



# Nebraska

## Department of Natural Resources

### NEBRASKA'S WATER MANAGEMENT RESOURCE

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

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### **COLLABORATIVE MANAGEMENT OF NEBRASKA'S SURFACE WATER AND GROUNDWATER SUPPLIES**

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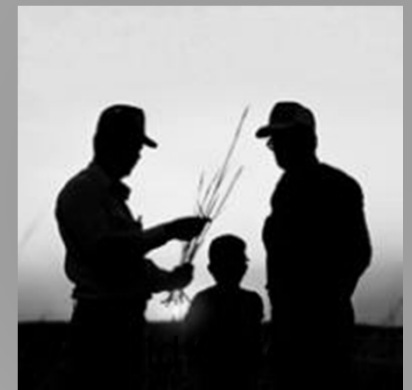
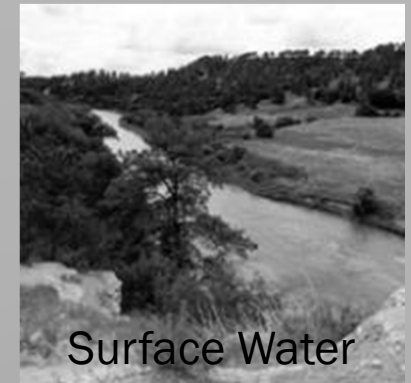
CAROL MYERS FLAUTE, TIM FREED, AND  
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Nebraska Department of Natural Resources



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# **COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS IN INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT**

Partnerships and stakeholder input enhance Nebraska's  
successful integrated management process

# Overview

## Integrated water management planning



## Stakeholder involvement



## Planning successes



# **INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT PLANNING OVERVIEW**

An IMP is a proactive, collaborative approach to managing hydrologically connected surface and groundwater

# INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT

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

# INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT



# Integrated Management Planning: What is it?

- Proactive
- Protects existing investments
- Adaptive management
- Surface water and groundwater management
- Jointly developed with NRD
- Suited to local conditions



# Collaboration

- DNR + a Natural Resources District (NRD)
  - IMP development
  - Plan implementation
- Stakeholder input





# STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

Stakeholder participation is an essential and beneficial part of the integrated management planning process

## IMPLEMENTATION

Water Management  
Projects

Strategic Planning Actions

## PLANNING AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Goals and Objectives  
for Water Planning

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Shortages

Water Supplies and Water Uses

## SCIENCE

Hydrologic Models, Data, and Analyses

# Stakeholder process engages the public

- Gives them a place at the table
- Meets their desire and need to be a part of the process
- Lets us know about needs now and in the future



# Variety of Stakeholders

- Districts – irrigation, reclamation, public power and irrigation
- Companies - mutual irrigation, canal
- Municipalities
- Groundwater Users
- Fish & Wildlife
- Recreation
- Economic Interests



# Stakeholder participation

- Goals and objectives
- Activities designed to identify needs and related importance
  - Breakout sessions
  - Dot exercise (e.g. identify likes, dislikes)
  - Quadrant (e.g. effort and time requirements)



# Participant Comments

- “We also knew that in our district, you don’t do any planning without any broad comprehensive public involvement process.”

*-Voluntary IMP Interviewee #1*

- Reed & Abdel-Monem (2015)

# Participant Comments

- “So we spent really that entire first meeting getting a handle on everybody was, who they represented, what they saw as issues.”

*-Voluntary IMP Interviewee #3*

- Reed & Abdel-Monem (2015)

# IMP PLANNING SUCCESSES

Nebraska's collaborative approach has created social capital, and cooperative projects continue into the plan implementation phase

# Creating Social Capital

- “The stakeholder group was a very hard working group. It turned out to be a well selected group. Those meetings were set up for them, very specific agendas. They were meaty issues. They were working on, directly on, the vision, the goals, and having their input into those.”

*-Voluntary IMP Interviewee #1*

- “It was a great process. It really was. Lots of people were involved. Lots of data and information was presented...lots of really nice, thoughtful conversation on the part of different groups and people who were involved. Their comments and suggestions were taken very seriously and incorporated into the final wording of those goals.”

*-Voluntary IMP Interviewee #6*

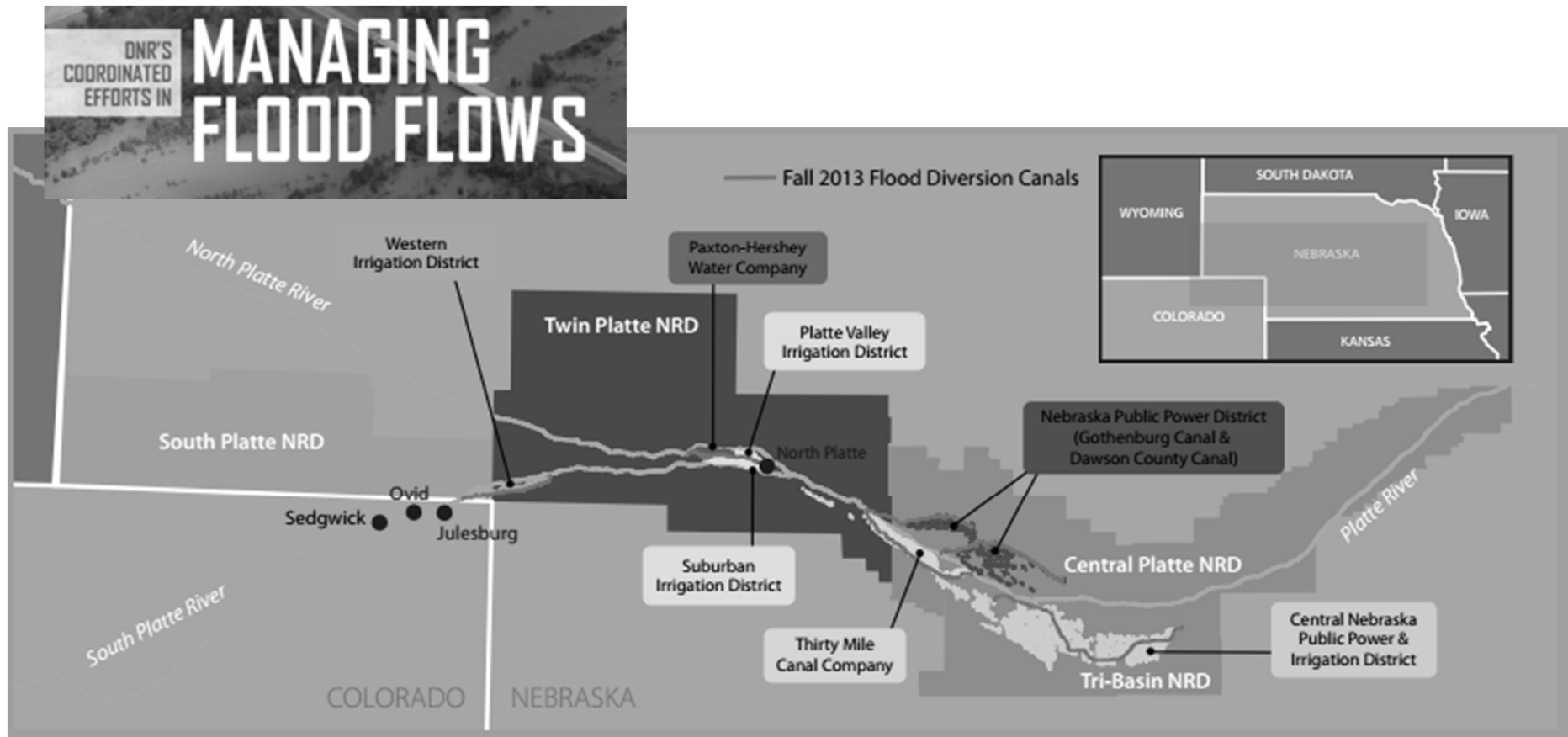
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# Developing Relationships

- Annual Meetings
  - Data Sharing
- Project Partnerships
  - Natural Resources Districts
  - Irrigation Districts
  - The Department of Natural Resources



# Conjunctive Water Management Example



# Conjunctive Management Impacts

- 2011, 2013 & 2015
  - Diverted over 200,000 acre-feet
  - Recharge near 100,000 acre-feet
  - Benefit Platte River flows
  - Process in place for future successes
- Collaborative approach with groundwater and surface water users
- Meets multiple objectives
- Expand work to other basins

# WRAP UP

Social capital was built ✓

Collaborative efforts continue ✓

Better prepared to address future water supply challenges and opportunities





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# THANK YOU

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