

Meeting Summary
Lower Platte River Consortium Meeting
Wednesday, July 17, 2018 at 1:30 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 –Daryl Andersen & Tom Mountford
- NeDNR – Amy Zoller
- City of Lincoln – Steve Owen
- MUD – Rick Kubat & Jim Shields

Other attendees included John Engel (HDR), Simone Rock (HDR), Dick Ehrman (LPSNRD), Gary Aldridge (LPSNRD), Dan Schulz (LPSNRD), Jessie Strom (NeDNR), Tom Riley (TFG), Gordon Coke (TFG)

The next BOR semi-annual report for efforts through September 30th is due October 30th.

HDR presented draft drought triggers based on work-to-date on project. There are 3 recommended drought levels (moderate, severe, and extreme). For hydro climate indices, it is recommended that PDSI and SPI both be considered. Streamflow at Ashland will also be monitored and if any threshold is met, a designation is declared.

Question about when to designate a drought is complete? When all triggers return to normal?
 What about lag effect on groundwater?

Each NRD manages groundwater through their Rules & Regulations and individual IMPs. This Drought Plan is not intended to supersede these rules/plans.

Drought Triggers

Category	PDSI	SPI	Platte River Streamflow at Ashland	Aquifer Volume
Moderate Drought	-2.0 to -2.99	-1.49 to -1.00	3,000 – 1,500 cfs	Varies
Severe Drought	-3.0 to -3.99	-1.99 to -1.50	1,500 – 500 cfs	
Extreme Drought	-4.0 and below	-2.0 or less	Less than 500 cfs	

HDR led the group through discussion of potential mitigation and response projects preliminarily evaluated. These include reservoir storage (both existing and new facilities), recharge through canal seepage, dry year lease option, and importing Missouri River water. Questions on potential projects included the following:

- What are the ramifications of pumping Missouri river water directly into the Elkhorn?
- Is there a way to test seepage losses? Perhaps a spring pulse in each spring?
- What is the construction timeframe? We can't include these in the Plan immediately (future modification)
- Dry year lease highest cost, lowest benefit. Remove from table?

HDR led the group through the expectations of the Implementation Plan. Several topics of discussion:

How often with the Consortium meet?

How often will the Plan be updated?

Who tracks the climate indices and notifies the group when a trigger is reached?

Who is responsible for implementing a response action?

These topics require further thought from the group. HDR to prepare draft of plan administration and implementation text to guide discussion at next meeting in September.

HDR to send out a Doodle Poll for September Consortium 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