

Lower Elkhorn NRD Voluntary Integrated Management Planning Updates

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Jennifer J. Schellpeper, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources

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Providing the sound science and support for managing
Nebraska's most precious resource.



Water Planning
and Integrated
Management



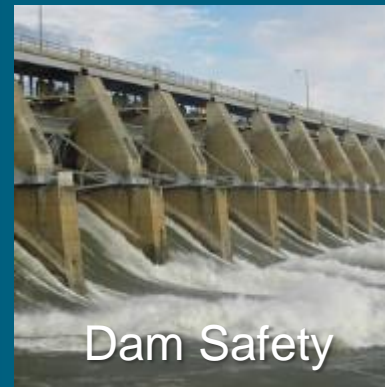
Surface Water



Groundwater



Floodplain
Management



Dam Safety



Field Offices

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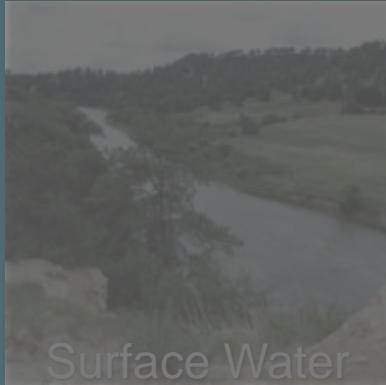
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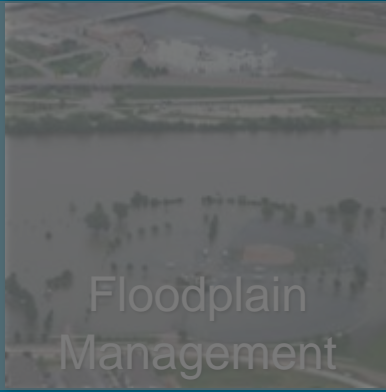
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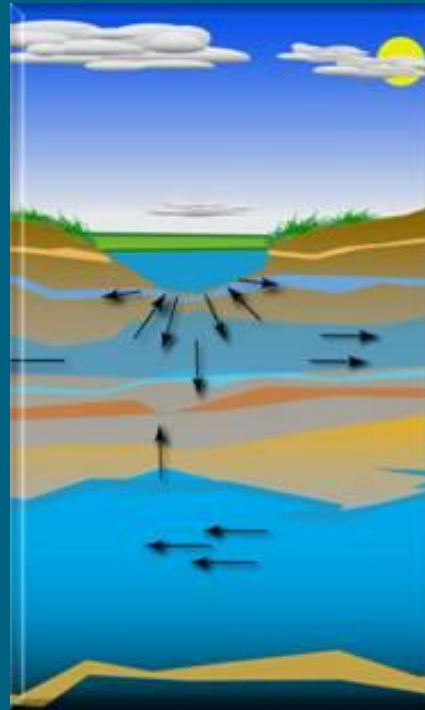
Field Offices

Overview

- Integrated Management Planning in Nebraska
- Integrated Management Plan (IMP) Components
- Lower Elkhorn IMP Background and Timeline
- Benefits of IMPs

Integrated Management Planning in Nebraska

EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF HYDROLOGICALLY CONNECTED WATERS



Surface Water Quantity

- Regulated by NeDNR
- Prior appropriations system

Integrated Water Management

Groundwater Quantity

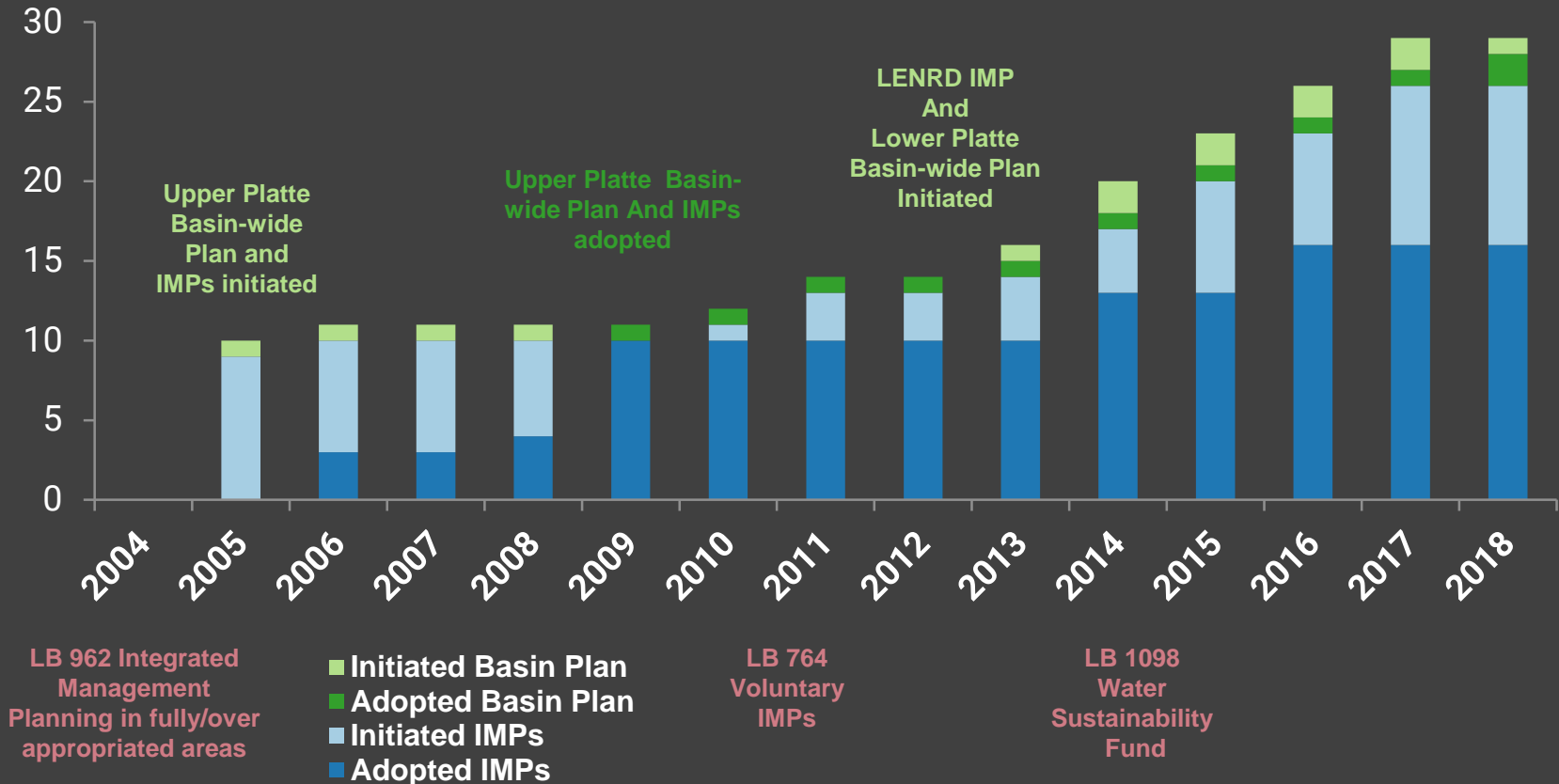
- Regulated by NRDs
- Correlative rights system

Integrated Management Planning in Nebraska

- LB962 (2004)
 - Legally acknowledged hydrologically connected ground and surface waters
 - Set forth a joint process for developing IMPs in fully or over-appropriated basins
- LB764 (2010)
 - Provided for development of voluntary IMPs
- LB1098 (2014)
 - Established Water Sustainability Fund, allowed access if IMP in development or completed

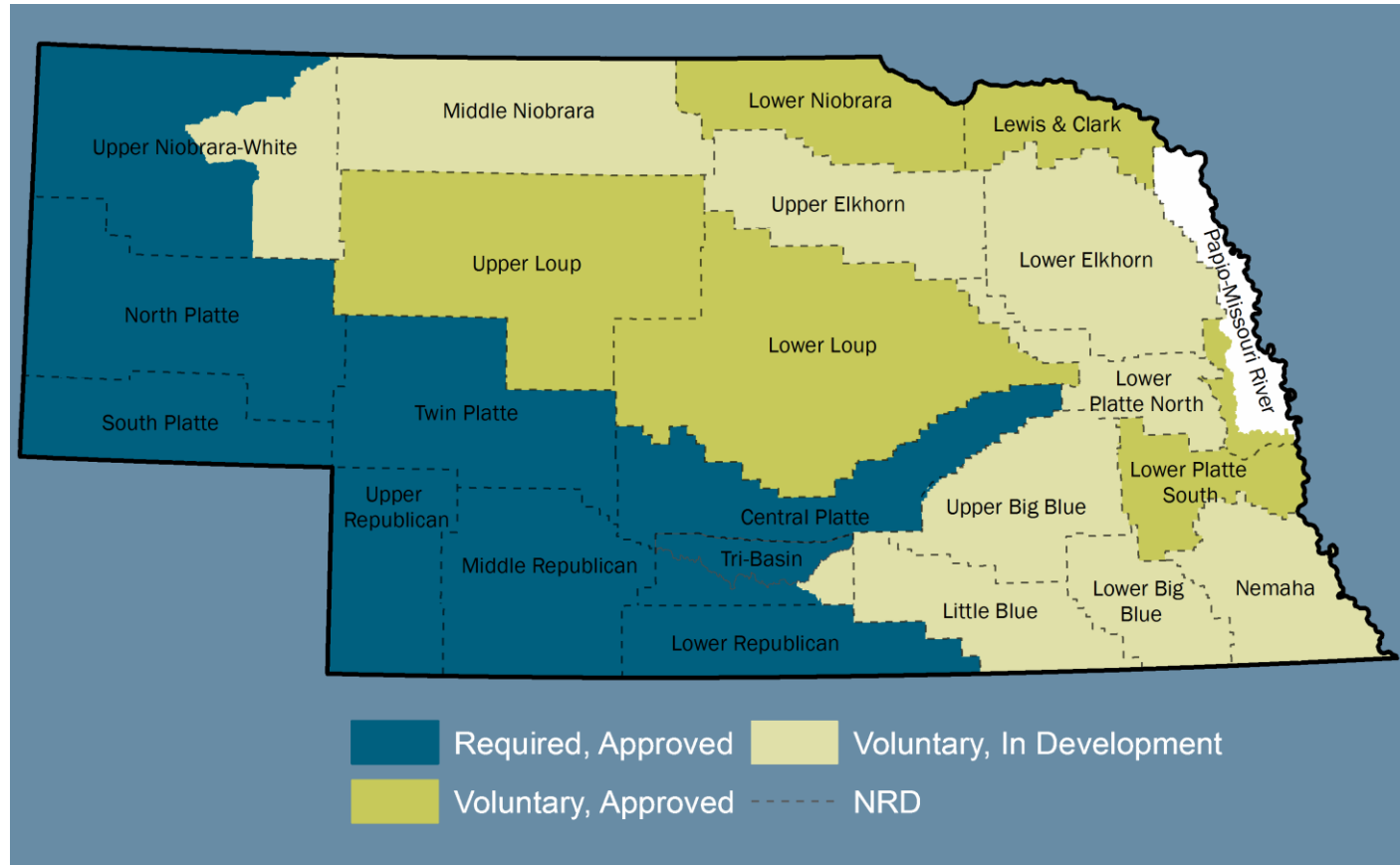
Integrated Management Planning in Nebraska

Timeline of IMP Activity



Integrated Management Planning in Nebraska

- All NRD's have approved or initiated IMPs
- 10 required IMPs
- 16 voluntary IMPs
- 2 required BWP
- 1 voluntary BWP



IMPLEMENTATION

Water Management
Projects

Strategic Planning Actions

PLANNING AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Goals and Objectives
for Water Planning

Stakeholder Involvement

Water Availability and Water
Shortages

Water Supplies and Water Uses

SCIENCE

Hydrologic Models, Data, and Analyses

Adaptive Management Process



Benefits of IMPs

- Jointly build a foundation of data and tools
- Local understanding of future water uses and needs
- Build relationships with NRDs and stakeholders
- Identify opportunities to better adapt to changing conditions
- Eligibility for Water Sustainability Fund grants

IMP Required Components

- Map of Geographic Area
- Goals and Objectives
 - Purpose to achieve a balance between uses and supplies
- Controls (consistent with goals and objectives)
 - One or more Groundwater Controls (§46-739)
 - One or more Surface Water Controls (§46-716)
- Monitoring Program

Controls Authorized by Statute

Groundwater Controls

(Neb. Rev. Stat. §46-739)

- Limit groundwater expansion
- Transfers
- Municipal/industrial Tracking
- Well Spacing
- Meters
- Educational Requirements
- Certified Acres
- Allocations
- Rotations
- Acres Reduction
- Others as deemed appropriate

Surface Water Controls

(Neb. Rev. Stat. §46-716)

- Increased monitoring
- Variance/Transfers
- Conservation Measures
- Moratoriums
- Others as deemed appropriate

Lower Elkhorn Voluntary IMP Timeline

- Voluntary IMP initiated May 2012
- Stakeholder process June 2014 – April 2015
 - Five stakeholder meetings
- Extensive coordination between NRD and NeDNR
 - Nine coordination meetings 2014-2016
 - Plan writing 2015-2016;
 - Decision to pause for BWP completion
- Basin-wide Plan Adopted January 2018

Where are we now?

- We have a draft plan and are working to incorporate edits to be consistent with the Basin-wide Plan as adopted in January 2018

Lower Platte Basin-wide Plan and the IMP

- Overarching goal of Basin-wide Plan is, as with IMPs, to protect existing users while protecting economic vitality
- Basin-wide Plan states that the districts will implement the Basin-wide Plan actions, such as allowable new depletions limits, through their individual IMPs and/or NRD rules and regulations
 - Total allowable depletion for first increment for LENRD is 4,514 acre-feet (AF)

Thank you

Jennifer J. Schellpeper
Water Planning Division Manager
Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
(402) 471-2899
jennifer.schellpeper@nebraska.gov

Next

Jesse Bradley
Deputy Director
Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
(402) 471-0586
jesse.bradley@nebraska.gov

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301 Centennial Mall South, 4th Floor

PO Box 94676

Lincoln, NE 68509-4676

402-471-2363