

Frenchman Valley Meeting

McCook Field Office

May 4, 2005 – 10:30 a.m.

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Flip Chart Notes from the May 4, 2005 Frenchman Valley Meeting

Game and Parks Interest

- Composition of fisheries
 - Chemical renovation
- Future reservoir water supply
- “Quality of Life” – Effects of decreasing population
- Cabin Owner interest
- Higher minimum pool, El. 3089.40 - Approximately 14,000 AF
- Preferred minimum pool, El. 3099.0
- Loss of habitat areas
- Water temps/ algae blooms increase with lower levels
- Fish kill/ human health with lower lake levels
- Capital investments for fisheries/ parks
- Need for creal user surveys (update?)
- Noxious weed problems with lower lake levels
- Off-road vehicle use
- Consistent water levels El. 3090.0? – 5/2002 last time reservoir was at this level
- Boat ramps
- Aesthetics
- Congestion in lake, parks area
 - Boating safety
 - Non-resident use
- Valuation of recreation facilities
- Non-resident economic benefit to local area
- 1968 – last time reservoir filled
- Who pays for benefits?

NRD Interest

- No “new” restrictions on groundwater pumping
- Third party impacts from “new” restrictions
- Additional controls & regulations
- Who pays for benefits?
- Stay compliant with Compact

District Objectives/Goals

- Reservoir Water Supply
 - Natural flows cover half the district
 - Water right is 130 cfs. Current supply is 40 cfs.
- Reliability of reservoir supply and natural flow supply
- Financial Reliability of District
- Benefits to non-district area/ beneficiaries pay for benefits

DNR Interest

- Get most benefit of future water supply
- Compact implications (stay in compliance)
- Solvency of Districts
- Share benefits/ burden
- Improve water levels in lake and intentional ground water recharge (in targeted areas)
- “Streamline” study process
- Examine legal/administrative changes to change use to get greatest benefit

Existing Compact Groundwater Model

- “Do nothing”
- Evaluate alternatives
- Future water supplies

Reclamation Interest

- Protect Federal Investment
 - Both irrigation and fish/ recreation benefits
- Existing contracts with the Irrigation Districts
- Solvency of the Districts
- Meet authorized purposes of the project
- Storage and storage use rights are considerably higher than what is available
- Downstream Irrigation Districts Interest
- SOD Evaluation

Nebraska Investigations Program

Frenchman Valley Appraisal Study – A cost-shared study that will examine opportunities for more efficient management of water supplies in the Frenchman River Valley including Reclamation's Enders Reservoir, a feature of the Frenchman-Cambridge Division in Nebraska. The study will focus on problems and opportunities in an area that has experienced dramatically reduced ground and surface water supplies, including reduced reservoir inflows. The study area is covered by the recent Republican River Compact Settlement. More efficient management of Republican River can help extend water supplies and meet interstate compact needs as addressed in the Republican River Compact Settlement.

The study will identify whether there is a Federal interest in intensive management of interrelated groundwater and surface water supplies to meet Compact requirements as well as for meeting other economic and environmental needs. The study will be coordinated with the State, irrigation districts, and natural resources districts.

FRENCHMAN VALLEY STUDY

Goal

To evaluate alternative program activities, structural measures or incentives that can assist in optimizing existing facilities, providing lake level benefits, and providing recharge facilities for Enders Reservoir and the irrigated area it serves.

Objectives

1. Describe the Study Area
2. Consult with stakeholder groups
3. Evaluate problems and opportunities
4. Evaluate alternative choices for optimizing existing facilities related to Enders Reservoir and the irrigated area it serves
 - a) Structural options
 - b) Program options and incentives
 - c) Other
5. Evaluate alternative choices for providing lake level benefits from Enders Reservoir
 - a) Structural options
 - b) Program options and incentives
 - c) Other
6. Evaluate alternative choices for providing recharge benefits through use of Enders Reservoir
 - a) Structural options
 - b) Program options and incentives
 - c) Other
7. Formulate alternative plans
8. Evaluate overall effects of plans
9. Compare plans
10. Provide recommendations