

Water Funding Task Force Meeting Minutes

July 26, 2013 | Holiday Inn | Lincoln, NE

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Holiday Inn, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Those in attendance were:

Brian Barels, Public Power	Clint Johannes, NRC
Gerry Dale Sheets, Public Power and Irrigation Districts	David Kadlecck, NRC
Walter Dennis Strauch, Irrigation Districts	Thomas Knutson, NRC
Kent Zimmerman, DNR	Dick Mercer, NRC
Tim Luchsinger, Municipalities	Darrell Rains, NRC
Jeff Steffen, NRC	Michael Reynolds, NRC
Rex Gittins, DNR	Keith Rexroth, NRC
Rex Peterson, Livestock Producers	Steven Sugden, NRC
Scott Smathers, Outdoor Recreation Users	Brian Dunnigan, Director of DNR
Garry Anderson, NRC	Senator Tom Carlson
Stan Clouse, NRC	Senator Mark Christensen
Dave Deines, NRC	Senator Al Davis
Beverly Donaldson, NRC	Senator Rick Kolowski
Kevin Fornoff, NRC	Senator Ken Schilz
N. Richard Hadenfeldt, NRC	Senator Dan Watermeier
Joseph Hergott, NRC	Senator Dan Watermeier

The following members were absent: Joel Christensen, Roric Paulman, John Heaston, David Kadlecck

NOTICE OF THE MEETING

Notice of the meeting was published on the Department of Natural Resources web site (www.dnr.ne.gov/lb517). A copy of Nebraska's public meeting statutes was available in the room.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

The following informational materials were distributed at the meeting:

- Agenda
- Minutes from July 19, 2013 meeting
- Olsson Associates Presentation
- Map of Task Force Members Home Town
- Meeting Dates and Draft Locations Schedule
- Notice of August 8, 2013 Tour

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Karen Griffin, with Olsson Associates, requested that anyone wishing to provide public comment at today is meeting to please sign the "Speaker" sign-in sheet at the back of the room. She then introduced members of the consultant team present.

Meeting Minutes

Tom Knutson moved and Scott Smathers seconded the motion to adopt the July 19, 2013 Task Force meeting minutes.

Motion Passed.

Aye: Barel, Sheets, Strauch, Luchsinger, Steffen, Peterson, Smathers, Anderson, Clouse, Deins, Donaldson, Fornoff, Hadenfeldt, Hergott, Johannes, Kadlecek, Knutson, Mercer, Rains, Reynolds, Rexroth
Nay: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Joel Christensen, Roric Paulman, John Heaston, David Kadlecek

Each Task Force member stated his or her name and affiliation.

Karen Griffin, with Olsson Associates, reviewed the agenda and goals for the meeting.

TASK FORCE MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

Expectations for Project Team and Task Force

Karen Griffin, reviewed the expectations for the Olsson Team related to timelines, deliverables and status updates. She also outlined expectations for the Water Funding Task Force related to communications to the public and the function of “alternates” for Task Force Members. This was followed by a short question and answer session with Task Force members. The discussion concluded with an understanding that alternates were welcome to the meetings and tours, they will not be allowed to vote and their expenses will not be reimbursed. They will be able to comment during the public comment period.

Potential Meeting and Tour Dates

A list of meeting dates and draft locations was presented to the Task Force for discussion.

Richard Hadenfeldt moved and Darrell Rains seconded the motion to hold the meeting locations half in Lincoln and half in Kearney, alternating by date. Motion by Hadenfeldt was tabled and later revised and removed for consideration.

The Task Force discussed proposed future meeting and tour dates and determined that those decisions could best be worked out today by the Executive Committee using the input gathered from the Task Force. Results will be presented at the next meeting.

Communications

Karen Griffin, reviewed communications protocols and use/timing for the DNR website and MindMixer.

(Break - 15 mins)

EDUCATION SESSION

Mike Sotak and Paul Brakhage presented existing example water project ranking systems. Jim Schneider, with DNR, presented “The Data, Tools information that Support Water Management Planning.”

(Lunch – 30 mins)

Jesse Korus, with UNL-CSD, presented “Groundwater and Surface Water Interaction.”

DISCUSSION OF RANKING SYSTEMS

Karen Griffin facilitated a discussion with the Task Force regarding existing ranking systems focusing on three

key areas: 1) What is Working Today?, 2) What's Not Working Well?, and 3) What New Programs Exist?. A summary of the discussion follows.

- What is Working Today?
 - Should criteria be objective/subjective. What is the correct balance?
 - Should you give a grand total score? Should you value all criteria equally?
 - Economic development is positive- but how determine value?
 - How should you develop fund-value of recreational components? Critical for agreement, reasonable numbers to be assessed.
 - Lots of documentation helps with clarification for rankings of objective criteria.
 - Not enough value given to evaporating water, flooding, storage, etc.
 - Citizens should get value back.
 - Twenty points for feel good criteria.
 - The Task Force needs to see example criterion BMPs presented to them, including the pros and cons for those criterion programs.

- What's Not Working Well
 - NET – too subjective. Be consistent.
 - What is the relationship to municipal water?

- New Programs
 - Other states mining water. What ex. projects do they have? Success stories? Failures?
 - Think water economically.

NEXT STEPS

Karen Griffin, reviewed Task Force next steps, and next meeting schedule.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No members present from the public made comments.

CLOSING

Sen. Carlson thanked everyone for attending.

Explanation on expense reimbursement sheets was given by representatives of Nebraska Department of Natural Resources.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.