SUMMARY

Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Plan Coalition
Technical Committee Meeting
December 2, 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), Dennis Schueth (UENRD), Tylr Naprstek (LLNRD), Dustin Wilcox (NARD), Adam Rupe (JEO), Marsha Hart (UENRD), Russ Callan (LLNRD), Tom Mountford (LPNNRD), Dick Ehrman (LPSNRD), Curt Becker (LENRD), Brian Henkel (P-MRNRD), Kyle Yrkoski (ULNRD), Simone Rock (HDR), John Engel (HDR), Katie Hatfield Edstrom (HDR), Amy Zoller (DNR), Jesse Bradley (DNR)

I. **Introductions** were made and review of ground rules for the meeting was discussed.

II. **Fully Appropriated Methodology and INSIGHT database:** Jesse Bradley (DNR) led a presentation and discussion of the DNR's INSIGHT database development, assumptions, data, and its potential applicability to this project. Jesse also presented an example application of the data and methods on a similar planning effort on the Verdigre Creek watershed in the Niobrara River basin. The presentation and link to the INSIGHT database has been posted to the Basin website. Some of the discussion items included:

a. Types and estimates of water uses and demands, and the ability to further refine types and spatial definitions of both were discussed.
b. Options for spatially refining INSIGHT to a smaller scale are often limited by surface water gages. Approaches for estimating surface water flows to allow more refinement was discussed.
c. The groundwater demands can be spatially refined in the modeled areas fairly simply by refining and extracting information from the models in smaller defined zones.
d. Groundwater demand considers the hydrologically connected areas to main stem streams - not full basin groundwater demand (see Appendix A of INSIGHT documentation for detailed description).
e. Current methodology does not consider use preferences of appropriations (municipal, agricultural, hydropower, etc.), but data is available and could be considered if desired as part of this effort.
f. Allocation of downstream use demands to upstream basins and flexibility in applying different approaches was discussed in detail.
g. A net non-consumptive use for hydropower and instream flow demands was considered, i.e. recognizing non-consumptive nature of uses and its availability to meet downstream demands as well.
h. The scale (basin wide versus target areas) that is desired and which tools or models are appropriate for specific goals was discussed.
i. The need to create a hierarchy of best available data or methods for use in estimating supplies and uses was discussed.
j. DNR planning tool for estimating depletive effects of uses is under development; DNR will present more information on this tool at next technical committee meeting.
k. DNR intends to maintain and update the INSIGHT database every 5 yrs, but will update the water use uses on annual basis, likely coincident with the annual evaluation efforts. As better information, tools, and data become available they will be incorporated.

III. **Action items:** Time was not permitted to go into detail on this topic. John Engel will send out draft revisions to the action item language to the technical committee for comment. These draft action items will be presented at the next Management Meeting for discussion.

IV. **Website update:** The website is live and updated. The DNR's INSIGHT presentation will be added to the website as a resource. No further discussion.

V. **Upcoming Meetings:**

a. Management Committee meeting – December 12, 2014, 11:00 – 1:00pm in O'Neill
b. Technical Committee meeting – February 2nd, 2015, 10:00 – 1:00pm in Ord, NE
c. Water banking workshop – TBD (March timeframe)

VI. Adjourn at 1:00 pm