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SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
REPUBLICAN RIVER COMPACT ADMINISTRATION

March 6, 2015
2:00 p.m. Central Time
Via Telephone
Lincoln, Nebraska

MEMBERS PRESENT

IN NEBRASKA: Commissioner James Schneider, Chairperson
Jesse Bradley
Tom Wilmoth
David Kracman
Tom Riley
Don Blankenau
Brad Edgerton
Dale Cramer
Aaron Thompson
Marla Simpson
Craig Scott
Jay Schilling
Mike Delka
Tracy Smith
Walter Knehans
Jim Miller
Scott Dicke
Justin Lavene
Don Felker

IN COLORADO: Commissioner Dick Wolfe
Ivan Franco
Scott Steinbrecher

IN KANSAS: Commissioner David Barfield
Chris Beightel
Chris Grunewald
Burke Griggs
Lane Letourneau
Greg Foley
Chelsea Erickson
Pete Gile

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(IN KANSAS: Cont.)

Kenny Nelson
Monty Dahl
Gary Housholder
Brad Peterson

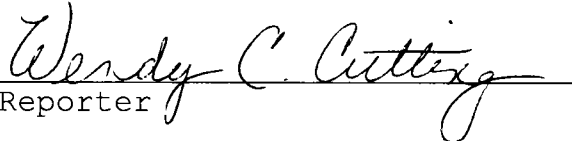
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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE:

State of Nebraska)
) ss.
County of Lancaster)

I, WENDY C. CUTTING, reporter for GENERAL REPORTING SERVICE, certify that I reported the proceedings in this matter; that the transcript of testimony is a true, accurate, and complete extension of the recording made of those proceedings.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 13th day of March, 2015.


Reporter

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1 PROCEEDINGS:

2 CHAIRPERSON SCHNEIDER: Thanks everyone for
3 joining. We'll go ahead and call the meeting to order. And
4 Kathy here was trying to write as quickly as she could, but
5 we'll go through introductions again, so she has a good
6 record of who attended the meeting, if that's okay with
7 everyone. I'll start here in the meeting room here in
8 Lincoln. We've got Jesse Bradley, Tom Wilmoth, David
9 Kracman, Tom Riley, and Don Blankenau. And also Wendy
10 Cutting is doing the court reporting.

11 And then I hear Brad Edgerton, and who did you
12 have with you, Brad?

13 MR. EDGERTON: I have Dale Kramer.

14 CHAIRPERSON SCHNEIDER: Welcome. And Aaron, in
15 McCook, Aaron Thompson. Who did you have there with you?

16 MR. THOMPSON: Marla Simpson, Craig Scott, and Jay
17 Schilling.

18 CHAIRPERSON SCHNEIDER: Thank you.

19 And with Nebraska Bostwick?

20 MR. DELKA: With Nebraska Bostwick we have Mike
21 Delka, Tracy Smith, Walter Knehans, and Jim Miller.

22 CHAIRPERSON SCHNEIDER: Great, thank you.

23 And then we had Scott Dicke with the Lower
24 Republican. Is anyone with you, Scott?

25 MR. DICKE: No one, myself.

1 CHAIRPERSON SCHNEIDER: Okay. Is there anyone
2 else with Nebraska?

3 MR. LAVENE: Justin Lavene with the AG's Office.

4 CHAIRPERSON SCHNEIDER: Oh, how could I forget
5 you, Justin?

6 MR. LAVENE: I don't know.

7 CHAIRPERSON SCHNEIDER: Was there someone else?

8 MR. FELKER: Don with Frenchman Valley,
9 Culbertson.

10 CHAIRPERSON SCHNEIDER: Thank you, Don Felker.
11 Thanks for joining.

12 It sounds like that's everyone for the State of
13 Nebraska. Well, I'll turn it over to you, David.

14 COMMISSIONER BARFIELD: Sure. This is David
15 Barfield and I'm in Manhattan. Today, I'm actually the only
16 one here in our office, but that's okay. Chris Beightel is
17 in Lawrence. In Topeka, my understanding, is Chris
18 Grunewald, Burke Griggs, Lane Letourneau, and Greg Foley, is
19 that correct?

20 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yes.

21 COMMISSIONER BARFIELD: Okay, Chelsea in Stockton,
22 is there anyone else there?

23 MS. ERICKSON: No, just Chelsea.

24 COMMISSIONER BARFIELD: And then, the Kansas
25 Bostwick Irrigation District, who do you have present there?

1 MR. GILE: Okay, Pete Gile, Kenny Nelson, and our
2 board members Monty Dahl, Gary Housholder, and Brad
3 Peterson. We're all here in Courtland.

4 COMMISSIONER BARFIELD: Very good. Is there
5 anyone else on from Kansas?

6 (No response.)

7 All right, I think that's it.

8 CHAIRPERSON SCHNEIDER: Thank you, David.

9 Turning to you, Dick?

10 COMMISSIONER WOLFE: Yes, this is Dick Wolfe here
11 in Denver. And Ivan Franco is with me, and then we've got
12 Scott Steinbrecher, who's on the phone at a different
13 location. And I'm not aware that there's anybody else
14 that's joined from Colorado, but I'll open it up at this
15 point if there's anybody else joining from Colorado.

16 Hearing none, I think that's all that we have,
17 Jim.

18 CHAIRPERSON SCHNEIDER: Okay, thanks, Dick.

19 Is there anyone that we missed?

20 MR. RAUN: This is Andy Raun calling from the
21 *Hastings Tribune* in Nebraska.

22 CHAIRPERSON SCHNEIDER: Great, thanks for joining
23 us.

24 MR. RAUN: Thank you.

25 CHAIRPERSON SCHNEIDER: Well, we are certainly

1 excited about today's meeting. I'll move on to Agenda
2 Item 2. Is there any modifications or should we adopt the
3 agenda as it was mailed?

4 COMMISSIONER BARFIELD: This is David Barfield.
5 I'd move we adopt the agenda as presented.

6 COMMISSIONER WOLFE: Second, this is Dick Wolfe.

7 CHAIRPERSON SCHNEIDER: All in favor, say aye.

8 COMMISSIONER BARFIELD: Aye.

9 CHAIRPERSON SCHNEIDER: Aye.

10 COMMISSIONER WOLFE: Aye.

11 CHAIRPERSON SCHNEIDER: Opposed, same sign.

12 (No response.)

13 All right, thanks.

14 Well, we will -- before we get into Item 3, I want
15 to thank all of the -- I just want to thank everyone, I
16 guess, for all the work that went into this agreement that
17 we have before us today. I particularly want to thank the
18 Bureau of Reclamation and the irrigation districts in
19 Nebraska and Kansas. We did receive the amendment to the
20 MOA, and certainly we're not party to that, so we
21 don't -- I'd say, we don't necessarily agree with some of
22 the factual assertions in there, but we really appreciate
23 that the districts worked together to come to that
24 agreement. And it's a really important first step for us to
25 be able to take action on this resolution before us. And I

1 also have a letter that will be sent immediately following
2 this meeting, assuming we adopt this resolution, that will
3 go to you, Aaron, turning all the water in the reservoirs
4 back to the projects.

5 So, with that, on Agenda Item 3(a), I would ask,
6 Commissioner Barfield, if you would just give us a short
7 rundown of what this resolution will do.

8 COMMISSIONER BARFIELD: And just to provide just a
9 bit of background for the record, during October/November of
10 last year, the RRCA passed three resolutions regarding
11 operations for last year and this year. The November 19
12 resolution provided Nebraska with 100 percent credit for
13 water it delivered from its augmentation projects to Harlan
14 County Lake after January 1, but prior to June 1, with that
15 water being dedicated to Kansas irrigators' use. So,
16 further discussion between the states and the Bureau and the
17 irrigation district, as Jim alluded to, we've found it
18 advantageous to enter into this additional agreement for
19 2015.

20 There's sort of two components, as Jim alluded to.
21 The first is the resolution that we'll talk about here in a
22 second, and the second is a modification to the contractual
23 provisions between the Bureau and Nebraska and Kansas
24 irrigation districts. So, today's resolution, in essence,
25 just put simply, provides Nebraska with additional

1 flexibility to achieve Compact obligations while protecting
2 Kansas water interest as well. And the effect of it -- the
3 desirable effect of it is that it will ensure that Nebraska
4 does not have to engage in any additional regulatory water
5 supply reductions for its surface water users for the 2015
6 irrigation season.

7 So, really, I think, unless you think it
8 necessary, I won't go into any further details than that. I
9 think the resolution sort of speaks for itself.

10 So, with that, I guess, I would move that the RRCA
11 adopt the resolution that was developed by the states and
12 circulated with a meeting notice entitled "Addendum to
13 Resolution Approving Accounting Adjustments and Agreements
14 Related to the Operation of Harlan County Lake in 2015,
15 Dated November 19, 2014."

16 CHAIRPERSON SCHNEIDER: Thanks, David. We have a
17 motion. Is there a second?

18 COMMISSIONER WOLFE: Second.

19 CHAIRPERSON SCHNEIDER: Thanks, Dick. We have a
20 motion and a second to adopt the resolution. Is there any
21 discussion?

22 (No response.)

23 Hearing none, all in favor, say aye.

24 Aye.

25 COMMISSIONER WOLFE: Aye.

1 COMMISSIONER BARFIELD: Aye.

2 CHAIRPERSON SCHNEIDER: Opposed, same sign.

3 (No response.)

4 All right, we have it. Fantastic. Well, I think
5 this is certainly a momentous occasion, and I'm really
6 pleased that we could get here. Is there any other --
7 anything else, Dick, that you or David would like to say for
8 the good of the order?

9 COMMISSIONER BARFIELD: This is David. No, just I
10 sort of -- we, basically, in Kansas, have the same
11 appreciation for the work of the states as well as the
12 Bureau and the irrigation districts to help us get here. We
13 look forward to building on this toward the longer-term
14 solutions that we will get to next.

15 I guess I'd just let the reporter know, I think
16 the states plan a joint press release very shortly, as well,
17 right?

18 CHAIRPERSON SCHNEIDER: That's right.

19 MR. RAUN: Very good.

20 CHAIRPERSON SCHNEIDER: Anything from you, Dick?

21 COMMISSIONER WOLFE: Nothing more to add. I think
22 both of you stated my sentiments as well. So, thank you,
23 and I appreciate everyone's cooperation in the spirit that
24 we're continuing to move forward to resolve the issues in
25 the basin. So, I look forward to that continuing dialog on

1 resolution of the remaining issues that are out there.

2 CHAIRPERSON SCHNEIDER: Great. Now, if everyone
3 would join me for a quick round of Kumbaya.

4 (Laughter.)

5 Just kidding.

6 COMMISSIONER BARFIELD: I forgot the words.

7 CHAIRPERSON SCHNEIDER: Well, I think, with that,
8 we stand adjourned.

9 (Whereupon, at 2:13 p.m. on March 6, 2015, the
10 proceedings were concluded.)

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