

**Final Minutes**  
**Water Advisory Conference Call**  
**August 8, 2007**

**Attendance:**

Frank Kwapnioski – WAC Chairman, NPPD  
Jerry Kenny – Exec. Director, Headwaters  
Bill Taddicken, Audubon Society  
Brian J. Anderson, USBR  
Chad Smith, Headwaters  
Cory Steinke, CNPPID  
Dennis Strauch, Upper Platte Water Users  
Don Anderson, FWS  
Duane Woodward, CNPPID  
Jennifer Schellpeper, Nebraska DNR  
Jesse Bradley, Nebraska DNR  
Jim Hall, Colorado DWR  
Jon Altenhofen, NCWCD  
Kent Miller, Twin Platte NRD  
Mike Drain, CNPPID  
Phil Stump, Wyoming  
Ted Kowalski, CWCB  
Doug Hallam, Nebraska DNR  
Clayton Derby, WEST, Inc

**Agenda**

The main topics for discussion during the conference call were the new depletion reports for Colorado and Nebraska. Approval of the June 7 Meeting Minutes and a brief discussion of the Water Management Study awarded to Boyle Engineering were also handled.

**Approval of Minutes**

Frank Kwapnioski called for approval of the June 7 WAC Meeting Minutes. Dennis Strauch made the motion to accept the minutes; the motion was seconded by Duane Woodward and passed without dissent.

**Water Management Study**

Clayton Derby and Jerry Kenny provided a brief summary of the objectives of the Water Management Study awarded to Boyle Engineering. The objectives of the study are to examine routing alternatives for delivery of Program water via the River or via NPPD/CNPPID facilities and re-examine the Water Action Plan Alternatives for on-going viability and develop new concepts to meet Program water supply objectives. Addition of a task to extend the period of study has resulted in the schedule for Phase I being extended from December 2007 to February 2008. Work is underway including interviews with representatives of the program. A report from Blaine Dwyer will be made at the Governance Committee Meeting in August. Jon Altenhofen requested a copy of the RFP be provided to the WAC (included as an attachment). This work is

being performed to satisfy paragraph III.E.2.d.ii., Delivery of Program Water, in the main Program Document.

### **Colorado Depletions Report**

Jon Altenhofen led the discussion of the Colorado Depletion Report. He explained that the original depletions plan had used 1988-2002 as the basis of the estimates. The revised depletions plan included the period through 2006, which was a time of severe drought. The adjustment was needed to reflect what was actually done during that period. As in the original, the Hydrosphere modeling tools were used to estimate accretions and depletions to the South Platte based on population. Of note in the dry period, more reuse and storage of reuse water occurred, resulting in less depletions of native South Platte water. Interviews with major water users will be conducted to refine operating assumptions. The interviews will be primarily with the SPWRAP members.

A discussion of the use of a rolling average approach followed. All seemed comfortable with a moving average type of approach, with a period of 9 to 10 years considered generally appropriate. Watching the behavior of the rolling average over time may allow refinement of the length of time used to define the average.

The 2007-2008 replacement obligation will be the initial report, with the subsequent projection being for a 5-year period. This projection will include mitigation from Tamarack. The initial report for the first year will be available around the end of the year.

The consensus of the WAC was that Scenario B, the updated approach using the 9 year period of 1998 – 2006 and daily call data, be the accepted result. Further, it was agreed that a critical assessment could not be performed yet because of limited data, but that we will need a good handle on assumptions and tracking of the conclusions. The WAC agreed that the recommendation be made to the GC that the Colorado Depletions Report be accepted.

### **Nebraska Depletions Report**

Duane Woodward led the discussion of the Nebraska Depletion Report. He explained that the COHYST Model was the primary tool used in assessing depletions. The model calibration report will be placed on the COHYST website when it is completed, but the time frame for that is uncertain.

Jon Altenhofen raised two questions:

1. Tables 1 and 3 show a discrepancy in the number of wells listed. The WAC would like this discrepancy explained.
2. The definition of new and expanded water is not clear – is it land only irrigated with new GW supplies or does it include previously surface water irrigated land for which the GW serves as a supplemental supply?

The answers to these questions will be provided by Nebraska.

While it was agreed by the WAC that the report was very thorough in what was presented, it was also agreed that the report is incomplete in that it does not describe any means to offset the depletions. The WAC agreed that the Governance Committee could not be asked to approve an

incomplete report. It is anticipated by Nebraskans that the report can be completed by the first of the year.

### **Report to the Governance Committee**

Frank Kwapnioski will report the conclusions of this meeting to the Governance Committee, and can do so even if the minutes of the meeting have not been approved.

### **Future Meetings**

No new meeting time was set; the WAC will look to the Governance Committee for direction before setting the next meeting.

### **Addenda:**

#### **Water Advisory Committee Membership**

Downstream Water Users: Duane Woodward, Kent Miller, Frank Kwapnioski/Jeff Shafer; Cory Steinke/Mike Drain \* Alternates are identified behind the / if there are any.

Upper Platte River Water Users: Dennis Strauch

CO Water Users: John Altenhofen/Alt Joe Frank

State of Colorado: Jim Hall/Alt Ted Kowalski

USFWS: Don Anderson/Alt Mark Butler

State of Wyoming: Phil Stump/Alt. Mike Besson; Mike Purcell

State of Nebraska: J Schellpeper, Jim Schneider, Jesse Bradley, Frank Albrecht

BOR: Mahonri Williams/ Alt. Brian Anderson

Environmental Groups: Duane Hovorka, Bill Taddicken

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