

Support Services for the  
**WATER FUNDING TASK FORCE**

October 10, 2013



# *State Structure*



## Presentation Goal

- **Continue Discussions on State Structure**
  - ✓ **Review Task Force Comments**
  - ✓ **Present Structure Options**

## Task Force Comments

### Structure & Process

- **Current system is a good one.**
- Agreement that there may need changes but the system is good.
- New commission would require new funding for administration. That takes away from money for projects.
- **A streamlined process for project approval is needed since the current system costs up to \$100,000. Much of this can be used as feasibility analysis of project but it is still a lot of expenditure.**

## Task Force Comments

### Structure & Process

- If criteria and ranking is done correctly, the process of evaluation would be used annually and therefore the expense should not be such a concern.
- NRC only meets 3 times a year now, administration of funds will be required on a day to day basis. This will be needed under any organization (NRC or other).
- Funding is needed to cover cost of a larger group.
- We need to make sure that we don't save pennies when the problems are very large and may need larger expenditures to ensure they are addressed appropriately.

## Task Force Comments

### Agency Cooperation

- **There is a concern that NRC is working on quantity, NDEQ working on Quality and cooperation between two is important**

### Statewide & Local Planning Planning

- **Missing the statewide focus and additional stakeholders that represent the statewide issues is important.**
- Look at the challenges that faced development of the NRDs, what will be needed in the future?

## Task Force Comments

### Oversight Board Representation

- **NRC is based on basin representation and the potential for additional members. The commission needs to be expanded to include wildlife, conservation, agriculture, power production, recreation.**
- Meetings are expensive now and expansion of the commission would only cost more.
- Recreation is covered through project review and well represented by commission during the process.

## Task Force Comments

### Oversight Board Representation

- LB517 included additional representatives which could be carried forward.
- LB517 put together a large group (34) to cover all interested in water
- NRD board members on the commission also cover the diversity across the state.
- Department of Roads should be represented on this commission because they don't make reservoirs but they build dams with their roads.

## Task Force Comments

### Oversight Board Representation

- Need to look at the funds distributed and need representation that matches that.
- Need local representation across the state
- Representation needs to change based on population
- Larger discussions need larger representation but the time and work involved is significant. For this reason, suggestion is to have a small body (4-5) that can make decisions.
- It is important to have all parties represented and a larger body is needed.

## Task Force Comments

### Oversight Board Representation

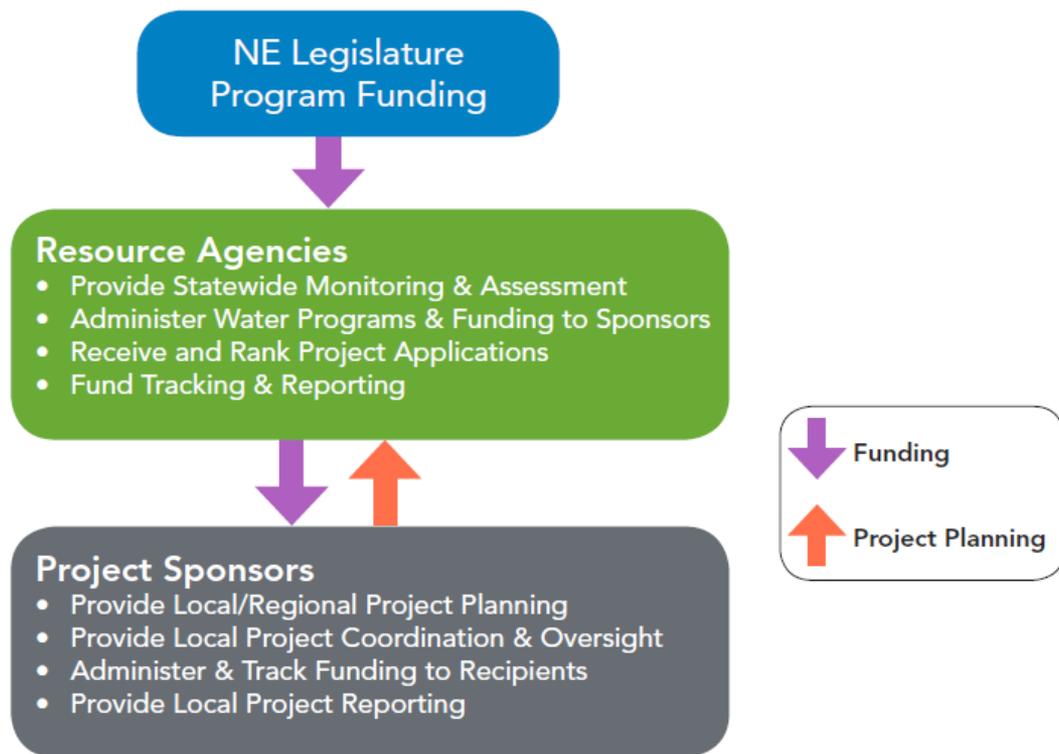
- It is important to have all parties represented and a larger body is needed.
- There has been representation by SW on the commission.
- Stakeholder representation is required.
- Every person that is eligible to vote is eligible to be on an NRD board. Therefore all groups have the opportunity to be represented.
- One way to organize is based on the categories developed.

## Task Force Comments

### Oversight Board Representation

- **This group is too big to make decisions easily. If subgroups are needed, that is an option.**
- Our group can represent all interests and we can come up with a plan so we need to talk to others in our area.

## State Structure – Current (V1)



*Water project sponsors are typically units of government and have included NRD's, communities, utilities, research institutions, and environmental organizations. Project sponsors allocate funds to individual water users including producers, businesses, property owners, and recreation groups.*

# State Structure – (V2)

## LB517 Water Funding Commission

- Provide annual Water Programs Funding Recommendations to Legislature

**Defines a path to water sustainability**



## NE Legislature

- Define Water Funding Commission Roles & Responsibilities
- Allocate Agency/Program Funding



## Resource Agencies

- Administer Water Programs
- Receive and Rank Project Applications
- Administer & Track Funding to Sponsors
- Provide State Project Oversight & Reporting



## Project Sponsors

- Provide Local Project Coordination & Oversight
- Administer & Track Funding to Recipients
- Provide Local Project Oversight & Reporting

# State Structure – (V3)

**LB517 Water Funding Commission**  
Create "NEW" Water Funding Commission from Broad Base of Stakeholders

- Identify State Water Funding Priorities
- Receive "Standardized" Applications for All Water Projects
- Rank/Prioritize All Projects
- Provide Project/Funding Recommendations to Legislature Annually

**Defines a path to water sustainability**

**NE Legislature**

- Define Water Funding Commission Roles & Responsibilities
- Allocate Agency/Program Funding Based on "Projects"

**Resource Agencies**

- Administer Water Programs
- Administer Priority Projects
- Track Funding to Sponsors

**Project Sponsors**

- Provide Local Project Coordination & Oversight
- Administer & Track Funding to Recipients
- Provide Local Project Oversight & Reporting



# State Structure – (V4)

**Defines a path to water sustainability**

**NE Legislature**

- Define Water Funding Commission Roles & Responsibilities
- Allocate Agency/Program Funding Based on State Water Plan



**LB517 Water Funding Commission**

- Create "NEW" Water Funding Commission from Broad Base of Stakeholders
- Identify Water Funding Priorities
- Provide Project/Funding Recommendations to Legislature Annually
- Receive & Rank Project Applications for Water Funding Commission Projects
- Receive & Rank All Water Funding Commission Project Applications
- Administer & Track Funding to Water Funding Commission Project Sponsors
- Provide State Project Oversight & Reporting

**Resource Agencies: DNR, NGPC, DEQ**

- Estimate Annual Water Funding Needs
  - ◊ grants, loans, direct lines, monitoring, staff
- Incorporate Needs Into State Water Plan
- Administer Water Programs
- Receive and Rank Project Applications
- Administer & Track Funding to Sponsors
- Provide State Project Oversight & Reporting

**Project Sponsors**

- Provide Local Project Planning
- Provide Project Coordination & Oversight
- Administer & Track Funding to Recipients
- Provide Local Project Oversight & Reporting

## Comments from This Morning

- Sustainability is addressed at local level but needs to be brought as a statewide priority.
- Ongoing Legislative involvement similar to the Wyoming Select Water Committee
- Reinvented NRC with broadened representation.
- Water quality and water quantity are priorities.

