Challenges and Opportunities in Coordinating Joint Water Management Plans

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Introduction

▪ Several types of joint water management plans are developed between:
  – NRDs and NeDNR
  – NRDs and NDEQ

▪ Various plans serve specific purposes and have different requirements.

▪ NeDNR and NDEQ are looking into possible opportunities to coordinate planning where possible.
Why so many different plans?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NDEQ</th>
<th>NeDNR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surface Water and Groundwater</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Quality</td>
<td>Water Quantity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary</td>
<td>Mandated, voluntary (depends)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal Clean Water Act (319 Nonpoint Source Pollution)</td>
<td>Nebraska State Statutes Interstate Water Agreement</td>
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How do the plans fit together?
Plans developed jointly with NRDs that we will cover today

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<th>NeDNR</th>
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<tr>
<td>Watershed and Basin (9-Element)</td>
<td>Integrated Management Plans (IMPs)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alternative</td>
<td>Basin-Wide Plans</td>
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</table>
NDEQ - Nonpoint Source Pollution

- From landscapes, not pipes
- Runoff transports pollutants
- Affects lakes, rivers, wetlands and groundwater
- Common pollutants are sediment, nitrogen, phosphorus and bacteria
NDEQ - Nonpoint Source Pollution Program

- Nonpoint Source Program funded via EPA through the Federal Clear Water Act, Section 319(h).
- Nebraska receives annual ‘319’ grant and has 5 years to spend the grant funds.
- ~$1.2 million has gone out annually to project sponsors (e.g. NRDs) for on-the-ground projects.
NDEQ - Nonpoint Source Pollution Program

- Requirements to qualify for 319 funds for project funds:
  - 9-Element or Alternative Plan.
  - Plan must be accepted by NDEQ and EPA R7.
  - Plan must be no more than five years old.
  - Projects require a 40% non-federal match.
# NDEQ Nonpoint Source Plans

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# NDEQ Nonpoint Source Plans

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<td>South Loup Watershed</td>
<td>Bazile Groundwater Management Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Pine Creek Watershed</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Basin (NRD)</td>
<td>Drinking Water Protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papio-Missouri Basin Plan</td>
<td>Auburn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Elkhorn Basin Plan</td>
<td>Waverly</td>
</tr>
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9-Element Watershed Management Plans

- What are 9 Element WMPs?
  - Roadmap for water quality improvement
  - Voluntary plans

- Why do a 9 Element WMP?
  - Community Based Planning
  - Funding for Nonpoint Source Projects
9-Element Watershed Management Plans

1. Identification of Pollutant Sources
2. Estimation of Pollutant Loads
3. ID Best Management Practices
4. Communication & Outreach
5. Implementation Schedule
6. Milestones to Measure Progress
7. Evaluation Criteria
8. Monitoring
NDEQ – Writing Acceptable Plans

The Path of Least Resistance

Impairment → Source(s) → Targeted Area(s) → BMPs → Load Reductions

...and the I&E to make it happen!
NDEQ – Targeted Areas

The Path of Least Resistance

Water Quality Impairment

Hot Spots

Stakeholder Interest

...and the I&E to make it happen!
NDEQ - Implementing Plan with Projects

- Project Implementation Plan (PIP)
- Contract signed between NDEQ and Sponsor
- Project starts
  - Cost-share for BMPs
  - Watershed Coordinator
  - Evaluate results

The Path of Least Resistance

- Impairment → Source(s) → Targeted Area(s) → BMPs → Load Reductions

...and the I&E to make it happen!
NDEQ – Where are we planning?
NDEQ – Plan Implementation

Water Quality BMPs

Water Quantity BMPs

319 BMPs
NeDNR Joint Water Management Plans
NeDNR Joint Water Management Plans

- Primarily Water Quantity
- Emphasis on hydrologically connected ground and surface water
- Basin-wide or NRD specific
- Voluntary or mandated
NRD/NeDNR Plans--Legislative Framework

LB962 was signed on April 15, 2004
NRD/NeDNR Plans: Management of Hydrologically Connected Ground and Surface Water
NRD/NeDNR Plans: Legislative framework

  - Integrated Management Plans
  - OA Basin-wide Plan

- LB764 (2010):
  - Voluntary Integrated Management Plans

- LB1098 (2014):
  - Basin-wide Plan (Republican River Basin)
## NeDNR Joint Water Management Plans

### Basin-wide plans
- All basin NRDs & NeDNR
- Focused on regional, cross-boundary issues and opportunities
- Goals, objectives
- Voluntary or Mandatory
  - No statutes for voluntary

### Integrated Management Plans
- 1 NRD & NeDNR
- Tailored to local issues and opportunities
- Goals, objectives, & controls
- Voluntary or Mandatory
  - Voluntary addressed in statute
Joint NRD, NeDNR Basin-wide Plan Areas

- **LB962 (2004)**
  - 5 NRDs
  - Voluntary Plan, initiated 2013, 7 NRDs

- **LB1098 (2014)**
  - 4 NRDs
  - Upper Platte Basin (upstream of the Kearney Canal diversion)
  - Republican Basin
Mandated and voluntary Integrated Management Plans

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<th>Mandated IMP</th>
<th>Voluntary IMP</th>
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<tr>
<td>Achieve and sustain a balance between water uses and water supplies for the long term</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protect existing water uses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fully appropriated basins, sub-basins</td>
<td>Non-fully appropriated basins, sub-basins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May have more stringent controls</td>
<td>May have more “encouraging” controls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moratorium (GW, SW) initiated</td>
<td>No Moratorium initiated</td>
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Jointly Developed Integrated Management Plan Areas
Can NDEQ and NeDNR planning processes be streamlined?

- A case study in the Upper Big Blue NRD...

- NRD is starting both a V-IMP and 9-Element plan.
  - Streamline processes?
    - Joint Plan?
    - Joint stakeholder group?
    - Same timeline?
Challenges: Upper Big Blue NRD Case Study

- **Statutory framework**
  - Nebraska Statutes for water quantity
  - Federal Clean Water Act for water quality

- **Timelines**
  - NeDEQ — ~2 years to write/accept plan;
  - NDEQ-EPA and DEQ reviews for acceptance
  - NeDNR — 3 to 5 years
  - NeDNR-Annual reviews for IMPs
Challenges of coordinating NeDNR-NRD and DEQ-NRD plans

- **Funding**
  - EPA funding for NDEQ plans
    - Plan development and project implementation
    - 40% non-federal match
  - NeDNR plans
    - Development-NRDs and NeDNR
    - Implementation-various grants (WRCF, WSF, NET, etc.)

- **Stakeholder Process**
  - NDEQ-citizen and technical advisory committees
  - NeDNR-stakeholder groups
Challenges - Geographic Area
Opportunities

- NeDNR and DEQ have started the discussion
  - Initiation of quarterly meetings
  - Initiated joint outreach
    - Attempt to clarify for the public and constituents
  - Utilize NARD liaisons (Dustin and Jennifer)
  - An interested NRD!!
    - Upper Big Blue NRD joint planning process
Opportunities
Conclusions: Pilot with UBBNRD

- 2 Separate Plans (9-Element Basin, V-IMP)
- Stakeholder Group, Committees may have overlap
- NDEQ rep at V-IMP meetings, NeDNR rep at 319 meetings
- Initial Joint Kick-off Meeting with stakeholders to clarify each process
Conclusions: Pilot with UBBNRD

- **Goal of Pilot**
  - Some streamlining for UBBNRD
  - *Complementary Goals and Objectives*
  - Great learning opportunity for agencies/NRD
NRDs

Watershed Plan

319 Alternate Plan

Water Quality

Stakeholders

Surface Water

Groundwater

Hydrologically Connected

Water Quantity

IMPs

Basin-wide Plan

NDEQ

NRDs

NeDNR
Questions?

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Thank You

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