

Republican River  
**BASIN-WIDE WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Stakeholder Advisory Meeting  
March 31, 2015

 **OLSSON**<sup>®</sup>  
ASSOCIATES

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# Introduction and Project Overview

- Develop Basin-wide Water Management Plan
- Project initiated in response to LB1098
  - Revisions to the Natural Resources Commission
  - Water Sustainability Fund
  - Requirements for basin-wide water planning

# Requirements of the Basin-wide Plan

1. **Have clear goals and objectives with a purpose of sustaining a balance** between water uses and water supplies so that the economic viability, social and environmental health, safety, and welfare of the river basin, sub-basin, or reach can be achieved and maintained for both the near term and the long term.
2. **Ensure that compliance** with any interstate compact or decree or other formal state contract or agreement or applicable state or federal law is maintained.
3. **Set forth a timeline** to meet the goals and objectives according to a timeline that does not exceed thirty years or April 17, 2044.

# Schedule

PROPOSED SCHEDULE	2015												2016						2017						
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
<b>Basin-Wide Water Management Plan Development</b>																									
Summary of Existing Integrated Management Plans Groundwater and Surface Water Controls			■	■																					
Data Summaries			■	■	■	■	■	■	■																
Develop Goals and Objectives				■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■														
Draft Basin-Wide Water Management Plan						■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■										
Finalize Basin-Wide Water Management Plan																		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

**2015 Meetings**  
 March 31, 2015  
 June 16, 2015  
 August 18, 2015  
 October 20, 2015  
 December 15, 2015

**2016 Meetings**  
 To be scheduled  
 later in 2015

# Plan Development Partners



NOTE: Bi-monthly coordination meetings amongst plan development partners.

# Expectations for Project Team



**Republican River Basin-wide Plan Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda**

March 31, 2015 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM  
Cambridge Community Center, 722 Patterson Avenue, Cambridge, Nebraska

**Meeting Objectives**  
The first Stakeholder Advisory Meeting will provide an opportunity to introduce the basin-wide water management planning process, participants and timeline. We will discuss the Goals, Objectives, and the groundwater and surface water controls from the current Integrated Management Plans (IMPs). The group will begin to develop goals for the Basin-wide Plan (BWP).

- **Welcome and Introductions**
  - Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
  - Lower, Middle, Upper Republican and Tri-Basin Natural Resources Districts
  - Consulting Team Members
- **Introduction and Project Overview**
  - Schedule and Plan for Stakeholder Meetings
  - Outline stakeholder roles and how stakeholder input will be incorporated into plan
  - Basin-wide Water Management Plan Components
- **Stakeholder Introductions**
  - Stakeholders to explain their background and interest in the process

Lunch Break – 12:00 to 1:00  
(Lunch is provided for Stakeholder Advisory Committee, NDNR, NRD and Consultant Staff only)

- **EDUCATION SESSION - Review/Discussion of Current IMPs**
  - Each NRD manager will summarize the intent of current IMPs and actions taken
  - NDNR will explain the Department's role in IMP implementation
- **WORKING SESSION – Develop Goals and Objectives for BWP**
  - **Public Comment**
    - The public is welcome to comment on the BWP at this time.
- **Next meeting**
  - 10:00 – 3:00, June 16, 2015, Cambridge Community Center
  - UNL Water Tour of the Republican River Basin – June 23-25, 2015

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# Expectations for Stakeholder Advisory Committee Members:

## **Golden Rule:**

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

**“The meeting was well run. Most importantly anyone and everyone had the opportunity to be heard in a non threatening way.”**

**Gene Zuerlein, NE Game and Parks**

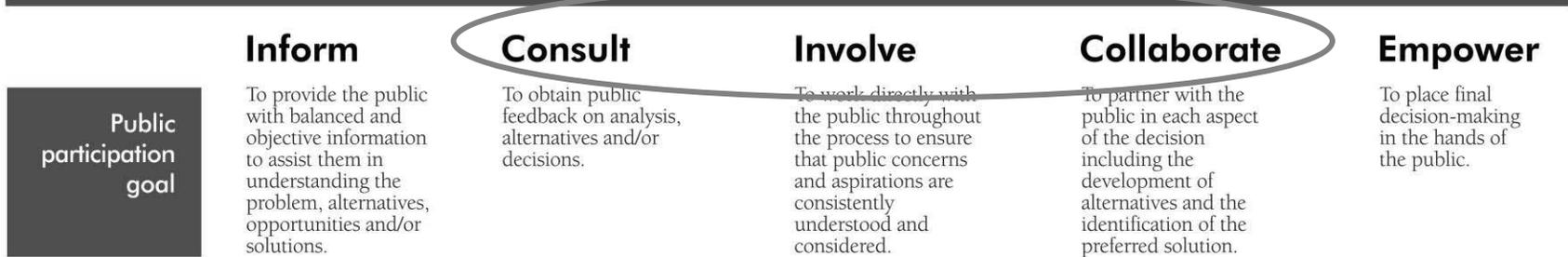
# Stakeholder Involvement

## IAP2's Public Participation Spectrum

Courtesy of The Perspectives Group



Increasing Level of Public Impact



# Basin-wide Plan Development

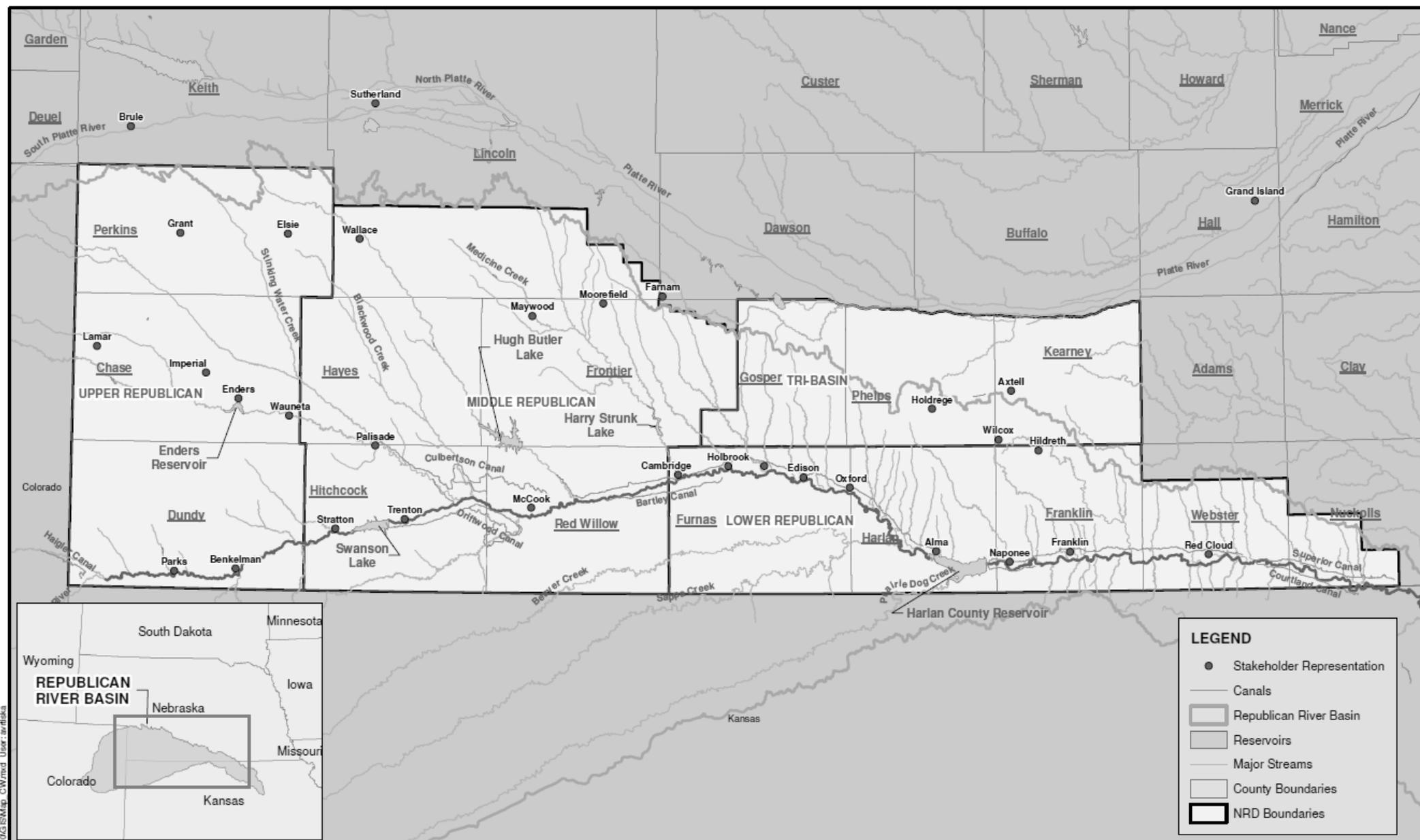
- NDNR and NRDs shall involve official participants (Stakeholders) in formulating, evaluating, and recommending plans and management actions
- NDNR, NRDs and participants shall work to reach agreement among all official participants.
- If agreement is not reached by all parties, NDNR and NRDs shall adopt the agreed-upon basin-wide plan.

# Stakeholders Committee Members

*By statute must include:*

- *Irrigation Districts*
- *Reclamation Districts*
- *Public Power and Irrigation Districts*
- *Mutual Irrigation companies*
- *Canal companies*
- *Groundwater Users*
- *Range livestock owners*
- *Game and Parks Commission*
- *Municipalities*

# Republican River BASIN-WIDE WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN



**LEGEND**

- Stakeholder Representation
- Canals
- ▭ Republican River Basin
- ▭ Reservoirs
- Major Streams
- ▭ County Boundaries
- ▭ NRD Boundaries

PROJECT: 014-3270  
 DRAWN BY: AMV  
 DATE: March 18, 2015

Sources:  
 DNR: City, County, Major Highway, NRD Boundary



Stakeholder Representation  
 Republican River Basin-Wide Plan

**OLSSON ASSOCIATES**

FIGURE 1-2

# Tools of Public Involvement

- *Educational Sessions*
- *Field trip options*
- *Small group exercises to facilitate discussions*



# Basin-wide Plan Components

- Executive Summary
  - Introduction
    - Background and Purpose
    - Authority and Compliance
    - Basin-wide Planning Process
  - Basin-wide Plan Area
    - Description – Fact sheet
    - Map of Plan Area
      - Surface Water
      - Groundwater
  - Goals and Objectives
    - Goal 1
    - Goal 2
    - Goal 3
    - Goal 4
    - Actions to accomplish these goals.
    - Timeline to accomplish goals
- Evaluation Every Five Years

# Stakeholder Introductions

- *Surface Water Users*
  - Irrigation Districts
  - Reclamation Districts
  - Public Power and Irrigation Districts
  - Mutual Irrigation companies
  - Canal companies
- *Groundwater Users*
- *Range Livestock owners*
- *Game and Parks Commission*
- *Municipalities*

# EDUCATION SESSION

- *Current Integrated Management Plans*
  - Tri-Basin NRD
  - Lower Republican NRD
  - Middle Republican NRD
  - Upper Republican NRD
  - NDNR

Brief Introduction on approve GW and SW Controls

# Authorized Groundwater Controls

Generally from Neb. Rev. Stat. 46-739

1. Groundwater allocations
2. Rotations
3. Well-spacing requirements
4. Require well meters
5. Reductions of irrigated acres
6. Limit or prevent the expansion of irrigated acres
7. Require best management practices
8. Require water quality analysis
9. Mandatory educational requirements
10. Water quality monitoring
11. Approval of groundwater transfers
12. Replacement water wells be constructed to such a depth
13. Close the management area to the issuance of additional permits
14. Adopt and promulgate rules and regulations necessary to carry out the purposes of the management area

# Authorized Surface Water Controls

Generally from Neb. Rev. Stat. 46-715

1. Increased monitoring
2. Prohibition or limitations
3. Reasonable conservation measures
4. Other reasonable restrictions on surface water use

# Summary of IMP Groundwater Controls

	Description of Groundwater Control	URNRD	MRNRD	LRNRD	TBNRD
1	Meter all groundwater withdrawals				
2	Groundwater allocations				
3	Moratorium on new wells and irrigated acres				
4	Mandate reductions of irrigated acres				
5	Limit expansion of consumptive use and/or irrigated acres				
6	Require district approval of groundwater transfers				
7	Adopt and promulgate rules and regulations necessary to carry out the purposes of the management area				
	- Irrigated acre certification				
	- Provide for water transfers				
	- other management actions such as sw or gw leasing, augmentation				
	- Set a one year allocation as needed to meet compact compliance				
8	More restrictive well spacing				
9	Groundwater use rotation scheduling				
10	Require replacements be built to appropriate depth				
11	Require the use of best management practices				
12	Require water quality monitoring and reporting				
13	Require water quality analysis of water or deep soils				
14	Mandatory educational requirements for water quality and quantity				

# Summary of IMP Surface Water Controls

	<b>Description of Surface Water Control</b>	<b>URNRD</b>	<b>MRNRD</b>	<b>LRNRD</b>	<b>TBNRD</b>
1	Increased monitoring and enforcement of surface water diversions				
2	Prohibition or limitation of additional surface water appropriations				
3	Other reasonable restrictions on surface water use				
4	Requirements for reasonable conservation measures consistent with good husbandry and are consistent with reasonable reliance by other surface water or ground water users on return flows or on seepage to the aquifer				

# Stakeholder Comments/Suggestions from Morning Session

- Future Speakers?
- Lunch time frame – or other logistical suggestions?
- Seating arrangements - preferences?

Please provide suggestions to Patti and Karen!

# WORKING SESSION

- *Develop Goals and Objectives for Basin-wide Plan*
  - Handout – goals from current IMPs
  - Initial goals proposed by NRDs and NDNR

# Requirements of the Basin-wide Plan

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2. **Ensure that compliance** with any interstate compact or decree or other formal state contract or agreement or applicable state or federal law is maintained.
3. **Set forth a timeline** to meet the goals and objectives according to a timeline that does not exceed thirty years or April 17, 2044.

# Definition of Sustainability

Management for water sustainability allows the beneficial use of water, in an effective and efficient manner, to satisfy our socio-economic needs and obligations while minimizing the risk that water resources will be insufficient for future generations to meet their socio-economic needs and obligations.

– *Republican River Basin Water Sustainability Task Force, May 7, 2012*

# Goals, Objectives and Action Items

- *Goals Define what the group wants to accomplish.*
- *Objectives define the measurable outcomes that a group seeks to accomplish.*
- *Actions items are the specific tasks that the NRD and NDNR will undertake to achieve the goals and objectives.*

# What do you want to accomplish?

## Sustainability goals of LB1098

- Increasing aquifer recharge
- Reducing aquifer depletion
- Increasing stream flow

# What do you want to accomplish?

## **PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS FROM COORDINATION GROUP DISCUSSION:**

**GOAL 1 – Better utilize existing Republican River Basin water resources while maintaining compact compliance.**

- Examples of this may include diversion and storage during high flow events
- Identify potential methods to increase available supplies

**GOAL 2 – Minimize the burdens of compact compliance under the current IMPs**

**GOAL 3 – Better understand the nature of conflicts between water users and identify potential resolutions**

**GOAL 4 – Better understand the interconnectedness between water sustainability and economic viability**

**GOAL 5 – Share Republican River Basin water resources data/information and inform the public through education programs**

# What do you want to accomplish?

## NOTES FROM AFTERNOON STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSION

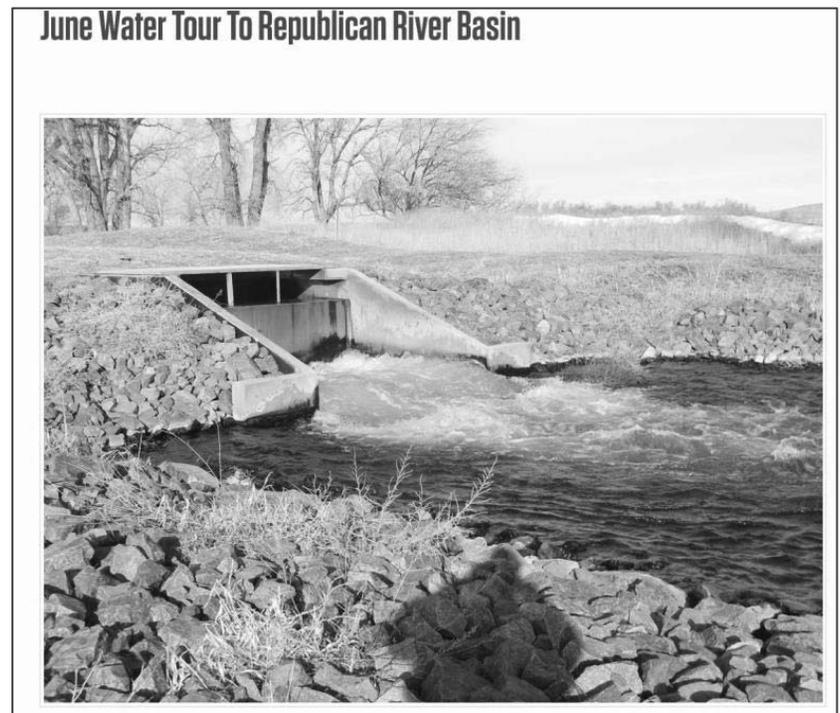
- Forecasting could be done better
- Change of priorities from legislation
- Equity
- Fairness to all
- Projects that make all whole
- Efficiency of systems

# Public Comment

- Time limit of 2 minutes per speaker
- Please state your name and address
- Thank you!

# Next Steps

- Next Meeting - June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015, 10-3, Cambridge
- UNL Water Tour of the Republican River Basin
  - June 23-25, 2015
  - [watercenter.unl.edu](http://watercenter.unl.edu)
  - Please consider attending!
- Project website:  
[dnr.nebraska.gov/RRBWP/](http://dnr.nebraska.gov/RRBWP/)



# Republican River BASIN-WIDE WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

WHAT'S GOING ON?

Project Description

WHO'S INVOLVED?

Stakeholders and Partners

WHERE?

Basin Description & Resources

WHAT IS THE SCHEDULE?

Project and Meeting Schedule

HOW CAN I PROVIDE INPUT?

Public Involvement

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

There may be no subject more important to the citizens of the Republican River Basin than water. Its use, management, and stewardship have shaped their lives, economy, and their understanding of sustainability. This project, to develop a Basin-Wide Water Management Plan for the Republican River Basin, was initiated in response to the requirements in Nebraska Legislative Bill 1098 (LB1098) and *Nebraska Revised Statute* §46-755. Along with development of a new source of funding for water projects called the Water Sustainability Fund and expansion of the Natural Resources Commission, LB1098 requires basin-wide water planning in areas where three or more Natural Resources Districts in a river basin are required to complete Integrated Management Plans. Currently, the only river basin that the LB1098 basin-wide planning requirements apply to is the Republican River Basin. For this reason, the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, in collaboration with the four Natural Resources Districts within the Republican River Basin—the Upper, Middle, and Lower Republican and the Tri-Basin Natural Resources Districts—are preparing a Basin-Wide Water Management Plan.



[Click here to access LB1098](#)

[Click here for \*Nebraska Revised Statute\* §46-755](#)

According to the bill and state statute, the basin-wide plan shall:

1. Have clear goals and objectives with a purpose of sustaining a balance between water uses and water supplies so that the economic viability, social and environmental health, safety, and welfare of the river basin, sub-basin, or reach can be achieved and maintained for both the near term and the long term.
2. Ensure that compliance with any interstate compact or decree or other formal state contract or agreement or applicable state or federal law is maintained.
3. Set forth a timeline to meet the goals and objectives according to a timeline that does not exceed thirty years or April 17, 2044.

## MEETING SCHEDULE

Stakeholder meetings will be held at the Cambridge Community Center located at 722 Patterson Avenue, Cambridge, Nebraska, from 10:00 AM to approximately 3:00 PM. Meetings are open to the public, and a public comment period is scheduled at the end of each meeting.

Meeting agendas, minutes, and presentations will be added to this website as they become available. Dates in 2016 will be identified in late 2015.

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Agendas</i>	<i>Meeting Minutes</i>	<i>Presentations</i>
<i>March 31, 2014</i>	<a href="#"><u><b>View Agenda</b></u></a>		
<i>June 16, 2015</i>			
<i>August 18, 2015</i>			
<i>October 20, 2015</i>			
<i>December 15, 2015</i>			
<i>5 meetings in 2016</i>			

## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Public comments can be provided in several ways. A public comment period will be held at the end of each stakeholder meeting (see meeting dates, times, and agendas here).

Written comments sent via email or postal service can be submitted to:

### **Karen Griffin**

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