

Water Funding Task Force Meeting Minutes

October 24, 2013 | Holiday Inn Conference Center; Sidney, Nebraska

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. at the Holiday Inn Conference Center; Sidney, NE. Roll call was taken.

Task Force members in attendance were:

Voting Members:

Clint Johannes, **Chairman**, *NRC*
Lennie Adams, *Manufacturing*
Brian Barels, *Public Power*
Stan Clouse, *NRC*
Kevin Fornoff, *NRC*
Joseph Hergott, *NRC*
Thomas Knutson, *NRC*
Tim Luchsinger, *Municipalities*
Rex Peterson, *Livestock Producers*
Michael Reynolds, *NRC*
Gerry Dale Sheets, *Public Power & Irrigation Districts*
Jeff Steffen, *NRC*

Roric Paulman, **Co-Chairman**, *Agriculture*
Garry Anderson, *NRC*
Joel Christensen, *MUD*
Dave Deines, *NRC*
John Heaston, *Wildlife Conservation*
David Kadlecek, *NRC*
Chandler Mazour, *Agribusiness*
Dick Mercer, *NRC*
Darrell Rains, *NRC*
Keith Rexroth, *NRC*
Scott Smathers, *Outdoor Recreation Users*
Dennis Strauch, *Irrigation Districts*

Non-Voting Members:

Senator Tom Carlson
Senator Al Davis
Senator Dan Watermeier

Senator Mark Christensen
Senator Ken Schilz
Jim Schneider as designee for Brian Dunnigan

There were no alternates in attendance.

The following members were absent: Beverly Donaldson, Richard Hadenfeldt, Steven Sugden, and Senator Rick Kolowski.

NOTICE OF THE MEETING

Notice of the meeting was published on the Department of Natural Resources web site (www.dnr.ne.gov/lb517). A press release about the meeting was submitted to the following newspapers:

- Sidney Sun-Telegraph
- Gothenburg Times
- Alliance Times-Herald
- Grand Island Independent
- Kearney Hub

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

The following informational materials were distributed for the Thursday, October 24th session:

- Agenda
- Draft minutes for September 5 & 6 meeting and October 11 & 12 meeting.
- Water Funding Source Evaluation
- Nebraska Water Funding State Structure and Administration

- South Platte NRD Overview of Water Issues Presentation
- Draft Nebraska Water Funding Task Force Recommendations Report
- DRAFT NARD NRD Managers Water Funding Advisory Committee Ideas for Funding

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.

MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the September 5 and 6 meeting and the October 10 and 11 meeting were presented.

Joel Christiansen moved and Scott Smathers seconded the motion to adopt the August 22nd and 23rd, 2013 Task Force meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

TASK FORCE WORKING SESSION: Funding Options

Presentation of Funding Options Evaluation

Laurie Lage, Natural Resources Committee legal Counsel presented information on possible funding options for water related projects, programs and activities. The Task Force discussed each possibility and requested additional information on the following:

- Water User Tax
- Trash Tax
- Bottled Water Tax
- Pop Tax
- Bottle Deposit Bill
- Donations
- Property Records Fee
- Severance Tax (Various)
- New Sales Tax
- Portion of Existing Sales Tax
- Commodities Tax

Public Comment: Jay Rempe, Nebraska Farm Bureau

Lunch

Keith Rexroth, City of Sidney presentation. Keith Rexroth shared information about Sidney and offered to host a tour of the community after the Thursday session.

Dean Edson, executive Director, Nebraska Association of Resources District presentation. Dean gave a presentation of preliminary ideas related to funding water projects, programs and activities from the NRD perspective. These ideas are being considered by the NRD Managers Water Funding Advisory Committee. As the managers continue their discussion Dean will update the Task Force members. Dean also reported that

they are working hard to assemble information on funding needs and existing funding. This will be shared as soon as it is available.

Karen Griffin, Project Manager with Olsson Associates reviewed the meeting schedule and locations. She shared that the Kearney meeting will be one long day on Thursday rather than one and a half days. The session will begin at 8:00 am and go until 5:00 pm.

TASK FORCE WORKING SESSION: CRITERIA AND PROJECT RANKING

Presentation on Water Funding Program Administration

Karen Griffin, Project Manager with Olsson Associates presented a straw-man organizational structure for Task Force consideration and discussion. This idea would result in a board with broadened representation and recommend a legislative oversight committee to be involved ongoing. The presentation is available on the DNR website (www.dnr.ne.gov/lb517).

Dick Mercer shared an idea for organizational structure that would result in a board of 21 people. The existing system would remain in place and the board would be expanded by five more Governor appointees broadening the representation on the board. Discussion of this idea followed.

Mick Reynolds moved to accept Mr. Mercer's idea. The motion was seconded by Keith Rexroth. Discussion followed and the motion was withdrawn.

Clint Johannes, Task Force Chair reminded Task Force Members that they had adopted the consensus model of decision-making early on and that the Task Force would continue to operate based on consensus.

Task Force Members will bring forward additional structure ideas to the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Individuals from the community present during the meeting included:

- Terry Julesgard, *LNNRD*
- Tim Horn, *NE Farm Bureau*
- Dustin Wilcox, *NARD*
- Jay Rempe, *NE Farm Bureau*
- Mel Brozel, *Irrigation*
- Thomas Riley, *UENRD*
- Jim Meismen, *TPNRD*
- Dean Edson, *NARD*
- Pat O'Brien, *UNWNRD*
- Rod Horn, *SPNRD*
- Ron Cacek, *NPNRD*
- Jeff Buettner, *CNPPID*

Meeting recessed for the day at 3:45 PM

The Water Funding Task Force reconvened at 8:00 AM on Friday, October 25, 2013 at the Holiday Inn Conference Center; Sidney, Nebraska.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. at the Holiday Inn Conference Center; Sidney, NE. Roll call was taken.

Task Force members in attendance were:

Voting Members:

Clint Johannes, **Chairman**, *NRC*
Lennie Adams, *Manufacturing*
Brian Barels, *Public Power*
Stan Clouse, *NRC*
Kevin Fornoff, *NRC*
Joseph Hergott, *NRC*
Thomas Knutson, *NRC*
Tim Luchsinger, *Municipalities*
Rex Peterson, *Livestock Producers*
Michael Reynolds, *NRC*
Gerry Dale Sheets, *Public Power & Irrigation Districts*
Jeff Steffen, *NRC*

Roric Paulman, **Co-Chairman**, *Agriculture*
Garry Anderson, *NRC*
Joel Christensen, *MUD*
Dave Deines, *NRC*
John Heaston, *Wildlife Conservation*
David Kadlecek, *NRC*
Chandler Mazour, *Agribusiness*
Dick Mercer, *NRC*
Darrell Rains, *NRC*
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Dennis Strauch, *Irrigation Districts*

Non-Voting Members:

Senator Tom Carlson
Senator Al Davis
Senator Dan Watermeier

Senator Mark Christensen
Senator Ken Schilz
Jim Schneider as designee for Brian Dunnigan

There were no alternates in attendance.

The following members were absent: Lennie Adams, Beverly Donaldson, Richard Hadenfeldt, Rex Peterson, Gerry Dale Sheets, Dennis Strauch, Jeff Steffen, Steven Sugden, and Senator Rick Kolowski.

EDUCATION SESSION - Morning

- Rod Horn, General Manager South Platte NRD presented South Platte NRD Overview of Water Issues. The presentation is available on the DNR website (www.dnr.ne.gov/lb517).

Break

TASK FORCE WORKING SESSION – Morning

Karen Griffin reviewed the working draft of Nebraska Water Funding Task Force Report. After the overview, the Task Force discussion centered on the Criteria and Ranking Section. Task Force Members expressed an interest in revisiting the prioritization of the criteria. This will be placed on the next meeting agenda.

Garry Anderson shared an idea for organizational structure. This idea would result in a board of 18. The existing board would give up two existing representatives (the Missouri Tributary Representative and the Groundwater Representative). The Governor's appointments would be increased to six to include;

- Recreation
- Surface Irrigation
- 3 Municipal Representatives
- Industry

This idea was discussed and members were again encouraged to submit organizational structure ideas for consideration in the next session.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Individuals from the community present during the meeting included:

- Terry Julesgard, *LNNRD*
- Jim Johnson, *SPNRD*
- Kent Miller, *Twin Platte NRD*
- Linda Suhr, *SPNRD*
- Thomas Riley, *UENRD*
- Jay Rempe, *Nebraska Farm Bureau*
- Jeff Buettner, *CNPPID*
- Jim Meismen, *TPNRD*
- Dean Edson, *NARD*
- Rod Horn, *SPNRD*

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.