



# Nebraska

## Department of Natural Resources

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### **From Haigler to Hardy: A Basin-Wide Approach to Water**

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Jennifer J. Schellpeper, Integrated Water Management Division Manager

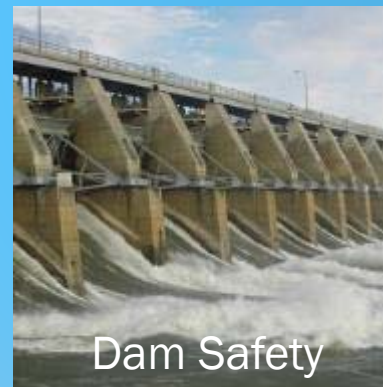
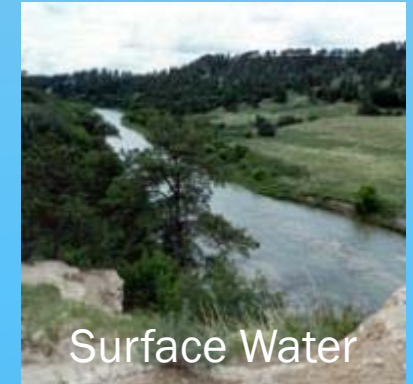
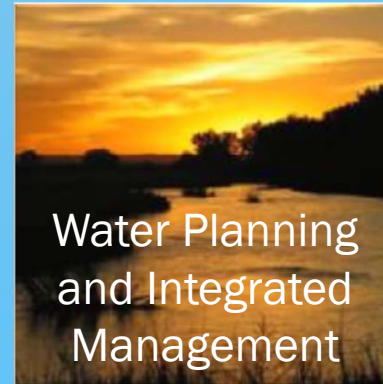
Nebraska Department of Natural Resources

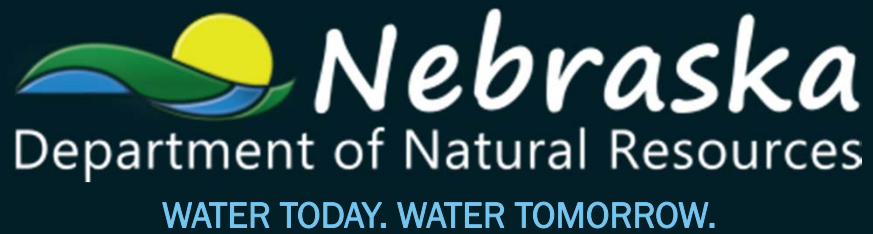


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# Outline

## From Haigler to Hardy: A Basin-Wide Approach to Water

Basin-Wide Planning

Republican River Basin Planning

Republican River Basin  
Stakeholder Involvement

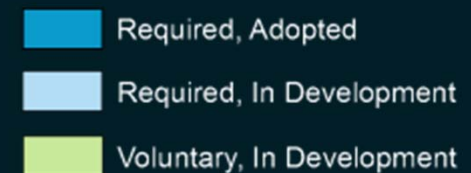
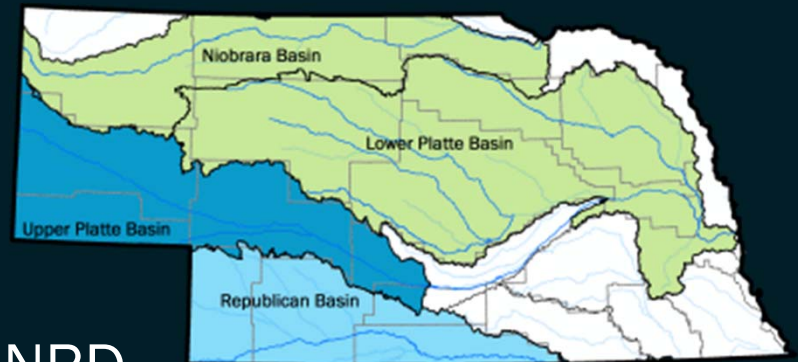
Future Outlook

## BASIN-WIDE PLANNING

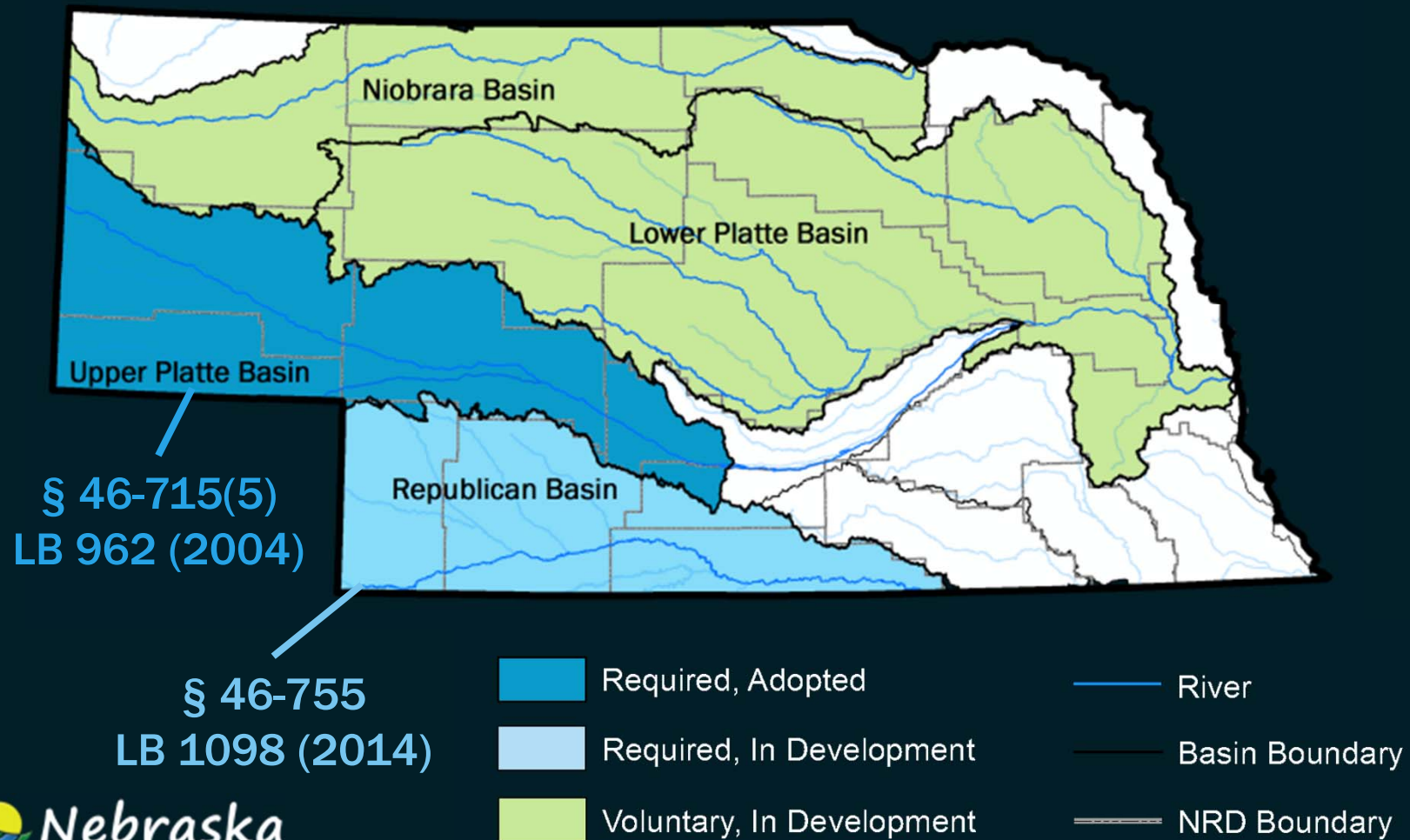
A basin-wide plan facilitates **collaboration** and **coordination** of water supply management actions among NDNR and all the NRDs within a basin

# Basin-wide planning, purpose and benefits

- Management of hydrologically connected surface water and groundwater resources
- NDNR & all NRDs within a basin
- Basin-wide planning looks beyond NRD borders to:
  - Provide a framework for consistency among a basin's NRDs for tasks such as:
    - Defining goals and objectives
    - Monitoring
    - Data exchange
  - Manage cross-boundary issues and opportunities



# Basin-wide plans may be required by statute or voluntary



# Basin-wide plans are collaborative

- Plan Development
  - NDNR + basin NRDs
  - Stakeholders
- Plan implementation
  - NDNR + basin NRDs





# Basin-wide plans use an adaptive management approach



# Basin-wide plans are similar to but different from IMPs

## Basin-wide plans

- All basin NRDs & DNR
- Goals & objectives
  - Focused on regional, cross-boundary issues and opportunities
  - Consistent among basin NRDs
  - More of a general framework

## Integrated management plans

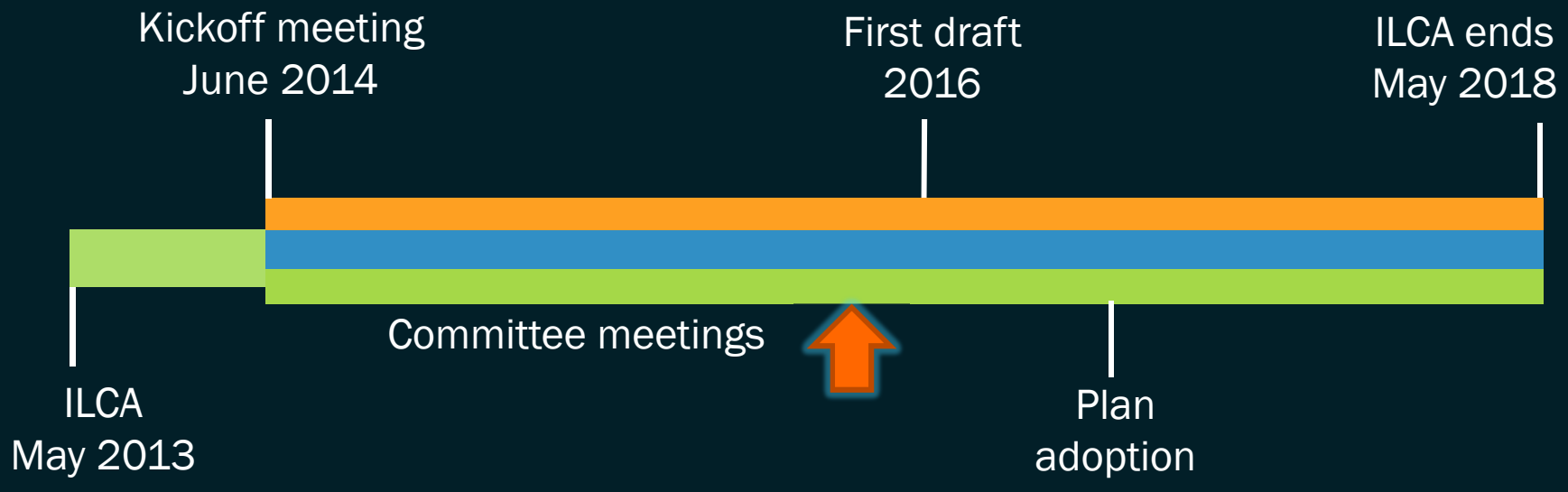
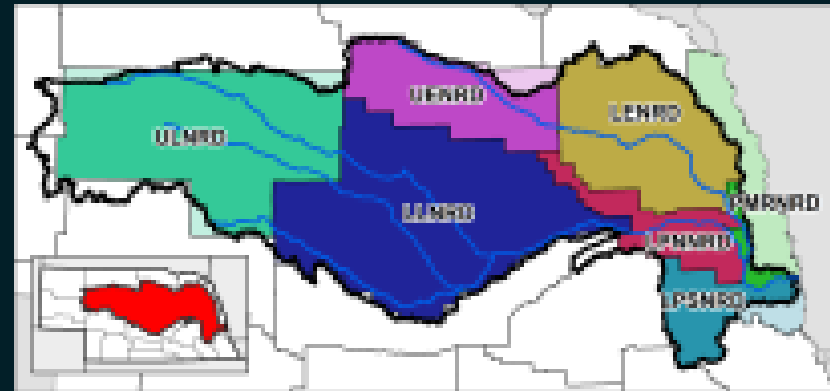
- 1 NRD & NDNR
- Goals, objectives, & controls
  - Tailored to local issues and opportunities
  - Specific to one NRD
  - More specific

# Basin-wide plans complement IMPs

REPORTING GUIDELINES  
FRAMEWORK  
DATA EXCHANGE GUIDELINES  
DATA COLLECTION GUIDELINES  
CENTRAL LOCATION  
SHARED PLAN COMPONENTS  
CONSISTENCY  
CROSS-BOUNDARY TRANSFERS  
REGIONAL WATER ISSUES  
COMMUNICATION  
CROSS-BOUNDARY PROJECTS

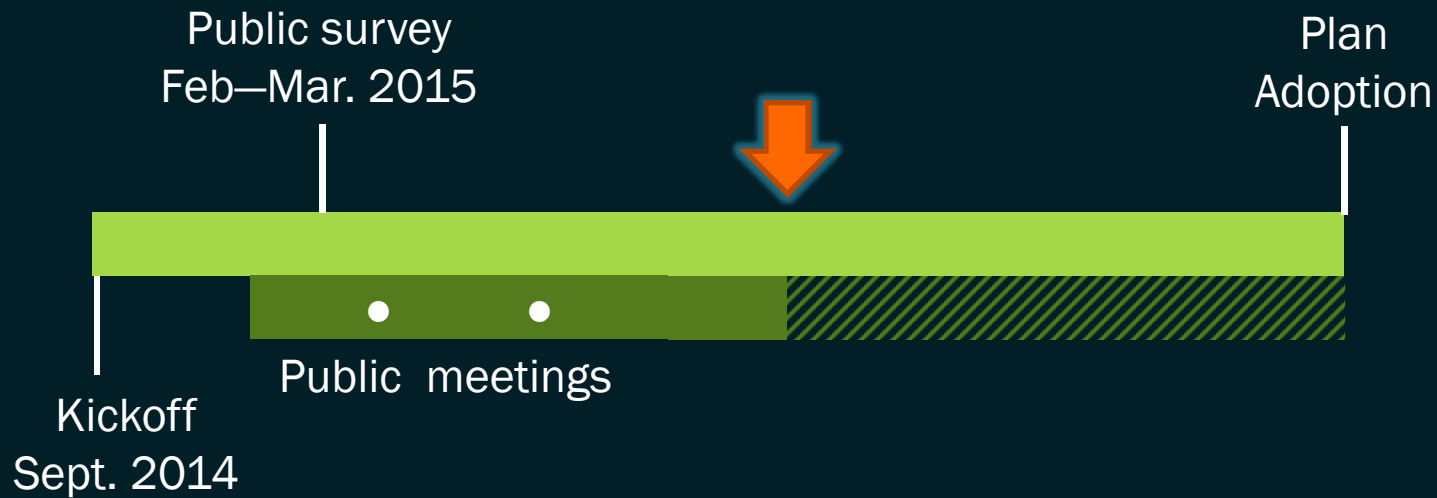
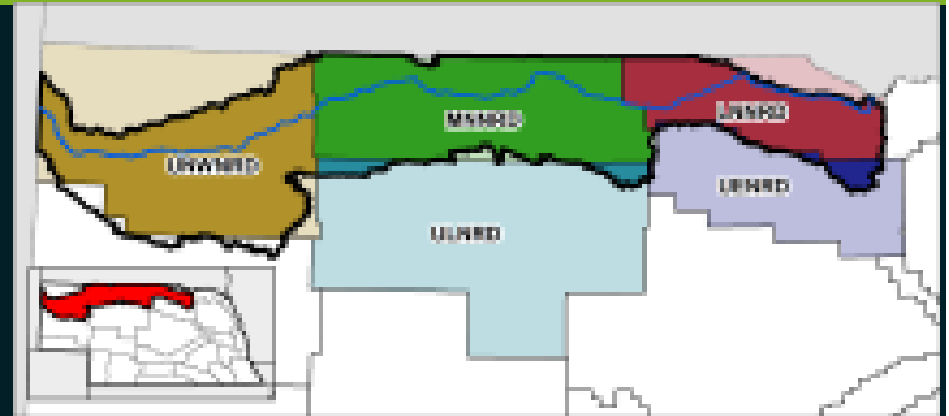
# BASIN-WIDE PLANNING ACROSS THE STATE

# Voluntary Lower Platte River Basin-wide plan



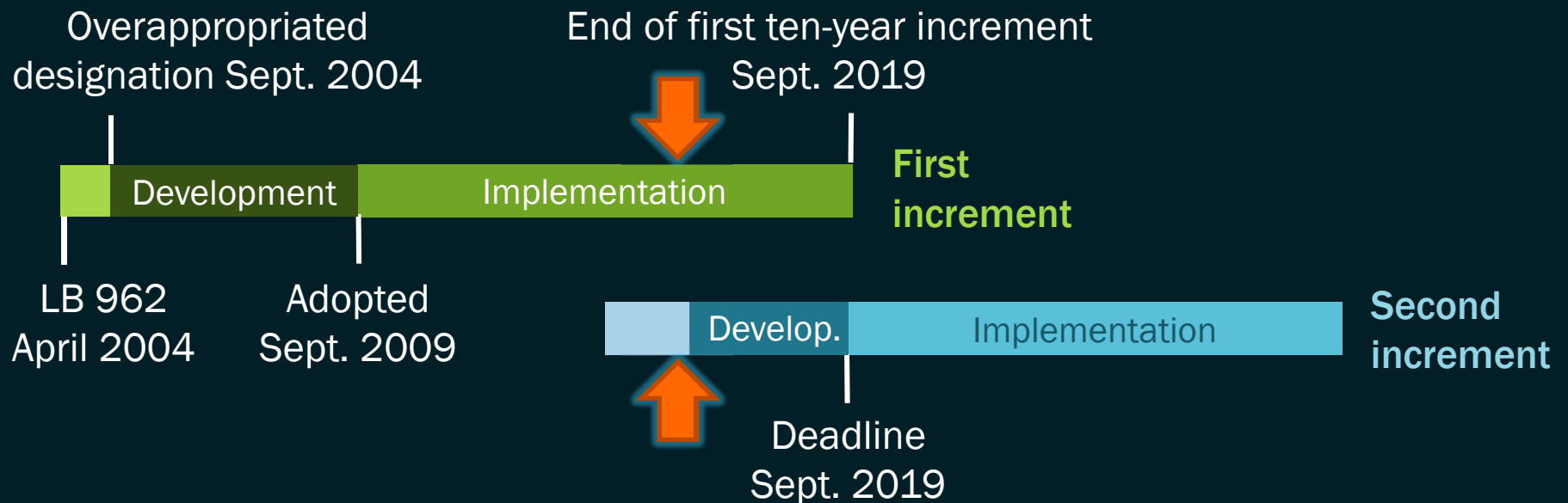
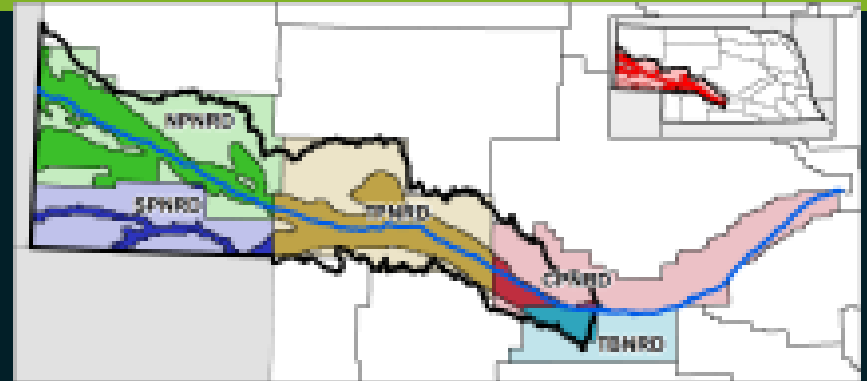
- ✓ NRD board members are stakeholders
- ✓ Water banking workshops
- ✓ Example conjunctive management and water supply alternatives
- ✓ Excess flow analysis

# Voluntary Niobrara River Basin-wide plan



- ✓ Public meetings to gather stakeholder input
- ✓ Goals, objectives, and action items
- ✓ Ready to start writing plan

# Required Platte Overappropriated Area Basin-wide plan



- ✓ Required stakeholder involvement
- ✓ Draft public participation plan
- ✓ Technical analysis to assess progress towards goals
- ✓ Facilitator selection in progress

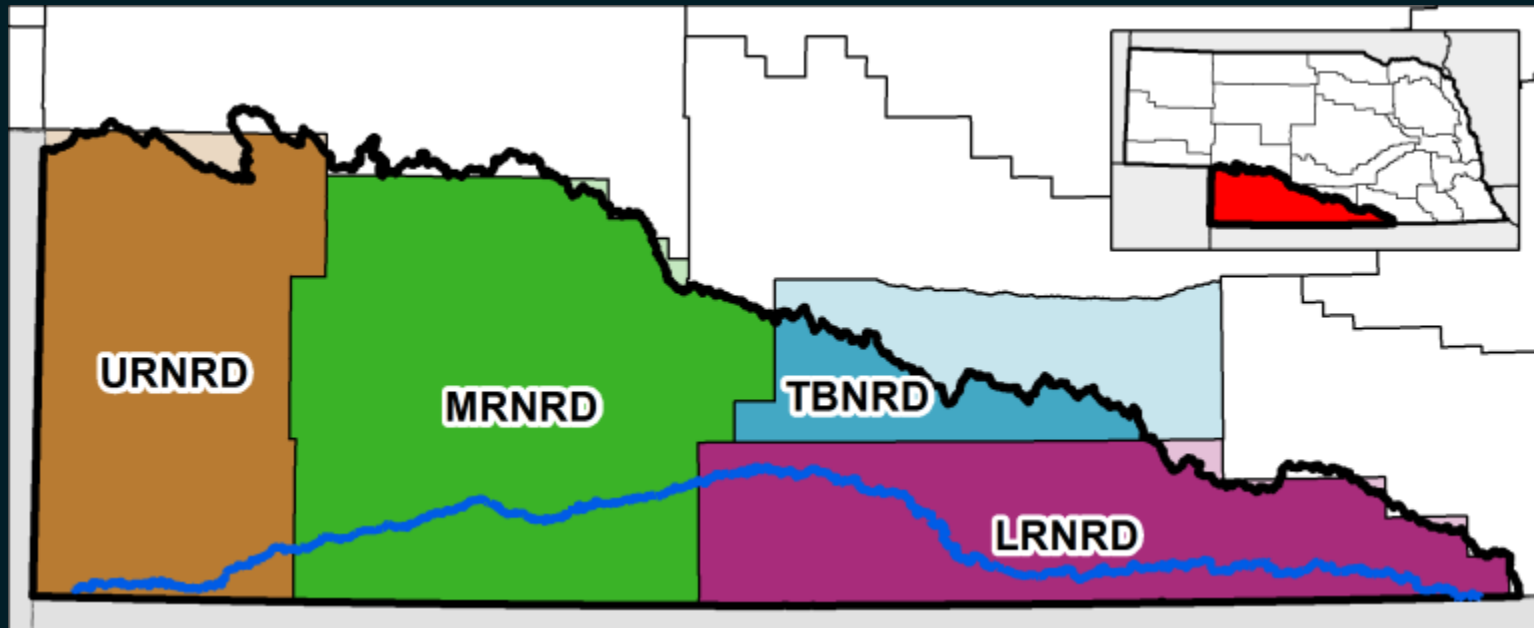
# REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN PLANNING

The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources and four Natural Resources Districts in the Republican River Basin are developing a basin-wide water management plan in collaboration with local stakeholders.



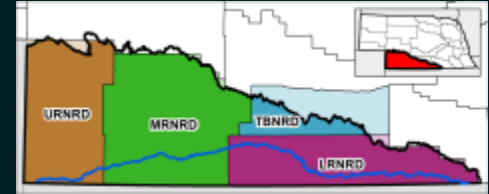
# Republican River Basin-wide plan

- Required by LB 1098 (2014)



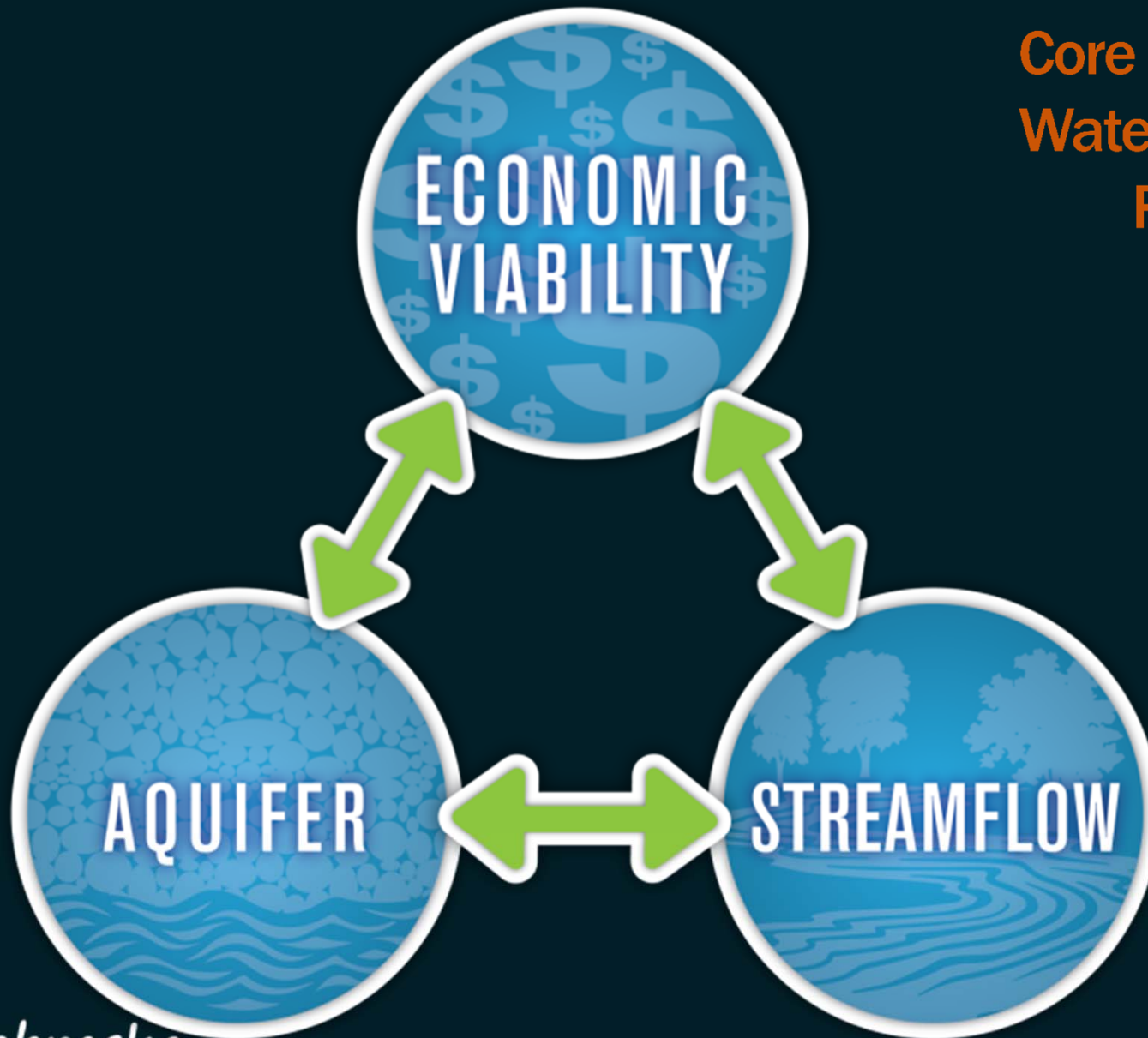
# Republican River Basin-wide plan

## Statutory requirements, § 46-755

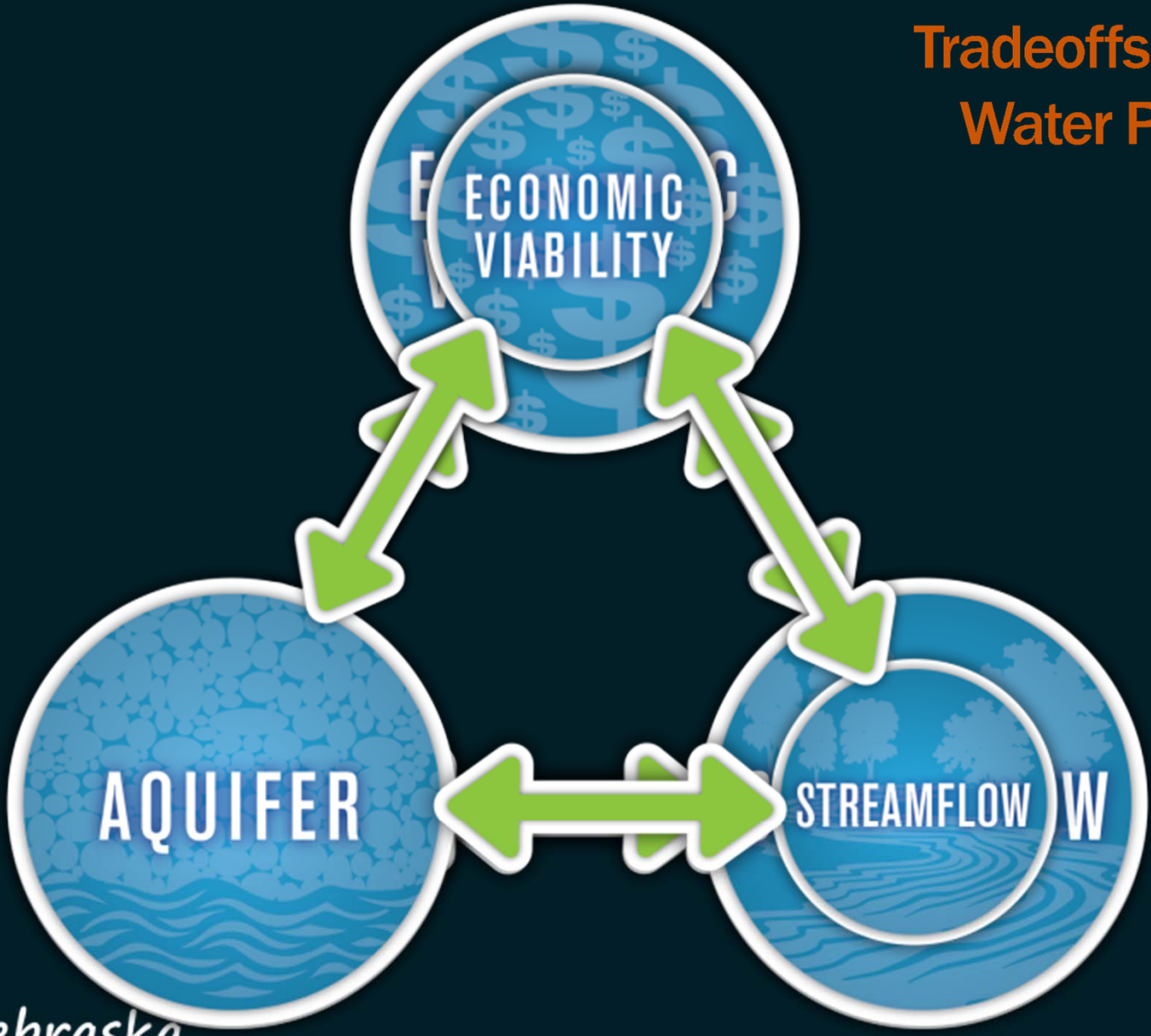


- **Why?** If a river basin includes three or more natural resources districts that have been or are required to develop an integrated management plan for substantially all of the district, such natural resources districts shall, jointly with the department and the natural resources districts within the same basin, develop and adopt a basin-wide plan for the areas of a basin, subbasin, or reach determined by the department to have hydrologically connected water supplies....
- **What?** A basin-wide plan shall have clear goals and objectives with a purpose of sustaining a balance between water uses and water supplies so that the economic viability, social and environmental health, safety, and welfare of the river basin, subbasin, or reach can be achieved and maintained for both the near term and the long term, ensure that compliance with any interstate compact or decree or other formal state contract or agreement or applicable state or federal law is maintained, and (c) set forth a timeline to meet the goals and objectives as required under this subdivision, but in no case shall a timeline exceed thirty years after April 17, 2014.

# Core Goals of Water Supply Planning

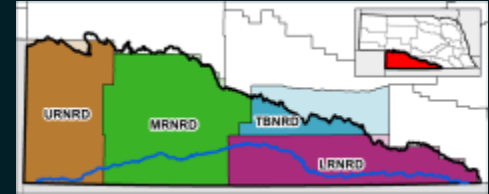


# Tradeoffs Among Water Planning Goals



# Republican River Basin-wide plan

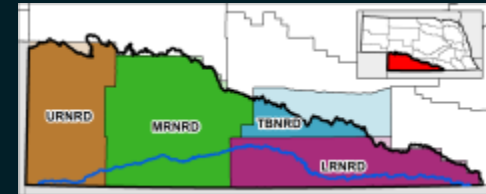
## Statutory requirements, § 46-755



- Ensure Compact compliance continues
  
- Set forth a timeline to achieve goals and objectives
  - Not to exceed 30 years
  - Track progress by setting measurable hydrologic objectives and intermediate target dates
  - Technical analysis every 5 years to assess progress and assess need for plan modifications

# Republican River Basin-wide plan

## IMP/BWP relationship



### Basin-wide plan

- A framework that will apply to all four NRDs within the basin

### IMPs within the basin

- Must be consistent with the basin-wide plan
- May include additional incentive programs or controls

# Republican River Basin-wide plan Status



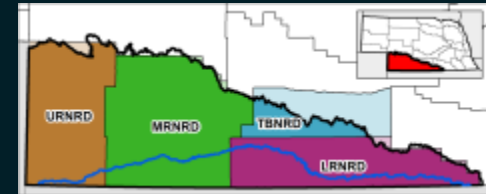
## REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

Representatives from a wide range of users relying on water from within the basin are consulted in the basin-wide plan development.



# Basin-wide plan stakeholder

## Statutory requirements, § 46-755



- A basin-wide plan shall be **developed using a consultation and collaboration process** involving representatives from irrigation districts, reclamation districts, public power and irrigation districts, mutual irrigation companies, canal companies, ground water users, range livestock owners, the Game and Parks Commission, and municipalities that rely on water from within the affected area and that, after being notified of the commencement of the plan development process, indicate in writing their desire to become an official participant in such process. The department and affected natural resources districts shall **involve official participants in formulating, evaluating, and recommending plans and management actions and work to reach an agreement among all official participants involved in a basin-wide plan.** In addition, the department or the affected natural resources districts may include designated representatives of other stakeholders. **If agreement is reached by all parties involved** in such consultation and collaboration process, the department and the affected natural resources districts shall adopt the agreed-upon basin-wide plan. **If agreement cannot be reached** by all parties involved, the basin-wide plan shall be developed and adopted by the department and the affected natural resources districts or by the Interrelated Water Review Board.

# Stakeholder Recruitment

- Must include representatives of: irrigation districts, reclamation districts, public power and irrigation districts, mutual irrigation companies, canal companies, and municipalities that rely on water from basin
  - Invitation letters were sent to these entities
- Solicitations were advertised in several local newspapers across the NRDs and the OWH

Group	Representation
Ground water user	19
Range/Livestock	7
Municipalities	5
Agribusiness	6
Irrigation District	3
Other surface water user	3
Education	2
Banker	2
Former NRD	2
Conservationist	2
Other Irrigator	1
NGPC	1
Reclamation District	1
Interested party	1
Landowner	1
Public power district	1
Recreation	1

# Basin Representation



- Stakeholder Cities
- ▭ Republican River Basin Boundary
- ~ Major Streams
- ▭ Natural Resource District
- ▭ Reservoirs
- ▭ County



# Summary of Stakeholder Advisory Committee Role

- Collaborative partners in plan development
- Members represent various interest groups
- Members are geographically representative of the basin area

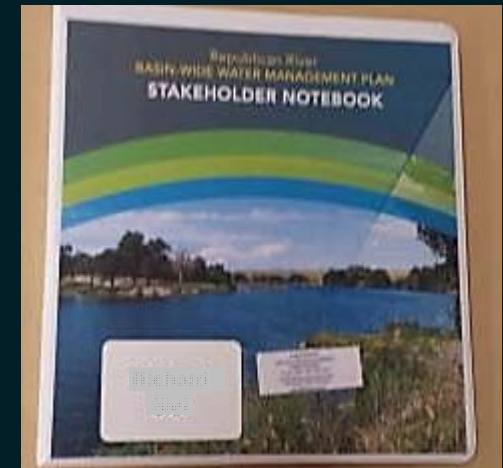
# Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meetings

- Collaboration and consensus process
- 4 hour meetings, every other month
  - Morning – logistics and education
  - Afternoon – working session
- Meetings open to the public
- 5 meetings conducted in March, June, and August 2015 and January and March 2016



# Tools and Techniques for Input

- Whole group discussions
- Breakout groups
- Online Surveys
- Stakeholder notebook



# Education and Information Exchange Sessions

- Introduction to roles
- Current affairs
- Background information
  - Nebraska Statutes
  - Basin-wide plans
  - GMPs vs. IMPs vs. BWPs
  - Overview of NRD's IMPs
  - History of RR Compact
  - Hydrologic overview and trends
  - Other Hydrology such as the connection between streamflow, aquifers, and groundwater pumping
  - Overview of interbasin transfers
  - Bureau of Reclamation projects



# Stakeholder Workshops

- Basin-wide plan goals, objectives, and action items
  - Identification of Stakeholder Advisory Committee priorities
  - Draft
- Discussion of online survey feedback
- Perceptions on the state of the basin
- Discussion on best management practices
- Information/Education needs
- Sustainability survey

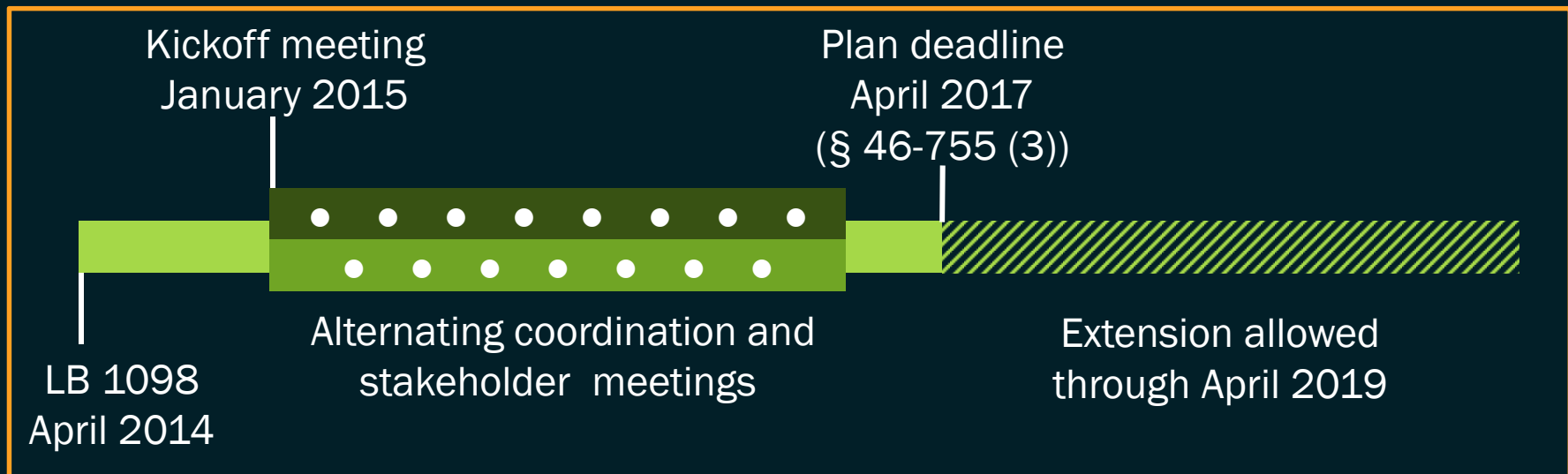


## FUTURE OUTLOOK

Stakeholder Advisory Committee collaboration continues through plan development.

# Future Stakeholder Meetings

- Refining goals, objectives, and action items
- Identifying possible solutions – such as BMPs, conjunctive management projects
- Detail measurable objectives and timeframes for completion



# Want to know more?

## Republican River **BASIN-WIDE WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**WHAT'S GOING ON?**  
Project Description

**WHO'S INVOLVED?**  
Stakeholders and Partners

**WHERE?**  
Basin Description & Resources

**WHAT IS THE SCHEDULE?**  
Project and Meeting Schedule

**HOW CAN I PROVIDE INPUT?**  
Public Involvement

- Further information on the stakeholder meetings including agendas, meeting minutes, and presentations: [dnr.nebraska.gov/RRBWP/](http://dnr.nebraska.gov/RRBWP/)

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# THANK YOU

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