

May 27, 2004

To: File

From: Steve Gaul

Subject: May 12, 2004 Meeting on Potential University Role in LB 962
Implementation

A meeting on the potential University of Nebraska role in data collection and studies related to implementation of LB 962 was held from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm, Thursday May 12, 2004 in the DNR conference room. In attendance were Derrel Martin, Dave Gosselin, Kyle Hoagland, Mike Jess, Ray Suppala, Xun-Hong Chen, Ann Bleed, and Steve Gaul. I noted that the Water Policy Task Force report had anticipated activities in research, data collection, planning and implementation. Specific items mentioned had included 1) data gathering/organizing, 2) COHYST type studies, 3) local specialized studies, and 4) planning and implementation. I said that the University had been mentioned in connection with data collection, cataloging geologic cores in a digital format, and economic studies.

Ann Bleed suggested that what was needed at the University was an advisory group that would be able to work with DNR and gather information in phases. Mike Jess suggested that the group set a date for a work program to be completed and lay out a staged program. He suggested that this might include laying out a program by August 1, meeting with University people on the viability of DNR processes and having the University hire a technician by September 1. He also suggested that identifying and using a pilot basin might be an appropriate approach. Finally, he noted that an inventory of what is readily available could be followed by database formation and an open file report.

I noted that there needed to be work this summer on what constitutes overappropriated and developing information and determinations for basins that already have an interrelated water management planning process underway. Ann Bleed indicated that a longer term memorandum of agreement may be needed. Ray Suppala asked what the University could do that DNR couldn't do for itself. Dave Gosselin suggested the University personnel needed to see our criteria in our rules and regulations. Material on LB 962 and an index was distributed.

It was agreed that the best approach would be to have NDNR identify several areas where the University could contribute most quickly and then discuss those at an upcoming meeting. University personnel were to look more closely at available data and how it is cataloged. It was suggested that the next meeting take place at 1:30 pm, Friday May 28 in Chase Hall at UNL East Campus.

**ASSIST IN DEVELOPING/AGGREGATING IRRIGATED ACRES
INFORMATION AND POTENTIALLY ASSIST WITH CONSUMPTIVE USE
INFORMATION**

- Approach FSA about their annual polygon data and aggregate and index in a manner useful for integrated management planning.
- Examine other data that may be used to help determine irrigated acres and consumptive use, including:
 - COHYST Aerial Photography/Satellite Images
 - Center Pivot Inventories
 - Power Records
 - Census Records
 - Nebraska Agricultural Statistics

Rationale:

Schedule:

Budget: