

Meeting Summary
Lower Platte River Consortium Meeting
Tuesday, November 28, 2017 at 2:00 pm
Lower Platte South NRD
3125 Portia Street, Lincoln Nebraska

Consortium members present included the following:

LPSNRD – Paul Zillig & David Potter
P-MRNRD – Marlin Petermann & Paul Woodward
LPNNRD – Tom Mountford & Daryl Andersen
NeDNR – Jennifer Schellpeper
City of Lincoln – Steve Owen
MUD – Rick Kubat

Other attendees included John Engel (HDR), Simone Rock (HDR), David Kracman (TFG), Chance Thayer (TFG), Mary Baker (NEMA), Dick Ehrman (LPSNRD), Devin Biesecker (LPSNRD), Gary Aldridge (LPSNRD), Don Jacobson

Paul Zillig providing an update to the group on the budget through October 28, 2017. Approximately 50% of the budget is spent and the project is approximately 50% complete.

The HDR Team updated the group on the progress on equipment installation. TFG has been working with respective NRDs to instrument existing wells. To date, there are seven piezometers (2 in existing wells & 5 new) as well as five stream transducers for 12 stations instrumented. Some discussion on who owns and maintains the instrumentation after the 2-year period (2019)? What about well registration – whose responsibility?

The HDR Team updated the Consortium on the progress to date on the long-term forecasting analysis. For the Upper Platte, the best predictor of streamflow is snow. Currently, investing snowpack as an indicator of Platte River Flow. For the Loup & Elkhorn basins, there are no SNOTEL sites; however, NOAA does report snow water equivalent (SWE) and the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) has 1-month and 3-month long-lead forecasts.

The HDR Team presented a very rough outline of the Vulnerability TM and Drought Monitoring TMs. These two TM's are the next focus in the development of the Plan. The HDR Team will continue efforts on these two tasks and present initial results at the next Consortium meeting. One specific risk is the Vulnerability Assessment that has been of interest is the effect of LWS issuing a priority call on the river and the DNR administering surface water rights. Jeremy Ghele with DNR provided the HDR Team with a table summarizing all water rights junior to LWS that could be subject to a priority call (Water Division: 1A – Upper Platte; 2A Loup; 2B – Elkhorn; and 2B Salt Creek). This information was shared with the Consortium.

Next Steps:

- HDR to send out a Doodle Poll for the next Consortium meeting.

- HDR to present updated schedule at next meeting.

LOWER PLATTE RIVER CONSORTIUM

PURPOSE: To study long-term water supplies available to the lower subbasin for enhancing streamflows or aquifer storage to support sustainable public water systems.

PARTIES TO THE CONSORTIUM AGREEMENT:

- Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
- Lower Platte North NRD
- Metropolitan Utilities District
- Papio-Missouri River NRD
- City of Lincoln-Lincoln Water System
- Lower Platte South NRD