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Subject: Republican River Town Hall Style Meeting
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Mike, below is a quick rundown of the Nebraska Republican River Management Districts Association meeting held yesterday in Holdrege. This information was put into our weekly notes so it was widely distributed. Marcia has a copy of the initial newspaper articles.

Bottom-line:

- * The DRN /NRD's did not produce a detailed plan at this time.
- * People are interested; 400 in attendance by some newspaper counts.

On September 17, Aaron Thompson, Marv Swanda, and Craig Scott attended a public meeting in Holdrege, NE held by the NE Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and local Natural Resource (NRDs). The purpose was to meet with water users in the Republican River Basin to discuss their ongoing efforts to revise the existing IMPs to ensure Compact compliance in water short years. They did not discuss the details of the plan under consideration. In July, arbitrator Karl Dreher said Nebraska's plan for future compliance with the Compact are inadequate during dry periods. The NRDs and DNR are working on a dynamic compliance plan which includes plans for augmentation (pumping groundwater to the stream), surface water leases, and as a last resort regulation. Regulation would include curtailments of surface water use and groundwater use located close to the streams. DNR is still evaluating which groundwater areas would be regulated. DNR Director Dunnigan stated non-compliance was not an option and they believe being in compliance was a "state" issue. Dunnigan indicated they have authority for regulation based on existing statutes and the HINDERLIDER case.