of new uses will also be reported and monitored.

III. **Plan Implementation.** One item that has remained uncertain through previous meetings and discussions is whether or not the Plan document should set firm limits on “allowable use” over the first 5-yr increment or if the Plan would be used more as an informal guideline for informing individual IMPs. The pros and cons of both approaches have been previously discussed and that discussion continued. Key elements of the discussion on the value of setting limits included:



providing agreement and certainty amongst the Coalition on new uses under NRD and DNR jurisdiction; ability to incorporate the adopted plan limits into IMPs for the joint management of new uses by DNR and the NRDs; and the certainty provided by the limits provides value to allowable new uses in the context of banking ‘credits’. After much discussion, the consensus of the Managers is to include recommendations for adopting new use limits for each subbasin during the first increment in the plan. The Coalition will then pursue an interlocal agreement between the 7 NRDs and the DNR adopting the plan and the proposed limits during the first increment. Because the basin accounting sets these new use limits by subbasin, separate interlocal agreements will be needed between NRDs in each subbasin to plan and manage new groundwater uses within the subbasin. DNR will manage the new surface water uses according to the IMPs that currently allow surface water new uses to be up to 1/3 of allowed new groundwater uses.

- IV. **Future efforts in support of Plan.** The HDR Team discussed future work efforts that could be investigated in support of the Plan action items during the first increment. These included developing a refined water budget (pumping, recharge, runoff, ET) on a grid cell-by-grid cell basis using GIS tools for the basin. Also discussed, was updating the INSIGHT database to be more dynamic and allow new uses/projects to be incorporated, standardize reporting and accounting amongst Coalition members, and include analysis and evaluation capability for potential projects and management activities – all linked to the INSIGHT database.
- V. **Coalition Board Meeting.** The Coalition Board meeting was tentatively scheduled for October at the office of the LLNRD in Ord. Date TBD.
- VI. **Adjourn at approximately 12:15 p.m.**