

MINUTES OF THE REPUBLICAN BASIN IMP ANNUAL PROGRESS MEETING
Tuesday, August 17, 2016 – 1:00 p.m.
Tri-Basin Natural Resources District

CALL TO ORDER

The annual meeting concerning the Republican River IMP Annual Progress meeting for Tri-Basin Natural Resources District was called to order by John Thorburn, General Manager, at 1:07p.m.

ROLL CALL

NDNR Staff: Amy Zoller, Carol Flaute, Mahesh Pun, and Zablun Adane

TBNRD Director and Staff: Phyllis Johnson, John Thorburn, and Tammy Fahrenbruch

BUSINESS

The public was given the opportunity to bring other specific business or non-agenda items before the group for comment and/or discussion. There was no public comment.

1. Introductions
2. Review Agenda & Meeting Purpose
 - a. **Agenda Review:** There were no changes made to the agenda.
 - b. **Meeting Purpose:** The purpose of the meeting is for the annual review of integrated management planning activities, to exchange and review reports, and to consider any actions that may be necessary.
3. Monitoring & Management Actions
 - a. **NDNR Report** – (Zoller)
 - i. **Permitted Activities:** Amy Zoller reviewed NDNR’s report on surface water activity (surface water permits, dam safety permits, water diverted and associated offsets) for 2015. Six new water storage permits were issued, three of which were also issued dam safety permits. No water was reported diverted from natural flow for irrigation purposes. There were no groundwater transfer permits issued, no reported use for natural flow diversion, and no associated offsets. Net evaporation from small reservoirs was estimated at 120 acre-feet.
 - ii. **Streamgage Data:** Streamgage data are available in the report, and NDNR sent the data to TBNRD electronically in advance of the meeting.
 - iii. **Streamflow Depletions Assessment:** Zoller reviewed of the NDNR report related to Goal A, Objective 1 of the IMP. Figure 1 shows streamflow depletions and mound accretions, and Figure 2 shows the three-year average net accretion approaching zero,
 1. Thorburn asked for follow up on the methodology regarding the following:
 - a. If high flow diversions or only irrigation diversions are being taken into account for accretions;
 - b. How the Arapahoe municipal transfer permit is accounted; and
 - c. If evaporation estimates for small dams are part of net depletion calculations.
 2. There was discussion about depletion implications of CNPPID canal lining.
 - iv. **TBNRD Report** – Thorburn reviewed the report on certified irrigated acre tracking, well permits, variances, groundwater transfers, and district policy.

Thorburn reviewed municipal water use for the four municipalities, industrial and commercial wells, including a Nebraska Game & Parks well, retired acres, and observations wells. Thorburn also reviewed CNPPID high flow diversions and the new Republican Basin augmentation well. Thorburn requested a discussion with NDNR regarding when pumping could begin for the offset requirement.

- b. **Discussion and Evaluation of Data and Studies**
 - i. Thorburn discussed the update of the cost-benefit study of excess flows diversion projects from the Platte to Republican Basins.
 - ii. Pun talked about new transducers on Sand Creek and Spring Creek and the water meter database.
 - iii. Pun discussed design updates to the meter database that are in progress.
 - iv. Thorburn asked about high flow diversion credits and updates with updated Republican River Compact Accounting.
- c. **Information and Education** – Thorburn mentioned TBNRD holds the Holdrege Water Conference annually, holds landowner informational meetings on specific projects, and publishes a quarterly newsletter. NDNR participates in Water Conference and is working on updates to INSIGHT to include the Republican River Basin.
4. **Republican River Basin-Wide Activities** – TBNRD and NDNR have been involved in Republican Basin Stakeholder meetings.
5. **Other IMP Topics** – Thorburn mentioned augmentation well pumping by Tri-Basin in 2017. TBNRD would like to start pumping this fall if the NRD can get credit for 2017. Zoller indicated she would ask Jennifer Schellpeper about timing of pumping.
6. **Public Comment Period** – There was no public comment.
7. **Meeting Summary**
 - a. **Action Items**
 - i. NDNR to provide clarification on data and related spreadsheets for net accretion and depletions.
 - ii. NDNR to provide model estimations for seepage to each basin.
 - iii. NDNR to provide details of gaging station data.
 - iv. NDNR to provide Arapahoe reporting data.
 - v. NDNR to provide clarification on evaporation estimates for small dams.
 - vi. TBNRD to provide a chart of gage data.
 - vii. TBNRD to provide Jesse Bradley’s estimations of the Platte/Republican basin split.
 - b. **Schedule Next Annual Meeting** – The next meeting is set, tentatively, for July 20, 2017 at 2 p.m. at Tri-Basin NRD.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no more business, the meeting was closed at 2:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Carie B. Lynch, Asst. Secretary