

Niobrara River Compact Principals' Meeting
Torrington, Wyo.
10-21-14

Introductions

- Sign-In sheet was circulated and scanned copy provided to each state.

Agenda Modification

- None

Review of Previous Meeting

- The meeting minutes that Nebraska circulated (via email) for the last two meetings (Fall 2013 and Spring 2014) were accepted as circulated. Sue Lowry noted that for the principals' meeting last year, Pat Tyrrell was unable to attend due to *MT v. WY* litigation preparation.
- It was noted that the Niobrara River Compact meetings are conversational and not of formal order.
- Wyoming will do the minutes for today and for next spring.

State Report – Wyoming

- Wray Lovitt noted that the basin received ample precipitation this year and he was not in the area too much beyond making a few measurements for the shift at the gage. The early frost and runoff cleaned out the culvert and the fence around the state line gage. Flooding did create some shift changes, as did cattail growth. There were no calls for surface water regulation within the Wyoming portion of the basin.
- John Harju handed out a summary of 15 GW applications that have been received by WY SEO. Only one is for irrigation and is southwest of Van Tassell. Most are related to stock use.

State Report – Nebraska

- Tom Hayden: It was a good year at the Wyoming/Nebraska state line. 5 cfs flow at the start of last water year. The March 6th snowstorm caused the river to bump up due to the frozen ground. March flows were up to 200 cfs. The peak gage height was 8.62 feet and could have been 360 cfs or so. At Agate a few days later the flows were 240 cfs. It was a good year with generally above average flows.
- Still lots of cattails even with the flooding.
- 22 measurements were made at the state line.

30 measurements were made at Agate.

Studies Related to the Basin

- Jennifer Schellpeper: The WaterSMART grant has been extended to 2015 and Nebraska will bring results to this group when they are ready. The model runs are in progress.
- The Upper Niobrara Conjunctive Management Model Project is looking at different management scenarios. This was discussed in great detail at the April meeting with a PowerPoint presentation.
- Nebraska is meeting tomorrow with the Upper Niobrara-White NRD on the modeling and some of the alternatives.
- Jim Schneider said Nebraska plans to have additional modeling work to report to Wyoming by the next Tech meeting in the spring of 2015. Jim also asked if the final report of the model could be re-circulated as it was not clear that everyone had seen it. Jim noted that some of the data is available on Nebraska's INSIGHT website as well, which Brandi shared information about at the April meeting.

Generic Compact Discussion

- It was asked if there was anything extending from the April 14th meeting or from last year. Jim Schneider offered that last year there was some discussion on pending litigation on the Nebraska part of the basin and to Jim understands it has been settled.
- Sue Lowry noted that one result of the litigation was that the public be given more advance notice of the meetings and the public was thanked for the good turnout of the current meeting. Jim Schneider stated the meetings are posted on the DNR website.

Public Comment

- Jim Skavdahl asked John Harju what the ground water table is doing at the state line. John referred to a monitoring well that is located at the state line. Reference made to Bern Hinckley's report (2009) and Harju stated that it is on the Wyoming State Engineer's Office website at

<https://sites.google.com/a/wyo.gov/seo/ground-water/interference-investigations>

- A question was asked of Wyoming regarding the well spacing policy and "what else are you doing to limit development?" State Engineer Pat Tyrrell responded that in Wyoming we aren't seeing that much interest in new wells in this basin.

- The principals still want the Tech group to continue to meet, so for this spring, Sue Lowry and Jesse Bradley should find a date in April 2015 to hold a conference call or webinar. The principals' meeting should be set after the NPDC fall meeting is set.

Notes taken by:

Matt Hoobler and Sue Lowry, November 20, 2014

Modified December 5, 2014 - Nebraska

Nebraska Compact Discussions
 Torrington WY
 10/21/14

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