

Notes from Republican River Brains Storming Session
November 17, 2005
Holdrege, Nebraska

MRNRD -

- Will support concepts we are looking at
- Reluctant to increase regulation in the short term
- Funding is an issue

LRNRD -

- Opposed to additional regulations at this point in time
- Open to suggestions
- Main concern - how are we going to pay for it

TBNRD -

- Leasing and interbasin transfers not preferred options
- Have concerns about data

Suggestions of TBNRD

Riparian vegetation management

Weather modification program

Remove small stock dams

Do a better job of educating landowners,

Stated that farmers will continue to step up if understand the issue

Suggestions of URNRD - Board proposed giving NRD authority to raise fees up to \$10/acre to fund activities - would raise \$4.5 million

Maxed out on levy - don't have ability to fund additional activities

Irrigation district report

Frenchman Cambridge - will not release any water

No buy out

Frenchman Valley

Willing to discuss not using their natural flow right

Bostwick -

Looked at a variety things

Transferring point of diversion

Replacing deliveries with wells for increased system efficiency
 Improving system efficiency
 Still no inflow to Harlan
 Are looking to see what we can do to help the situation but want not only short term answers, but long term answers

Pumping wells

1. Tributaries directly upstream of Guide Rock diversion dam
 - a. 179 wells
 - b. two month pumping period - July and August
 - c. Pump 36,000 af
 - d. Transportation loss in dry creek channel - see an 80% loss to Guide Rock
 - e. Pumping cost - \$2.04 million diesel - 1.572 million electric
2. Thompson Creek
 - a. 32,000 af pump yield 6400 af at Guide Rock
 - b. Diesel 1.759 million
 - c. Electric 1.53 million
3. Above Harlan
 - a. Spring Creek to Rope Creek
 - b. 361 wells
 - c. 78000 af pumped
 - d. 15,600 af into Harlan
 - e. Pump cost
 - i. Diesel 4.54 million
 - ii. Electric 3.12 million
4. Impediments
 - a. May need a pressurized system - cost \$150,000 - \$250,000 per mile
 - b. Have infrastructure rights to deal with
 - c. Farmers are not interested -
 - i. Don't want to run well in winter
 - ii. A lot are center pivot - hard to get a connecting point to use well
 - iii. Cost and timeframe and obstacles in stringing out several miles of pipe - equals a problem
 - iv. Also have cost of conversion from irrigated to dryland if irrigator can't pump
5. Perhaps pump few wells in a dedicated well field and put into a pipeline to save losses
 - a. \$4.56 above Harlan
 - b. \$2.687 below Harlan

Will produce

Above Harlan	Harlan to Guide Rock
800 af	5800 af
4500	7200

6100

8000

Options on Table

Pumping \$1000/af plus infrastructure costs

Retirement 310,000 acres would have to be retired to make up 31,000 af. at \$400 per af

Pursue retiring surface water acres to consider an interruptable water supply contract - Bostwick - if gave up storage would like some idea of how to prevent the overuse in the future to provide storage water in the future.

Remove trees -

Options:

1. Pump wells - high 5 medium 9 low 20
2. Riparian vegetation management - high 35 medium - 2 low 0
3. Weather modification high 11 medium 4 low 16
4. Temporarily retire surface water use - one year on Bostwick - high 21 medium 8 low 0
5. Target EQIP money to certain areas in QRW area high 31 medium 6 low 1
6. Reduce irrigated acres through regulation high 0 medium 1 low 32
7. Reduce allocations same as 6.
8. Breaching stock dams high 4 , medium 3, low 22