

Meeting Summary
Lower Platte River Consortium Meeting
Thursday, September 20, 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
NeDNR – Jennifer Schellpeper
City of Lincoln – Steve Owen
MUD – Rick Kubat & Jim Shields

Other attendees included John Engel (HDR), Simone Rock (HDR), and Gary Aldridge (LPSNRD)

BOR/WSF Reporting Items: The next BOR semi-annual report for period April through September 30 is due October 30th. HDR and NeDNR met with BOR on September 13th in their offices in McCook to request extension of the grant/project until Marcy 2019. LPSNRD attended by conference call. BOR accepted the extension request. The draft Plan (September 2018 version) was provided in hardcopy format to Aung and Darion with BOR and briefly reviewed. Darion provided some preliminary comments on format but did not identify any major concerns with content. With the extension, HDR will provide the final Draft for review to BOR by February 1, 2019.

The group discussed preliminary comments provided on the September 2018 version of the draft Plan including providing clarity on the potential projects identified in the mitigation section of the report. HDR will add more content and more detail to the evaluation of the alternatives in comparison to one another. All members felt an executive summary would be beneficial. HDR will add an executive summary in the next draft.

The last portions of the draft Plan that will be drafted is the Implementation Plan and the Plan Update Process. HDR led the group in discussion of the roles required for monitoring for drought, declaring a drought, initiation of drought response actions (currently only available response action is the communication plan), and future updates of websites. Discussion included determining who would be responsible for each of these roles, and what is each party's responsibility. The NeDNR indicated they already do much of the drought monitoring identified in the report independently – as does LWS. The NeDNR volunteered to monitor drought indices including streamflow, PDSI, snowpack and reservoir levels and inform the Consortium members when drought triggers are reached. LWS already participates in the monthly climate webinars and volunteered to continue to do so and update the group if these webinars forecast drought conditions.

The tasks identified for updating the Plan once finalized were annual meetings, updating sections of the report in the future (vulnerability assessment, mitigation/response actions) as warranted, etc. The need for the Consortium to continue in the future in order to implement the Plan was also discussed.

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