

NOTES AND ACTION ITEMS  
UPPER NIOBRARA WHITE NRD IMP ANNUAL MEETING

October 6, 2016, 8:30 a.m. Mountain Time  
Upper Niobrara White Natural Resources District  
430 East Second Street, Chadron, Nebraska

**Attendees:**

*UNWNRD:*

Haley Anders  
Pat O'Brien  
Lynn Webster  
Dave Carlson

*Public:*

Bill Wilson

*NeDNR:*

Tim Freed  
Tom Hayden  
Melissa Mosier

**Agenda Items:**

1. Introductions
2. Review of agenda & meeting purpose
3. Monitoring & management actions
  - a. NeDNR report
    - i. WaterSMART program study is complete but has not been posted to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) website.
    - ii. A contract with UNL's Conservation and Survey Division (CSD) will soon be in place to start an aquifer absent study.
      1. Data from this study will not be available in time for this year's (2017) fully-appropriated basin analysis report.
  - b. UNWNRD report
    - i. 2013 report is not finalized; waiting on Hemingford data
      1. Webster included an average of municipal data for Hemingford as it appears that the annual data is not available from the village.
        - a. NeDNR will consider whether this is the best way to represent the data and get back to UNWNRD.
  - c. Discussion and evaluation of data and studies
    - i. WaterSMART
      1. NeDNR will find out why the WaterSMART report hasn't been finalized by the USBR, as presentations on the study have been given at multiple meetings.
    - ii. Conjunctive Use Studies
      1. Goal is to present models to Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), as well as what can be done with them, and inquire about what the citizens

would like to see in terms of testing future management scenarios with the models.

2. Results from the CSD's aquifer absent study will also be helpful in determining what management scenarios should be run.
    - a. UNWNRD board will decide what to do with citizen feedback.
  - d. Information and education
    - i. In their 2017 annual report, NeDNR will include discussion on the recent outreach event with the UNWNRD CAC regarding modeling scenarios.
    - ii. Educate on the differences between IMPs and Voluntary IMPs.
      1. NeDNR is in the process of developing a document outlining these differences that can be shared once it has been finalized.
  - e. Discussion of INSIGHT Data Enhancement Program (IDEP)
    - i. NeDNR follow up on email that O'Brien sent to Jennifer Schellpeper (NeDNR) regarding IDEP funding and potential projects.
4. Other IMP topics
- a. No new FAB rules have been approved
    - i. FAB reports for this year will be based on the old rules.
    - ii. Would be nice to have spot measurements taken south of Rushville. UNWNRD has inquired about IDEP funds to finance a gage at this location. UNWNRD will let Hayden know if NeDNR can assist with gathering this data.
5. Discussion of Upper Niobrara River Compact
- a. A few action items came out of the October 5, 2016, Upper Niobrara River Compact annual meeting.
    - i. Will work with UNL to find out what is causing the 7/10 difference in measurements at the state line well.
    - ii. There was agreement to revise the 2015 Compact minutes stating that there were two storms in June 2015, not one. A storm on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and another on June 5<sup>th</sup>.
    - iii. NeDNR will provide Bill Wilson and UNWNRD with a copy of Wyoming's 2015 Lusk Flood Study.
6. Public Comment
- a. Fires cleared out Pine Ridge and subsequently increased streamflow.
  - b. NRCS is missing an important opportunity by not offering cost-share to repair small dams.
  - c. Wilson requested a distribution of acreage in the Van Tassel drainage and the portion of it above the Niobrara River in Nebraska. UNWNRD has this information and a map that they will share with Wilson.
7. Meeting Summary
- a. Schedule next annual meeting
    - i. Will be scheduled the day after the fall NPDC meeting.