

Agenda Item: 8.

Memorandum

To: Programs, Projects, and Operations Subcommittee
From: Brian L. Henkel, Groundwater Management Engineer
Date: September 06, 2013
Re: Review and Recommendation on the Proposed Goals and Objectives for the Lower Platte River Voluntary Integrated Management Plan

The District Board voted to begin the development of a Voluntary Integrated Management Plan (IMP) in collaboration with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (Department) in November 2011 and contracted with Olsson Associates in September 2012 to develop the voluntary IMP. Since that time, District staff, the Olsson team, the Department, and a Stakeholder Advisory Committee have met regularly to draft a set of proposed Goals and Objectives for the Voluntary IMP (attached).

The Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) is comprised of representatives with an interest in the groundwater and surface water in the Lower Platte. The SAC includes representatives from agriculture, industry, municipal supply, environmental and recreational groups, cities, and counties as well as technical advisors from the state and federal level. The Olsson team guided the SAC meetings to help the District and the Department develop an understanding of the needs and desires of the stakeholders and facilitated the development of these proposed Goals and Objectives. The proposed Goals and Objectives represent the interests of the stakeholders of Lower Platte and will provide a framework for the continued development of the Districts voluntary IMP.

Management recommends that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board of Directors that the proposed Goals and Objectives for the Lower Platte River Voluntary Integrated Management Plan be, and are hereby adopted.

Proposed Goals and Objectives for the P-MRNRD Integrated Management Plan

PROPOSED GOALS

1. Develop and implement water use policies and practices that contribute to the protection of existing surface and groundwater uses while allowing for future water development.
2. Develop and maintain a water supply and use inventory based on the best available data and analysis.
3. Develop and implement water use educational programs that encourage conservation and effective water use.
4. Work with upstream NRDs and other relevant organizations to collectively develop a water management plan for the Lower Platte Basin that maintains a balance between current and future water supplies and demands.

PROPOSED OBJECTIVES

GOAL 1 Objectives:

Develop and Implement water use policies and practices that contribute to the protection of existing surface and groundwater uses while allowing for future water development.

1. Utilize existing policies and authorities within the District’s Groundwater Management Plan and Regulations to address water quantity issues.
2. Work with the appropriate agencies to identify streamflow necessary to protect and maintain public water supply, fish and wildlife, and public recreation.
3. Minimize invasive vegetation encroachment in the river channels.
4. Identify and evaluate potential conjunctive management projects and activities within the District.
5. Evaluate options for a water banking system.

GOAL 2 Objectives:

Develop and maintain a water supply and use inventory based on the best available data and analysis.

1. Develop and implement a monitoring and reporting plan that provides relevant scientific information to support the Department’s annual evaluation.
2. Monitor changes in precipitation, consumption, inflows, and outflows.
3. Coordinate with water suppliers and other water users to understand and project future water demands.

GOAL 3 Objectives:

Develop and implement water use educational programs that encourage conservation and effective water use.

1. Develop and implement an education plan that addresses both rural and urban conservation efforts.
2. Work with other entities on education and conservation programs.
3. Explore opportunities to reuse water, where feasible.

GOAL 4 Objectives:

Work with upstream NRDs and other relevant organizations to collectively develop a water management plan for the Platte River Basin that maintains a balance between current and future water supplies and demands.

1. Actively participate in Lower Platte Basin-wide water management planning activities.
2. Identify and evaluate potential conjunctive management projects and activities within the Lower Platte Basin.
3. Identify and evaluate additional water resource supplies.
4. Coordinate with other entities in the Platte River Basin on water management planning and activities.