

April 4th

Tuesday, April 4, 2023 9:47 AM

April 4, 2023, 10:00 a.m. (Central Time)

2nd Floor Ogallala Aquifer Conference Room
Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
245 Fallbrook Blvd, Lincoln, NE 68521

Agenda

Welcome and Introductions

- 10:01 am start
- Attendance
 - Daryl Anderson
 - Lower Platte North NRD
 - Eric Gottschalk
 - Lower Platte North NRD
 - Paul Zillig
 - Lower Platte South NRD
 - Dick Ehrman
 - Lower Platte South NRD
 - Amanda Grint
 - Papio-Missouri River NRD
 - Philip Paitz
 - Papio-Missouri River NRD
 - Mike Koenig
 - Metropolitan Utility District
 - Jeremy Gehle
 - Nebraska DNR
 - Tyler Martin
 - Nebraska DNR
 - Jack Mensinger
 - Nebraska DNR
 - Caitlyn Kingsley
 - Nebraska DNR
 - Madeline Johnson
 - Nebraska DNR
 - Alexa Davis
 - Nebraska DNR
 - Dehvyne Ashmore
 - Nebraska DNR
 - Steve Owen
 - Lincoln Water Systems

Approval of Minutes from Nov. 17 ILCA Meeting (Attachment 2)

1st- mike
2nd Steve
All approved

Update from State Climatologist

Dr. Martha Durr is out sick, she will send a climate summery when recovered.

Condition Updates

NRDs: Static Water Levels Data
Municipalities

- LPSNRD

- Half way done
- 76 measured as of April 4th
- Avg decline: 2.03 ft 2022-2023
- Max decline is 9.7 ft
- Information will be forwarded to DNR when finished
- Most likely in decline situation, waiting till the information collection is done
- LPNNRD
 - Near Ashland
 - Half way through
 - General: numbers are down
- PMNRND
 - Haven't started with SWL collection
- LWS
 - River below median levels
 - East channel is near dry
- MUD
 - Three plants around community
 - Ice build up late December
 - Platte plants bearing load
 - Pushed farther than normal
 - Ice dam broke free creating water quality concerns
 - Missouri and Platte river seeing quality issues
 - Platte plant having quality issues
 - ◆ Color issues
 - Quality issue moving through aquifer into wells
- DNR
 - 130% of average snowpack
 - North Platte and Wyoming has the majority of snowpack this year
 - Chadron expecting a foot of snow
 - McConaughy at 51% capacity
 - Nobody expecting full cap for reservoirs
 - Platte may be dry for a month or two into July
 - Wildlife service look at helping at 1000 cfs into spring flow
 - Missouri at normal risk of flooding
 - Ne city 35,000 cfs
 - Everything north of Lincoln county in extreme drought conditions
 - La Nina moving out
 - Equal chances of dry and rain
 - Snowpack

NeDNR: Dashboard

- Status of drought triggers
- PDSI value: -3.12
 - Steadily becoming less negative
 - Trending positive
 - As of last Thursday
 - Remaining extreme and exceptional drought in elkhorn area
 - Moderate drought in Papio area
 - D2 and above in remaining areas
 - Past two weeks: improvement in eastern portion of state
 - Outlook is looking like there will be more improvement
 - Platte river time series
 - Peak in flow above 15000 cfs march first
 - Generally 5000-6000 cfs consistently over last few weeks
 - USGS stream gauge site
 - Could be used to help improve current dashboard
 - Dependent on a few factors
 - Ice jam
 - Discharge
 - Current conditions very near median

Discussion of Action Items required by Plan (Attachment 5)

- DNR wants to address specifying that we will do a vulnerability assessment annually
 - "On an annual basis, the Consortium will gather information and make any necessary updates to the Vulnerability Assessment."
 - "On an annual basis, the Consortium will review any changes in the Vulnerability Assessment, determine the need for new and revised actions, and update the status of existing actions and add new actions (as needed)."
 - "The Consortium may identify planning and technical efforts outside those anticipated that need to be undertaken based on changed conditions or a potential need."
 - As of our understanding we have not made any updates to the assessment previously
 - Vulnerability assessment: page 41 in the plan
 - The plan goes through the economic impacts of the vulnerability assessment
 - Issues with infrastructure failure
 - Agricultural cost
 - ADD FIGURE
 - On an annual basis
 - Assess if there are any additional risks not captured by the plan
 - Changes to conditions to any of the listed sectors that are not listed in the plan
 - "the Platte river is the sole water source for the city of Lincoln"
 - ◆ Update with new plans for updated water sources
 - Gauging investment in updating the Environmental assessment
 - Paul - if we say we are doing it, then we should
 - June 8th meeting to publicize updates
 - People put together information and updates for public
 - Does this mean updating the plan itself, or update it every five years
 - Marking up the current plan, bring together all the alterations and publicize, adapt plan at five year update
 - Support for 5 year updates
 - If we bring up these updates in a memo or addendum for the June 8th meeting, this could satisfy the requirement
 - Starting the conversation about the 5 year update
 - Can we update internally?
 - We will be gathering input soon
 - Mitigation activities listed in the original plan have not been acted on
 - Bringing about alternatives to activities listed in the plan for the 5 year update
 - For instance: not obligated an annual update
 - Interest in the updating process:
 - 551,000 for initial plan development
 - Consortium members brought 26,000 each
 - ◆ With other contributors
 - Each member should review the plan and compile a list of updates or edits for internal review
 - How will scaling back mitigation efforts be received?
 - ◆ Cost vs benefit
 - ◆ How much does it cost vs how much flow are we receiving
 - Do we need to implement another level of action item
 - Exploratory study or actions to implement instead of other mitigation actions
 - Action items
 - Gather edits for the updated plan for internal review
 - Consider costs and effects of impact assessment
 - Look at talking to environmental folks to help garner feedback and report
 - Lincoln water
 - Looking at alternatives to get the east channel to restore flow
 - Wing damn?
 - Permitting
 - Go through analysis
 - Consulting agreement for analysis

Lower Platte Drought Study Stream gage Replacement (Attachment 6)

- There were 19 identified sites that we used to gather an idea about low flow effects within the system
 - Is that being captured adequately by our existing network
- Our sensors seem to either not work well or were washed out in 2019 flood
- What is the Consortium's interest in reimplementing the sensor program
 - Monitoring equipment has been installed on multiple bridges to capture low flow information
 - Platte river near Fremont
 - Location 7
 - North bend USGS site

- Glenwood was washed out
- Papio
 - We want to keep it updated, but they are using their own equipment
 - ◆ 2A,2B,2C,6A,6B,4?
 - USGS checking
- LPS
 - None installed for monitoring to conserve budget
- Were sites listed all developed
- Were well transducers put in?
 - Do we want to reestablish?
- Which sensors are operating
 - What gaps are important enough to reestablish
 - Is this information useful?/how so?
 - NRD required to have maintained sensors
- Consistent issues with sensor stability and longevity
- Action Item: Tyler offering to make a list/ analysis of current sensors and costs for the LPDC
- Data may not be pivotal to the group, more for general info
 - Lincoln water is uninterested unless we generate a flushed out plan for use

Discussion and Approval of Proposed Budget (Attachment 7)

- ILCA requires we have an approved budget
- Paul thinks we had funds somewhere
 - Is he treasurer
 - Do we currently have any funds allocated?
- If we are going to have expenses attached to the update, then we should consider building an actual budget
 - NRD (LPSNRD) not expecting issues for approving a budget for the work
 - Requires approval by board
- Date budget is required: April 15th
 - Budget can be amended
- Action Item: Find any previously allocated funds that were not redistributed back to NRDS
 - Papio - we should have funds for consulting purpose
- Should we Approve budget now and amend later?
 - LPS& Papio add 10,000 to their budgets to show \$20,000 for the LPDC
 - Other NRDS adding place holders or varying funds based on if there are any funds allocated
 - \$5,000 as placeholder towards plan update costs?
- Create estimate for plan update costs
 - Mitigation project updates
- When does current budget end?
- Approving budget for July 2023-july 2024?
- Motion to approve \$25,000 budget to be amended if needed
- Motion: acknowledging that all agencies agree that there will be some cost with updating the plan, and that they will all acknowledge that by providing a number in their budgets?
- Motion: at this point the budget will be \$0, but acknowledge that updates will include costs, and the budget may be amended at a later time, LPS and Papio will budget for \$10,000 and LPNNRD will add an amount.
 - First: Daryl
 - Second: Amanda
 - Vote: all for (6 for, 0 against)
- Lincoln water - supports updating the plan, acknowledging that there will be a cost included
 - News release is similar to last years, but updated and will need to include information pertinent to the release date.
 - Members will distribute as they see fit
 - Distributed before April 15th, in 2022
 - Each agency will include their own language
 - Outlook in release: Equal chances for wet/dry season
 - Drought will remain but improve
 - Update release to reflect current projections
 - April publish date is too soon
 - To do
 - Agree to time frame for publication
 - Update drought outlook for each publication
 - Amend the press release with podcast publication dates

- Podcast
 - Last working day of each month
 - End of April/may publication depending on availability
 - There is still interest in recording
 - Conversational setting
 - 1 person from each agency
 - Amend the press release with podcast publication dates
 - Recording for the podcast
 - May 4th
 - 9 AM
- Questions
 - Start with introductions
 - Who you are, where you work, what you do?
 - Give some background on the Coalition
 - Brief on what it is and what it does
 - **Does anyone have a preference on who does this
 - Go into the questions:
 - What can the public do to conserve water? How does this differ for city residents, rural residents, and agricultural producers?
 - How does long-term drought affect your management practices, and how do multiple year droughts compound the effects of drought?
 - How will drought affect daily life beyond agriculture, such as life in cities and recreational opportunities?
 - What is your organization doing this season to deal with drought impacts? What are your long-term drought plans?
 - Dehvyne and I will talk to Jeremy close to the release date and get the official drought update?
 - **Thoughts on this?
 - Wrap up
 - End with a positive message about the future and the relationships established through the Coalition

Potential Project Updates:

Sherman Reservoir (Attachment 9A)

Fremont Dewatering

- Purchasing water to reallocate
 - Whatever agreement we would come to would limit the purchasing of water to 4 years out of every 20 years
 - 1/3 of water would reach Ashland gauge
 - 200/400 CFS release scenario
 - 65% conveyance loss is a conservative estimate
 - St. Paul source (modeled)
 - July 20th - sept 8th
 - Total Added volume upstream: 25.4k AF
 - Total volume measured downstream: 8.9k AF
 - Total "lost": 16.5 K
 - Updated cost W/inflation
 - \$11,255,226.5 or \$715.43 per acre foot
 - Cost estimate includes an annual retainer, plus the cost of water per AF
 - Annual fee to retain the agreement
 - Cost of buying the water would most likely drastically increase within the next 20 years
 - Current estimate is based on market rates (in CO, CA) at the time, not negotiated with the provider
- Fremont dewatering
 - 2016/17 study
 - Results from high and low water demand
 - Between 25/30 cfs coming out of dewatering wells in Fremont

Public Comments

Upcoming Meetings: June 8th, October 17th

- No Comment

Adjourn

A. Adjourned at 11:46 AM

P.S.

June 8th meeting to be held at DNR (Fallbrook office)