

SUMMARY

**Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Plan Coalition
Technical Committee Meeting
September 3, 2014, 10:00 to 1:00 P.M.
Offices of Lower Elkhorn NRD
601 E. Benjamin Ave., Suite 101, Norfolk, NE**

In Attendance: Rick Wozniak (LENRD), Larry Angle (LPNNRD), Curt Becker (LENRD), Dustin Wilcox (NARD), Tyler Naperstek (LLNRD), John Petersen (JEO), Brandi Flyr (NDNR), Russ Callan (LLNRD), Dick Ehrman (LPSNRD), Dan Schulz (LPSNRD), Brian Henkel (P-MRNRD), Karen Griffin (Olsson Associates), Simone Rock (HDR), John Engel (HDR), Katie Hatfield Edstrom (HDR), David Kracman (Flatwater)

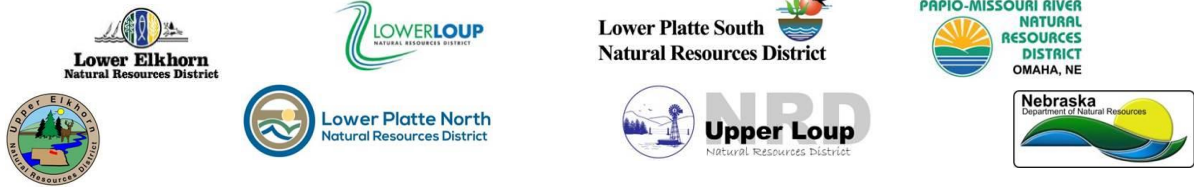
- I. **Introductions** were made and review of ground rules for the meeting was discussed.
- II. **Discussion of draft goals and objectives:** John Engel discussed the review process that the group took part in to provide input on the draft Goals and Objectives document. The Technical Committee was asked to review the table to assure that their input was accurately documented. Next steps with the document is to review with the Management Team in the next meeting, with a primary focus of confirming the interpretation of the goals and objectives to allow the Technical Committee to begin development of action items. Dustin Wilcox noted that generally speaking of the document with several managers, the sentiment was that the Technical Committee should not get “too hung up” on the wording of the goals/objectives.

Data Tables – recommendation to add acre certification to summary table.

- III. **Water Banking:** John Engel and David Kracman presented a 1-page handout that was developed to provide the general public and interested stakeholders and board members with a description of water banking. This document will be posted on the project website. Links to several additional resources on water banking will also be made available.

The Committee discussed the document and agreed that a short preface that clarifies this project activity will focus on assembling information on types, structures, functions, and examples of water banks for the Coalition’s consideration as one potential tool in their water management tool box. No water banking instrument is being implemented at this time. Additional edits to the document include:

- Remove Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Coalition subtitle
- Consider including the word “Current” in the title; Summary of Current Water Banking and adding “in Nebraska”
- Reword the phrase “result in retimed accretions to surface flows” for better public understanding. Review remaining document for ‘over-technical’ terms as well.
- Spell out CNPPID
- Link to Statutes in the table of statutes; consider providing more of a summary for each statute in the table if space permits (prefer to keep it to 1 page).
- Add state statute references to table that entitle NRDs to manage groundwater.
- Make sure that all links are active once made a pdf
- Add a date to document footer



Additionally, David Kracman provided a discussion of existing water banking efforts. Checklist summaries were used and are helpful to use as a framework for comparing different approaches to water banking. David reviewed the Lower Loup NRD and Central Platte NRD water banking systems. Kracman also briefly reviewed the Kern water banking system in California.

Specific questions/discussion:

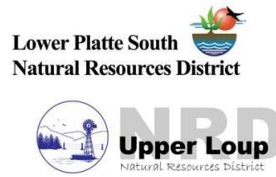
- How water banks address permanent versus temporary banking (how to calculate depletions for a temporary basis; exemptions to the 2/10 rule for maintaining appropriation)
- Confirm the depletion referenced in transfers is the rate at the end of the 50-yr time period and not cumulative volume.
- How conversions from agricultural use to industrial use are handled (LLNRD assumes 1 acre corn equivalent to 12 inches based on their district NCCIR to provide quantities for this type of transfer)
- Attaching conservation easements to deed to stop out of state investor water development
- Additional staffing costs associated with managing the water bank (transfers)
- LLNRD only allows transfers downstream to protect the surface water appropriations
- Brandi gave examples of Twin Platte NRD & Upper Niobrara as “unofficial” water banks via their transfer system
- Question about current and future ELM model revisions, depletion estimates and if LLNRD will go back and recalculate depletions based on revisions. To date the revised depletion estimates due to revisions have not been significant. In addition the tools are use to provide relative differences in depletion not absolute values.
- Do the water banks allow flexibility to changes in state statute?
- If basin is declared fully appropriated in the future, are banks essentially reset to zero?
- Does water banking need to be consistent across the basin?

IV. **Break/lunch**

V. **Groundwater Controls:** John Engel led a discussion on ground and surface water controls in Nebraska, referencing the handout. The handout summarizes the regulatory controls currently employed. The group was asked to provide input regarding the existing voluntary controls in place for each NRD. Specific programs included cost sharing on flow meters. LLNRD mentioned incentives for keeping development out of wellhead protection areas.

Engel presented initial findings of research conducted on controls utilized in Western United States (Kansas, Texas, Wyoming, and California specifically presented). (PowerPoint of research findings). Discussion included:

- Discussion on action triggers based on aquifer condition
- Discussion of merits of “safe yield” concept
- Challenges of multi-year allocation amounts and need for setting 1 year maximum on multi-year pool to prevent “draining” account
- Request to include New Mexico in example of controls
- Question regarding how efficiencies referenced in some controls are measured and are they a positive (water savings) or negative (increased consumptive use)?
- Vegetative growth is referenced in goal/objectives for this effort – has this (riparian consumptive use) been addressed elsewhere?



- VI. **Current data collection/tool development summary update:** The Committee discussed the need to determine what database platform would be appropriate for basin wide planning effort. It was noted that a couple of different database platforms were currently being used by some Coalition member NRDs. The Committee agreed that this would need to be a discussion for an upcoming meeting. DNR hosting the database was discussed. B. Flyr requested information on data space requirements. Discussion of CSD as alternate option for data storage in lieu of DNR as well. HDR to compile information on data size and types for future discussion with the Technical Committee.
- VII. **Website update:** Katie Hatfield Edstrom updated the Committee on the website progress. Due to some IT issues at NDNR, the website was stalled momentarily, but is back on track and well into development. She will inquire again with NDNR early next week to hopefully provide an update at the Management Team meeting on the 12th.
- VIII. **Next meeting time and place:** Katie Hatfield Edstrom will send a doodle poll to the Committee for a date and time mid/late October. The meeting will be held at the LLNRD. Russ Callan will send Katie potential dates/times available of LLNRD conference room.
- IX. **Review of action items:**
- a. HDR to check on reference depletion levels for Rick Wozniak
 - b. HDR to add acre certification column to data table
 - c. HDR to remove “volunteer” from the LPNNRD’s Required Water Use Reports column on the data table
 - d. HDR to begin draft of Glossary of Terms for project website.
 - e. HDR to compile information on database requirements.
 - f. Russ Callan to send Katie Hatfield Edstrom potential dates/times for next Tech Committee meeting
 - g. Katie Hatfield Edstrom to send doodle poll to Committee for next meeting
 - h. Change D. Ehrman in ELM (Data Table) reference to Tyler Naperstek
 - i. Kracman/Engel update Water Banking 1-pager; redistribute to Technical Committee for final review before sending to the Management Team
- X. **Adjourn at 1:00 pm**