

AGENDA
UPPER NIOBRARA RIVER COMPACT
SPRING TECHNICAL MEETING

Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NeDNR)
Wyoming State Engineer's Office (WSEO)
Technical Group

April 12, 2022

4:30 p.m. Mountain Time/5:30 p.m. Central Time
Panhandle Research and Extension Center
4502 Ave I, Scottsbluff, NE

Online Option Available

In attendance

- Ryan Kelly – Coordinator NeDNR
- Tom Riley – Director NeDNR
- Jenfer Schellpeper – Water Planning Division Manager NeDNR
- Tom Hayden – Bridgeport Field Office Staff NeDNR
- Jeremy Gehle – Water Administration Division Manager NeDNR
- Korey Reinhort
- Brandon Gepbheart – WY State Engineer
- Michelle Gess – River Basin Coordinator, Niobrara River WYO
- Carrie Roberts – Niobrara Basin Coordinator NeDNR
- Wray Lovitt – Water Commissioner, Niobara River WYO
- Trevor Hiegle
- Jeremy Manley – State Engineers Office, Groundwater Division WYO
- Andy Pedley – Planner NeDNR
- Lynn Webser – Assistant Manager UNWNRD

Updates

Nebraska

- Update and Current Conditions (Tom Hayden)
 - A lot of snow helped river flow around Harrison and Gordon 9.2 cfs at state line usually around 2.6 cfs
 - Box Butte normally 8000 af, on March 1, 13190 af.
 - Souix county GW well 35.06 ft average, High 33.2 ft, low 37.
 - It's been a good year with all of the moisture.
- NRD Activities (Carrie Roberts)
 - UNWNRD integrated IMP in progress. Working with the district on one document that will cover the required and voluntary portions of the district.
 - MNNRD annual meeting coming up May 9th
 - LNNRD possibly opening up IMP for changes within the next year.
- NPS and USGS Niobrara National Scenic River Hydrogeologic Study and Modeling (Carrie Roberts)
 - Model has been calibrated and is expected to be published by USGS sometime in 2022.
 - Groundwater model developed so National parks service can see the impacts development on the river.
 - Generally pleased with results so far.
 - Moving forward the intention will be to limit federal involvement as much as possible.

Wyoming

- Update and Current Conditions (Wrat Lovitt)
 - Similar to Tom's condition's update. Good year for moisture so far.
 - Reservoirs are either full or filling at this time.
- Update of applications in the basin (Michelle Gess)
 - Oct 1,2021- March 30, 2022
 - 4 applications received
 - 3 stock
 - 1 irrigation well (expansion)

- 2 apps on hold (in prairie center control area. Up for public comment. They have been protested so they will likely be on hold for a while.)
 - First hearing happened in Chyanne, they are trying to work it out before further legal action.

Other Topics

- None at this time

Public Comment

- No public comment

Next Meeting

- Fall NPDC meeting is scheduled for November 3rd in Torrington WY. Fall Niobrara Compact meeting will be scheduled in conjunction with NPDC.

Adjourn