SUMMARY

Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Plan Coalition
Management Committee Meeting
July 6, 2016, 11:00 to 1:00 P.M.
Offices of Lower Platte North NRD
511 Commercial Park Road, Wahoo, NE

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

I. **Introductions & Administrative Items**

II. **Meeting Purpose. The purpose of the meeting was to obtain Management Committee direction on 3 Items to finalize plan:**

a. **Desired target % of flows at Louisville to maintain as a goal.**
The HDR team led the group through a presentation of the demand/supply curve for maintaining 20%, 40%, 60%, and 80% of streamflow at Louisville (as a reference) and the impact each of these scenarios would have on the basin excess supply both with- and without hydropower considered. For reference, the state protected flows in the Platte River correlate to approximately 20% of streamflow in the River at Louisville (25-yr average). However, this instream flow demand is adjusted down by NDR based on historic undepleted streamflow in the river. If this adjustment is not made, the instream flow would correspond to approximately 50% of the 25-year average streamflow at Louisville.
Ultimately, the management committee decided that a demand on the basin to maintain 40% of the 25-year average streamflow at Louisville would be more conservative than the DNR evaluation (which is based on 20%) and appropriate for the basin planning. However, unlike the DNR evaluation which considers the hydropower demand, the group decided to move forward without the hydropower demand considered; recognizing that this would be an additional constraint on the Loup subbasin.

b. **Based on (a) – desired approach to distribute excess supply amongst NRDs.**
The HDR team led the group through multiple ways the excess supply calculated for the Lower Platte Basin as a whole could be distributed among the individual subbasins. These included dividing up the supply based on % BWS, % Depletions, Evenly, and by % Irrigated Acres. The management group ultimately decided that dividing the excess supply by % BWS made the most sense.

c. **Basin-wide Plan Implementation – How NRDs intend to implement basin-wide plan and how prescriptive should plan be**.
The HDR team led the management committee through a discussion regarding how firm the limits should be on allowable development using the basin accounting and previously discussed excess supply numbers. The group appeared to have mixed feelings with some NRDs recognizing that agreeing to hard numbers allows for greater certainty in the basin accounting and allows for water banking transactions. Others expressed concern about being held to a firm number. The topic was tabled and will be discussed at the next management committee meeting.

III. **Brief Review of Methodology for Basin Accounting.** The HDR Team led the managers through a brief review of the methodology and basin accounting and the changes that have occurred over the course of the project. This discussion included a summary of the errors found in INSIGHT and how that has affected the basin accounting for this project. These errors have since been corrected but for those demand scenarios where maintaining a level of streamflow at Louisville is considered, the demands have nearly doubled.

IV. **Updated Basin Accounting with INSIGHT changes incorporated.** The HDR Team presented updated supply, demand, and excess supply numbers by basin and subbasin to the group based on the previously discussed changes.

V. **Upcoming Meetings**. The next manager's committee meeting was scheduled for August 22nd at the offices of the Lower Elkhorn NRD in Norfolk from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

VI. **Adjourn at approximately 1:00 p.m.**