

**TRI-BASIN NRD REPUBLICAN BASIN IMP  
ANNUAL MEETING  
Wednesday, November 15, 2023, 9:30 a.m.  
Tri-Basin NRD Offices, 1723 Burlington St, Holdrege, NE**

**Attendees:**

TBNRD Staff: John Thorburn

Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NeDNR) Staff: Sam Capps, Avery Dresser, Brian Flynn, Elizabeth Esseks, Kari Burgert, Stefan Remund, and Jesse Bradley

- 1. Introductions:** Thorburn opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m.
- 2. Review Agenda & Meeting Purpose:** Capps reviewed the agenda items and stated purpose for the meeting. No additions or changes were made to the agenda.
- 3. Monitoring & Management Actions:**
  - a. TBNRD updates
    - i. There were no changes in irrigated acres or groundwater transfers in the Basin.
    - ii. A few replacement wells were drilled, TBNRD allowed variances for converting replaced wells to a different purpose such as a stock well or observation well.
    - iii. No excess flow diversions were performed by CNPPID in 2022.
    - iv. WCIP program had no new sign ups in 2022, there are about 1,580 acres enrolled in that program.
  - b. NeDNR updates – none at this time.
  - c. NeDNR projection handout – Capps presented the handout.
    - i. Capps noted the depletion projections for the TBNRD Southern Boundary and the net accretion for the District.
    - ii. Thorburn asked for the handout document as a PDF and images (as .jpg) to be sent to him electronically.
  - d. Discussion of other management topics
    - i. Thorburn asked what value decommissioning stock ponds would have to the state.
    - ii. Bradley replied that reservoirs as small as stock ponds have little value.
- 4. IMP and other NRD Plans:**
  - i. Capps and Bradley asked what actions would be taken under the IMP once TBNRD reached net depletions.
    1. Thorburn responded that they had made changes to the IMP to address this possibility. He went on to say that TBNRD's first action once net depletions were reached would be to initiate stream augmentation.
    2. Bradley asked how much volume could be augmented annually.
    3. Thorburn replied that with current augmentation wells, TBNRD could pump about 1,500 ac-ft annually. Pumping would have to be year-round to

reach that volume, with a break only in the dead of winter when the streams would be frozen.

4. Thorburn went on to say that TBNRD has plans ready for more augmentation wells, is working with LRNRD to build shared augmentation projects, and is looking forward to the potential approval of the Platte-Republican Diversion Project.
- ii. Capps reported that the TBNRD integrated water management area map would need to be updated in the next generation IMP, as it was nearly 20 years old.
- iii. Capps reported that NeDNR needed an up-to-date map of TBNRD's network of monitoring wells.
  1. Thorburn agreed with both of the above points and will work with NeDNR to add these figures to the next generation IMP.
- iv. Thorburn stated that he wants to hold a stakeholder meeting to review the final draft of the next generation IMP, to solicit input and to get everyone on the same page.
- v. Capps asked if the IMP needed a section regarding water use for hydraulic fracturing for oil and gas exploration.
  1. Thorburn replied that was likely necessary.
- vi. Capps and Thorburn talked about how TBNRD was going to calculate changes in municipal water use and necessary offsets.
  1. Thorburn stated that language in the IMP credits municipalities with treated wastewater they discharge into a stream but noted that to the best of his knowledge, Holdrege was the only municipality which could get credited. Most other towns have wastewater lagoons.
  2. The IMP will likely adopt rules which require offsets of new municipal use to comply with the 2026 change about how municipal and industrial water use is accounted for (*Neb. Rev. Statute § 46-740*).
- vii. Capps reported that NeDNR will clean up the draft of the next generation IMP and send it to TBNRD for review.

## 5. Meeting Summary

### a. Action Items:

- i. NeDNR to send cleaned-up draft of next generation IMP to TBNRD.
- ii. NeDNR to send projection handout from this meeting to TBNRD as a PDF and send the images from the handout as separate .jpg.
- iii. TBNRD to provide up-to-date integrated water management area map to NeDNR for the next generation IMP.
- iv. TBNRD to provide an up-to-date map of their monitoring well network to NeDNR for the next generation IMP.
- v. NeDNR and TBNRD to set up another stakeholder meeting when a final draft of the IMP has been created.

### b. Schedule Next Annual Meeting: The date/time for the next meeting is TBD.

*The meeting was closed at 9:55 am*