



## SUMMARY

**Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Plan Coalition  
Management Committee Meeting  
November 4, 2015, 3:30 to 5:30 P.M.  
Holiday Inn Express  
4005 N 6<sup>th</sup> St., Beatrice, NE**

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

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

II. **Recap of Subbasin Workshops.** The HDR Team led the group through a review of the takeaways from the three subbasin workshops. Group agreed that the information presented generally agreed with the discussions at the workshops. This information will be presented to the whole group at the November 17<sup>th</sup> Water banking Workshop #3. Comments from directors post-workshop were generally supportive and thought topics and discussion were productive. Some directors were disappointed that a portion of the workshops were split into individual NRDs and had hoped for opportunity to regroup and work together on discussion topics.

III. **Format of November 17, 2015 Water Banking Workshop #3.** The HDR Team led the managers through a discussion of main points to hit at the next water banking workshop. These included:

- a. Recap of Subbasin Workshops
  - i. Common points as well as differences between subbasins
  - ii. Basin Accounting with respect to Loup hydropower demand
  - iii. Plan implementation and allowable development limits for initial 5-year period
- b. Defining what the Plan will include and where it will end
- c. Next Steps
  - i. Example transactions for illustrative purposes
  - ii. NRDs opportunities to create individual water banks, cooperative projects, and/or inter-local agreements as necessary

Highlights of the discussion included the following:

- Much of the discussion centered around how to account for the Loup hydropower demand as well as how to implement a 5-year limit on development.
- The Loup hydropower demand plays a large role in not only the demand on the Loup River subbasin, but because it is non-consumptively used during hydropower generation, it also plays a large role in the supply of the Lower Platte reach below the Loup River confluence.
- For the Loup Hydropower Demand representation (both as demand to the Loup River subbasin and supply to the Lower Platte subbasin), two bookend approaches were discussed:
  - The first approach is to assume that the portion of the Loup Hydropower appropriation above the instream flow demands on the Loup River subbasin could be consumptively used through subordination agreements, as allowed under current statutes. This approach would yield a conservatively small estimate of Loup River subbasin inflows into the Lower Platte subbasin.



- The second approach is to assume that the Loup Hydropower demand would be represented as it is currently determined and quantified in the DNR INSIGHT database. This approach could overestimate Loup River subbasin inflows into the Lower Platte subbasins as supply if future subordination agreements are made that allow portion of the Loup hydropower appropriation to be consumptively used.
- Some members expressed their opinion that the Lower Platte subbasins should not include the Loup Hydropower demand as part of their supply as statute allows subordination agreements to consumptively use that water and assuming its presence into perpetuity during planning activities could lead to future shortages in the Lower Platte subbasin. .
- Some members also expressed concern that if the Lower Platte subbasins develop beyond their allotment of allowable development, or based on the full Loup hydropower contribution to their supply, then others in the basin may start developing as well in an effort to “protect” or “stake claim” to the supply which could lead to fully-appropriated status.
- Some members expressed their opinion that DNR currently accounts for the Loup Hydropower demand non-consumptive use as outflow from the Loup basin as supply into the Lower Platte subbasin as both on INSIGHT and in the proposed fully appropriated analysis methodology.
- All members expressed a need for a middle ground. One suggestion was to quantify the portion of the Loup Hydropower demand that exceeds the instream flows demands on the Loup River subbasin and track and treat it separately as it could potentially be consumptively used in the future.
- It was decided that the HDR Team will develop estimates of supply, demand, and allowable development using several approaches:
  - Nominal volume to each NRD (not specifically based on computed supplies, demands, or surpluses)
  - Treat entire basin as a whole and quantify surpluses at Louisville, then distribute based on:
    - Equally amongst NRDs
    - By subbasin based on proportion of supply
    - By subbasin based on proportion of irrigated acreage
  - Determine allowable development by subbasin by comparing supplies and uses by subbasin (Elkhorn, Loup, Lower Platte Reach)
  - Determine allowable development using available gages within each individual subbasins
    - 4 in the Loup
    - 2 in the Elkhorn
    - 2 in the Lower Platte Reach

IV. **Status of Project Deliverables.** The HDR Team anticipates a draft Plan will be available prior to the December 9<sup>th</sup> technical committee meeting in Ord.

V. **Next Management Committee meeting.** The next manager’s committee meeting was scheduled for January 12<sup>th</sup> at the offices of the Lower Platte North NRD in Wahoo from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.



VI. **Upcoming Meetings**

- a. Water Banking Workshop #3 – November 17, 2015 in Columbus, Central Community College Campus, 11:00-1:00
- b. Technical Committee meeting – December 9, 2015 in Ord at offices of LLNRD, 10:00 to 1:00

VII. **Other**

VIII. Adjourn at approximately 5:30 p.m.