

Ann Diers

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Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2006 5:50 PM

To: Jeff Shafer; Jim Cannia; Ann Diers; Brian Barels; Butch Koehlmoos; Chad Smith; Clint Johannes; Dean Edson; Don Kraus; Duane Hovorka; Duane Woodward; Frank Albrecht; Gloria Erickson; Jim Nelson; John Thorburn; John Turnbull; Kent Miller; Kirk Nelson; Larry Hutchinson; Ron Bishop; Russ Callan

Subject: Draft proposal from Instream Flow Discussion 7-11-06

7/16/2006

DNR 014001

Proposal from Instream Flow Subcommittee of the Water Policy Task Force

July 11, 2006

The proposal would be to have the Game and Parks Commission, the DNR, the NRDs, municipalities and power and irrigation districts work together to re-evaluate the fish and wildlife water needs in the lower Platte River basin. The concept is to first put together a technical committee with representatives from the interested parties to start to draft a scope of work. Meanwhile the interested parties will work together on a draft inter-local agreement, similar to COHYST, to commit to working on and funding the project.

The key points covered in the inter-local agreement would be:

- Agree to collaborate with all parties to scope a study to determine the needs of fish and wildlife in the lower Platte River Basin;
- After a scope of work is developed, the group will decide whether or not to continue with the study;
- All parties would agree to a certain level of funding for the study;
- There would be a definite agreed-upon- time line for the completion of the study;
- Parties to the agreement would agree to not introduce legislation or initiate litigation regard the current instream flow permits on the Platte River of the existing laws pertaining to instream flows.

Suggested parties to the agreement are:

Papio NRD, Lower Platte South NRD, Lower Platte North NRD, Lower Loup NRD, Upper Loup NRD, Lower Elkhorn NRD, Upper Elkhorn NRD, Central Platte NRD, Upper Big Blue NRD, TriBasin NRD, Twin Platte NRD;

NPPD and Loup Power Districts

Cities of Lincoln, Omaha, Grand Island, Kearney, Fremont; and

Irrigation districts in the affected area.

Larry Hutchinson will be responsible for convening the technical committee.
DNR will work on a potential inter-local agreement.

All interested parties will meet October 3, 1:30 at NPPD in Kearney to review the draft scope of study and inter-local agreement and determine whether or not we should move ahead.