

Integrated Management Plan Stakeholders Meeting

Twin Platte Natural Resources District

April 24, 2006

Stakeholders present: Phil Armstrong, Don Colvin, Burdette Cooley, Lisa Dominisse, Jim Goeke, Jim Hawks, John Kilpatrick, Steve Krajewski, Frank Kwapnioski, Tina Kurtz, Jim Meisner, Roric Paulman, Robert Petersen, Page Peterson, Dennis Schilz, Jerry Steinke, Mike Svoboda, Steve Van Boening, Joe Wahlgren, Jerry Weaver, Mike Wheeler, Robert Wiseman.

Stakeholders absent: Marion Kroeker, Todd Kramer, Dudley Oltmans, Doug Teaford, Kenneth Schilz.

Resource People: Ann Diers, Ann Dimmitt, Kent Miller.

The Stakeholders Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. CDT.

Stakeholder Discussion – Feedback on Process

We are now a little over a year into this 3 year process of Stakeholder consultation. The facilitator asked the group for comments or suggestions regarding the approach we have been taking so far. The following comments were made:

- What about the water owed to Kansas? Will this impact our basin?
- The process we are using is okay – it is just going to take time.
- There has been good discussion and sharing within the group.
- At basin-wide meetings it is clear that the decisions are difficult and there appears to be some desire to micromanage.
- As we go forward we may need to revisit some issues that we have tentatively agreed upon.
- It would be helpful if part of each meeting was spent with updates
- This process may be held up by election year uncertainty and waiting to see if the Cooperative Agreement will be signed.
- We should move ahead with general concepts with the option to revisit these in more detail as we get further along in the process.
- We need to know how much is the deficit (in over appropriated areas). What is our goal?
- The politicians are keeping open the option of taking water from other basins.
- We need to know what is fully appropriated and what the available water supply is.
- The state is still trying to determine the amount of water available and needed.

Stakeholder Discussion – Objectives

The Goals Statement agreed upon previously is: *Manage water resources in the Twin Platte Natural Resources District in a manner to balance water use and water supply, optimizing economic, social and environmental benefits, for the near and long term.*

At the last meeting the group compiled a list of possible objectives to support this goals statement. The facilitator suggested that this list may include 3 things:

- **Targets:** Where are we headed? What benchmark are we using to define “fully appropriated”? How do we know when our water use and water supply are in balance?
- **Objectives:** What are we trying to do? As we “optimize economic, social and environmental benefits” what are the specific things in this district that we want to insure are protected and encouraged?
- **Tools:** How should we do this? What tools can we use to reach our target in a way that allows us to also meet our most important objectives? What combination of regulations, monitoring, and incentives do we want to recommend?

Small groups discussed and classified each idea as a target, objective or tool. When sharing conclusions with the larger group there was not total agreement. It was suggested that we poll the group, assemble total “votes” for each classification and then ask a small committee to draft a revised list of objectives. On the following pages is a summary of the “votes” for classifying each brainstorming idea:

Brainstorming ideas from the last stakeholder's meeting:	WHERE are we headed? Target	WHAT are we trying to do? Objectives	HOW do we do it? Tools	Other
1. Educate the public about why the District is developing an IMP and how it will help to sustain water supplies in the region		5	16	
2. Education on new cropping innovations			All	
3. Provide NRD-wide educational plan and encourage research for sustainability, economics and environmental concerns		4	18	
4. Help citizens of the district analyze and understand the activities that have developed over this period of time, to understand the hydrological consequences of these activities		10	10	
5. Conduct studies to define fully appropriated status		4	19	
6. Conduct data collection & analysis including (1) information on current water uses, (2) availability of the water resources in the region, (3) determination of level of sustainable use, (4) develop/utilize appropriate scientific & technical tools to guide decision making	1	5	16	
7. Develop a thorough inventory of water assets	6	5	12	
8. Work with ESA to convince them to utilize better data in their management		7		16
9. Maintain records of segments of the total water supply such as precipitation, stream flows, ground water levels, reservoir storage	2		All -2	
10. Define and protect existing uses	6	17		
11. Avoid taking away from one entity and giving to another that will result in financial hardships	2	18		
12. Manage water to sustain profitable farming and ranching, commercial, municipal and industrial operations, while maintaining and, where possible, enhancing environmental health of the district's fish, wildlife and human communities, recreational uses, and quality of life.	10	12		
13. Implement management processes to reach fully appropriated status	17	11		
14. Develop a quantifiable measurement tool to determine what is fully appropriated		8	14	
15. Reach and maintain fully appropriated status	6	16		
16. Manage the total water supply in the TPNRD to reach and maintain a fully appropriated status	2	19	3	
17. Work to maintain and improve fisheries and wildlife habitat and recreation		20		
18. Enhance recreational resources	2	21		
19. Maintain stream flows in the entire Platte Basic and tributaries	3	19		
20. Water pooling or banking for future uses			All	
21. Minimum pool levels in McConaughy	5	7		10
22. Mechanism for water transfers			All	
23. Periodically update information on a regular basis and as conditions and demands change and additional information is available		2	All -5	3
24. Flexible approach to take into account changes in precipitation and drought		9	9	5
25. Develop a flexible IMP that allows for economic and environmental growth in the district	9	12		

Brainstorming ideas from the last stakeholder's meeting:	WHERE are we headed? Target	WHAT are we trying to do? Objectives	HOW do we do it? Tools	Other
26. Reward practices with lower consumptive use of water		3	19	2
27. Develop incentives to reward water conservation		3	17	
28. Encourage efficient use of water to maximize benefits to the economy and ecology of the area – minimize wasteful or unnecessary uses of water		15	3	3
29. Consider restricting water on most marginal land first		2	19	4
30. Define near and long term	5	6		10
31. Promote infinite sustainability of the basin	11	11		
32. Manage the total water supply in the TPNRD to achieve sustainability of the supply	10	14		
33. Foresee future water demands	6	5		11
34. Manage the water supply in the TPNRD to allow for growth or changes in uses	10	13		
35. Look into new sources of water and enhancement or development of the water that we have – look upstream and recycle/reuse		3	18	2
36. Ensure water quality is maintained or improved as we improve or increase the quantity of water supplies. Recognize and manage water chemistry concerns.		17		5
37. Manage the water supply in the TPNRD to maintain water quality suitable for all uses		16		6
38. Coordinate with basin-wide IMP	3	19		

There was discussion that adding in the concept of “targets” may be confusing the issue. If reworded, those ideas that appear to be targets may actually be objectives (or part of our goals statement). There are also similar or duplicate concepts that could be combined and streamlined. It was decided that a small group should use the information from this polling of viewpoints to draft a list of objectives for the group to consider. Tina Kurtz and Roric Paulman volunteered to do this. They will send out their draft of objectives prior to the next meeting.

Future Meetings

Monday, May 15, 2006 at the Holiday Inn Express in North Platte from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. CDT

- Continue discussion of Objectives for the TPNRD Integrated Management Plan.

Upcoming meetings:

- June 26 (7:30 Quality Inn)
- July 17 (6:30 Quality Inn)
- August 21 (6:30 Holiday Inn)
- September 18 (6:30 Quality Inn)
- October 16 (6:30 Holiday Inn)
- November 20 (6:30 Holiday Inn)
- December 18 (6:30 Holiday inn)

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m. CDT.