

# Water Funding Task Force Meeting Minutes

October 31, 2013 | Holiday Inn Conference Center; Kearney, Nebraska

## CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. at the Holiday Inn Conference Center; Kearney, 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*  
John Heaston, *Wildlife Conservation*  
David Kadlecek, *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*  
Beverly Donaldson, *NRC*  
Richard Hadenfeldt, *NRC*  
Joseph Hergott, *NRC*  
Thomas Knutson, *NRC*  
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  
Brian Dunnigan

There were no alternates in attendance.

The following members were absent: Dave Deines, Chandler Mazour, Steven Sugden, 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](http://www.dnr.ne.gov/lb517)). A press release about the meeting was submitted to the following newspapers:

## INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

The following informational materials were distributed for the Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup> session:

- Agenda
- Draft minutes for October 24 and 25, 2013 meeting
- Water Funding Source Discussion
- Nebraska Water Funding State Structure and Administration
- Nebraska Water Funding Task Force Work Plan
- Comparison Between LB 517 and NRDF Project Evaluation Criteria
- Commission Representation Ideas
- Draft Nebraska Water Funding Task Force Strategic Plan

## 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](http://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 October 24 and 25 meeting were presented.

Tom Knutson moved and John Heaston seconded the motion to approve the October 24 and 25th, 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 further information on possible funding options for water related projects, programs and activities and discussion followed.

**Public Comment:** Jay Rempe, Nebraska Farm Bureau

#### **Break**

**Patti Banks, Vireo** continued the funding discussion.

The Task Force reached consensus on the following funding solutions as their recommendation to be studied further:

- Some form of Bottle Tax
- A Severance Tax (sand and gravel discussed the most, but oil and gas also mentioned)
- An Excise Tax on Ethanol
- A Fertilizer Tax with revenue dedicated to water quality projects
- A Portion of Existing Sales Tax Dedicated to Water Projects
- Establishing a Revolving Fund

Task Force members stressed that the final funding solutions needed to be balanced between agricultural interests and the general population – not all coming from one source or the other.

**Karen Griffin, Olsson Associates** presented the various suggestions received for the organizational structure including those discussed at the last meeting and a couple of new ideas.

LUNCH

### **TASK FORCE WORKING SESSION: CRITERIA AND PROJECT RANKING**

**Karen Griffin, Project Manager with Olsson Associates** presented the comparison between LB 517 and NRDF evaluation criteria.

**Patti Banks with Vireo** facilitated a ranking exercise of the criteria. After discussion the Task Force arrived at consensus on the following criteria as high, medium and low priority:

<b>High Priority</b>
<p><b>The extent to which the PPA protects the ability of future generations to meet their needs including:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Increasing aquifer recharge</b></li> <li>• <b>Reducing aquifer depletion</b></li> <li>• <b>Remediating or mitigating threats to drinking water</b></li> <li>• <b>Meeting the goals and objectives of an approved IMP</b></li> </ul>
<p>The extent to which the PPA contributes to multiple water supply management goals including but not limited to flood control, agricultural use, municipal uses, recreational benefits, wildlife habitat, conservation of water resources, and preservation of water resources.</p>
<p>The extent to which the PPA provides increased water productivity and otherwise maximizes the beneficial use of Nebraska's water resources for the benefit of its residents.</p>
<p>The cost effectiveness of the PPA relative to achieving the state's water management goals.</p>
<p>The extent to which the PPA assists the state in meeting its obligations under interstate compacts or decrees or other formal state contracts or agreements.</p>
<b>Medium Priority</b>
<p><b>The extent to which the PPA maintains water quality.</b></p>
<p><b>The extent to which the local jurisdiction has utilized all available funding resources to support PPA.</b></p>
<p><b>The extent to which a PPA addresses a statewide problem or issue.</b></p>
<p>The extent to which the PPA contributes to the state's ability to leverage state dollars with local or federal government partners or other partners to maximize the use of its resources.</p>
<p>The extent to which the PPA has been approved for, but has not received funding through an established state program.</p>
<b>Lower Priority</b>
<p><b>The extent to which the PPA reduces threat to property damage.</b></p>
<p><b>The extent to which the PPA contributes to watershed health and function.</b></p>
<p>The extent to which the PPA utilizes objectives described in the Annual Report and Plan of work for the Nebraska State Water Planning and review Process issued by DNR.</p>

**Break**

**Karen Griffin, Project Manager with Olsson Associates** facilitated further discussion on the organizational structure to administer the Water Funding Program moving forward.

**Karen Griffin, Project Manager with Olsson Associates** presented a working draft of the Strategic Plan for the Task Force members to review before the next meeting

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Clint Johannes 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:

- Dean Luscher, *Rowe Sanctuary*
- Greg Wingfield, *Rowe Sanctuary*
- Jeff Buettner, *CNPPID*
- Mike Onnen, *LBNRD*
- Jay Rempe, *NFBF*
- Dennis Schueth, *UENRD*
- Mike Delka, *Bostwick ID*
- Dean Edson, *NARD*
- Marlin Petermann, *PMRNRD*
- Stu Luttich

**Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.**

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