

**TRI-BASIN NRD REPUBLICAN RIVER IMP
ANNUAL MEETING
Monday, September 30, 2019, 10:30 a.m.**

Present

TBNRD Staff: John Thorburn and Carie Lynch

NeDNR Staff – Carol Flaute, Beth Eckles and Philip Paitz

1. **Introductions:** Thorburn opened the meeting at 10:30 a.m. and noted that the open meetings act was posted, and the meeting was advertised. Thorburn stated the purpose of the meeting.
2. **Review Agenda and Meeting Purpose:** Thorburn reviewed the agenda items.
3. **Monitoring & Management Actions:** Thorburn reviewed the 2018 annual report and mentioned certified acres went down this year due to assessor corrections (remeasuring). Thorburn reviewed transfers, well permits, certified acres, water use data, diversions. The augmentation well wasn't used this year. Thorburn explained that 1450 irrigated acres, mostly in the Republican Basin, were signed up for the Water Conservation Incentive Program this year. He explained how the program works. Flaute asked about nine expiring CREP contracts and if they will be renewed when they expire. Thorburn will get information about them.

Flaute reviewed the 2019 Annual Report of 2018 Data by NeDNR. Flaute reviewed streamflow and stream gage data and noted that stream gage data was truncated to fit the graphs. There was discussion about the rainfall events this year. Thorburn commented that all the small reservoirs were probably full too, if they weren't breached by the high flows. Flaute asked for information about damaged reservoirs so the totals are counted in total evaporation. Flaute reviewed data on streamflow depletions, mound accretions and three-year net effect to baseflow.

Flaute commented that last year Thorburn asked how excess flow diversions were accounted (modeled) for geographically. Thorburn asked if the diversions were accounted for in the whole canal or just the recharge site. Flaute explained that the model was using the whole system but was changed to reflect diversion at the canal headgate (adjacent to the recharge area), which is more accurate. Paitz reviewed the methodology of the change to modeling relating to off-season canal recharge.

Flaute reviewed maps created by NeDNR of Tri-Basin NRD depicting average annual recharge, well pumping and net recharge by township. The maps were created using the 2018 robust review projections. Flaute mentioned that GIS data files will be provided to TBNRD.

4. **Republican River Basin-Wide Plan Activities:** Flaute noted that the plan took effect March 1, 2019. The NRDs and NeDNR have been working together on implementing the plan and are preparing for the first annual meeting which could be held early next year.
5. **Other IMP Topics:** Flaute suggested next year the annual meeting and report could be combined with the Republican Basin-Wide Plan annual meeting. The plans could be addressed individually or at the same time. Flaute suggested the report on action items could be joint and individual reporting could be done at the end of the meeting. Thorburn suggested keeping the reporting separate but combine the meeting. Flaute mentioned that the NeDNR "TBNRD Projection Handout" (which has the estimated mound credit and streamflow depletions at the

southern TBNRD boundary, and the net projected accretions) is typically provided at the annual TBNRD IMP meetings held in the fall hydrologic testing and projections, but this information could be provided outside of the annual meeting at a beneficial time, via phone or email. Flaute mentioned that TBNRD's plan mentions "the first ten years" frequently and the plan expires June 2022. Adjusting "dated" wording, incorporating portions of the basin-wide plan and other adjustments could be discussed at the Fall 2020 meeting. Thorburn suggested an annual meeting be used to discuss updates to be made to the second increment IMP.

6. Flaute is reminding all the districts to send NeDNR notification of any updates to groundwater management plans, rules and regulations and long-range implementation plans so NeDNR can review, comment or provide testimony. NeDNR is developing a handout outlining timelines that will be shared. Thorburn noted that TBNRD needs to make changes to the groundwater management plan. Eckles suggested providing a draft to NeDNR before the final version is submitted for formal review, so that comments NeDNR might have can be addressed prior to completion of the final draft. Thorburn will submit draft redline version and indicate that a hearing hasn't yet been scheduled. She also suggested only sending sections that have changes, but that an entire copy of the plan should be submitted upon the formal review.

7. **Public Comment Period:** There were no public comments.

8. **Meeting Summary**

- a. **Action Items:** Integrate basin-wide items into TBNRD's plan, update dates in the plan and data sharing.
- b. **Schedule Next Annual Meeting:** The next meeting will be set later.

The meeting was closed at 11:14 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Carie Lynch, TBNRD Administrative Secretary