

# Integrated Management Plan Stakeholders Meeting

## Twin Platte Natural Resources District

### February 26, 2007

**Stakeholders present:** Phil Armstrong, Don Colvin, Burdette Cooley, Mike Drain, Jim Goeke, Tina Kurtz, Roric Paulman, Robert Petersen, Page Peterson, Dennis Schilz, Kenneth Schilz, Jerry Steinke, Steve Van Boening, Joe Wahlgren, Jerry Weaver, Robert Wiseman.

**Stakeholders absent (excused):** Steve Krajewski, Marion Kroeker, Frank Kwapnioski, Jim Meisner, Kent Miller, Dudley Oltmans, Mike Svoboda, Doug Teaford, T.J. Walker, Mike Wheeler.

**Stakeholders absent (unexcused):** Lisa Dominisse, Jim Hawks.

**Resource People:** Ann Dimmitt

---

The Stakeholders Meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. CDT.

#### Announcements and Presentations

**Tina Kurtz** announced that Jim Cook announced his retirement this week. This will be a big loss given Jim's extensive experience and knowledge in water matters.

**Members of the Basin Wide group** reported on their recent meeting. Jim Cook prepared a statement summarizing basin wide group conclusions which basically restated what was in the law with no new direction. It also inferred that each district must make up deficits for their district. South Platte district representatives wanted to include a provision about meters and were surprised that other districts were opposed to this provision. Metering is more feasible in the South Platte district where many acres have already been retired, but is a more difficult and costly proposition for districts with many more wells. Some considered Cook's statement too generic and thought it should address bigger issues like water transfers, banking, etc. The group scheduled 3 more meetings to try to hammer out these differences.

**Roric Paulman** reported on a meeting held earlier today which included Frank, Kent and Brian Barrels regarding a unified effort to include a surface water component in COHYST and then to break the information down into district level segments. This will be explored further at a COHYST meeting on February 27.

#### Report from Stakeholder Subcommittee

A subcommittee of the Stakeholder group (Jim Meisner, Frank Kwapnioski, Roric Paulman, Joe Wahlgren, Jim Goeke, Ken Schilz) met on February 20th to discuss issues identified at the last Stakeholder meeting. Kent Miller and Ann Dimmitt also attended. Discussion centered on the need for better data to make intelligent recommendations for a TPNRD IMP. Developing a water budget for the district would help Stakeholders to understand, at a district level, stream flow depletions, where we were in 1997, the change from 1997 to 2005 and how we can meet the statutory requirements of LB962 and the New Depletions Plan. The subcommittee recommended that TPNRD hire a consultant to help conceptualize a water budget for the district. California's Water Plan Update 2005 provided ideas for possible things the consultant could determine:

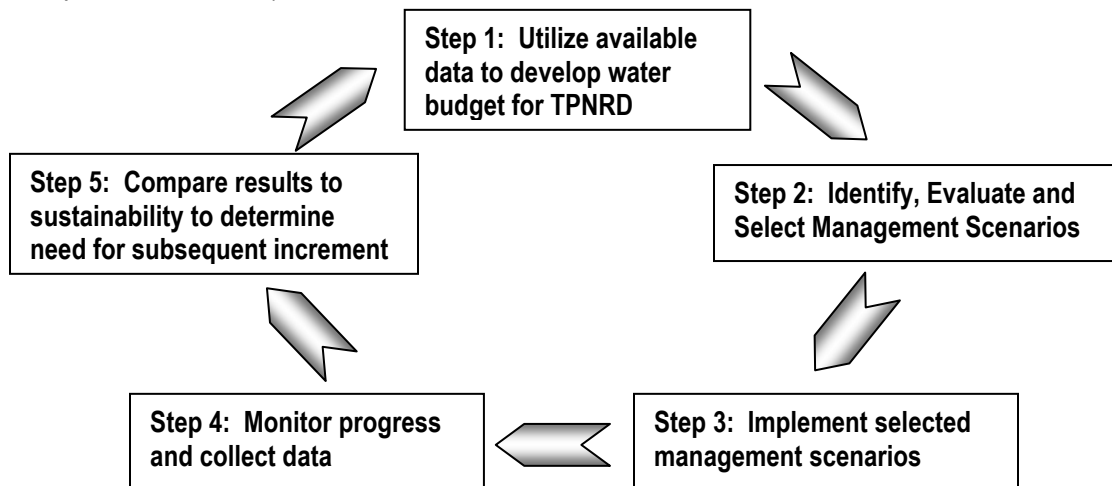
- Identify and evaluate all water supply sources whether or not they are currently developed and used,
- Provide better information on the disposition of our source water by including additional categories of water supply and use,
- Present water balances using accepted accounting principles,
- Provide insight where there may be underutilized "assets" (supply) and unmet "liabilities" (uses),
- Provide insight about natural, physical (infrastructure) and institutional constraints, and water management decisions, by combining water balances with narrative discussions,
- Identify 'data gaps' where additional information is needed to evaluate supplies and uses, and
- Include key supplemental information such as water quality, water rights, and water contracts.

The primary role of the consultant would be to use existing data to prepare a rough starting budget that would fit the statutory requirements of 962 and the New Depletions Act. The consultant would be charged with answering questions of this Stakeholder group including what "fully appropriated" means for this district and what has impacted the difference in the water budget numbers between 1997 and 2005. Once a budget is in place the group can better determine which management approaches or tools could best address the deficits.

The subcommittee would be willing to continue to meet monthly to determine the scope of work for the consultant, compile questions to be answered, identify potential consultants and take part in the interviewing process. They

would report back to the Stakeholder group for approval and/or revisions at each stage of the process. The goal would be to have the scope of work and questions gathered by April and approval by the TPNRD board to hire a consultant by May. The timeline for completion of the water budget would have to be finalized with the consultant.

One Stakeholder commented that since COHYST is a groundwater model it is uncertain if surface water changes can be factored in. He also noted that if we close down wells and there is less run-off from previously irrigated land, we may see only a portion of the well cut-back showing up as increased stream flow. He also thought it might take time to determine how deep a hole we are in and suggested that we move forward with a discussion of tools while waiting for a report from the consultant. Representatives of the subcommittee indicated that discussion of tools is the second step of a proposed planning process (see below) but that discussion of tools or management scenarios could be initiated while data is being collected as long as final recommendations are delayed until more data is available. (Note: The proposed 5 step planning process below has been modified slightly from previous versions)



Another Stakeholder asked if there was money in the budget for a consultant. Joe Wahlgren thought there could be since funds allocated for another purpose will not be used.

**MOTION:** Jerry Steinke moved that the Stakeholders recommend the TPNRD Board hire a consultant to compile necessary information for a TPNRD water budget. Burdette Cooley seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously by the Stakeholders.

Discussion shifted to possible management scenarios (or tools). It was decided that the Stakeholder group should identify a list of potential management tools that could potentially be used. The following were identified:

- Allocations of ground water withdrawals
- Crop rotation
- Irrigation scheduling
- Groundwater metering
- Acreage reductions
- Well spacing
- Prevent or limit expansion of consumptive use
- Require use of best management practices
- Mandatory education
- Regulate transfers
- Moratorium on well permits
- Conditioning of permits
- Incentive programs (KREP, EQIP)
- Retiming projects
- New storage developments
- Water banking
- Vegetation management
- Pooling

In future meetings we will have round table discussions about each of these management scenarios to help the group get a better understanding of the specifics of each method, identify questions or areas where more information is needed and lay out the pros and cons of each approach. The intent will be to thoroughly explore each option but not make any formal recommendations at this point.

The future meeting schedule was discussed and the group decided they wanted to proceed with monthly meetings but agreed to change the meeting time of the March meeting to 7:30 since several Stakeholders will be traveling back from Lincoln that afternoon.

**Future Meetings**

All meeting times are from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. CDT unless otherwise noted. Future meetings:

<u>7:30 p.m.</u>	March 19 – Quality Inn
7:00 p.m	April 16 – Quality Inn
<u>7:30 p.m.</u>	May 21 – Holiday Inn
7:00 p.m	June 18 – Holiday Inn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:30 p.m. CST.