

UPPER BIG BLUE NRD
**WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN AND
VOLUNTARY INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT PLAN**

One District, Two Plans, One Water



Minutes from Stakeholder Meeting 1

June 18, 2018
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Upper Big Blue NRD Office
319 E. 25th St.
York, NE 68467

Attendees

See attached attendance sheet

Agenda

1. Welcome

Rod DeBuhr, UBBNRD, provides welcome and discusses:

- District background – protects ground water quantity and quality through education, incentives, and regulations
- Project purpose/need – build relationships, identify and prioritize projects, identify future funding sources, etc.
- Project slogan: One District, Two Plans, One Water

2. Purpose of Stakeholder Committee

Steve Wolf, JEO facilitator, discusses:

Historic joint planning process - Collaborative planning process between NRD, NDEQ, and NeDNR

Goals – stakeholders to identify

Objectives – incremental steps to achieve goals

Ground rules, to respect people and meeting time were laid out:

- Discussions – one person talks at a time
- No side bars
- No personal attacks
- Parking lot – table issues if needed

In Partnership With

3. Technical Presentation

Amy Zoller, NeDNR, and Elbert Traylor, NDEQ (see slides):
Voluntary Integrated Management Plans (VIMP) 101
Water Quality Management Plans 101

Discussion

Can we have a paper copy of the current plan and how this one is submitted and what progress has been made? Do we have a current plan?

- No current plan.

Are there examples of other plans for us to look at?

- Amy brought an example for LPNNRD Voluntary Integrated Management Plan
- Adam Rupe, JEO, brought a water quality plan from the South Loup River
- Additional plans available online at the NeDNR website (see binder for more information)

There are both required and voluntary management plans. Who imposes those standards?

- The NRDs in fully appropriated water basins (determined in 2004-05) had to develop an Integrated Management Plan (IMP). The State required so, implemented by the NeDNR and NRD. NRDs that are not Fully Appropriated may develop a VIMP.
- DEQ plans work with water quality and with non-point source pollution, which are voluntary. Non-point source is not currently required, strictly voluntary.
- The NRD does have regulatory authority over some things such as groundwater, but that is separate from this planning process. There can be some integration, but there are already regulations on reporting fertilizer use, water and soil samples.

Is there a point in terms of water quality that it can be bad enough where it would be imposed on the NRD by the NDEQ?

- NDEQ: No, they do not have any regulatory authority. NRD only have groundwater quality authority. Strictly a local authority.
- NDEQ does help NRDs delineate areas for sampling if requested.

Will annual reports be needed for each of the projects?

- They do semi-annual reports for NDEQ funded projects, but can be adjusted based on project needs
- NeDNR does annual reporting with the NRD
- It is recommended that both plans have an annual reporting process



4. Stakeholder Research

Binders were provided to each Stakeholder to save and review information handed out at each meeting

The Groundwater Atlas of Nebraska was also provided to each Stakeholder and should focus on the following sections: Introduction, Groundwater quantity, and Groundwater Quality

Discussion

The map shows pre-development, what data did they use to develop that?

- Data started in 1951. Original data in the map was with USGS and Nebraska Conservation and Survey Division. Then a few years later, the groundwater conservation boards in the area, which were districts preceding the NRD (mid to late 60s).
- USGS has data points back to 40s. However, there aren't enough data points to have a good confidence in it.
- Development here really started in the 50s. Pre-development means 1950 by USGS nomenclature

Is some of this data from well diggers?

- Could be but only if they had registered the wells and registration wasn't required until 1957.
- A lot of the early test wells were included in the mapping, however there's not very much data.

5. Stakeholder Roundtable

Digital records present at meetings to capture discussion and questions

Stakeholder map shows the diversity across the NRD

- Consent was asked to be given to share the map with the public
 - All present consented to allow the map to be shared with the public
- Speak with Rod or on the way out, place a checkmark on the sign-in sheet
 - This will allow the NRD to share the stakeholders contact information with each (not with the public). Only names will be provided to the public

Discussion

Are stakeholders working on consensus or veto power? (how to moderate power?)

- See if there's consensus. What has been set as goals and objections should be viewed as recommendations. Ultimately up to the NRD board to take what has been recommended to them and decide what ends up in the plan.
- Possible that not all recommendations will end up in the plan
- If we can't get to an overall agreement, offer up to do a vote or put things in the parking lot.

Each Stakeholder given chance to comment on expectations and why they are here:



One District, Two Plans, One Water

- Ensure there's understanding between groundwater use and overirrigation, which can tie into nitrates. When talking about quality, consider water conservation as a potential avenue.
- Confused about implementation of the plan. That's strictly voluntary? (Yes.) "I have no problem doing it, if my neighbor's going to do it too." That's a question for another day.
 - Implementation will be discussed in further detail at later meetings.
- Goal setting = easier to see progress made. I like to set goals and I like to see the progress of where we are getting to them.
 - Stakeholders will get to directly see how their contributions are incorporated. A lot of transparency and accountability in this process.
- Nitrates are a big problem. Small communities spend a lot of money on new wells.
- Focused on ensuring access to water in future for irrigation or drinking
- Education is critical. Quality will enhance your quantity by using good conservation practices
- Historically, groundwater and surface water have been politically separated. But in practicality they're connected. Want to see all partners work together to find solutions.
 - Steve: This process has a great opportunity to make the needle move to bring things together. Getting to this point makes the NRD really hopeful.
- State of Nebraska's NRD system is way ahead of other states. Wants this to be a more collaborative rather than combative situation.

6. Public Comment

NRDs have come a long way since the 70s and folks are friendly. Good chance at being sustainable. Water quality harder piece to maintain. End goal is to ensure drinking water for the future.

Prefer doing voluntary plans rather than being forced as an NRD board to enforce rules.

Overall goal is to be proactive now with the help of this group.

Stakeholders – please be our ambassadors. Reach out to neighbors. Also, this is not about regulating and will not turn into regulation.

NRCS provides cost-share on nutrient management and irrigation water management.

Next Meeting Date: August 14, 2018 at 7 p.m.





Upper Big Blue NRD
 Water Quality Management & Voluntary Integrated Management Plans
"Stakeholder Meeting #1"
 UBBNRD Office – Monday, June 18, 2018; 7:00 p.m.



Please place a check next to your name, if present. | If any information is incorrect, or needs updated, please cross out and provide

Present	NAME	OCCUPATION	ORGANIZATION / INTEREST Represented	ADDRESS Street #, Street Name, City, Zip	PHONE	EMAIL	OK to share info with group?
X	Dan Aspergren	Farmer	Farmer - Groundwater user	1060 North 1st St, Geneva, NE68361	402.759.1420	aspergren@windstream.net	Yes
	Mark Bailey	Farmer	Farmer- Past SPA Advisory Committee	42140 RD T, Saronville, NE 68975	402.985.5106		
	John Denton	Ducks Unlimited	Wetlands/Wildlife	2121 N Webb Rd Ste 309, Grand Island, NE 68803	308.258.4682		
X	Steve Driewer	GPM Enterprises Inc	Meter repair business	115 So. 16th St, Aurora, NE 68818	210.862.9729	gpm@hamilton.net	Yes
X	Mick Goedeken	Central Valley Ag (COOP)	Agriculture / consulting	340 Oak St, Shelby, NE 68662	402.860.2489	michael.goedeken@cvacoop.com	Yes
	Brandon Hegeholz	Farmer	Surface water/groundwater user	1177 North Columbia Ave, Seward, NE 68434	402.643.5662		
	Brandon Hunnicutt	Farmer	Farmer - Groundwater user	609 South G Rd, Giltner, NE 68841			
X	Luke Jacobsen	Farmer	Farmer - Former NRD board Marginal groundwater area	2204 Rd R, Marquette, NE 68854	402.694.9607	jacobsenlu@yahoo.com	Yes
	Steve Kier	Manager	Pioneer Seed York Plant	1410 Hwy 34, York, NE 68467	402.362.3349		
X	Christine Lawrence	4 Corners Health Dept	Public Health	2101 North Lincoln Ave, York, NE 68467	402.362.2621	chris@fourcorners.ne.org	Yes
X	Teresa Otte	Farmer	Woman farmer - Groundwater user	3471 H Rd, David City, NE 68632	402.525.7900	gr82farm@gmail.com	Yes
	Jason Perdue	Farmer	Young Farmer	1209 RD Q, York, NE 68467	402.366.2821		
	Tim Richtig	Water/Wastewater Superintendent	Municipal	537 Main St, Seward, NE 68434	402.643.3433	Tim.Richtig@CityofSewardNE.gov	
X	Marty Stange	Environmental Supervisor	Hastings Utilities	1228 N Denver Ave, Hastings, NE 68901	402.831.1399	mstange@hastingsutilities.com	Yes
X	Larry Tonniges	Farmer	Farmer - Soybean Growers Rep	4210 Branched Oak Rd, Utica, NE68456	402.535.2331	(prefers paper copies)	Yes
X	Tom Weber	Farmer/livestock	Farmer/livestock	405 State HWY 15, Dorchester, NE 68343	402.432.4674	tweber68343@hotmail.com	Yes
X	Greg Whitmore	Farmer	Farmer - Corn Growers Rep	12959 W Rd, Shelby, NE 68662	402.362.8653	megafarm@stewireless.com	Yes
	Bill Whitney	Prairie Plains Institute	Environment	1307 L Street, Aurora, NE 68818	402.694.5535		
X	Jim Green	Zoning Administrator	Village of McCool Junction	PO Box 145, McCool Junction, NE 68401	402.363.4081	mccoolutilities@galaxycable.com	Yes
X	Steve Wolf	Community Engagement Director	JEO Consulting Group	111717 Burt Street Ste 210, Omaha, NE 68154	402.392.9907	swolf@jeo.com	



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Present	NAME	OCCUPATION	ORGANIZATION / INTEREST Represented	ADDRESS Street #, Street Name, City, Zip	PHONE	EMAIL	OK to share info with group?
X	Adam Rupe	Natural Resources Specialist	JEO Consulting Group	2700 Fletcher Ave, Lincoln, NE 68504	402.435.3080	arupe@jeo.com	
X	Becky Appleford	Hazard Mitigation and Emergency Planning	JEO Consulting Group	111717 Burt Street Ste 210, Omaha, NE 68154	402.934.3680	rappleford@jeo.com	
X	Rick Wilson	Project Manager	JEO Consulting Group	2700 Fletcher Ave, Lincoln, NE 68504	402.435.3080	rwilson@jeo.com	
X	Rod DeBuhr	UBB Staff	Upper Big Blue NRD	310 E 25 th St, York, NE 68467	402.362.6601	rdebuhr@upperbigblue.org	
X	Jack Wergin	UBB Staff	Upper Big Blue NRD	310 E 25 th St, York, NE 68467	402.362.6601	jwergin@upperbigblue.org	
X	Marie Krausnick	UBB Staff	Upper Big Blue NRD	310 E 25 th St, York, NE 68467	402.362.6601	mebel@upperbigblue.org	
	Katie Pekarek	Associate Extension Educator- School of Natural Resources	UNL Extension	912 Hardin Hall, Lincoln, NE 68583-0989	402.817.5097	kpekarek2@unl.edu	
X	Amy Zoller	Integrated Water Management Coordinator	NeDNR	P.O. Box 94676, Lincoln, NE 68509-4676	402.471.0625	amy.zoller@nebraska.gov	
X	Elbert Traylor		NDEQ	1200 N St, The Atrium, Suite 400, Lincoln, NE 68509	402.471.2585	elbert.traylor@nebraska.gov	
X	Craig Romary		NDA				
X	Ronda Rich	Board Member	Upper Big Blue NRD	310 E 25 th St, York, NE 68467			
X	Lynn Yates	Board Chairman	Upper Big Blue NRD	310 E 25 th St, York, NE 68467			
X	Larry Moore	Board Member	Upper Big Blue NRD	310 E 25 th St, York, NE 68467			
X	John Miller	Board Member	Upper Big Blue NRD	310 E 25 th St, York, NE 68467			
X	Dave Eigenberg	General Manager	Upper Big Blue NRD	310 E 25 th St, York, NE 68467			
X	Steve Melvin						
X	Grant Jackson	Resource Conservationist	NRCS				
X	Jenny Rees	Extension Educator	UNL				
X	Jen Schellpeper	Water Planning Division Head	NeDNR				