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# LENRD & NeDNR IMP ANNUAL MEETING

JANUARY 21, 2021 @ 1:30 PM

ZOOM (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84373893382>)

**Attendees: Madeline Hoffer, Beth Eckles, Jennifer Schellpeper, Brian Bruckner, Mike Murphy**

## AGENDA/DISCUSSION TOPICS

### 1) Goals & Objectives Discussion

- a. Brian: Public outreach item identified in 2019, would still like to address. Recent outreach via virtual meeting. Upcoming Nitrogen classes. Jen: if NeDNR can provide any handouts, we would be happy to do so. Madeline and Beth: provide handouts via pdf to LENRD.
- b. Possibility of Board Retreat. Not planned as of today.
- c. Protection of existing water users. All new wells subject to groundwater allocation since 2017. Planning for climate variability. District has adopted drought plan, amended GW management plan to address climate/drought concerns. Still some heavy lifting to fully implement drought plan in rules and regulations. Board lost the opportunity to implement new rules and regulations to address current drought conditions. Mike Murphy producing drought maps each Thursday to keep attention on the issue, posted on website and social media sites. Potential to exacerbate issues by adding new users; a drought crisis could emerge this year. Jen: we share concerns for dry year. NeDNR and NRDs need to communicate to update the public about dry conditions and respond to issues.
- d. HDR database. Data exchange remains top priority for NeDNR.

### 2) Acre Expansion

- a. 2020
  - i. Nov. 2020 Board approved 295 acre-foot expansion for 2021 season. Consistent with what had been approved previously. 2600 acres outside of hydrologically connected area.
- b. 2021
  - i. Board will be discussing during mid-2021. Assume something similar, but would be reduced if dry conditions persist. Want to manage growth even if water is available.

- c. No new SW permits issued by NeDNR during 2020. Some cancellations took place. GovDelivery emails are useful to NRD. Could be upcoming changes for affordability, but update emails will continue.

### 3) Modeling Efforts

- a. LENRD AEM Study
  - i. Philip: Going as planned.
- b. LPNNRD/Jesse Korus Study
  - i. Philip: Model in development similar to Lower Elkhorn study. PhD student doing new inversions on AEM data. Goal is to compare several inversion methods and see how the model responds to each. Further updates will come once UNL semester resumes.
- c. CENEB / ELM Comparison
  - i. Margeaux update: Comparison of CENEB and ELM to see how they are different, and understand how the differences might influence management decisions. Currently revising contract with Olsson to clarify the expectations of final work products. Likely about 6 more months before completion. Significant differences found in model construction with regard to groundwater pumping data; similar results for larger areas but different results for more local areas. Contract should produce summary that can be provided to NRDs.

### 4) Basin Water Management Plan

- a. Annual Report
  - i. Dustin: reminder that reports are due March 1<sup>st</sup>. John Engel should be sending link to submit 2020 data.
- b. INSIGHT Analysis
  - i. Tech committee recommended proceeding with analysis using same methods as 1<sup>st</sup> increment. NeDNR no longer has capacity to complete analysis in-house, would need to contract out. Estimated \$130,000. Decision will be made at next management meeting. 1<sup>st</sup> increment might need to be extended in order for NeDNR to incorporate into workload, wouldn't finish until 2022. Coalition currently has \$180,000 in unobligated funds, could use that if decided upon.
- c. Second Increment

