

Republican River Basin-Wide Plan Coordination Meeting, **DRAFT** Notes

Tuesday, July 19, 2016 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Tri-Basin Natural Resources District – 1723 Burlington Street, Holdrege, NE

Attendance

Mike Clements (LRNRD)	Nate Jenkins (URNRD)	Jennifer Schellpeper (NeDNR)
Scott Dicke (LRNRD)	John Thorburn (TBNRD)	Amy Zoller (NeDNR)
Sylvia Johnson (MRNRD)	Carol Flaute (NeDNR)	Jeff Fassett (NeDNR)
Jack Russell (MRNRD)	Tatiana Height (NeDNR)	Dustin Wilcox (NARD)

Jennifer Schellpeper opened the meeting by asking for feedback, from the NRD managers, on their overall impressions of the June stakeholder meeting. The managers agreed that the meetings are improving and the advisory committee is more cohesive, especially with the new implementation of thumbs up/thumbs down voting. Both NeDNR and the NRD managers noted that the recent change in facilitation, which was prompted by feedback from stakeholders that previous facilitation wasn't working, has been helpful. The group also discussed and suggested revisions to a draft of the stakeholder committee guidance document, which was drafted as documentation of the discussion of effective process that took place at the June stakeholder meeting.

The group went on to discuss the timeline and ongoing lawsuits. Although Olsson is no longer facilitating, they will continue to serve as advisors to NeDNR and attend meetings to observe and to listen. The group discussed the matter of extending the plan deadline. The move to add six meetings is being driven by the stakeholders, so NeDNR and NRD managers agreed that they should not object to extension. They will revisit this topic in approximately January 2017 to assess exactly how long of an extension is needed, based on progress at that time. In order to extend the deadline as permitted by statute, letters agreeing to the extension must be exchanged among NeDNR and the NRDs prior to the original plan deadline of April 17, 2017.

Since the last stakeholder meeting, suggestions were submitted by Dan Smith and Dale Helms. The group reviewed the submissions and discussed the logistics of how to respond to these and any future suggestions received from stakeholders between meetings.

The group continued to discuss stakeholder concerns on which geographic areas will be covered in the plan. It was decided the group would like to bring this issue back to the stakeholders at the next stakeholder meeting or as soon as the technical work on the hydrologically connected area is complete.. Other objectives for the upcoming stakeholder meeting in August will be to discuss and come to agreement on the procedures in the draft guidance document and agreeing on challenges in order to form solutions.