

Water Funding Task Force Meeting

September 5, 2013 | Howard Johnson Riverside Inn, 3333 Ramada Road | Grand Island, NE

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Howard Johnson Riverside Inn, Grand Island, NE. Roll call was taken.

Task Force members in attendance were:

Voting Members:

Clint Johannes, **Chairman**, *NRC*
Garry Anderson, *NRC*
Joel Christensen, *MUD*
Dave Deines, *NRC*
Kevin Fornoff, *NRC*
Joseph Hergott, *NRC*
Thomas Knutson, *NRC*
Darrell Rains, *NRC*
Michael Reynolds, *NRC*
Scott Smathers, *Outdoor Recreation Users*
Dennis Strauch, *Irrigation Districts*
Dick Mercer, *NRC*

Roric Paulman, **Co-Chairman**, *Agriculture*
Brian Barel, *Public Power*
Stan Clouse, *NRC*
Beverly Donaldson, *NRC*
John Heaston, *Wildlife Conservation*
Richard Hadenfeldt, *NRC*
Tim Luchsinger, *Municipalities*
Rex Peterson, *Livestock Producers*
Keith Rexroth, *NRC*
Gerry Dale Sheets, *Public Power and Irrigation Districts*
Jeff Steffen, *NRC*

Non-Voting Members:

Senator Tom Carlson
Senator Al Davis
Senator Ken Schilz

Senator Mark Christensen
Senator Dan Watermeier
Brian Dunnigan, *DNR*

The following attended as alternates or designees: Sherri Daniels was alternate for David Kadlecik, and Lee Adams was alternate for Lennie Adams.

The following members were absent: Lennie Adams, David Kadlecik, D. Chandler Mazour, Senator Rick Kolowski, Steven Sugden, NRC

NOTICE OF THE MEETING

Notice of the meeting was published on the Department of Natural Resources web site (www.dnr.ne.gov/lb517).

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

The following informational materials were distributed for the Thursday, September 5th session:

- Agenda
- Meeting Minutes – August 29 and 30, 2013
- Nebraska Water Funding Task Force Work Plan
- Criteria Exercise
- Current NRDF Project Description
- Lower Loup NRD Water Programs & Funding
- Importance of Environmental Flows
- Report of the Water Funding Task Force Draft Outline
- LR 314 Group 5, Attachment A, List of Funding Sources

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Clint Johannes stated that notice of the meeting was published on the Department of Natural Resources web site (www.dnr.ne.gov/lb517). A copy of Nebraska's public meeting statutes was available in the room.

Mr. Johannes requested that anyone wishing to provide public comment at today's meeting please sign the "Speaker" sign-in sheet at the sign-in table.

PROJECT STATUS

Karen Griffin, Project Manager with Olsson Associates, reviewed changes to the DNR website, discussed access issues for the MindMixer site, and provided an overview of the day's agenda. In addition to speakers noted on the agenda, invited guests include the UNL Water Center and Nebraska Game & Parks members. Karen shared communication from D. Chandler Mazour who was in Europe representing Monsanto in international discussions on similar topics to the Water Funding Task Force. Chandler has found that they have experienced success with programs that:

- Use a collaborative process
- Are mutually beneficial to all stakeholders, and
- Have solutions that are watershed based

TASK FORCE WORKING SESSION: CRITERIA AND PROJECT RANKING

Review of Previous Meeting Discussion on Criteria

Patti Banks reviewed the previous meeting "bucket" exercise results and Mike Sotak shared how the criteria applied to the projects that were approved but as yet unfunded in the Nebraska Resources Development Fund. The effort identified some redundancy in the criteria and generated discussion of the Department of Natural Resources ranking criteria and process. The team will compare the Task Force criteria with the DNR criteria and share the results with the Task Force. The team will apply the Task Force criteria to a broader list of projects before the next meeting in October.

Break

EDUCATION SESSION - Morning

- Gene Zuerlein and Frank Albrecht, Nebraska Game and Parks presented "Water Programs and In-stream Flows". Discussion followed. The presentation is available on the DNR website (www.dnr.ne.gov/lb517)

Lunch

TASK FORCE WORKING SESSION: CRITERIA AND PROJECT RANKING

Patti Banks, with Vireo, divided Task Force into three groups giving each a project to rate against the criteria. The group evaluated two infrastructure projects and one augmentation projects. The criteria seemed to work well on the infrastructure projects but not on the augmentation project, largely because it was single purpose.

EDUCATION SESSION - Afternoon

Russell Callen, Lower Loup Natural Resources District, presented "Lower Loup NRD Water Programs and Funding." Discussion followed. The presentation is available on the DNR website (www.dnr.ne.gov/lb517).

TASK FORCE WORKING SESSION: CRITERIA AND PROJECT RANKING

Patti Banks, with Vireo, collected ideas from Task Force members on projects to be evaluated in the second

round of criteria testing.

A draft Table of Contents and Introduction section of the final report was distributed. Task Force members were asked to forward comments on the draft to Karen Griffin. This is the process to be followed as additional sections of the report are drafted in the coming weeks.

EDUCATION SESSION - Afternoon

Rachel Herpel, UNL Water Center and WRAP Representative presented LR 314 Group 5 List of University Funding. Discussion followed. The presentation is available on the DNR website (www.dnr.ne.gov/lb517).

PUBLIC COMMENTS 3:52 PM

Karen Griffin requested that anyone who signed-in to please come forward to provide public comment. No individuals signed in to provide comment.

Individuals from the community present during the meeting included:

- Marlin Petermann
- Jennifer Swanson, *NARD*
- Jeff Brettner, *CNPPID*
- Terry Madson
- Dean Edson, *NARD*
- Jim Bendfeldt, *Central Platte NRD*
- Jerry Kenny, *PRRIP*
- Jack Weigin, *Bureau of Reclamation*
- Jim Meismen, *TPNRD*
- Mike Delka, *Bostwick ID*
- Kent Miller, *TPNRD*
- Stu Luttich
- Dustin Wilcox, *NARD*
- Irv McQuarrie, *Invest Tune Retire, Inc.*

Meeting recessed for the day at 4:00 PM

The Water Funding Task Force reconvened at 8:00 AM on Friday, September 6, 2013 at the Howard Johnson Riverside Inn, 3333 Ramada Road, Grand Island, NE

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. at the Johnson Riverside Inn, Grand Island, NE. Roll call was taken.

Task Force members in attendance were:

Voting Members:

Clint Johannes, **Chairman**, *NRC*
Garry Anderson, *NRC*
Joel Christensen, *MUD*
Dave Deines, *NRC*
Kevin Fornoff, *NRC*
Joseph Hergott, *NRC*
Thomas Knutson, *NRC*
Steven Sugden, *NRC*
Darrell Rains, *NRC*
Michael Reynolds, *NRC*
Scott Smathers, *Outdoor Recreation Users*
Dennis Strauch, *Irrigation Districts*

Roric Paulman, **Co-Chairman**, *Agriculture*
Brian Barels, *Public Power*
Stan Clouse, *NRC*
Beverly Donaldson, *NRC*
John Heaston, *Wildlife Conservation*
Lennie Adams, *Manufacturing*
Tim Luchsinger, *Municipalities*
Rex Peterson, *Livestock Producers*
Keith Rexroth, *NRC*
Richard Hadenfeldt, *NRC*
Jeff Steffen, *NRC*
Dick Mercer, *NRC*

Non-Voting Members:

Senator Tom Carlson
Senator Al Davis
Senator Ken Schilz

Senator Mark Christensen
Senator Dan Watermeier
Rex Gittins as designee for Brian Dunnigan

The following attended as alternates: Sheri Daniels as alternate for David Kadlecek.

The following members were absent: David Kadlecek, D. Chandler Mazour, Gerry Sheets, Senator Rick Kolowski.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

The following informational materials were distributed for the Thursday, August 29th session:

- Agenda
- Nemaha Natural Resources District Handout
- "Lower Platte North Natural Resources District Plan"

Meeting Minutes

Stan Clouse moved and Scott Smathers seconded the motion to adopt the August 29 and 30, 2013 Task Force meeting minutes.

Motion Passed by Roll Call Vote.

Aye: All voting members present.

Nay: None

Abstain: None

EDUCATION SESSION - Morning

Jesse Bradley, P.G. Division Head Department of Natural Resources presented DNR Annual Report and Plan of Work. Discussion followed. The presentation is available on the DNR website (www.dnr.ne.gov/lb517).

Rex Gittins, and Kent Zimmerman, DNR presented "History of Funding Resources at DNR". Discussion followed. The presentation is available on the DNR website (www.dnr.ne.gov/lb517).

TASK FORCE WORKING SESSION: FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATION

Review of Previous Meeting Discussion On Administration/Organization

Karen Griffin reviewed “What We Have Heard” and discussion regarding NRC as overseeing organization. Discussion followed.

Karen Griffin presented “Thunder Basin Watershed”, to acquaint the Task Force with the process and projects underway in Wyoming. The program manager from Wyoming will be at the next Task Force meeting to share more information and answer questions.

Patti Banks reviewed the criteria used by UNL to prioritize research projects. The Task Force discussed using the UNL information.

Lunch

EDUCATION SESSION – Afternoon

Dr. John Gates, Earth and Atmospheric Science presented “Research and Results on Recharge in Nebraska”. Discussion followed. The presentation is available on the DNR website (www.dnr.ne.gov/lb517).

TASK FORCE WORKING SESSION: FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATION

Patti Banks, with Vireo, reviewed results of red dot exercise related to program funding from the meeting on August 30, 2013. The Task Force supported moving all the suggested funding mechanisms to the next level of analysis, the result of which will be shared at the October meeting.

Clint Johannes requested that anyone who signed-in to please come forward to provide public comment. No individuals signed up for public comment.

Individuals from the community present during the meeting included:

- Jennifer Swanson, *NARD*
- Jay Rempe, *Farm Bureau*
- Frank Albrechts, *NGPC*
- Gary Zuerlein, *NGPC*
- Tim Anderson, *CNPPID*
- Dean Edson, *NARD*
- Rachell Herpel, *UNL*
- Stu Luttich
- Lee Addams, *Valmont*
- Kent Miller, *TPNRD*
- Jim Meismen, *TPNRD*
- Ann Williams, *HDR*
- Mike Delka, *Bostwick ID*

WHAT'S NEXT

Karen Griffin, discussed how the team will communicate with the Task Force through the month of September and reviewed the schedule for the next meeting/tour will be held on Thursday, October 10, 2013

in Alliance, NE.

Meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.