

From: [Swanda, Marvin R](#)
To: [Scott, Craig D](#)
Subject: FW: Meeting Minutes from Nebraska DNR Meeting with Republican River Surface Water Users
Date: Monday, August 10, 2009 11:40:47 AM
Attachments: [Meeting Minutes -- DNR Meeting with Surface Users \(07 Aug 2009\).doc](#)

From: Esplin, Brent
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2009 10:59 AM
To: Ryan, Michael J
Cc: Thompson, Aaron M; Swanda, Marvin R
Subject: Meeting Minutes from Nebraska DNR Meeting with Republican River Surface Water Users

Mike: Attached are meeting minutes from a meeting last week called by Brian Dunnigan with Republican River surface water users. Marv Swanda and Craig Scott attended on behalf of Reclamation. A key point is the State of Nebraska plans to be more aggressive in dealing with the surface/groundwater conflict in the Republican River Basin in the future.

Let me know if you have any questions.

-Brent

DNR Meeting in Kearney
8/7/2009

DNR called a meeting with Reclamation and the irrigation districts to discuss plans to maintain Compact compliance in the Republican River Basin moving forward. Those in attendance included:

Brian Dunnigan, DNR
Jim Schnieder, DNR
Jason Kepler, DNR

Marv Swanda USBR
Craig Scott, USBR

Brad Edgerton, Frenchman Cambridge ID
Dale Cramer, Frenchman Cambridge ID

Mike Delka, Bostwick ID

Brian Dunnigan indicated that DNR was developing a plan or set of rules that will keep NE in compliance with the Compact. DNR has met with the basin NRDs and wanted to meet with the surface water users to discuss the conceptual ideas of the plan. Their goal is to have a plan in place by the end of the year that would be included as part of the basin IMPs. DNR has recognized that in order for this to happen that both groundwater users and surface water users must work together. DNR plans to start having meetings with IDs and NRDs after the annual RRCA meeting and is optimistic that they can have a plan in place by the end of the year. DNR was moving forward with the perception that funding would not be available in the future to purchase surface water but did not rule out that it could happen locally if there was a willing seller and willing buyer.

Jim Schnieder gave a brief conceptual summary of DNR's plan. DNR would like to develop a plan that would lay out the framework to keep NE in compliance particularly in "water short" years as well as for the 5 year ave. Their rules would be based on Reclamation's HCL water supply projections, if a "water short" year was projected then the new rules would kick in and curtailments would begin. It could also contain some agreements to lease or contract for surface water or a augmentation plan. He did not get into specifics, but basically their plan would include curtailments or administration of both groundwater and surface water particularly in "water short years". Jim indicated the rules will require that natural flows be bypassed to HCL but storage water would remain in the reservoirs. It seemed one of the goals is to store water in HCL to stay out of the water short year. It was pointed out that there maybe a conflict in water administration if they force a bypass of inflows from some reservoirs but not HCL. They would also project the situation for the next year. Look at HCL in Dec. and did they have to take a reduction in the previous year? Maybe an additional 10 % reduction.

Both Frenchman-Cambridge and Bostwick IDs stated that surface water users would be willing to help but voiced their concerns that the NRDs need to

take steps to provide long term sustainability. Dunnigan stated that the future will be different than in the past on how they have delt with overuse. DNR needs a plan for future compliance.

One intersting point Jim had stated was that if all the alluvial wells were shut off in the basin, groundwater depletions would decrease about 15,000 AF the first year and nearly 40,000 AF the second and third years.

NRD's need to work with SW users.