

Governor's Water Quality and Quantity Task Force

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 2, 2025

Kearney Holiday Inn

110 2nd Avenue, Kearney, NE 68847

Members Present: Joe Anderjaska, Brittany Bartak, Don Batie, Jesse Bradley, Brian Bruckner, Devin Brundage, Russ Callan, Tom Downey, Jessica Groskopf, Brandon Hunnicutt, Brian Kissinger, Scott Knobbe, Steve Kyes, Matt Manning, Scott Schaneman, John Shadle, Marty Stange, Annette Sudbeck

Members Absent: Tim Mundorf & Dean Settje

Staff and Audience Present: Isabella Peterson, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources; Cicely Wardyn, Governor's Policy Research Office; Andrew Dunkley, Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy; Tylr Naprstek, Lower Loup NRD; Josh Jelden, U.S. Sen. Deb Fischer's Office; Mick Reynolds; Kristine Jameson; Erica Gnuse, Ducks Unlimited; Jeff Shafer, NPPD; Lyndon Vogt, Central Platte NRD; Joshua Shimkus, Flatwater Free Press; Chance Thayer; Walt Traudt, Nebraska Pork Producers; Seth Mitchell, Nebraska Pork Producers; David Kracman; Samantha Dowler; Dean Edson, NARD; James Banahan, Central Valley Ag; Michael Dibbern, NeCGA; Sarah Cathcart, Sen. Pete Ricketts Office; Heidi Borg, Congressman Adrian Smith's Office.

The meeting was called to order at 9:57 a.m. by Jesse Bradley. Bradley stated that the meeting was being conducted in accordance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act and a copy of the current Open Meetings Act was posted and available for inspection and review on the south wall of the room. Bradley stated that a public meeting notice was published in the Omaha World Herald newspaper and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources website in accordance with state law.

Governor Jim Pillen gave opening remarks and addressed members about why he initiated the Task Force.

Task Force members and support staff went around the room and gave introductions.

Bradley provided an overview of three initial broad goals for the Task Force, including: (1) identify strategies to promote improved on-farm nitrogen management efficiency, (2) review available resources that support the use of real-time data in water management and recommend strategies to increase their adoption, and (3) develop short-term, mid-term, and long-term goals to monitor outcomes. Bradley noted that these goals may change over time as the Task Force continues to meet and discuss.

Water Quality & Quantity Task Force Meeting Minutes – June 2, 2025

Bradley gave a presentation on water quality and quantity programs currently being implemented by the state. The presentation can be found on the Task Force webpage at: <https://dnr.nebraska.gov/water-quality-and-quantity-task-force>.

Members discussed subcommittee assignments and reviewed a handout with potential discussion topics for each subcommittee, a copy of which can be found on the Task Force webpage. It was noted that additional subcommittees may be identified and formed as the Task Force continues to meet and discuss. The following assignments for subcommittees were made:

Financing and Incentives Subcommittee

- Jessica Groskopf
- Jesse Bradley
- Brandon Hunnicutt
- Devin Brundage

Nitrate Legacy and Drinking Water Access Subcommittee

- Dean Settje
- Marty Stange
- Brian Bruckner
- Annette Sudbeck
- Tom Downey
- Matt Manning

Water Conservation and Quantity Subcommittee

- Scott Schaneman
- Steve Kyes
- Don Batie
- Russ Callan
- John Shadle
- Devin Brundage
- Brian Bruckner
- Matt Manning

Methods and Resources Committee

- Tim Mundorf
- Joe Anderjaska
- Scott Knobbe
- Don Batie
- Russ Callan
- Britany Bartak
- Annette Sudbeck
- Brian Kissinger
- Jesse Bradley

Water Quality & Quantity Task Force Meeting Minutes – June 2, 2025

Members expressed willingness and preference to have in-person subcommittee meetings. Bradley noted that Department staff will help coordinate future Task Force meeting dates and help initiate first subcommittee discussions. Members discussed a tentative meeting schedule of monthly subcommittee meetings and full Task Force meetings once a quarter – agreeing that the next full Task Force meetings should take place in September and December. Subcommittees will meet in the interim and report back to the full group at the next Task Force meeting.

Don Batie informed the group that there will be a field day at his farm on June 24th.

Bradley opened the meeting for public comment. There was no public comment.

The meeting adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

Notice for the meeting was published on the Department of Natural Resources website on May 21, 2025 and in the Omaha World Herald newspaper on May 28, 2025.