

Integrated Management Plan Stakeholders Meeting

Twin Platte Natural Resources District

October 16, 2006

Stakeholders present: Phil Armstrong, Don Colvin, Burdette Cooley, Lisa Dominisse, Steve Krajewski, Tina Kurtz, Frank Kwapnioski, Jim Meismer, Roric Paulman, Dennis Schilz, Kenneth Schilz, Jerry Steinke, Doug Teaford, Steve Van Boening, T.J. Walker, Jerry Weaver, Mike Wheeler, Robert Wiseman.

Stakeholders absent (excused): Jim Goeke, Dudley Oltmans, Robert Petersen, Page Peterson, Joe Wahlgren.

Stakeholders absent (unexcused): Jim Hawks, Marion Kroeker, Mike Svoboda.

Resource People: Kent Miller, Ann Dimmitt

The Stakeholders Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. CDT.

Announcements

- **Tina Kurtz** noted a needed correction to the September meeting notes on Page 3, in the section entitled “Regarding the Use of Controls”. The last sentence in the fourth bullet point should read: *As long as we maintain the moratorium and establish guidelines for transfers for the fully appropriated area we will have met the requirements of the legislation and can pursue other innovative ideas.*
- **Kent Miller** reported on the Cooperative Agreement (CA), initiated 13 years ago to develop a recovery program for endangered species in Colorado, Nebraska and Wyoming. These states have until the end of December to decide if they will support the CA. North Platte NRD has indicated strong support for the CA. About 2/3 of the Central NRD board voted in favor of the program. The Twin Platte NRD board passed a resolution on October 12, 2006 indicating support provided post-1997 depletions would be offset or mitigated by the State of Nebraska and the cost of such mitigation would not include funds from property taxes.
- **Ann Dimmitt** shared three new ground-water level change maps: Predevelopment to 2006, Spring 2000 to 2006 and Spring 2005 to Spring 2006. While maps show declines in ground water in the TPNRD district, it should be noted that 2000 was the end of a relatively wet decade while the last few years have been years of consistent drought. These maps are available online at www.csd.unl.edu. Click on “new groundwater maps” on the right side of this web page.

IMP Tools

At the last meeting, it was suggested that we begin our discussion with these three tools suggested during the process of writing objectives:

- Develop studies and do research to identify and quantify the components of the District’s water budget and the level of sustainable use.
- Develop a schedule of updating information.
- Encourage efficient use of water to maximize benefits to the ecology and economy of the area.

The group agreed it would be more productive if we focused on just one tool at a time. To facilitate this discussion, Stakeholders were asked to first write down their own thoughts on the first tool (above) in response to these questions:

- a.) How would using this tool help achieve the overall goals statement?
- b.) Which specific objective(s) does this tool support?
- c.) Expand on what this tool means. Specifically:
 - Who? (Who is responsible? Who will do the work?)
 - What? (Specifically, what must be done? What result do you seek?)
 - Why? (How will this help achieve goals/objectives?)
 - How? (How will this be administered? How will it be funded?)

Stakeholders then met in small groups to discuss their ideas and formulate conclusions to share with the larger group. Results of this discussion are summarized on the following page:

GOALS STATEMENT: Manage water resources in the TPNRD in a manner to balance water use and water supply, optimizing economic, social and environmental benefits, for the near and long term.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Provide for educational programs related to integrated management for the District.
2. Protect existing users, local economy, environmental health, and recreational uses to the extent possible.
3. Allow for water banking, transfers, and pooling.
4. Explore new sources of water.
5. Coordinate with the basin-wide plan.
6. Equitable distribution of mitigation responsibilities.
7. Reach and maintain fully appropriated status of the total water supply in the District.
8. Manage total water supply in the district to achieve sustainability of supply and use while allowing for growth and changes in use.

Tool 1: Develop studies and do research to identify and quantify the components of the District's water budget. (Note: It was agreed to look at just the water budget first and save the issue of sustainability for a later discussion)

How would using this tool help achieve overall goals statement?

- Help to define a baseline.
- Learn about and better understand baseline supply and demand.
- Help measure performance toward achieving our goals.
- Help manage the water system.
- As components of the budget are defined, it will be possible to more clearly define the problem and identify possible solutions.
- This can serve as a core worksheet for the next generation of Stakeholders -- a foundation that can be built on every year.

What specific objective(s) does this tool support?

- There was general agreement that this could be helpful in achieving nearly all of the objectives and especially Objectives #7 and #8 above

Expand on what this tool means. Specifically:

WHO?

- The NRDs are the most likely choice to find the resources and lead the effort to do this, with support from DNR. All others who can help effectively carry out this effort should be enlisted to help including COHYST, Conservation Survey Division (CSD), US Geological Survey (USGS), the Stakeholder task force, and water users including power companies, ditch companies, etc.

WHAT?

- Create a district level water budget.
- Identify and quantify the water supply (precipitation and GW inflow) and consumption (GW outflow and all uses) within the Twin Platte NRD.
- Detail consumption: Who? Where? How much?
- Support additional studies and modeling.
- Arrive at the best available, most defensible information that is agreeable to most parties involved.
- Determine what the base is. Is it predevelopment, 1997, or 2000? Will all dates be recognized, or will the IMP fix on one baseline date? Decide how Stakeholders can be a part of this determination and what specifically they have the power to influence.
- Find out if NRDs are willing and able to spend the money needed to implement this tool.

WHY?

- Help quantify the problem in order to identify better solutions.
- Make relative comparisons for different management scenarios.
- Anticipate impacts and changes in impacts.
- Build in accountability of different components of the water system.
- To meet out Goals Statement and Objective #8.

HOW?

- Gather and compile data.
- Identify and evaluate scenarios.
- Rely on the expertise of the “Who”s (above).
- Continually evaluate income and consumption within the system and make adjustments.
- Use existing available tools (like COHYST) and adapt data to a district level.
- Commit funding and people to do the work.
- Encourage the cooperative work of many.

WHEN?

- ASAP – Yesterday!
- Ongoing.
- Make some assumptions to get started, knowing this is not perfect, then improve over time as better information is available.

WHERE?

- In the District and Basin wide.

The general opinion of the group was that this process of answering questions individually and then discussion in small groups was helpful. This approach will be used with the other two tools identified earlier, plus a discussion of the level of sustainable use and other tools proposed by the group as discussions continue.

Future Meetings

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

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|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 7:00 p.m | November 20 -- Holiday Inn |
| 7:00 p.m | December 18 -- Holiday inn |
| 7:00 p.m | January 29 – Quality Inn |
| <u>7:30 p.m</u> | February 26 – Quality Inn |
| 7:00 p.m | 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 9:35 p.m. CDT.