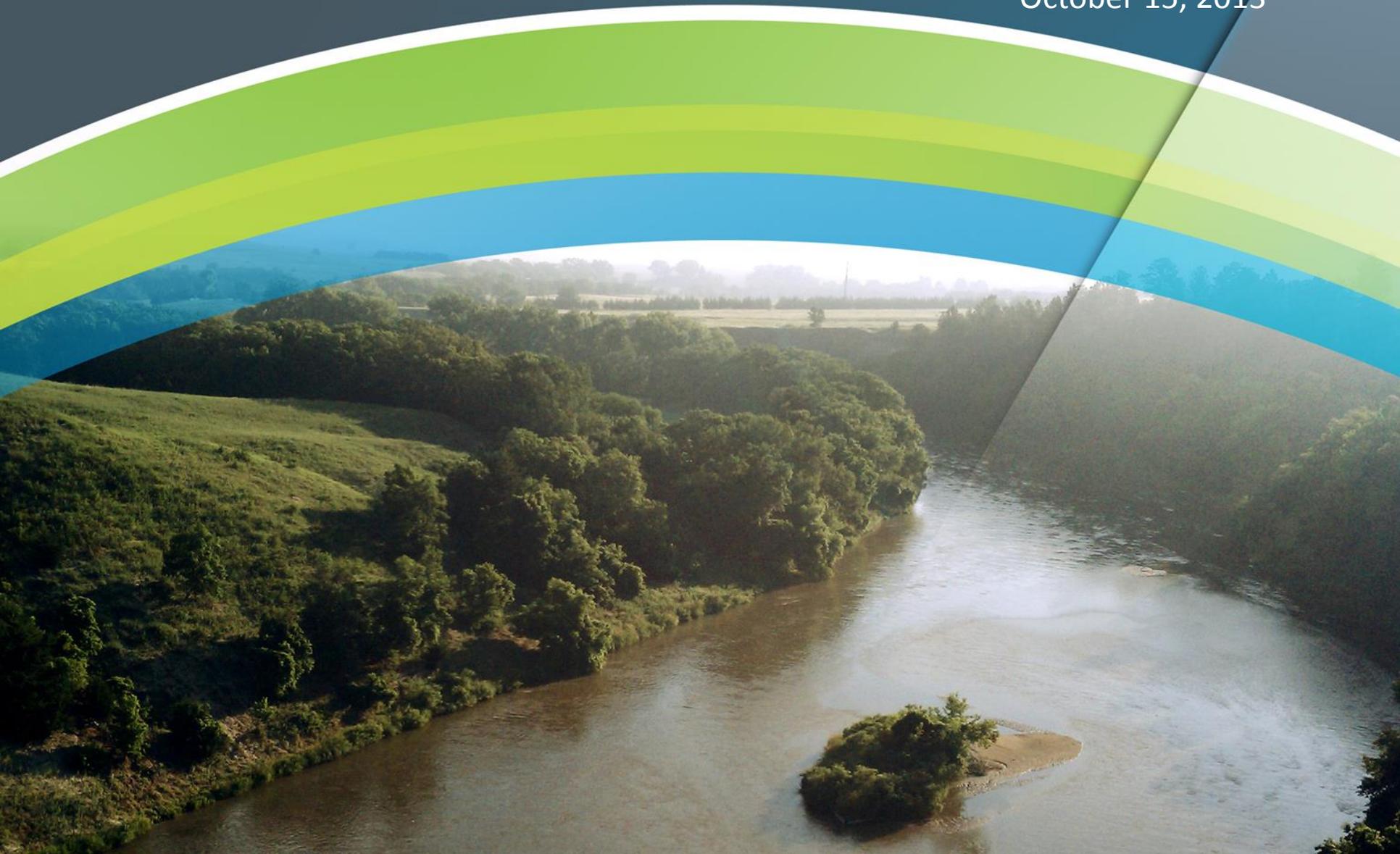


WATER FUNDING TASK FORCE

October 15, 2013



“Water is Nebraska’s life blood for our citizens and our economy”

“LB517 is ambitious but the time is NOW to get a permanent system for funding NE water projects”

“Success is the only option”



History of the Task Force

1. LB517

- Approved by the Governor June 4, 2013

2. Governor appoints Task Force Members

- Late July 2013
- Task Force Members include:
 - All Nebraska Natural Resources Commission Members
 - Director of DNR
 - Chairperson of the Natural Resources Committee of the Legislature
 - Five Additional Members of the Legislature
 - One member representing each of the following categories:
 - Public Power, Public Power and Irrigation Districts, Municipalities, agriculture, wildlife conservation, livestock producers, agribusiness, manufacturing and outdoor recreation

3. Task Force First Meeting

- July 19, 2013
- Facilitation Support Services Contractor Selection Completed
 - Olsson Associates with Vireo, FYRA and LakeTech

What is their Scope of Work?

According to Legislative Bill 517, the Nebraska Water Funding Task Force will prepare the following recommendations for the next Legislative Session:

1. STRATEGIC PLAN

- Recommendations for a strategic plan which prioritizes programs, projects (PPAs), and activities in need of funding

2. PROJECT RANKING CRITERIA

- Recommendations for ranking criteria to identify funding priorities

3. PERMANENT STRUCTURE

- Recommendations for a permanent structure and process through which the projects will be provided with funding.

4. FUNDING AMOUNT AND START DATE

- Recommendations for the annual funding amount and the start date for distribution of funds

5. STATUTORY CHANGES

- Recommendations for statutory changes relating to regulatory authorities.

What have they accomplished?



What have they accomplished?

1. STRATEGIC PLAN

- Recommendations for a strategic plan which prioritizes programs, projects, and activities (PPAs) in need of funding have begun and one idea is to have a two step application process that helps with planning and funding allocations.

Project
Proposal
Application

- Review feasibility of project
- Assist with planning

Project
Funding
Application

- Review financial viability of project
- Funding allocation

What have they accomplished?

2. PROJECT RANKING CRITERIA

- Recommendations for ranking criteria to identify funding priorities has been a significant part of the meetings conducted to date.

So far the highest priority criteria include:

The extent to which the PPA contributes to **multiple water supply management goals**, including but not limited to flood control, agricultural use, municipal uses, recreational benefits, wildlife habitat, conservation of water resources, and preservation of water resources.

The extent to which the PPA **protects the ability of future generations to meet their needs** including; Increasing aquifer recharge, eliminating aquifer depletion, remediating or mitigating threats to drinking water, meeting the goals and objectives of an approved IMP

The extent to which the PPA provides **increased water productivity** and otherwise maximizes the beneficial use of Nebraska's water resources for the benefit of its residents.

The **cost effectiveness** of the PPA relative to achieving the state's water management goals.

What have they accomplished?

3. PERMANENT STRUCTURE

- Recommendations for a permanent structure and process through which the projects will be provided with funding have just begun and were discussed at the last meeting.



What have they accomplished?

4. FUNDING AMOUNT AND START DATE

- The Task Force wanted to know are other states are appropriating to enhance and maintain their water infrastructure and resources?

<u>State</u>	<u>2012 Annual Funding</u>
Missouri	\$286,268,000
North Dakota	\$198,210,000
Illinois	\$178,778,000
South Dakota	\$169,408,000
Iowa	\$150,951,000
Minnesota	\$138,265,000
Wyoming	\$87,895,000
Colorado	\$45,591,000
Oklahoma	\$20,647,000
Kansas	\$15,268,000

*Based on research from the UNL Water Center and Water For Food Institute

What have they accomplished?

5. STATUTORY CHANGES

- Recommendations for statutory changes relating to regulatory authorities



What can you do?

Attend one or more of the Task Force public meetings!

Current Meeting and Basin
Tour Schedule

Meeting Date	Meeting Location
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> July 19	Lincoln, NE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> July 26	Lincoln, NE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> August 8, 9	Franklin, NE & Holdrege, NE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> August 22, 23	Gothenburg, NE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> August 29, 30	Omaha, NE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> September 5, 6	Grand Island, NE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> October 10, 11	Alliance, NE
<input type="checkbox"/> October 24, 25	Sidney, NE
<input type="checkbox"/> October 3, November 1	Kearney, NE
<input type="checkbox"/> November 7, 8	Norfolk, NE
<input type="checkbox"/> November 14, 15	Lincoln, NE
<input type="checkbox"/> December 5, 6	Kearney, NE
<input type="checkbox"/> December 12, 13	Lincoln, NE

Why is this important?



Sustainability is the Key to Success

LB517 working definition of Sustainability:

- Water use is sustainable when current use promotes healthy watersheds, maintains water quality and protects the ability of future generations to meet their needs.