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NEBRASKA'S WATER MANAGEMENT RESOURCE

Providing the sound science and support for managing Nebraska's most precious resource.

WATER PLANNING IN NEBRASKA, INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT AND ITS SUCCESS STORIES

JENNIFER J. SCHELLPEPER, M.S., IWM DIVISION HEAD

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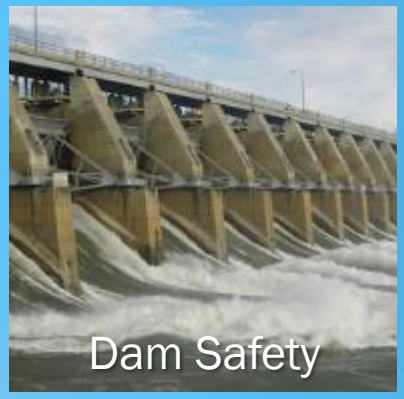

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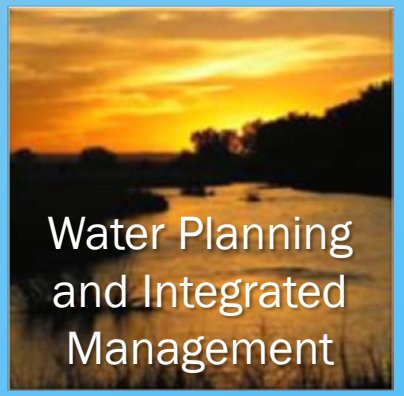

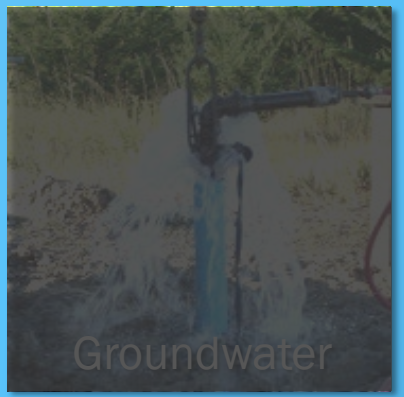

WATER PLANNING IN NEBRASKA, INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT AND ITS SUCCESS STORIES

Partnerships and stakeholder input enhance Nebraska's successful integrated management process

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Overview

Integrated water management planning

Stakeholder involvement

Planning successes

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INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT PLANNING OVERVIEW

An IMP is a proactive, collaborative approach to managing hydrologically connected surface and groundwater

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INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT

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Integrated Management Planning: What is it?

- Proactive
- Protects existing investments
- Adaptive management
- Surface water and groundwater management
- Jointly developed with NRD
- Suited to local conditions

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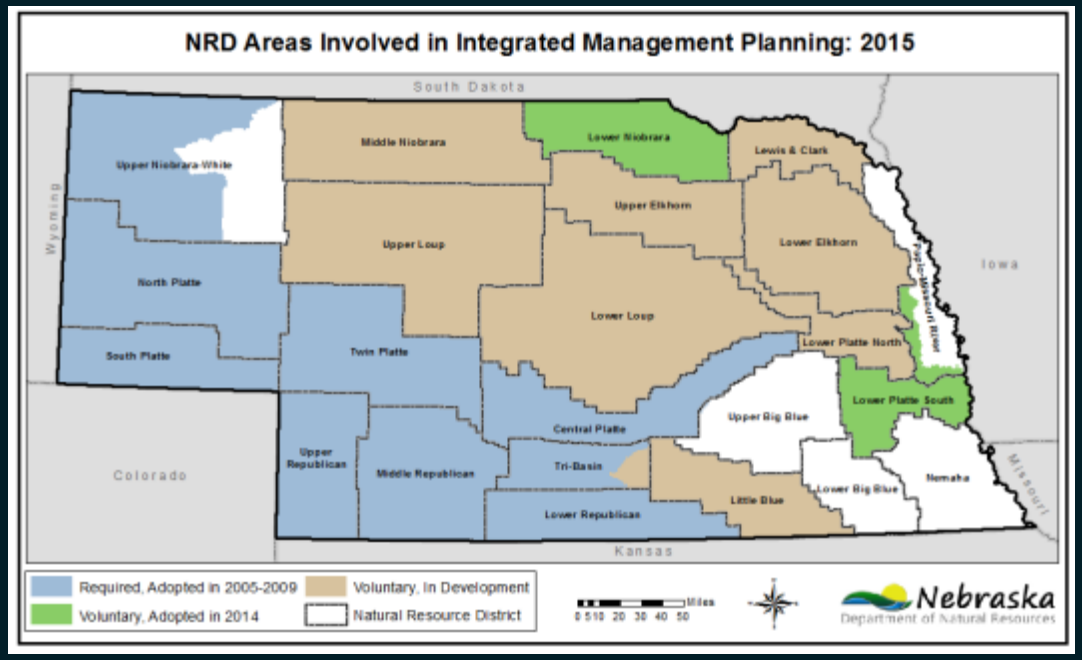
Collaboration

- DNR + a Natural Resources District (NRD)
  - IMP development
  - Plan implementation
- Stakeholder Input



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STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

Stakeholders participation is an essential part of the integrated management planning process

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Stakeholder process engages the public

- Gives them a place at the table
- Meets their desire and need to be a part of the process
- Lets us know about needs now and in the future

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Variety of Stakeholders

- Districts – irrigation, reclamation, public power and irrigation
- Companies - mutual irrigation, canal
- Municipalities
- Groundwater Users
- Other water users and stakeholders, for example:
  - Fish & wildlife
  - Recreation
  - Economic interests

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Stakeholder participation

- Goals and objectives
- Activities designed to identify needs and related importance
  - Breakout sessions
  - Dot exercise (e.g. identify likes, dislikes)
  - Quadrant (e.g. effort and time requirements)

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Participant Comments

- "We also knew that in our district, you don't do any planning without any broad comprehensive public involvement process. That is what we felt we needed to make sure we were going to be able to engage all the stakeholders and do our best to try and bring them into the process…."

-Voluntary IMP Interviewee #1

- "You had people who drill wells. You had people that run the water systems: rural and urban. You had ag representation in 2-3 different forms….Yes environmental was there and University Extension….Then there was a pure row crop representation, pivot system irrigation representation. So we spent really that entire first meeting getting a handle on everybody was, who they represented, what they saw as issues."

-Voluntary IMP Interviewee #3

- Reed & Abdel-Monem (2015)

IMP PLANNING SUCCESSES

Nebraska's collaborative approach has created social capital and cooperative projects continue into the implementation phase of the plans

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Creating Social Capital

- "The stakeholder group was a very hard working group. It turned out to be a well selected group. Those meetings were set up for them, very specific agendas. They were meaty issues. They were working on, directly on, the vision, the goals ,and having their input into those."

-Voluntary IMP Interviewee #1

- "It was a great process. It really was. Lots of people were involved. Lots of data and information was presented…lots of really nice, thoughtful conversation on the part of different groups and people who were involved. Their comments and suggestions were taken very seriously and incorporated into the final wording of those goals."

-Voluntary IMP Interviewee #6

  - Reed & Abdel-Monem (2015)

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Developing Relationships

- Annual Meetings
  - Data Sharing
- Project Partnerships:
  - Natural Resources Districts
  - Irrigation Districts
  - The Department of Natural Resources

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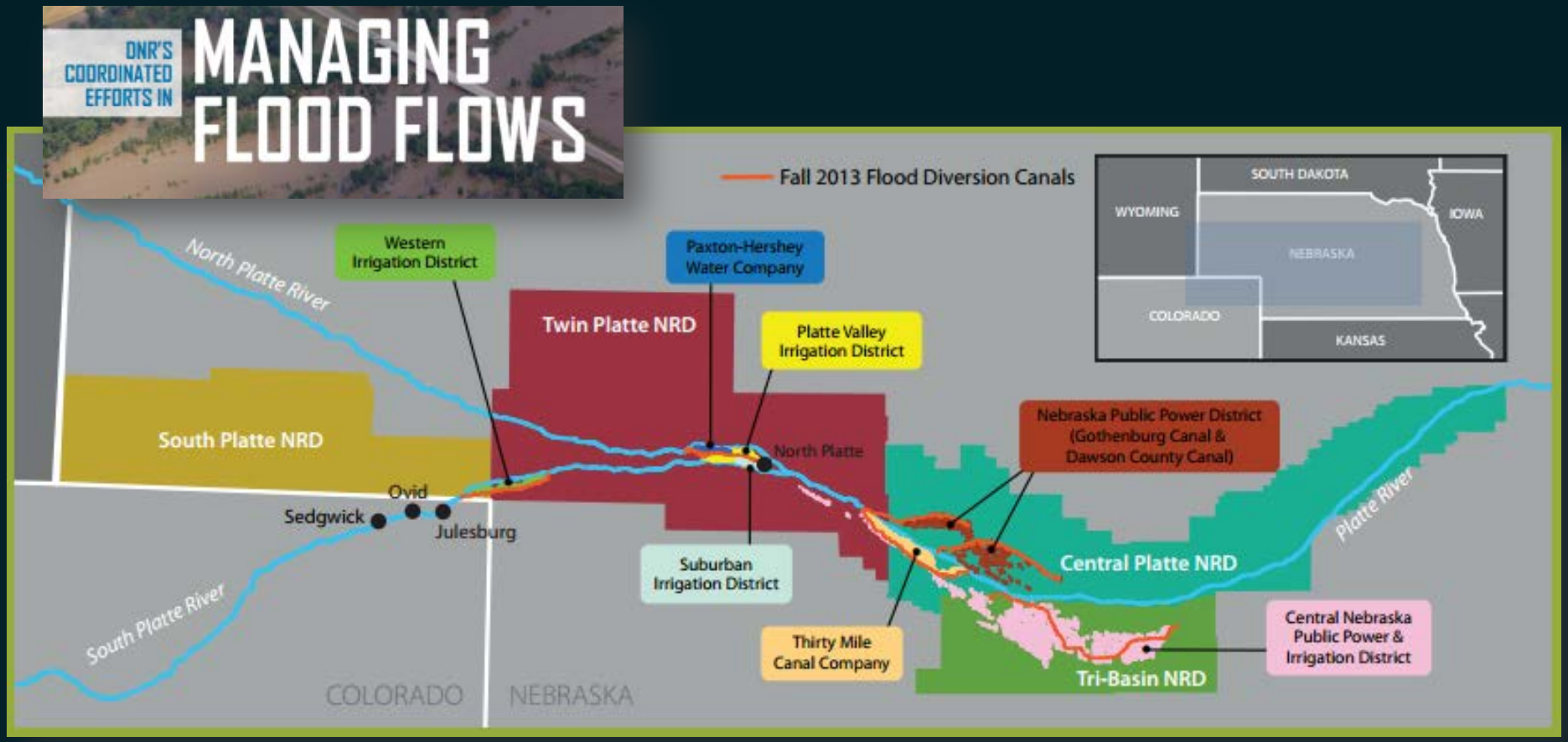
Conjunctive Water Management Example



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Summary of Excess Flow Diversions

- 2011, 2013 & 2015
  - Over 200,000 acre-feet of excess flood flows diverted since 2011
  - Resulting recharge near 100,000 acre-feet
  - Accretions will benefit Platte River flows for many years into the future
  - Process in place for future successes

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Conjunctive Water Management

– Project Impacts

- Collaborative approach with groundwater and surface water users
- Maintain surface water operations
- Meets multiple objectives
- Optimize water supplies
- Expand work to Other Basins

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WRAP UP

Social Capital was Built ✓

Collaborative Efforts Continue ✓

Better prepared to address future water supply challenges and opportunities

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THANK YOU

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