

years 2012 and after. As I understand our discussions at the last meeting, we need to develop a clear understanding of how much consumptive use can be reduced and how much water can be provided to the river from not just regulations, but also from surface water leasing/buyouts, CREP/EQIP programs, vegetation management, administration of small dams and augmentation plans. For each we need a good indication of what we can do by 2012 and for a longer term - 2020.

1. We already have a good idea of the amount we can deplete and resulting allocations by NRD based on the percentage formulas for average and dry years. I think we should also develop a table with allocations based on average years but also set so that we can assure there will be sufficient surface water supplies for a temporary assignment during dry years sufficient to allow us to be in compliance on a two year running average basis. If we do this, we will take care of the five year running average. This analysis in my view will do two things: to some extent indirectly resolve the percentage of water needed for surface water; if we want to use surface water to alleviate dry year shortages, we need a certain amount of water available. This does not address the concept of simply eliminating the use of surface water.

As a subset of this, I suppose we could estimate how much surface water only acres are in the basin and see what would happen if we retired those uses and let the comingled acres use wells. Then I guess we would use the surface water and reservoir supplies for compact compliance only. Is this your understanding of what some folks are suggesting? Can we develop a rough estimate of the number of surface water only acres in the basin? I see many issues with this approach that do not yet make sense to me, but it has been suggested. Do we need to do such a quick analysis?

2. We need to revisit our model runs for reducing irrigation in the quick response wells, especially in the Lower Republican to see how much water this will produce and when so that we can be prepared to determine the benefits of an extension of CREP and or EQIP.

3. The vegetation management benefits are at this point very uncertain. I have no idea of how to develop an estimate of their benefits by the next meeting. Thorburn said he could do this so we will rely on him.

4. Jim W will work with Brian D. and others to develop a good idea of how much cu can be reduced and water added to the river from installing low level outlets in small dams. We need to get these dams properly identified, permitted and administered in any event, so this effort will be beneficial, but I don't think it will yield very much water. Having said that, every little bit helps.

5. We need a brief description of the conclusions to date from the compact conservation study. This group needs to become familiar with those conclusions.

6. Paul anything you could get done on the augmentation would be desirable but I understand you may have higher priorities getting ready for the compact meeting.

What did I forget?

Let me know if I am off base on these tasks etc. Ann