

Niobrara Compact Annual Meeting
Summary of Meeting between Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NDNR) and
Wyoming State Engineer's Office (WSEO)
Technical Group

October 8, 2013
 2:30 p.m. Mountain Time
 Via Go-To Meeting

Meeting Attendees:

Dustin Wilcox	NARD	Justin Lavene	NE AGO
Jesse Bradley	NDNR	Emily Rose	NE AGO
Brandi Flyr	NDNR	Pat O'Brien	UNWNRD
Tom Hayden	NDNR	Lynn Webster	UNWNRD
Nathan Morris	NDNR	John Harju	WSEO
Jim Ostdiek	NDNR	Matt Hoobler	WSEO
Jennifer Schellpeper	NDNR	Wray Lovitt	WSEO
Jim Schneider	NDNR	Jodee Pring	WSEO
		Brian Pugsley	WSEO

1. **Introductions and Agenda Review:** It was agreed that Brandi Flyr would present on agenda item # 4, UNWNRD Conjunctive Management Model Project, at the beginning of the meeting. No other revisions were made to the meeting agenda.
2. **Review of the minutes from October 17, 2012, meeting:** There were no corrections to the October 17, 2012, meeting minutes.
 - A. **Recap Tech Group discussions – April 24, 2013:** There were no corrections to the April 24, 2013, meeting minutes.
3. **State Reports**
 - A. **Wyoming:** Lovitt reported that his three surface water measurements at the stateline were at about three feet. From discussions with appropriators, it seems like groundwater levels have been pretty stable this year, especially compared to last year. Harju referred to permit update (over the past year) data located in a spreadsheet that he shared with the group.
 - B. **Nebraska:** Hayden reported that the flow at the stateline was measured 35 times over the past year; the lowest recorded measurement taken was 1.5 cfs and the highest was 5.5 cfs. There was administration for very few people in the compact area this year. The Agate gage averaged 7-9 cfs until mid-July, and then dropped

down to about 1 cfs during the irrigation season. There was not much water for Box Butte Reservoir or Mirage Flats. A discussion on the most effective way to take measurements around the stateline followed.

Schneider introduced Pat O'Brien, the new general manager of the UNWNRD. Webster reported that UNWNRD has had a moratorium in place since 2003 on new, high-capacity wells. No replacement well permits were issued in the compact area over the past year. There was a transfer from irrigation to industrial permitted for an oil well.

4. Update on various studies related to the basin

A. Niobrara River Basin WaterSMART Grant: An extension has been granted on the WaterSMART project, which now has a completion date of 2015.

B. UNWNRD Conjunctive Management Model Project: Brandi Flyr provided the group with a recap of the intents, purposes, and goals; the general approach utilized; and the current status and results of the modeling projects currently used in the basin. The model was designed to be a tool that would allow managers to analyze the interconnection between surface and groundwater systems in the basin and the implications of different management scenarios. A draft report on the model has been sent out for peer review and NDNR is working on incorporating those comments into the report. NDNR has been working on projects throughout the state, such as the UNW model, and plans to have all of this information available through the INSIGHT website. Among other data, INSIGHT will allow users to analyze supply, demand, and the balance between the two, at a subbasin, basin, or statewide level. Data from the Wyoming portion of the UNW study area was very helpful in the development of this model.

5. Any needed Compact discussion: Pring asked if there was a status update on the compact litigation. Schneider reported that the Wickersham case has been reassigned following a delay caused by the retirement of the previous judge. Going forward, the DNR will be providing Discovery updates to the plaintiffs, including meeting notes, reports, and studies from the Niobrara Compact meetings.

6. Other items: None

7. Set Date for next Niobrara River Compact meeting: A Technical Meeting will be scheduled for the spring of 2014, and the spring Niobrara River Compact meeting will be scheduled once the spring North Platte Decree Committee (NPDC) is scheduled.

8. Adjourn