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## **Basin-Wide Planning in Nebraska**

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Nebraska Department of Natural Resources



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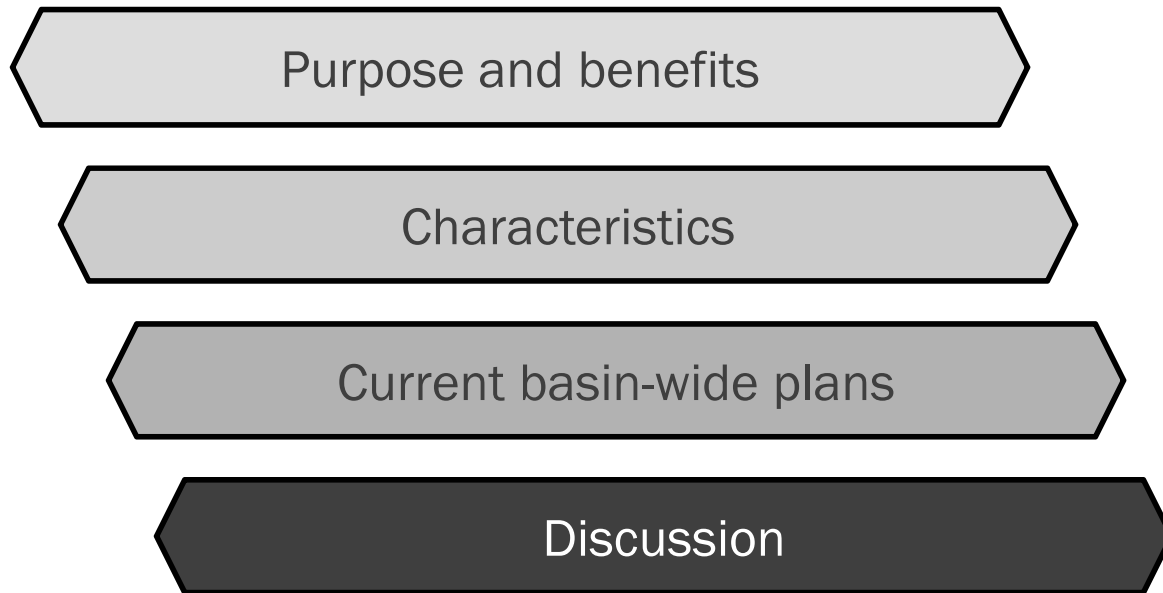


Water Planning  
and Integrated  
Management



# Outline

## Basin-wide planning in Nebraska



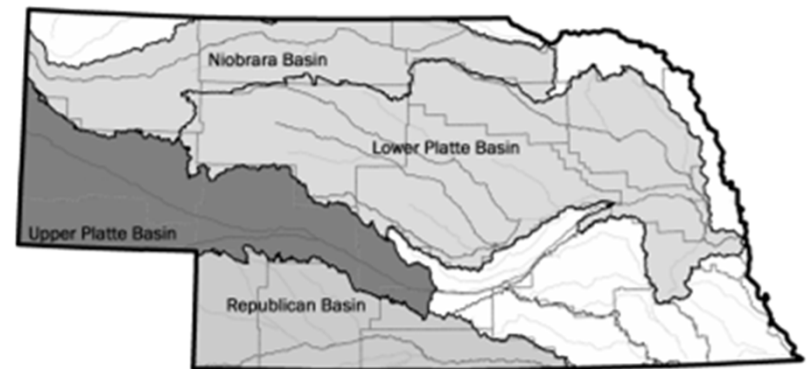


## PURPOSE AND BENEFITS

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

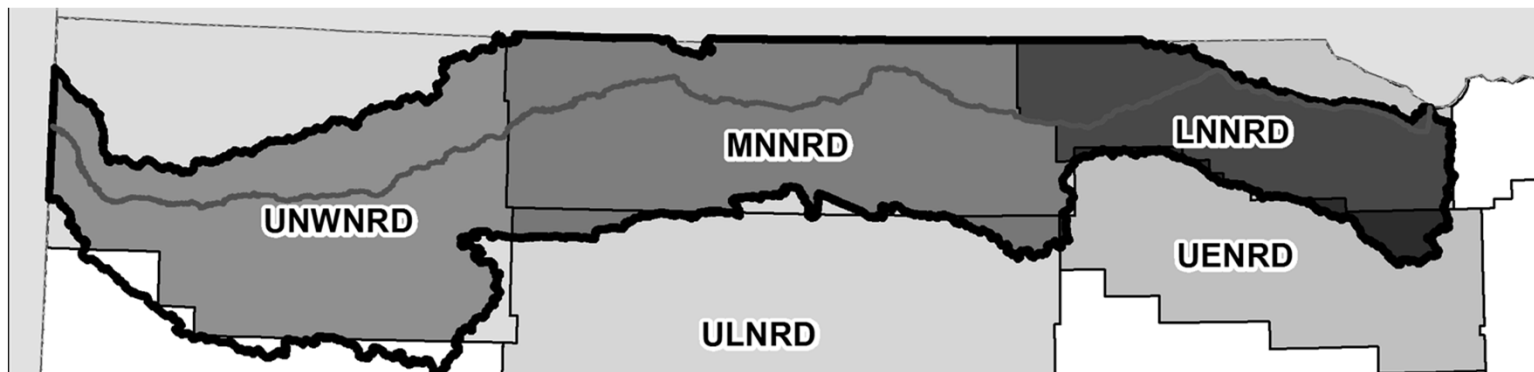
# Basin-wide planning, purpose

- Management of hydrologically connected surface water and groundwater resources
- NDNR & all NRDs within a basin



# Basin-wide planning, benefits

- 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
  - Address connectivity between NRDs
  - Manage cross-boundary issues and opportunities



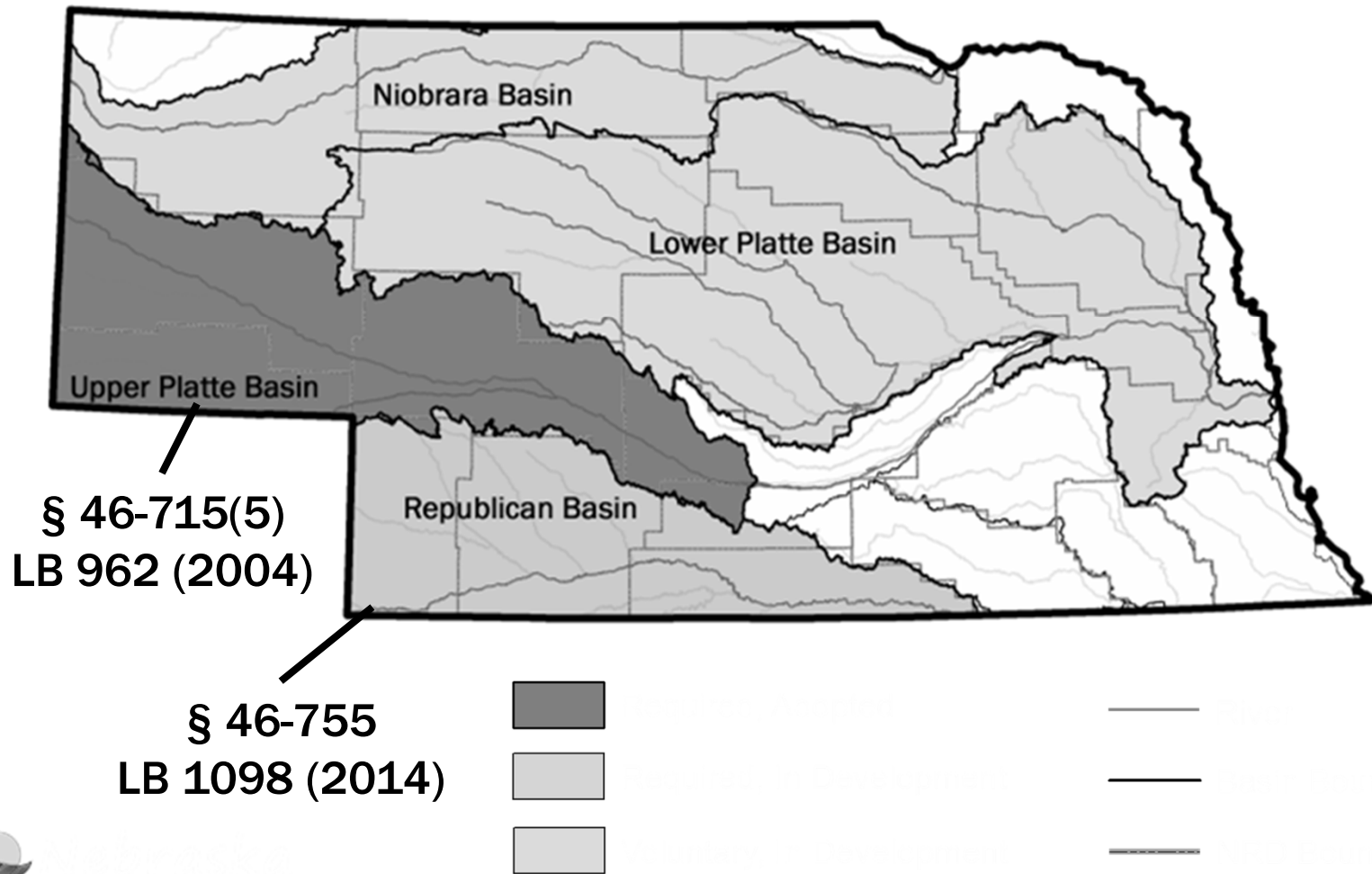


## CHARACTERISTICS

Basin-wide planning is a **collaborative, adaptive management** approach to managing a basin's water resources



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



# Basin-wide plans are collaborative

- Plan Development
  - NDNR + basin NRDs
  - Stakeholders  
(collaboration mandated for required plans)
  
- 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

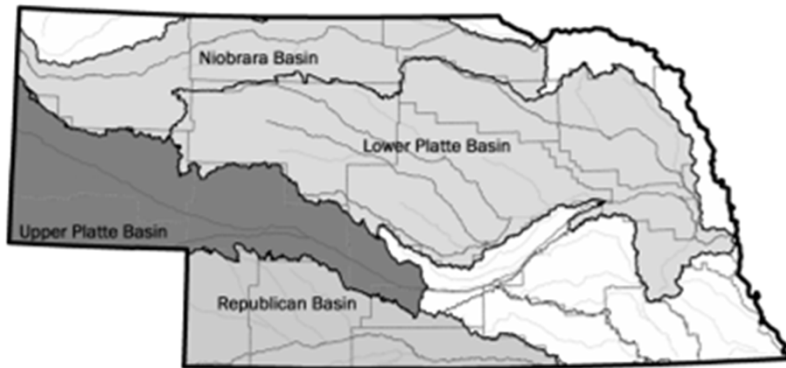
- All basin NRDs & DNR
- Goals & objectives
  - Focused on regional, cross-boundary issues and opportunities
  - Consistent among basin NRDs
  - More of a general framework

## 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



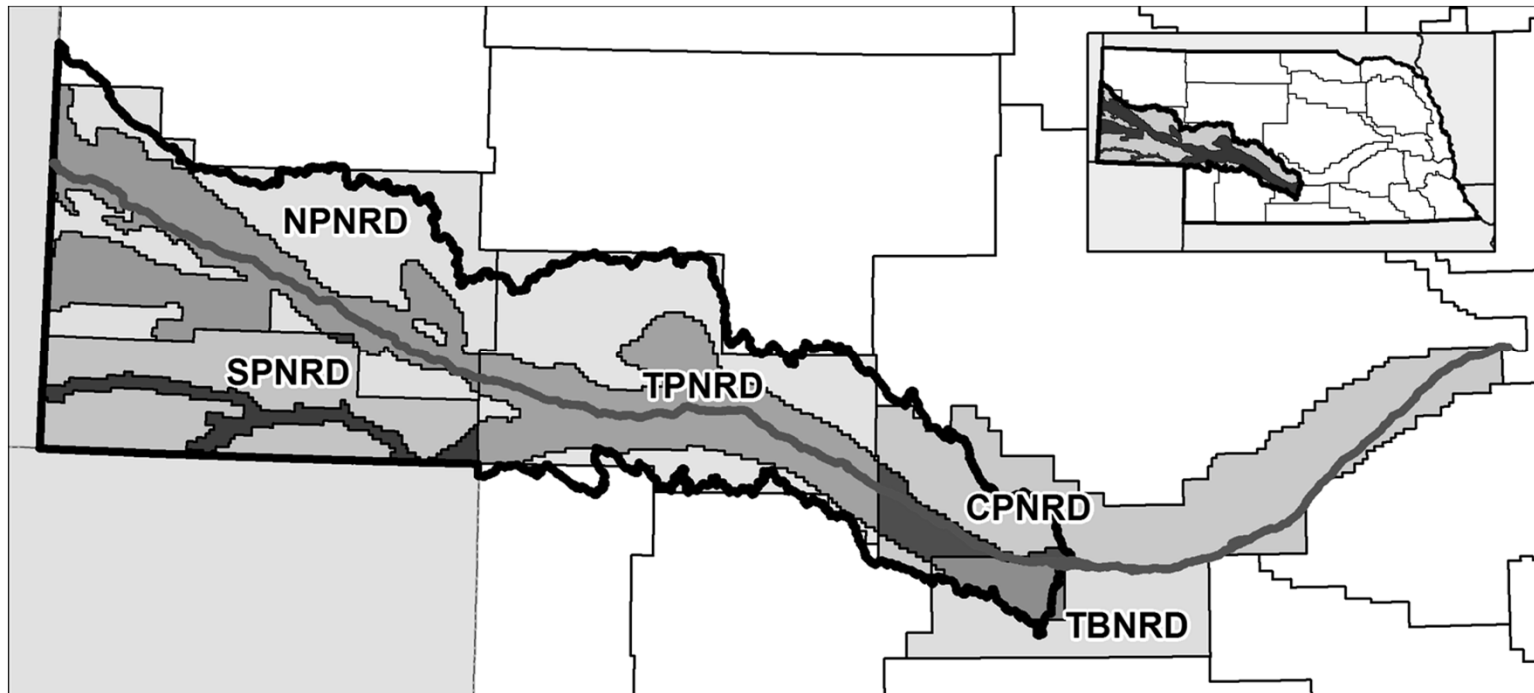
## CURRENT BASIN-WIDE PLANS

Each of the state's four basin-wide planning processes is unique, reflecting both differing statutory requirements and each basin's distinct challenges and opportunities

# Platte Overappropriated Area basin-wide plan

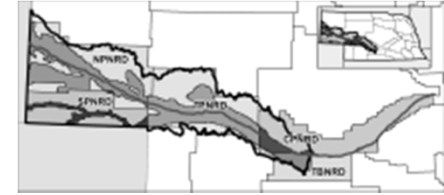
## Plan overview

- Required by LB 962 (2004)



# Platte Overappropriated Area basin-wide plan

## Statutory requirements, § 46-715(5)

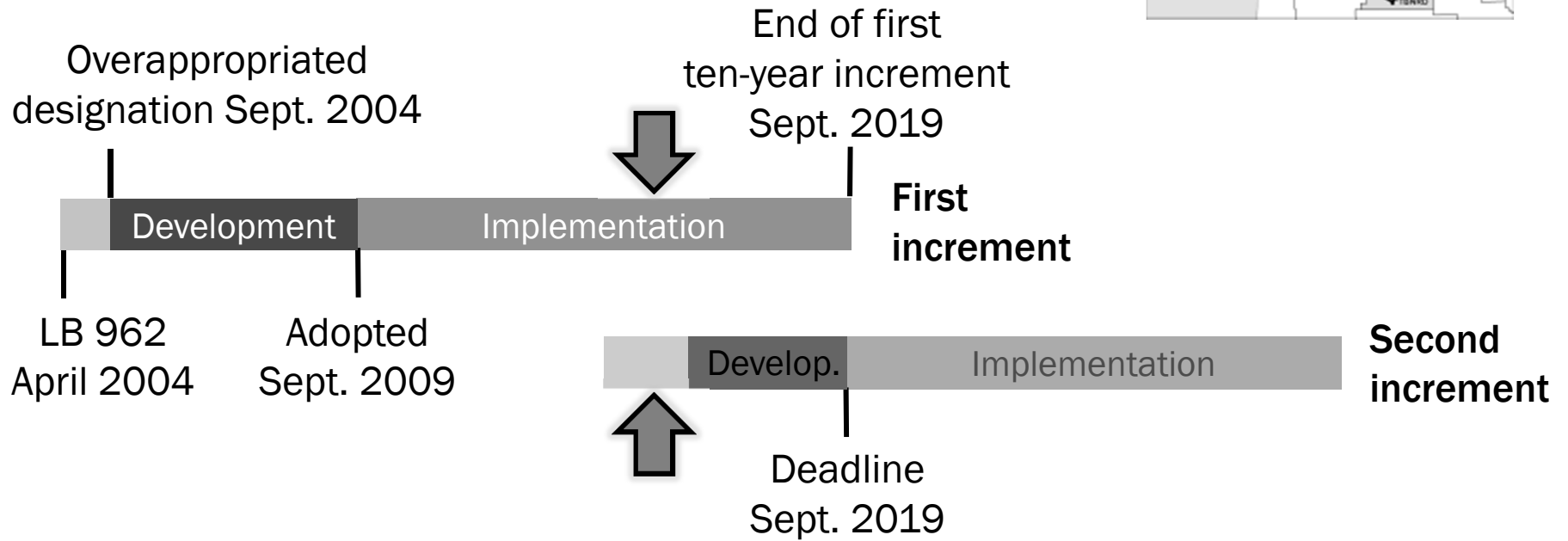
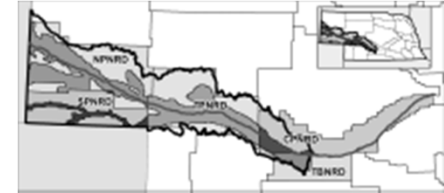


- Use consultation and collaboration approach
  - Stakeholders representing specific interests
  - Agreement by all parties OR by NDNR/NRDs OR by Interrelated Water Review Board
  
- Develop IMPs concurrently
  
- Identify the difference between current and fully appropriated levels of development
  
- Adopt an incremental approach
  - 10 year increments
  - Technical analysis of progress to evaluate whether each subsequent increment is needed





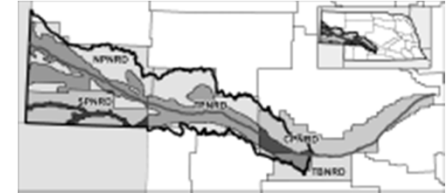
# Platte Overappropriated Area basin-wide plan Status



- ✓ Technical analysis to assess progress towards goals
- ✓ Draft public participation plan
- ✓ Facilitator selection in progress
- ✓ Stakeholder meetings to begin in June

## Platte Overappropriated Area basin-wide plan

# Public involvement



- Stakeholder committee 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
- Meetings are open to the public

# Platte Overappropriated Area basin-wide plan

## First increment plans, IMP/BWP relationship



### Basin-wide plan

- Goals and objectives
  - Consistent among basin NRDs
  - More of a general framework
  - Defines where we want to get
- Creates opportunities for collaboration among NRDs

### IMPs within the basin

- Goals, objectives, & controls
  - Specific targets and actions that each NRD will use to meeting the basin-wide plan's goals

# Platte Overappropriated Area basin-wide plan

## First increment plans, IMP/BWP relationship



### Basin-wide plan

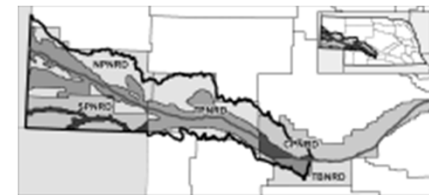
- Establish uniform methods for calculating depletions and offsets

### IMPs within the basin

- Coordinate with the other NRDs to develop a consistent method of calculation that will be applied when calculation of depletions or accretions to the stream are necessary

## Platte Overappropriated Area basin-wide plan

### First increment plans, IMP/BWP relationship



#### Basin-wide plan

- Identify projects to enhance water supply
- Pursue on a basin-wide level when they will help achieve sustainable levels of supply and use and address water shortages in one NRD that affect more than one NRD.

#### IMPs within the basin

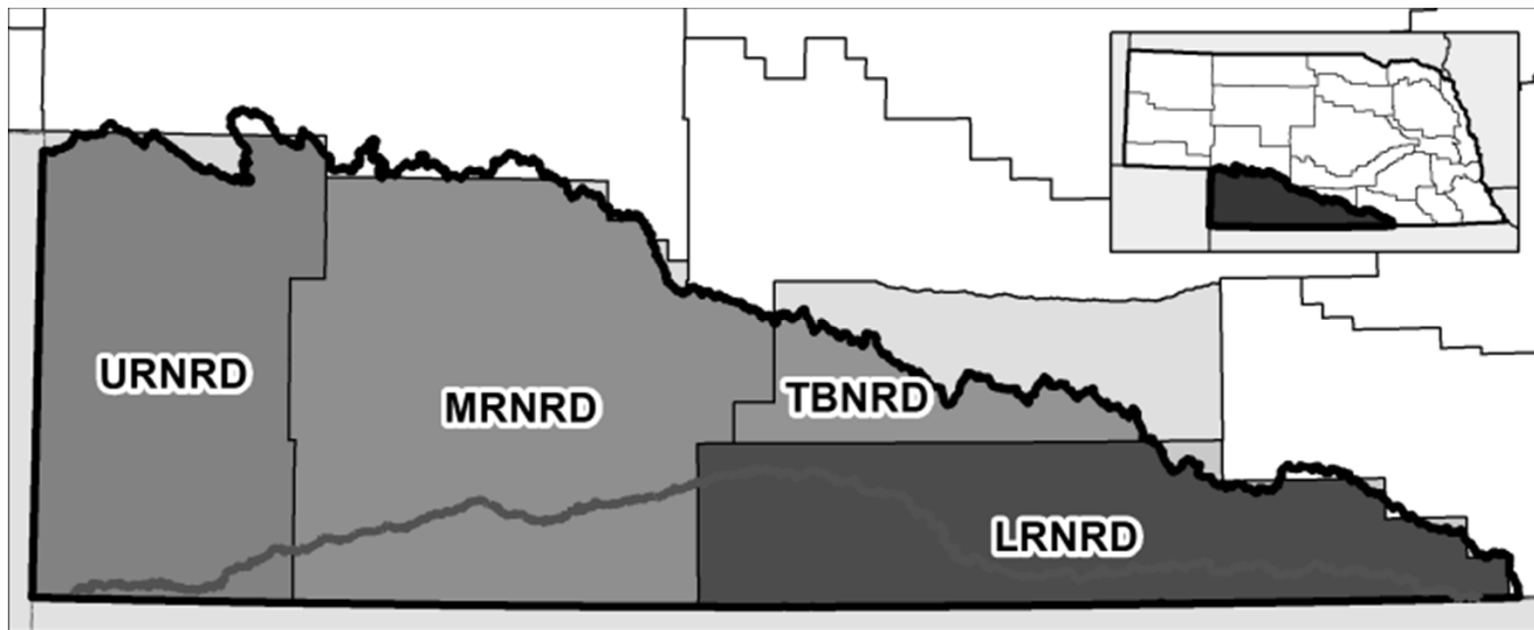
- Investigate opportunities to reduce consumptive use
- May include but not limited to:
  - Transfer SW appropriations to instream flow
  - Transfer SW appropriations or apply for new for GW recharge
  - Contractual agreements between water users
  - Conjunctive management with SW projects

# Next: Republican River Basin-wide plan

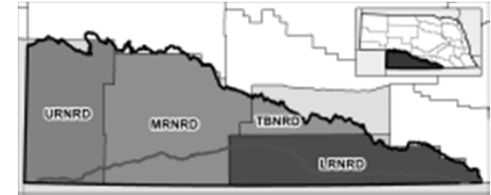
# Republican River Basin-wide plan

## Plan overview

- Required by LB 1098 (2014)



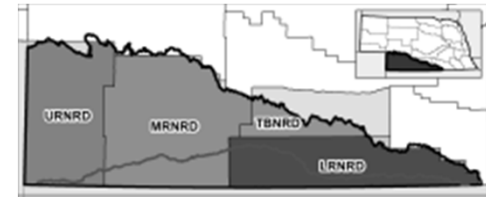
# Republican River Basin-wide plan Statutory requirements, § 46-755



- 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
- Use consultation and collaboration approach
  - Stakeholders representing specific interests
  - Agreement by all parties OR
    - by NDNR/NRDs OR by Interrelated Water Review Board



# Republican River Basin-wide plan IMP/BWP relationship



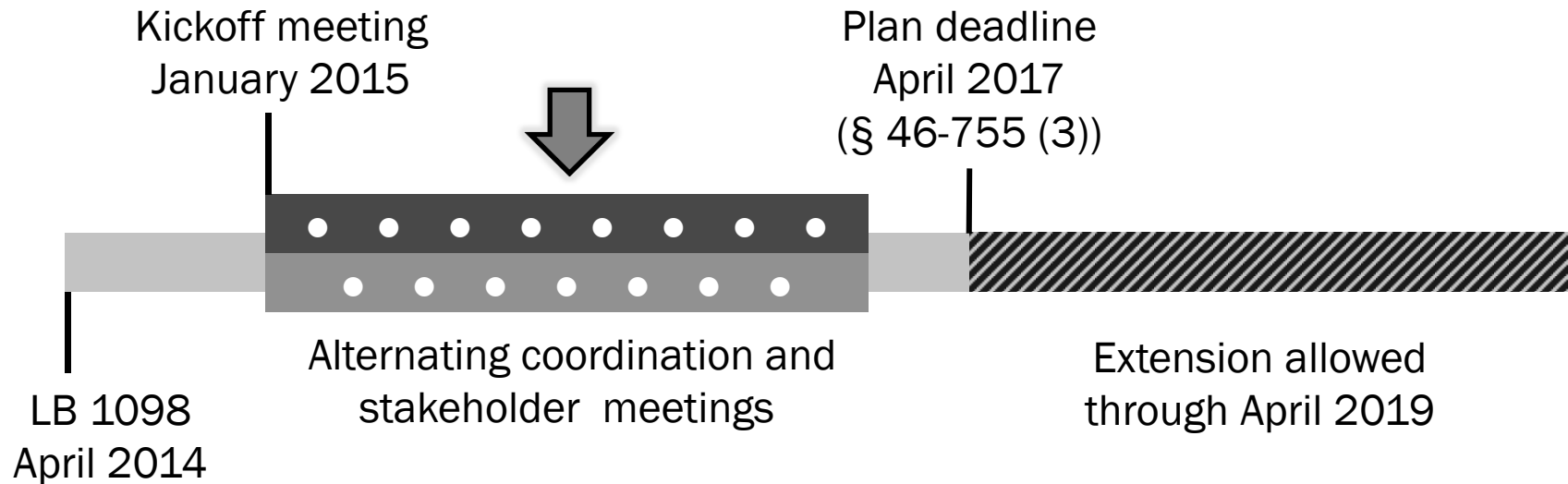
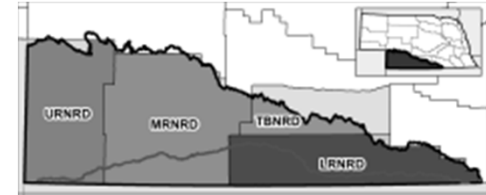
## Basin-wide plan

- 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

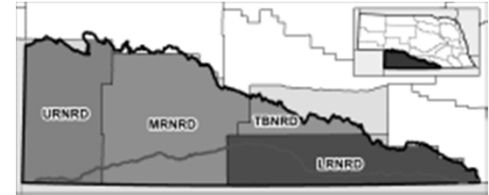


- ✓ Education about basin hydrology and trends
- ✓ Identification of issues and concerns
- ✓ First draft of goals, objectives, and action items

# Republican River Basin-wide plan

## Public involvement

- Stakeholder Advisory Committee
  - 47 members
  - 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
  - Meetings open to public
  
- Collaboration and consensus process
  
- 4 hour meetings, every other month
  - Morning – logistics and education
  - Afternoon – working session

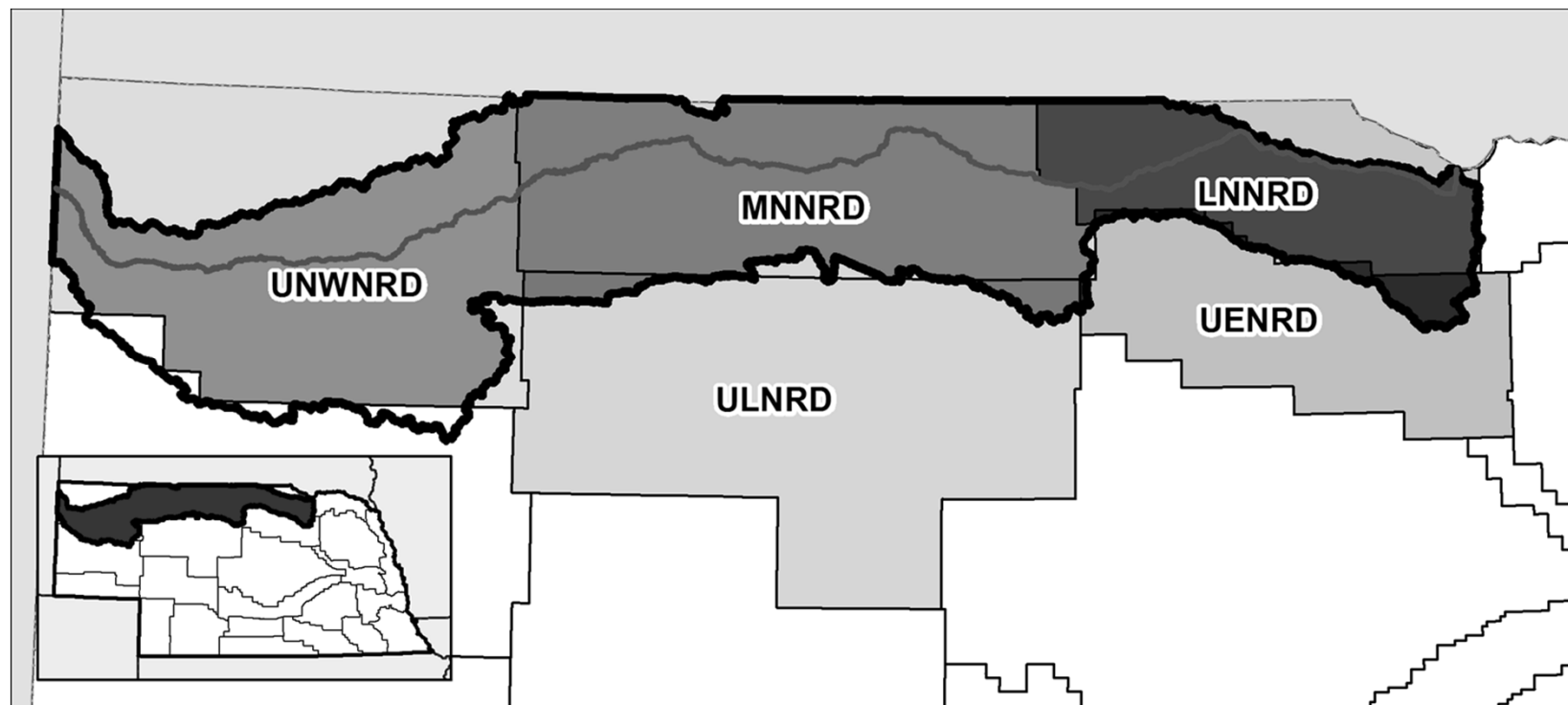


# Next: Niobrara River Basin-wide plan

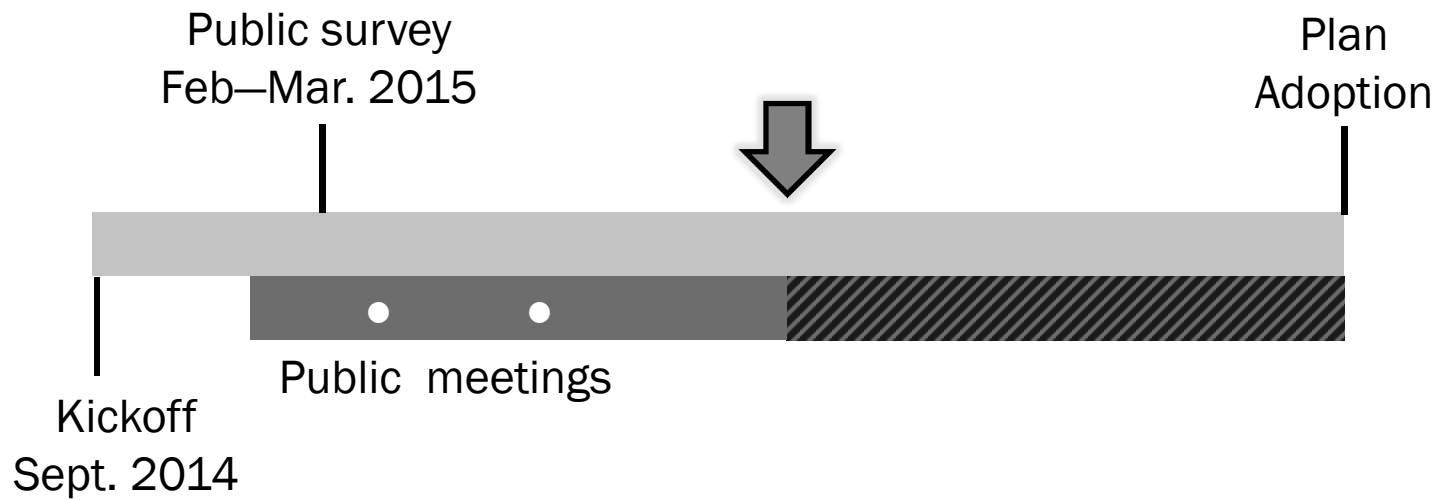
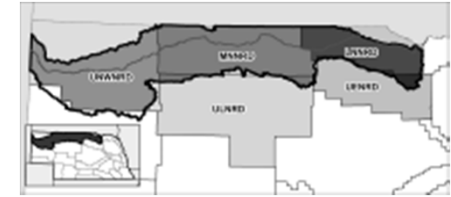
# Niobrara River Basin-wide plan

## Plan overview

➤ Voluntary



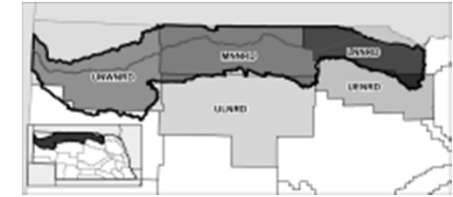
# Niobrara River Basin-wide plan Status



- 
- ✓ Goals, objectives, and action items
  - ✓ Ready to start writing plan

# Niobrara River Basin-wide plan

## Public involvement



### ➤ Public survey

- To assess public interests and viewpoints about the process and plan
- 70 responses
  - 37 private citizens, 16 agricultural producers
- Respondents expressed a desire for broad participation in the planning process



### ➤ Public meetings

- Open to the public
- ~ 10–15 participants from the public at each
- 2 meetings
  - 1<sup>st</sup> informational
    - Received information about the plan
    - Took survey
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> more participatory
    - Provided input on goals and objectives
    - Listened and asked questions



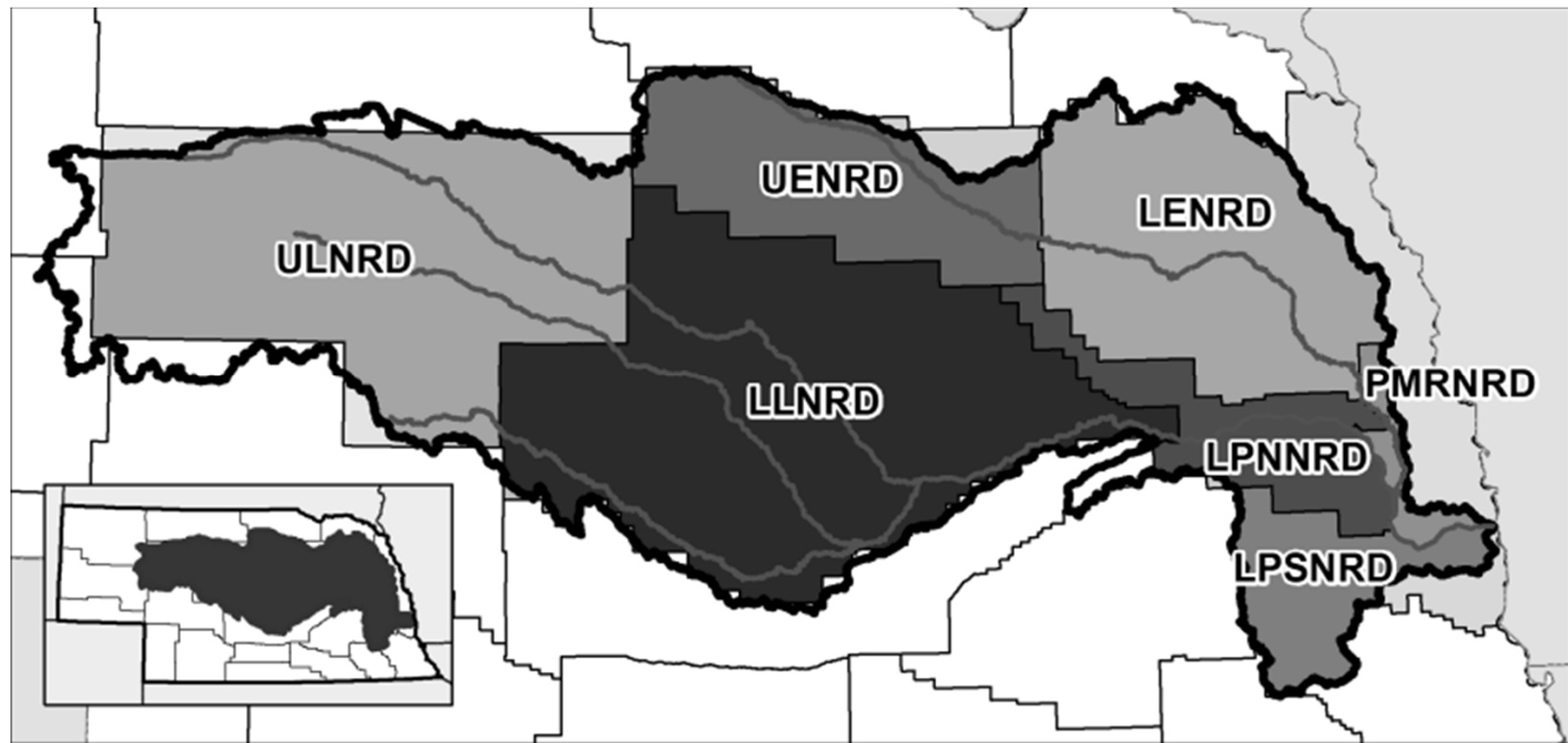
# Next: Lower Platte River Basin-wide plan



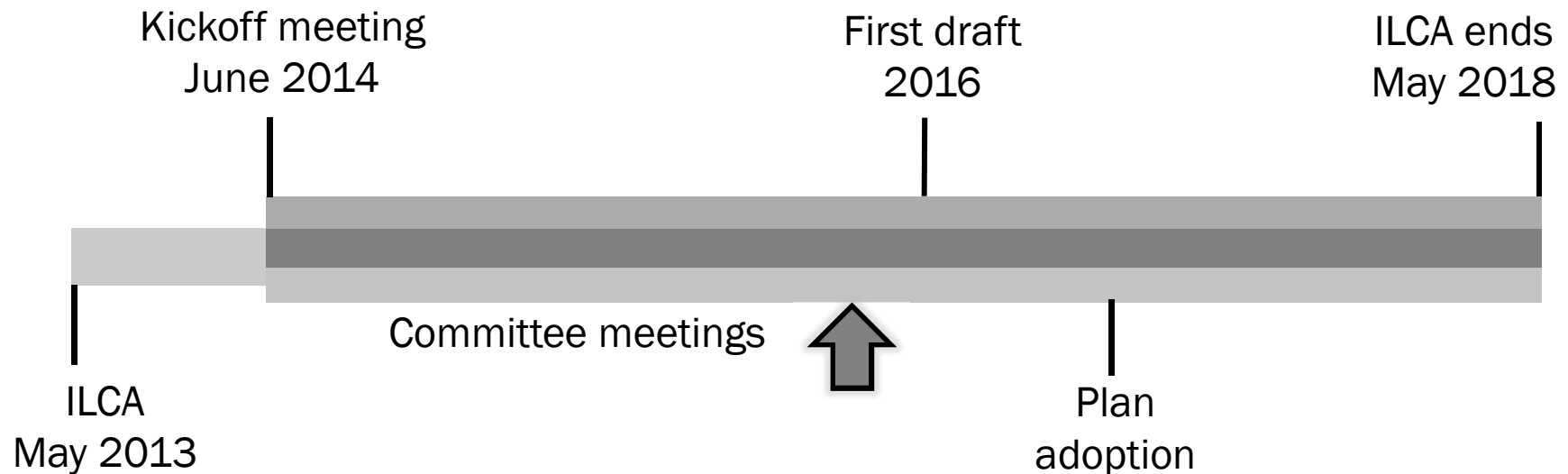
# Lower Platte River Basin-wide plan

## Plan overview

➤ Voluntary



# Lower Platte River Basin-wide plan Status

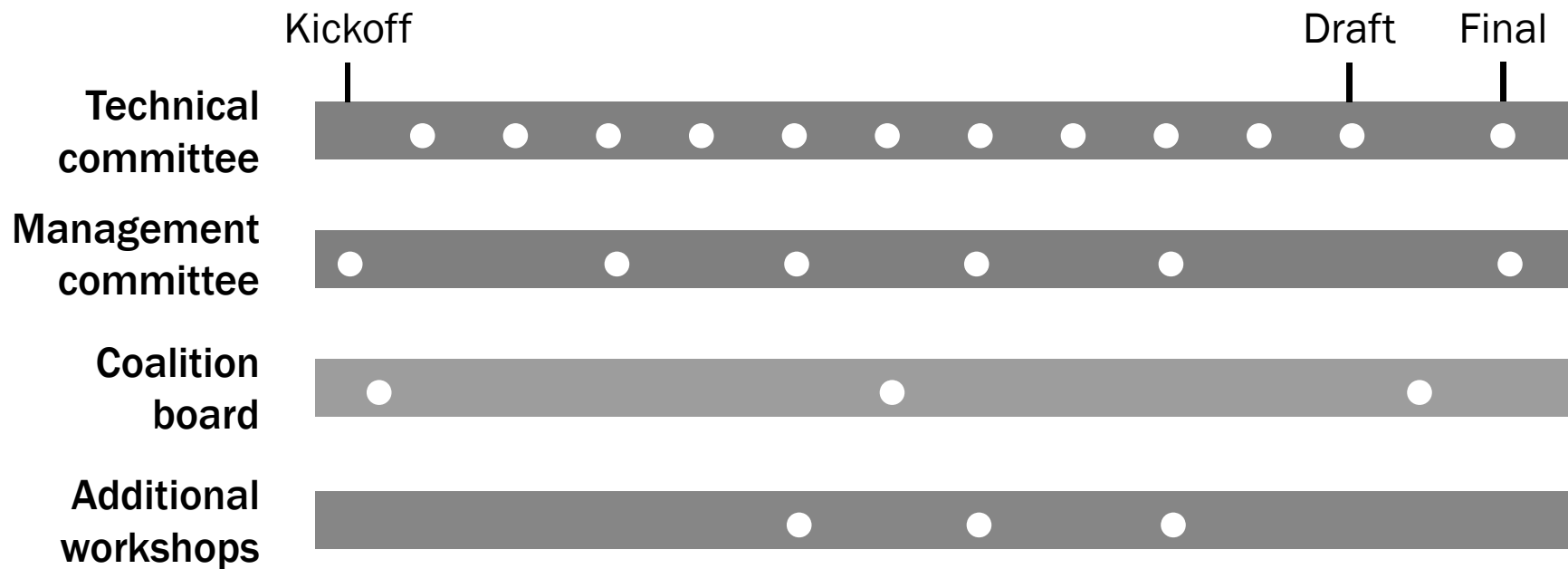


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- ✓ Water banking workshops
  - ✓ Subbasin workshops
  - ✓ Example conjunctive management and water supply alternatives
  - ✓ Excess flow analysis

# Lower Platte River Basin-wide plan Planning meetings



## 3 levels of management



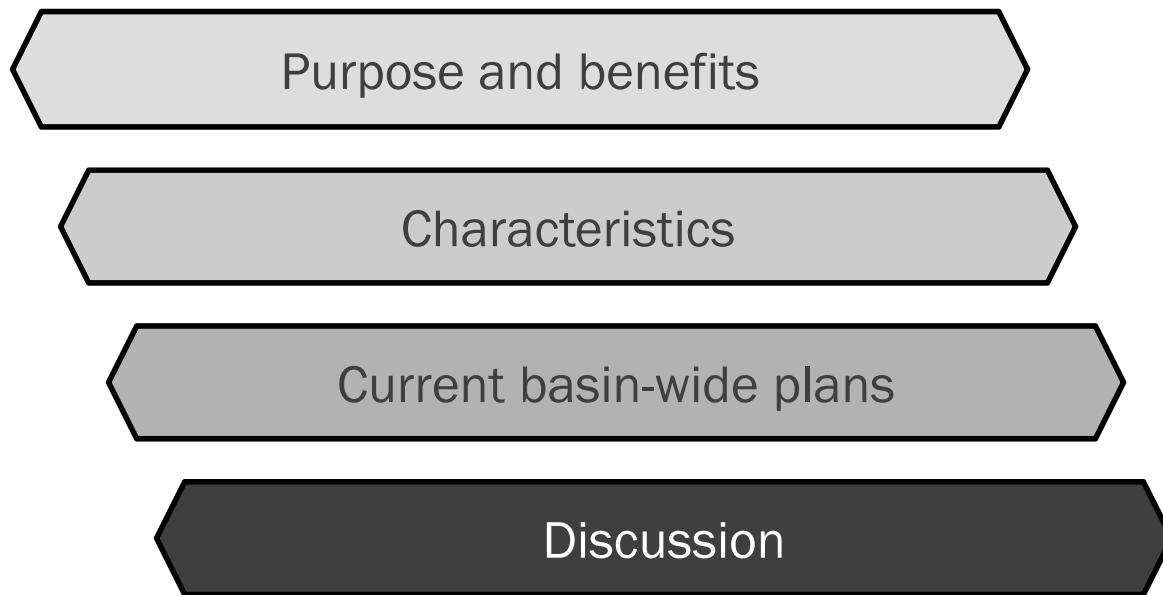
# Lower Platte River Basin-wide plan Representation



- NRD board members represent the varied interests in this voluntary basin-wide planning process
- More than 10 members on each of 7 District Boards, for a Total of 113
- <http://dnr.ne.gov/LPRBC>

# Summary

## Basin-wide planning in Nebraska





# Nebraska

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# THANK YOU

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