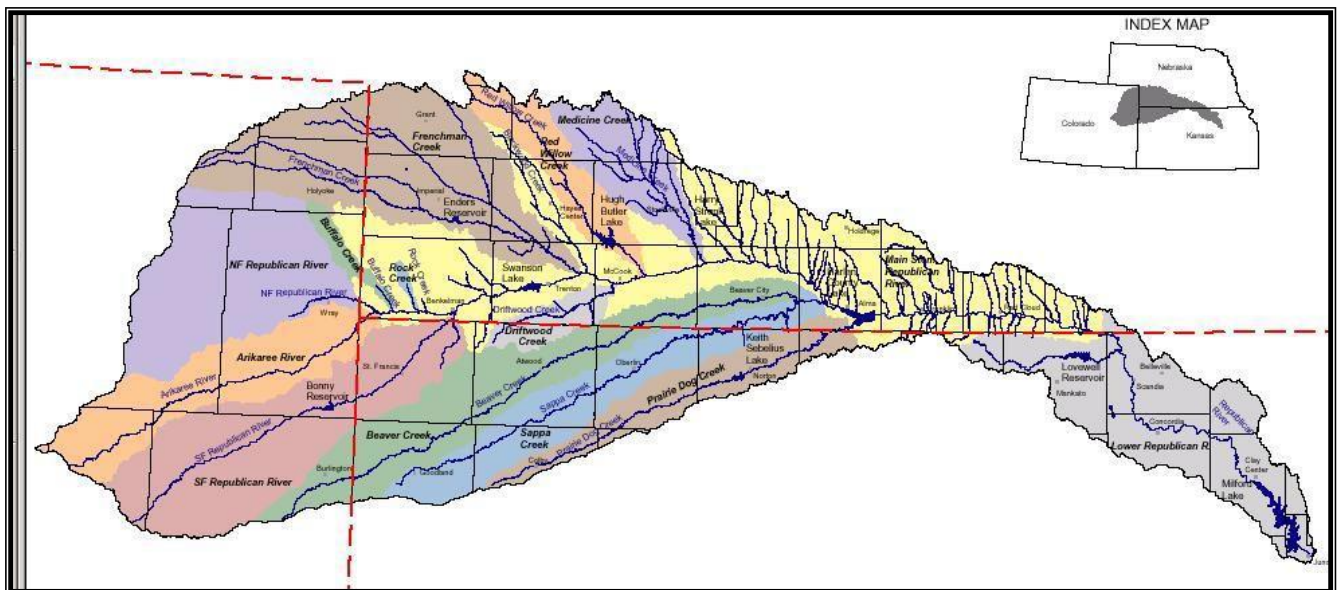


REPUBLICAN RIVER COMPACT ADMINISTRATION

64th ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 2024



CONCORDIA, KANSAS

AUGUST 28, 2025

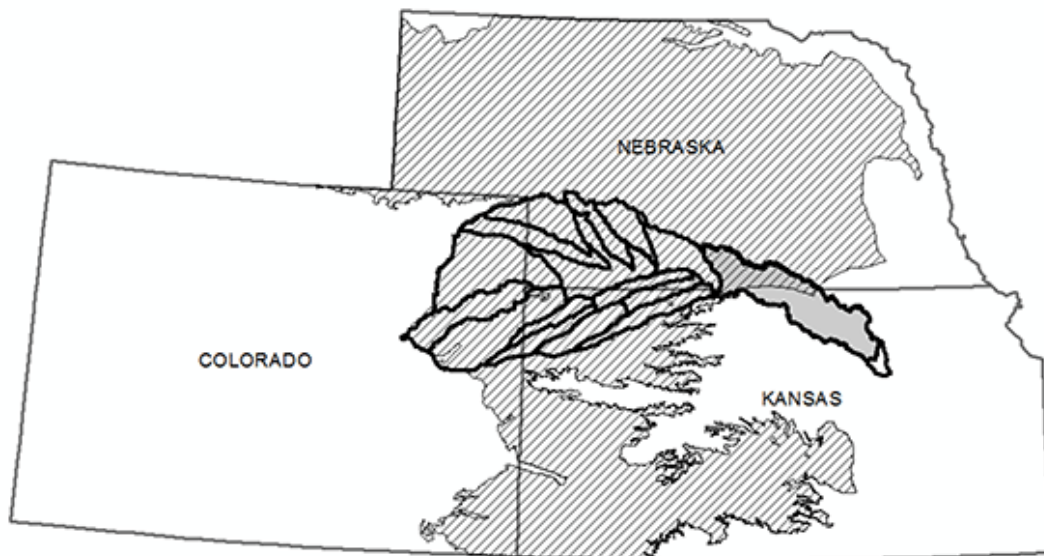
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REPUBLICAN RIVER COMPACT ADMINISTRATION

Special Meeting December 16, 2024

**Introduction and Discussion on the Resolution
by the RRCA Regarding Verification of Colora-
do's Retirement of Irrigated Acreage in the
South Fork Republican River Basin and Second
Amendment to the 2016 Resolution**



SUMMARY AND MINUTES OF
THE 2024 SPECIAL MEETING OF
THE REPUBLICAN RIVER
COMPACT ADMINISTRATION

DECEMBER 16, 2024

HELD VIA ZOOM
VIDEOCONFERENCE

Summary & Minutes

A transcript of this meeting was prepared by Nancy L. Rambo of Court Reporting Service, Inc. located in Wichita, Kansas (Exhibit A). The summary and minutes were based on the transcript of the meeting. The summary and minutes were reviewed by each of the states, and upon final approval by the Republican River Compact Administration (RRCA) will serve as the official minutes of this Special Meeting of the RRCA.

Agenda Item 1: Introductions

The special meeting of the RRCA was called to order by Kansas Commissioner and Chairman Earl Lewis at 2:01 p.m. CST, December 16, 2024. A complete list of the videoconference attendees is included as Exhibit B.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Earl Lewis	Kansas Commissioner and Chairman
Chris Beightel	Kansas Engineering Committee Member and Chair
Stephanie Kramer	Kansas Department of Agriculture Chief Counsel
Jesse Bradley	Nebraska Commissioner
Kari Burgert	Nebraska Engineering Committee Representative
Justin Lavene	Nebraska Attorney General's Office
Jason Ullmann	Colorado Commissioner
Ivan Franco	Colorado Engineering Committee Representative
Dan Steuer	Colorado Attorney General's Office

Agenda Item 2: Adoption of the Agenda

Chairman Lewis introduced the single agenda item to discuss the resolution by RRCA regarding verification of Colorado's retirement of irrigated acreage in the South Fork Republican Basin and second amendment to the 2016 resolution. Commissioner Jesse Bradley noted that he would like a brief discussion of how the Engineering Committee (EC) will track the task into the future. Chairman Lewis acknowledged the need for follow-up on the task at the annual meeting. He then asked if a representative of the Colorado Republican River Water Conservation District (RRWCD) desired to address the commissioners and Ms. Deb Daniel replied that Mr. Rod Lenz would like to make remarks after the commissioner's discussion of the resolution. Chairman Lewis noted that the presented agenda is final (attached to the meeting report as Exhibit C).

Agenda Item 3: Discuss Action Item

Chairman Lewis asked the commissioners for discussion on the resolution by RRCA for verification of Colorado's retirement of irrigated acreage in the South Fork Republican Basin and second amendment to the 2016 resolution. Commissioner Ullmann offered to read the resolution into the record. He began by thanking Ms. Daniel and the RRWCD for their work with producers on the contracts. He noted that the Colorado legislature used the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to fund \$30 million worth of retirement acres. Commissioner Ullmann proceeded to read the resolution into the record.

Chairman Lewis thanked Commissioner Ullmann for reviewing the resolution and asked for a motion on the action item. Commissioner Bradley moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Ullmann seconded. Chairman Lewis asked for any further discussion and then upon hearing no further discussion, called for a vote. All three commissioners voted "Aye" with none opposed, and the motion passed. The approved resolution is attached to the special meeting report as Exhibit D.

Chairman Lewis asked Commissioner Bradley for his comments on a potential Engineering Committee (EC) assignment related to the resolution. Commissioner Bradley began by noting his appreciation for the information provided by Colorado. He stated that it may be advantageous to have the EC continue reviewing the data and defining a process for updating that information as the 2029 deadline approaches. Commissioner Bradley proposed an annual monitoring program to track progress toward and continued completion of the retirement of 25,000 acres from irrigation in the South Fork Republican River Basin by Colorado as required under the South Fork Resolution and its amendments. Chairman Lewis asked for a motion on the proposed assignment to the EC and Commissioner Bradley so moved.

Ms. Tracy Kosloff asked Commissioner Bradley to repeat the assignment and then Commissioner Ullmann asked for clarification on the language about required annual verification of acres. Commissioner Bradley noted that the real objective of the task would be to avoid waiting until the end of 2029 to review the data and rather have the EC evaluate the information and report to the commissioners each year.

Commissioner Ullmann commented that Colorado intended to provide the information on an annual basis but had not discussed that being an official action or task of the EC. Chairman Lewis called on Ms. Kosloff for comments on the motion. Ms. Kosloff thanked Commissioner Bradley for his motion and agreed that verification of acres ahead of the 2029 deadline would help the process. Ms. Kosloff requested clarification of the continued completion language in the motion. Commissioner Bradley noted that the language does not imply any more than adding an EC goal to give the commissioners a suggestion of how to track the task's progress. Ms. Kosloff stated that she appreciates the request and that Colorado looks forward to working with the EC to provide an annual progress update.

Chairman Lewis asked for a second on the motion and Commissioner Ullmann so moved. Chairman Lewis asked for any further discussion on the motion and upon hearing none, called for a vote. All three commissioners voted “Aye” with none opposed, and the motion passed.

Chairman Lewis asked for any comments from the public. Mr. Rod Lenz of the RRWCD thanked the commissioners for acknowledging the milestone and letting the RRWCD have a voice at the table. Mr. Lenz noted that he recently attended a water summit in Liberal, Kansas, where eight states met in the spirit of cooperation on water issues. He voiced his feeling that the RRCA group is growing into an organization that imitates that same cooperation and noted his approval. Mr. Lenz relayed a quote from that conference that “the Ogallala is not a problem to solve; it’s a problem to manage”. Mr. Lenz felt the RRCA is wise enough to know that they are managing a long-term problem. He assured the RRCA that from the RRWCD’s point of view, they are working diligently to provide accurate and articulate information on all the acres retired. He noted that while the district is determined to count every acre retired, that they have no reason to misrepresent any of the information. Mr. Lenz stated that the district is on track to meet the 25,000-acre goal by 2029 and is pleased with the participation so far. He noted that the district records indicate 17,000 acres are currently under contract. Mr. Lenz thanked the RRCA for their interest and dedication in the whole project and the basin.

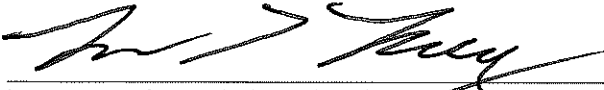
Chairman Lewis asked if there were any questions for Mr. Lenz, and upon hearing none turned to the logistics of signing the resolution. He suggested that Colorado sign and send the scan to Nebraska. Then as chair, Kansas will do the final signature and distribute copies to the states. Commissioner Ullmann asked if the resolution needed live signatures or if electronic would suffice. Chairman Lewis noted that Kansas acknowledges electronic signatures and asked if the other states would as well. The Nebraska and Colorado commissioners agreed to accept electronic signatures.

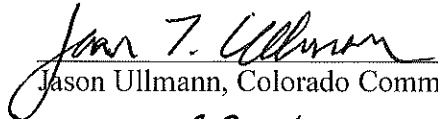
Agenda Item 4: Adjournment

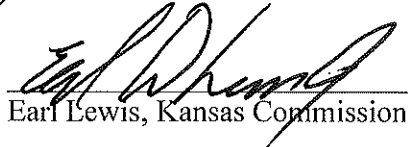
Upon hearing no further business, Chairman Lewis adjourned the meeting.

This December 16, 2024 Special Meeting report is hereby approved by unanimous vote of the RRCA on this 27th day of August, 2026.

As indicated by their signature and date below, the RRCA Commissioners agree that the report was approved by RRCA on the date indicated above.

 DATE SIGNED: 8/27/2026
Matt Manning, Chair and Nebraska Commissioner

 DATE SIGNED: 8/27/2026
Jason Ullmann, Colorado Commissioner

 DATE SIGNED: 8/27/2026
Earl Lewis, Kansas Commissioner

Exhibits

- Exhibit A: Transcript for the Special Meeting
- Exhibit B: Attendance for the Special Meeting
- Exhibit C: Agenda for the Special Meeting
- Exhibit D: Resolution by the Republican River Compact Administration Regarding Verification of Colorado's Retirement of Irrigated Acreage in the South Fork Republican River Basin and Second Amendment to the 2016 Resolution

RRCA Special Meeting

Exhibit A: Transcript

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
REPUBLICAN RIVER COMPACT ADMINISTRATION

IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
RESOLUTION BY THE REPUBLICAN)
RIVER COMPACT ADMINISTRATION)
REGARDING VERIFICATION OF)
COLORADO'S RETIREMENT OF)
IRRIGATED ACREAGE IN THE)
SOUTH FORK REPUBLICAN RIVER)
BASIN AND SECOND AMENDMENT)
TO THE 2016 RESOLUTION)
_____)

This matter came on for Hearing before
Earl Lewis, Chairman for the State of Kansas,
Commissioner Jason Ullmann for the State of
Colorado, and Commissioner Jesse Bradley for the
State of Nebraska, all parties via Zoom
Videoconference, reporter sitting in Wichita,
Sedgwick County, Kansas, commencing at 2:01 p.m.
on the 16th day of December, 2024.

1 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Well, we will go on
2 the record and call the special meeting of
3 the Republican River Compact Administration
4 to order, it's 2:01 Central on
5 December 16th.

6 We have one agenda item or one action
7 item today, I don't -- unless, Jason, or,
8 Jesse, if either of you have anything you
9 need to add to the agenda today?

10 COMMISSIONER ULLMANN: I do not.

11 COMMISSIONER BRADLEY: I think the
12 only thing I had, Earl, maybe was just, you
13 know, maybe having a brief discussion about
14 how we want to keep track of this via the
15 Engineering Committee going forward --

16 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: So --

17 COMMISSIONER BRADLEY: -- so maybe
18 some discussion about an Engineering
19 Committee assignment that we can have come
20 back to us at the annual meeting.

21 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Yep, that sounds
22 good, let's do that after we -- after
23 number 3, if that's good with you all.

24 So I know that, Deb Daniel, you wanted
25 to address the administration, you want to

1 address the administration after we take
2 action or before?

3 MS. DANIEL: Actually, Carl [sic],
4 I'm going to defer to Rod Lenz, my board
5 chairman.

6 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Okay.

7 MS. DANIEL: He will -- he will
8 speak, and I'll leave it up to him, but I
9 would assume he'd probably speak after.

10 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Okay, very good.
11 All right, thank you. I'll call on Rod,
12 then, here in just a little bit.

13 MS. DANIEL: That would be fine,
14 thank you.

15 MR. LENZ: That's fine, thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: So our only -- I
17 don't see any other need to modify the
18 agenda based on what we have. So our
19 action item is an introduction and
20 discussion on the resolution by RRCA
21 regarding verification of Colorado's
22 retirement of irrigated acreage in the
23 South Fork Republican Basin, and I know
24 we've got a draft resolution.

25 Jason, did you want to -- you or

1 somebody want to read that into the record,
2 or how do you want to present that to the
3 administration?

4 COMMISSIONER ULLMANN: Sure, I can
5 read that into the record. First, I'd like
6 to, I guess, say, you know, thank you is in
7 order to Deb Daniel and the Republican
8 River Water Conservation District for all
9 the work on the contracts, working with the
10 producers on getting some of these
11 retirement contracts signed. Obviously,
12 you know, also to our legislature for using
13 some of the ARPA funds, \$30 million worth,
14 to help fund some of these retirements. So
15 I guess, just those thank yous before I
16 read the resolution into the record here.
17 So I -- I guess I'll just go ahead and read
18 it's up here on the screen.

19 So this is a resolution by the
20 Republican River Compact Administration
21 regarding verification of Colorado's
22 retirement of irrigated acreage in the
23 South Fork Republican River Basin and
24 second amendment to the 2016 resolution.

25 Whereas, on August 24th, 2016, the

1 Republican River Compact Administration
2 adopted a resolution approving operation
3 and accounting for the Colorado Compact
4 Compliance Pipeline and Colorado's
5 compliance efforts in the South Fork
6 Republican River Basin, parentheses, 2016
7 resolution;

8 Whereas, paragraph C.1 of the 2016
9 Resolution reads in part, "Colorado agrees
10 to retire up to an additional 25,000 acres
11 from irrigation in the South Fork
12 Republican River basin. Of that amount,
13 Colorado retire -- will retire at least
14 10,000 acres by 2022 and will retire the
15 remaining 15,000 acres by December 31 of
16 2027"; and

17 Whereas, the RRCA amended paragraph C.1
18 of the 2016 Resolution on November 6th of
19 2018 to now read, "Of that amount, Colorado
20 will retire at least 10,000 acres by 2024
21 and will retire the remaining 15,000 acres
22 by December 31 of 2029; and

23 Whereas, paragraph C.2 of the 2016
24 Resolution was not amended in 2018 and
25 currently reads, "In the event Colorado

1 cannot or will not retire 25,000 acres by
2 December 31 of 2027, it may submit to the
3 other States for their approval a plan to
4 reduce consumption within Colorado by other
5 means," and the RRCA wishes to align the
6 language of paragraph C.2 with the 2018
7 amendments to paragraph C.1; and

8 Whereas, Colorado has provided executed
9 contracts and other information pertaining
10 to the retirement of over 10,000 irrigated
11 acres before the 2024 deadline pursuant to
12 the 2016 resolution as amended; and

13 Whereas, Kansas and Nebraska have
14 reviewed the provided and available
15 supplemental information and determined
16 that Colorado has taken the necessary
17 actions to retire at least 10,000 acres in
18 the South Fork Republican River basin prior
19 to the conclusion of 2024.

20 Now, therefore, be it resolved the RRCA
21 acknowledges that Colorado has met the 2024
22 acreage retirement goal in the 2016
23 Resolution as amended, for retirement of at
24 least 10,000 irrigated acres in the South
25 Fork Republican River Basin and the acres

1 referenced herein shall remain retired from
2 irrigation henceforth in compliance with
3 the 2016 Resolution.

4 Be it further resolved, the RRCA amends
5 paragraph C.2 of the 2016 Resolution to now
6 read as follows, "In the event Colorado
7 cannot or will not retire 25,000 acres by
8 December 31, 2029, it may submit to the
9 other States for their approval a plan to
10 reduce consumption within Colorado by other
11 means.

12 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Thank you,
13 Commissioner Ullmann. Commissioner
14 Bradley, do you have any questions about
15 the resolution?

16 MR. LENZ: Me you said?

17 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: No, Jesse.

18 COMMISSIONER BRADLEY: No, no, no
19 questions about the resolution.

20 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Okay. I don't have
21 any questions either, I'd entertain a
22 motion to adopt the resolution.

23 COMMISSIONER BRADLEY: I move to
24 adopt.

25 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: All right.

1 Commissioner Bradley motioned, do we have a
2 second?

3 COMMISSIONER ULLMANN: Second.

4 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: All right. Any
5 further discussion on the motion? Hearing
6 none, how does Nebraska vote?

7 COMMISSIONER BRADLEY: Yes.

8 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Colorado?

9 COMMISSIONER ULLMANN: Yes.

10 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: And Kansas votes
11 yes. So unanimous approval. So thank you
12 for that.

13 Commissioner Bradley, would you like to
14 make comments or suggest your assignment to
15 the Engineering Committee now?

16 COMMISSIONER BRADLEY: Yeah, I
17 think, you know, just having gone through
18 this process now here for all the states
19 here over the last several months, looking
20 at the information, do appreciate what was
21 provided by Colorado, but it seems like it
22 might be advantageous for us as a body to
23 put an Engineering Committee assignment
24 together with the goal of having them come
25 back this summer with a recommendation on

1 approach to sort of keeping up with what
2 has been done with these acres that are
3 under contract and continuing their
4 verification, along with maybe a process to
5 continue to bring in updates to that
6 information as we continue to work towards
7 2029.

8 So I had kind of drafted out an
9 assignment that would read, propose an
10 annual monitoring program - this would be
11 assigned to the Engineering Committee -
12 propose an annual monitoring program to
13 track progress toward and continued
14 completion of the retirement of
15 25,000 acres from irrigation in the South
16 Fork Republican River Basin by Colorado as
17 required under the South Fork Resolution
18 and its amendments.

19 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Do you want to
20 submit that as a motion?

21 COMMISSIONER BRADLEY: Yeah, I'd
22 move -- I'd move that we make that
23 Engineering Committee assignment.

24 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Okay. Do I have a
25 second? Do I have a second?

1 COMMISSIONER ULLMANN: I was going
2 to say Tracy has her hand up. I was --

3 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Oh, okay.
4 All right, Tracy.

5 MS. KOSLOFF: Thank you. I was just
6 going to ask if, Commissioner Bradley,
7 would you be willing to just read that
8 again? It was pretty quick, I was trying
9 to make sure I gathered everything you
10 suggested there.

11 COMMISSIONER BRADLEY: Sure.

12 MS. KOSLOFF: Thank you.

13 COMMISSIONER BRADLEY: And this is
14 certainly, you know, open to discussion,
15 but I think our proposal would be that the
16 Engineering Committee would propose an
17 annual monitoring program to track progress
18 toward and continued completion of the
19 retirement of 25,000 acres from irrigation
20 in the South Fork Republican River Basin by
21 Colorado as required under the South Fork
22 Resolution and its amendments.

23 COMMISSIONER ULLMANN: Can I ask, so
24 I guess my one question would be if -- if
25 we're making a formal motion and approving

1 it, to do this or give this assignment to
2 the Engineering Committee, I'm not sure and
3 I'm not -- you know, I don't have the
4 resolution in front of me, whether the
5 resolution required annual verification, I
6 don't think it did. Are you just meaning
7 the requirement for dry up in general?

8 COMMISSIONER BRADLEY: I'm just
9 generally saying annually telling us what
10 is going on with regard to this resolution,
11 whether that's tracking what has been done
12 and its status and then also getting
13 updates from Colorado on new retirements
14 and contracts as they come forward. I
15 think our real objective here would just --
16 you know, not to put ourselves in a sort of
17 time crunch in 2029 by not looking at this
18 between now and that period but, rather,
19 having it be an ongoing annual assignment
20 to the Engineering Committee so that they
21 continue to evaluate information and
22 discuss and then let us know what they
23 think is appropriate to report back each
24 year.

25 COMMISSIONER ULLMANN: I think my

1 one comment, and then I guess I'll ask --
2 Tracy's got her hand up again, is that
3 Tracy and I had talked about this, you
4 know, Colorado intending to provide
5 information on an annual basis just because
6 we want to keep track ourselves about where
7 we're at as we get closer to the 2029 time
8 frame but hadn't necessarily discussed it
9 being an official action or task of the
10 Engineering Committee. But, Tracy. Or
11 sorry, Earl.

12 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Tracy. Tracy.

13 MS. KOSLOFF: Thank you,
14 Commissioner Lewis. I just want to say,
15 Commissioner Bradley, I really appreciate
16 the thought behind providing annual updates
17 on the progress toward the 25,000 acres
18 retired, I think it's a really wise way to
19 go to avoid the time crunch that -- that
20 could occur if we weren't, you know,
21 checking in every year. So I think it's a
22 really wise suggestion that we do that.
23 And we had planned to provide a similar
24 report each year where we would report on
25 existing retired acres and then add those

1 new acres. So I think we're thinking
2 similarly.

3 So with that said, your language, if I
4 heard it correct -- correctly, included
5 continued completion of retirement, could
6 you -- I'm sorry to ask you to read once
7 again but that part about continued
8 completion 'cause, you know, every word is
9 important and the Engineering Committee
10 will want to be sure that they're keeping
11 the RRCA's goals. So could you read that
12 continued completion part again, please.

13 COMMISSIONER BRADLEY: Well, I can
14 read it again, certainly, but I'm not
15 intending to imply any more than just add
16 an Engineering Committee assignment, with
17 the goal of them coming to the annual
18 meeting, telling us how to -- how to
19 appropriately track this going forward. So
20 I'm not trying to imply anything more than
21 just I would like their recommendation on
22 how to track progress. I mean, I can
23 reread it again, but I -- I -- it seems
24 like I'm maybe implying more words than
25 Colorado --

1 MS. KOSLOFF: Okay.

2 COMMISSIONER BRADLEY: -- would be
3 comfortable with so I'd rather not do that.

4 MS. KOSLOFF: Okay, yeah. Well,
5 then I think I -- I for one appreciate and
6 understand what you're asking for, and I
7 think for Colorado's part, we'd be happy to
8 work with the Engineering Committee and
9 being able to provide the annual update on
10 the progress. So thank you for your
11 suggestion.

12 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: So I think -- so we
13 still have an open motion, do we have a
14 second?

15 COMMISSIONER ULLMANN: I can second
16 that, I think, yeah.

17 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Okay. All right.
18 Any further discussion on the motion?
19 Seeing none, how does Nebraska vote?

20 COMMISSIONER BRADLEY: Yes.

21 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Colorado?

22 COMMISSIONER ULLMANN: Yes.

23 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: And Kansas votes
24 yes. So that motion carries, thank you.

25 Rod, if you want to give us a few

1 comments, I think now is the appropriate
2 time.

3 MR. LENZ: Thank you, Earl. I just
4 want to thank you all for letting us kind
5 of sit in and comment on this milestone on
6 the 10,000-acre goal. I want to thank
7 Jason Ullmann and the Colorado staff, Earl
8 Lewis and the Kansas staff, and Jesse and
9 the Nebraska staff, thank you guys for
10 acknowledging this milestone and staying so
11 involved and letting RRWCD have a voice at
12 the table.

13 I want to reference the Ogallala Summit
14 that I went to in Liberal earlier -- well,
15 I guess it was last spring, and eight
16 states met, and I don't know if any of you
17 were there, I believe you might have been,
18 but at that summit it demonstrates the
19 cooperation between the states and what we
20 can accomplish. And it seemed like this
21 RRCA group is growing into a body that
22 imitates cooperation, not suspicion, and
23 I'm really glad to see that.

24 And there's a quote from that -- that
25 conference that I walked away with and it's

1 kind of stayed in my head, and it was that
2 the Ogallala is not a problem to solve,
3 it's a problem to manage. And I think
4 we're all in the same thing, we are wise
5 enough to know that we're managing a
6 long-term problem.

7 And I want to assure you from the
8 Republican River District's point of view,
9 we are working diligently to provide
10 accurate and articulate information on all
11 the acres retired. We have no reason to
12 misrepresent or no desire to misrepresent
13 any of the retired acres. But you also got
14 to know that we're very determined to make
15 sure that we count every acre that -- that
16 we pay money for in all these programs, so
17 we're looking at it from both sides. We
18 want to be honest with the numbers and we
19 want to make sure that it's accountable and
20 we're getting those numbers.

21 We're confident that at this point in
22 time, looking forward, that the programs
23 and compensation packages are on track to
24 meet our 25,000-acre goal by 2029,
25 everything is -- we're pleased with the

1 participation and the -- what the future
2 looks like. Right now, we stand over, in
3 our -- in our record, we stand over
4 17,000 acres under contract, which we think
5 is -- is a good spot, a bright spot.

6 So just I wanted to convey that little
7 bit of information to all of you folks and
8 let you know what our perspective is on the
9 ground here in Colorado. And once again,
10 thank you for your interest and your
11 dedication to this whole project in the
12 basin.

13 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Well, thank you,
14 Rod, thank you, Deb, for -- for the
15 comments and for all of your work. Does
16 anybody have any questions for Rod today?
17 Okay. Well, thank you very much, again,
18 thanks for the comments and, again, thanks
19 for the work to get to this point, look
20 forward to more working with you here going
21 forward.

22 I think just on logistics on the signing
23 of the resolution, I think what we are
24 planning on is that Colorado will sign and
25 scan first, then send to Nebraska;

1 Nebraska, if you would sign and scan
2 second; and then as chair, I'll -- I'll do
3 the final signature and to make sure
4 everybody's got a final copy once it has
5 been fully executed.

6 Is there any other business before the
7 administration today?

8 COMMISSIONER ULLMANN: One question?

9 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Yes.

10 COMMISSIONER ULLMANN: So does
11 that -- I guess that means it needs to have
12 a wet signature on it and then be scanned
13 and sent on?

14 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: I think we have --
15 again, I'll see what Nebraska thinks, but
16 we have certainly gone to where we
17 acknowledge and accept electronic
18 signatures as well in Kansas. So,
19 Nebraska, is there any concern with that
20 from your end?

21 COMMISSIONER BRADLEY: Nope, no
22 concern here.

23 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Okay.

24 COMMISSIONER ULLMANN: 'Cause it may
25 look kind of sketchy after three scans

1 trying to sign it and send it on.

2 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: No, fully
3 understand, yep. So I think we're -- we're
4 good with electronic signature as well.

5 COMMISSIONER ULLMANN: Thanks.

6 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Yep, thanks for the
7 clarification.

8 I don't have anything else today,
9 appreciate everybody's time to make this
10 relatively short and hope everybody has a
11 good week and a good Christmas.

12 And we are adjourned.

13 * * * * *

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF KANSAS)
) ss:
SEDGWICK COUNTY)

I, Nancy L. Rambo, a Certified Shorthand Reporter, within and for the State of Kansas, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the proceedings had at the time and place hereinbefore set forth.

I further certify that I am not a relative or employee or attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I a relative or employee of such attorney or counsel, nor am I financially interested in the action.

WITNESS my hand and official seal at Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas, this 23rd day of December, 2024.

NANCY L. RAMBO, R.P.R., C.S.R.
Registered Professional Reporter
Certified Shorthand Reporter

Costs:

RRCA Special Meeting
Exhibit B: Attendance

EXHIBIT B - Attendance

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
REPUBLICAN RIVER COMPACT ADMINISTRATION
DECEMBER 16, 2024
ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE
Record of Attendance
(in alphabetical order)

Name	Representing
Mike Archer	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
Chris Beightel	Kansas Division of Water Resources
Don Blankenau	Nebraska Aqua Lawyers
Alex Boyce	Nebraska Middle Republican Natural Resources District
Jesse Bradley	Nebraska RRCA Commissioner
David Brewster	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Kari Burgert	Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
Sam Capps	Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
Deb Daniel	Colorado Republican River Water Conservation District
Scott Dicke	Nebraska Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District
Brad Edgerton	Nebraska Frenchman-Cambridge Irrigation District
Chelsea Erickson	Kansas Division of Water Resources
Elizabeth Esseks	Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
Ivan Franco	Colorado Division of Water Resources
Tracy Kosloff	Colorado Deputy State Engineer
Stephanie Kramer	Kansas Division of Water Resources Chief Counsel
Amelia Lane	Kansas Water Office
Justin Lavene	Nebraska Attorney General's Office
Rod Lenz	Colorado Republican River Water Conservation District
Earl Lewis	Kansas RRCA Commissioner & Chair
Lori Marintzer	U.S. Geological Survey
S. McDonald	Unknown Affiliation
Mile Morgan	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Keadron Pearson	Kansas Water Office
Nancy Rambo	Court Reporter
Stefan Remund	Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
Willem Schreüder	Principia Mathematica
Craig Scott	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Todd Siel	Nebraska Lower Republican Natural Resources District
Dan Steuer	Colorado Attorney General's Office
Marie Sullivan	Colorado Division of Water Resources
Chance Thayer	Nebraska Flatwater Group
Aaron Thompson	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
John Thorburn	Nebraska Tri-Basin Natural Resources District
Jason Ullmann	Colorado RRCA Commissioner

RRCA Special Meeting

Exhibit C: Agenda

AGENDA FOR
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE REPUBLICAN RIVER COMPACT ADMINISTRATION

December 16, 2:00 PM, Central Standard Time via Zoom Conference Call

<https://kansasag.zoom.us/j/84380322292?pwd=afLbKdymEys6WFnmGQpUaPwn5g1qoh.1>

1. Introductions
2. Modification and adoption of the agenda
3. Introduction and discussion on the Resolution by the RRCA Regarding Verification of
Colorado's Retirement of Irrigated Acreage in the South Fork Republican River Basin and
Second Amendment to the 2016 Resolution
4. Adjournment

RRCA Special Meeting
Exhibit D: RRCA Resolution

RESOLUTION BY THE REPUBLICAN RIVER COMPACT ADMINISTRATION
REGARDING VERIFICATION OF COLORADO’S RETIREMENT OF IRRIGATED
ACREAGE IN THE SOUTH FORK REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN AND SECOND
AMENDMENT TO THE 2016 RESOLUTION

RECITALS

Whereas, on August 24, 2016, the Republican River Compact Administration (“RRCA”) adopted a resolution approving operation and accounting for the Colorado Compact Compliance Pipeline and Colorado’s compliance efforts in the South Fork Republican River Basin (“2016 Resolution”); and

Whereas, paragraph C.1 of the 2016 Resolution reads in part: “Colorado agrees to retire up to an additional 25,000 acres from irrigation in the South Fork Republican River basin. Of that amount, Colorado will retire at least 10,000 acres by 2022 and will retire the remaining 15,000 acres by December 31, 2027”; and

Whereas, the RRCA amended paragraph C.1 of the 2016 Resolution on November 6, 2018, to now read “Of that amount, Colorado will retire at least 10,000 acres by 2024 and will retire the remaining 15,000 acres by December 31, 2029,” and

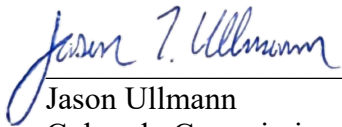
Whereas, paragraph C.2 of the 2016 Resolution was not amended in 2018 and currently reads, “In the event Colorado cannot or will not retire 25,000 acres by December 31, 2027, it may submit to the other States for their approval a plan to reduce consumption within Colorado by other means,” and the RRCA wishes to align the language of paragraph C.2 with the 2018 amendments to paragraph C.1; and

Whereas, Colorado has provided executed contracts and other information pertaining to the retirement of over 10,000 irrigated acres before the 2024 deadline pursuant to the 2016 Resolution as amended; and

Whereas, Kansas and Nebraska have reviewed the provided and available supplemental information and determined that Colorado has taken the necessary actions to retire at least 10,000 acres in the South Fork Republican River basin prior to the conclusion of 2024;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, the RRCA acknowledges that Colorado has met the 2024 acreage retirement goal in the 2016 Resolution, as amended, for retirement of at least 10,000 irrigated acres in the South Fork Republican River Basin and the acres referenced herein shall remain retired from irrigation henceforth in compliance with the 2016 Resolution.

Be it further resolved, the RRCA amends paragraph C.2 of the 2016 Resolution to now read as follows “In the event Colorado cannot or will not retire 25,000 acres by December 31, 2029, it may submit to the other States for their approval a plan to reduce consumption within Colorado by other means.”



Jason Ullmann
Colorado Commissioner

12/16/2024

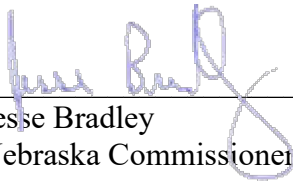
Date



Earl Lewis
Kansas Commissioner

12/17/2024

Date



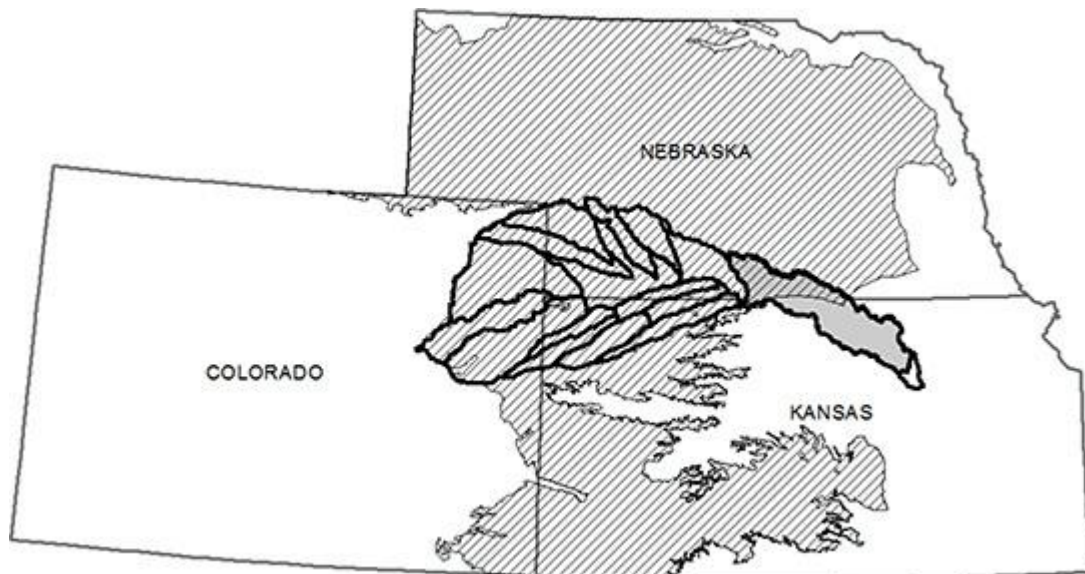
Jesse Bradley
Nebraska Commissioner

12/16/2024

Date

REPUBLICAN RIVER COMPACT ADMINISTRATION

**Annual Meeting
August 28, 2025
Concordia, Kansas**



SUMMARY AND MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
REPUBLICAN RIVER COMPACT ADMINISTRATION

AUGUST 28, 2025
CONCORDIA, KANSAS

Summary & Minutes

A transcript of this meeting was prepared by Linda Rohman of General Reporting Service (Exhibit A). This summary and minutes were based on the transcript of the meeting. The summary and minutes were reviewed by each of the states, and upon final approval by the Republican River Compact Administration (RRCA) will serve as the official minutes of this Annual Meeting of the RRCA.

Agenda Item 1: Introductions

The annual meeting of the Republican River Compact Administration was called to order by Kansas Commissioner and Chairman Earl Lewis at 9:30 a.m., August 28, 2025. Chairman Lewis asked attendees to introduce themselves. A typed list of all attendees is attached as Exhibit B, which also includes the original signed attendance sheets for those attending in person. RRCA and state officials in attendance include:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Earl Lewis	Kansas Commissioner and Chair
Chris Beightel	Kansas Engineering Committee Member
Stephanie Kramer	Kansas Department of Agriculture Chief Counsel
Matt Manning	Nebraska Commissioner
Kari Burgert	Nebraska Engineering Committee Member
Justin Lavene	Nebraska Attorney General's Office
Jason Ullmann	Colorado Commissioner
Tracy Kosloff	Colorado Deputy State Engineer
Ivan Franco	Colorado Engineering Committee Member

Agenda Item 2: Adoption of the Agenda & Approval of RRCA Rules and Regulations

Chairman Lewis introduced the proposed draft agenda, noting one amendment to move Item 8(B) Action on RRCA Rules And Regulations Update to 2(A) for immediate action. Commissioner Ullmann moved that the draft agenda be adopted as amended. Commissioner Manning seconded the motion. The commissioners unanimously approved the amended agenda. The final agenda is attached as Exhibit C.

Chairman Lewis turned to Commissioner Manning to discuss the proposed action on the RRCA Rules and Regulations update. Commissioner Manning noted that the update is in response to the merger of two agencies in Nebraska, resulting in the creation of a new position known as the Chief Water Officer to which he was appointed. The Rules and Regulations update would change the date of the revised rules and would designate the Chief Water Officer of the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment as the commissioner to the Republican River Compact Administration. Chairman Lewis called for a motion on the proposal, and Commissioner Ullmann moved to adopt, and Chairman Lewis seconded the motion. The commissioners unanimously approved the motion. The RRCA Rules and Regulations update is attached as Exhibit D.

Agenda Item 3: Status of the Annual Report for the year 2023 and possible action by the RRCA

Chairman Lewis turned to Chris Beightel to present the annual report for the year 2024. Mr. Beightel stated that the report had been circulated among the states for review. The report is final and ready for approval by the commissioners. Chairman Lewis asked for discussion on the report. Upon hearing no discussion, Chairman Lewis called for action on the completed RRCA Annual Report for the year 2024. Commissioner Ullmann moved that the RRCA accept the Annual Report for the year 2024. Commissioner Manning seconded the motion. The commissioners unanimously accepted the report.

Agenda Item 4: Commissioners' Reports

- a. Nebraska:
 - i. Commissioner Manning began his report by introducing himself as the new Commissioner for Nebraska. Commissioner Manning reported that he was appointed Chief Water Officer July 1, 2025, for the newly formed Department of Water, Energy, and Environment (DWEE). Commissioner Manning mentioned he is a licensed civil engineer and attorney, with a 40-year career as a private engineer with the past three years at DWEE.
 - ii. Commissioner Manning thanked Kansas for hosting this year's meeting. He also thanked DWEE Director Jesse Bradley and DWEE staff, NRD partners, and irrigation districts for their work and collaboration in the basin over the past year.
 - iii. Commissioner Manning reported that Nebraska remains in full compliance with the Compact. He noted that water supply conditions for the 2024 calendar year were wetter upstream of Harlan County Reservoir and drier elsewhere in the basin. Commissioner Manning noted that 2024 was a Compact Call Year for Nebraska, but not a Water Short Year.
 - iv. Commissioner Manning reported on integrated water management in the basin. DWEE worked with Tri-Basin Natural Resources District (NRD) to revise the Integrated Management Plan for the Republican Basin portion of the NRD. DWEE also continues work with the Republican River Basin-Wide Plan.
 - v. Commissioner Manning gave details on water management investments in the basin. One active project being the Nebraska Bostwick Irrigation District (NBID) Superior Canal Efficiency Improvement Project. The local NRD investments include active projects with Water Resources Cash Fund Contracts. DWEE worked with the

Republican River NRDs to fund additional installation of telemetry meters and soil moisture probes throughout the basin.

- vi. Commissioner Manning reported that the Platte-Republican Diversion Project is still under review by DWEE with hopes to reach a decision on the application in 2026.
- vii. Commissioner Manning gave details on Nebraska's Water Sustainability Fund, which has funded 13 projects in the Republican River Basin totaling over \$7.8 Million since the program's inception. For example, a dam rehabilitation project in Red Cloud was awarded \$145,000.
- viii. Lastly, Commissioner Manning reported that the Nebraska governor instituted a Water Quality & Quantity Task Force with the purpose of investigating and proposing action on issues relating to both water quality and quantity in an integrated fashion.
- ix. Chairman Lewis asked for any questions for Commissioner Manning on the Nebraska report, and upon hearing none, he turned to Commissioner Ullmann for the Colorado report.

b. Colorado:

- i. Commissioner Ullmann introduced himself as the State Engineer for the State of Colorado and Commissioner. He thanked Kansas for hosting this year's meeting. He also thanked Colorado staff including Ivan Franco, Tracy Kosloff and Marie Sullivan for their work over the past year. Commissioner Ullmann mentioned that Dan Steuer is Colorado's legal advisor who could not attend the meeting this year. Commissioner Ullmann also thanked the Republican River Water Conservation District (RRWCD) and Deb Daniel for the district's work with producers on the dry-up acres and operation of the compliance pipeline.
- ii. Commissioner Ullmann reported on weather and precipitation in the eastern plains, which received a greater amount of rain than the rest of Colorado. The state had less than 50 percent snowpack in most of the streams in the state. The lack of precipitation has led to increased fire activity, especially on the western slope.
- iii. Finally, Commissioner Ullmann noted the work of the Engineering Committee and state staff on verification of dry-up acres. He confirmed that Colorado met the 10,000-acre retirement as of December 31st of 2024. He noted that the district continues to make progress towards the 25,000-acre total, noting that the total by November 2025 should be nearly 17,000 acres.
- iv. Commissioner Lewis asked for any questions on the Colorado report and upon hearing none, he proceeded to provide the Kansas report.

c. Kansas:

- i. Commissioner Lewis thanked Kansas staff for the compact meeting arrangements, work with the Engineering Committee, and legal assistance throughout the past year. Commissioner Lewis noted that there are copies of the Kansas report available to the audience (Exhibit E).
- ii. Commissioner Lewis reported that rainfall and drought conditions improved over the last year, especially in the upper basin. He mentioned that the north-central and north-west area of the state has been the most impacted by recent drought.
- iii. Commissioner Lewis gave details on the Kansas' Minimum Desirable Streamflow (MDS) provisions and enforcement on twenty-two streams. In the Lower Republican

- area if the flow reaches a certain number at the gage sites, then junior files are shut down to protect the senior surface water rights. The state has been administering around 150 groundwater rights and 133 surface water rights due to low river flows.
- iv. Commissioner Lewis reported on legislative activity in the basin over the past year. Senate Bill 58 was a modification to the multi-flex account tool that was first introduced in the early-2000s but gained widespread use in 2012 and 2013. The tool allows water right owners to apply for a five-year allocation for their water rather than a single-year allocation. This allows water users to pump more than their authorized quantity in a drought, which borrows from previous or subsequent year to balance. The changes included how to calculate and process those applications to make the process more efficient.
 - v. Commissioner Lewis noted that the Kansas water task force was established by House Bill 2172 with 13 voting members – seven members of the legislature and six members of the public. There are three ex-officio members from the Department of Health and Environment, director of the Kansas Water Office and the Chief Engineer. The task force has 18 months to work and then deliver a final report to the 2027 legislative session. The goals of the task force include identifying threats to the water supply and how that affects Kansans economy and way of life, then what actions the state should take to relieve the threats and finally, how to fund the necessary actions and get that money to the affected parties.
 - vi. Commissioner Lewis reported that the Kansas budget added \$6.5 million to the state water funding for targeted projects. He noted that three years ago, House Bill 2302 had added \$35 million in water funding. Of that total, \$17 million was dedicated to small-town water infrastructure and another \$18 million to enhance the state water plan fund.
 - vii. Commissioner Lewis relayed changes to the Kansas CREP program, which state law increased the cap amount that can be retired from 40,000 acres to 60,000 acres. The general area affected by the change is primarily along the Ark River from the state line to about Great Bend.
 - viii. Commissioner Lewis updated the commissioners on the status of the activities resulting from the Colorado settlement fund, which was targeted towards the South Fork Republican River area in Kansas. The Kansas Water Office (KWO) administers the funding through cost-share programs for irrigation efficiency upgrades. The KWO also provided funds to the Cheyenne County Conservation District, who were able to leverage those funds to get awarded a Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) to combat phreatophytes and upgrade stock water systems to solar pumps.
 - ix. Commissioner Lewis reported that the local Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District #4 (GMD4) has implemented a district-wide Local Enhanced Management Area (LEMA) to promote groundwater use reductions. The program gives water users a reduced allocation with some flexibility over the five-year period. He mentioned the current program will expire at the end of 2027. The program has seen success but will expand reductions in the next round.
 - x. Commissioner Lewis also mentioned that GMD4, along with the other four GMDs and the Department of Agriculture's Division of Conservation, participated in the irrigation technology initiative. The state was awarded a \$25 million grant from RCPP to match with state dollars for technical assistance with irrigation technology across the state.

- xi. Commissioner Lewis concluded his report on the Upper Republican River area by relaying that GMD4 had completed an aerial electromagnetic survey in 2024. The information is useful for water resources and helping with planning and management actions. The same survey will be done now in southwest Kansas too.
- xii. Commissioner Lewis reported on activities in the Lower Republican basin where the Kansas Bostwick Irrigation District, represented at the meeting by manager Pete Gile, has been improving efficiency by converting open laterals to PVC pipe and buried laterals for several years. The district successfully buried about 5,000 feet of PVC pipe in 2024 and continues in 2025. The district applied for a WaterSMART grant to improve the district's water handling system by automating eight check valves and plans to convert about 2.1 miles of canal to pipeline.
- xiii. Finally, Commissioner Lewis gave an update on changes at the Almena Irrigation District. The district is served by Keith Sebelius Reservoir, and the district has essentially abandoned its canal system and is pumping directly out of Prairie Dog Creek. He noted that about 15 percent of the district is still using the canal, while the rest of the water users are able to access the stream on their property and make more efficient use of the resource.
- xiv. Commissioner Lewis concluded his report by asking for any questions. Upon hearing none, he turned to the federal agencies for their reports.

Agenda Item 5: Federal Reports

a. U.S. Bureau of Reclamation:

- i. Craig Scott, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) Nebraska-Kansas Area office, noted that he prepared a report (Exhibit F) regarding reservoir operations for the year 2024, as well as current year information through July 2025.
- ii. Mr. Scott noted that precipitation was near-normal or above-normal at all of the USBR facilities, except Lovewell Reservoir, which was 77 percent of average. He relayed that upstream of Harlan County, both Hugh Butler and Harry Strunk Lakes received 120 percent of average rainfall.
- iii. Despite the noted rainfall, computed inflows remained below average at all of the reservoirs. As a result, irrigation releases were reduced, ranging from 5.3 inches per acre across Frenchman-Cambridge Irrigation District (FCID) to approximately 11.5 inches of farm delivery to KBID. Mr. Scott noted that timing is critical when thinking about how watershed conditions affect inflows even with above-average precipitation.
- iv. Mr. Scott mentioned that irrigation supplies from Harlan County Lake reached 119,000 acre-feet by June 30th therefore, Water-Short Year Administration was not in effect for 2024.
- v. Mr. Scott then highlighted conditions so far in 2025, including precipitation thus far has been extremely dry. He reported that Enders Reservoir remains in dead pool, meaning it is not possible to release water through the outlet works. Due to the short or limited water supplies, FCID elected not to irrigate from Hugh Butler Lake in 2025.
- vi. Mr. Scott noted that the Nebraska canals are projected to deliver six to nine inches per acre in 2025 and then KBID plans 12 inches per acre. The irrigation supply in Harlan County, on June 30th, was approximately 101,000 acre-feet, which triggered Water-

Short Year accounting. He stated that for the first time since 2018, that water-short year requirements are in effect, and a summary of the supply is found in Table 3 of the Bureau's report.

- vii. Mr. Scott concluded his report by touching on upcoming repair work on Medicine Creek Dam. A contractor is mobilizing equipment to begin work on the spillway and concrete repairs in the outlet works stilling basin. The outlet works will be unusable until about December 1st, 2025. The spillway work should be completed in 2026.
- viii. Commissioner Lewis asked Mr. Scott about the status of Bonny Dam and what progress has been made over the past year. Mr. Scott noted that the issue is still in the evaluation stage and looking at alternatives to move forward. One of the alternatives the Bureau is reviewing is a potential breach to the facility. The Bureau is still reviewing cost estimates and maybe have a decision in 2026 but there are no plans in place yet.

b. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

- i. Mr. Leigh Mitchell introduced himself as the Continuing Authorities Program manager for the Kansas City District. He updated the commissioners on the on-going review of the water control manual for Harlan County Lake. Water control manuals detail the rules for managing the water within the lake and the lake itself. In many cases, the manuals are out of date and so Congress granted funds to update the manuals. Harlan County Lake is one of the nine in progress. One of the issues was the manual format and making that consistent for all projects. The conditions upstream and downstream of many of the projects needed updating to current conditions. Mr. Mitchell provided paper copies of the Harlan County manual and noted that it can also be found on the Corps' social media and website.
- ii. Mr. Leigh continued by reporting on recent work at Harlan County Lake under a Section 1135 project. He noted that in 2014 initial discussions were held regarding feasibility of the project, which is an ecosystem restoration under the Continuing Authorities Program as authorized by Congress. The project targeted improving fisheries and wetland habitat in the area. In 2022, the Corps was finally funded for the design and construction of the project, which then finished in April 2025. The work included removing about 160,000 cubic yards of sediment from the coves and added artificial habitat structures, which are important habitat for fish life cycles. To protect the sediment removal work done, the Corps put in a 500-foot-long breakwater to disrupt that lateral movement of sediment along the shoreline. Upstream of the project site, the Corps also dug a sediment forebay by removing about 50,000 cubic yards to create a slow spot in the stream where sediment will drop out to avoid future problems. Continued maintenance of the project has been handed over to the State of Nebraska though the Game and Parks Commission. Mr. Leigh's PowerPoint presentation was not working at the time of the report, so Chairman Lewis suggested moving on to the next federal report and circling back to the Corps, if necessary.

c. U.S. Geological Survey:

- i. Mr. John Miller presented the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) report for water year 2024 and provided the commissioners with a summary sheet (Exhibit G). He first gave an update on the 2018 relocation of the Arikaree River gage. Initially, the landowners were supportive of removing the beaver dams but then saw value in the dams for

storage water for cattle. Mr. Miller reported that the gage was relocated upstream, but then the beavers followed to that site as well. Currently, the USGS is attempting to keep a clear channel for the best scenario for computing discharge. Mr. Miller noted that the landowners, USGS and Colorado DWR staff continue to work on removing the beavers, but the issue is that sustained base flow conditions have changed over the past 20 to 30 years and have allowed for the change in ecology that is suitable for the beavers. The issue will be monitored going into the future as the USGS goal is to compute the best discharge record as possible.

- ii. Mr. Miller reported on another flow situation where most of the computed flow of the Arikaree gage is likely returns from the Pioneers Canal rather than mainstem flow, except during extreme rain events.
- iii. Mr. Miller reported that water year 2024 flows at four sites were like 2023; Buffalo Creek near Haigler, North Fork Republican River at the state line gage, Rock Creek at Parks, and the Republican River at Benkelman. One positive note was that increased rainfall seems to have inhibited growth of tumbleweeds where manual stream gaging takes place. Mr. Miller noted that the South Fork Republican near Benkelman had only two days of reported flow on June 2nd and 3rd in 2024. So far in 2025, there has been no flow in the South Fork Republican.
- iv. Mr. Miller then reported on gages further downstream in Nebraska. Annual mean streamflows were down for Frenchman Creek near Culbertson, Driftwood Creek near McCook and the non-compact site of the Republican River at McCook. The streamflows are probably lower due to 2023 having recorded a significant May flood.
- v. Mr. Miller moved on to the lower part of the basin in Nebraska. Sappa Creek near Stamford had improved rainfall in 2024 water year that almost doubled the annual mean streamflow. Beaver Creek continued to run extremely low with 2024 water year at the seventh all-time low. Courtland Canal in 2024 was in line with the long-term mean. Flows for the Republican River at Guide Rock improved but still was seventh from the lowest in 74 years of record.
- vi. Commissioner Lewis asked if there were any questions for Mr. Miller, upon hearing none, Commissioner Lewis turned to Chris Beightel for the Engineering Committee report.

Agenda Item 6: Committee Reports

Engineering Committee: Mr. Beightel introduced himself as the committee chair and thanked fellow committee members Kari Burgert and Ivan Franco. He also thanked the supporting staff from each state including Sam Capps, Stefan Remund, and Elizabeth Essex from Nebraska; Tracy Kosloff and Marie Sullivan from Colorado; and Sam Perkins, Hongsheng Cao, David Engelhaupt and Chelsea Erickson from Kansas. Mr. Beightel noted that engineering consultant Willem Schreüder could not attend the meeting but thanked Willem for doing the model runs and posting the results online. Mr. Beightel then proceeded to review the Engineering Committee (EC) report (Exhibit H), stating that copies were available to the crowd but noted that the three attachments were not printed. Mr. Beightel proceeded to provide summaries on the completion of or progress on the EC's assignments.

- a. Assignments from the 2024 Annual Meeting
 - The EC met five times since the annual meeting August 28, 2024, and completed

six tasks it was assigned and the additional task assigned at the December 2024 RRCA special meeting. The following tasks were completed: (1) hold quarterly meetings; (2) complete the 2024 compact accounting including: exchange information listed in Section V of the RRCA Accounting Procedures and Reporting Requirements, including all required data and documentation, and finalize the 2024 accounting; (3) continue to develop and maintain the summary of historical changes to the RRCA Accounting Procedures, the RRCA administrative website, and accounting tools developed by the committee; (4) identify a mutually agreeable verification process with criteria so that the Compact commissioners can verify that Colorado met its obligation of retiring 10,000 acres, and so such verification can take place by the end of 2024; (5) (added December 2024) propose an annual monitoring program to track progress toward and continued completion of the retirement of 25,000 acres from irrigation in the South Fork Republican River basin by Colorado, as required under the South Fork Resolution and its amendments; (6) provide updates on progress of new and ongoing management strategies for maintaining Compact compliance; (7) prepare the RRCA 63rd annual meeting report (for the Year 2023).

b. Committee Items for RRCA Discussion and Action

- The EC recommends the proposed 2024 accounting presented in Attachment 2 and in the spreadsheet titled “RRCA Accounting 2024 Final.xlsx” for approval by the RRCA. Upon approval of the accounting, the above-mentioned spreadsheet file will be placed on the public website.
- In addition to any other assignments from the RRCA, the EC recommends that Principia Mathematica continue in compact year 2025 to maintain the web-based accounting tool and perform periodic model and accounting updates at the same level of service as in 2024.
- The EC submitted the following list of recommended assignments to work on in the coming compact year and to report on at the 2026 annual meeting of the RRCA.

c. Recommended Assignments for Engineering Committee: Committee member Chris Beightel reviewed the list of recommended assignments and referred commissioners to the EC report for further details of the assignments. Briefly, the tasks include:

- Meet quarterly to review tasks assigned to the committee
- Complete the 2025 compact accounting:
 - Exchange by April 15, 2026, the information listed in Section V of the RRCA Accounting Procedures and Reporting Requirements, and other data required by that document, including all necessary documentation.
 - Exchange by July 15, 2026, any updates to these data.
 - Finalize the 2025 accounting and recommend it for approval by the RRCA.
- Continue to develop and maintain:
 - *Summary of Historical Changes to the RRCA’s Accounting Procedures and Reporting Requirements*, as necessary.
 - The RRCA administrative website that serves as an informational page for the public.
 - Accounting tools developed by the EC.
- Track and monitor Colorado’s progress toward permanent retirement of 25,000

acres from irrigation in the South Fork Republican River basin, as required under the 2016 South Fork Resolution and its amendments.

- Provide respective state updates on progress of new and ongoing management strategies for maintaining compact compliance.
- Prepare the 64th RRCA annual meeting report (for the year 2024) for approval by the RRCA at the 2026 annual meeting.

Mr. Beightel further remarked on the task to identify a mutually agreeable verification process with criteria so the commissioners can verify that Colorado met its obligation to retire 10,000 acres and that verification can take place before the end of 2024. Mr. Beightel reported that Colorado provided redacted contracts between irrigators and the RRWCD. Then at Kansas' and Nebraska's request, Colorado provided Geographic Information Systems (GIS) files that mapped the legal description of the land areas from the contracts and contained a data field of the number of acres retired. Colorado then transmitted an information package comprised of a summary memo, summary table, and report containing Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) analysis and aerial photos. Mr. Beightel noted that the summary table included additional information related to dry-up that Colorado had available for particular contracts, such as links to site-visit photos. A summary of that information packet is part of the EC report.

Mr. Beightel mentioned that RRCA held a special meeting on December 16, 2024, where the commissioners approved a resolution regarding verification of Colorado's retirement of irrigated acreage in the South Fork Republican River Basin and second amendment to the 2016 resolution. The EC task added at the December 2024 special meeting was for the EC to propose an annual monitoring program to track progress towards and continued completion of the retirement of 25,000 acres from irrigation in the South Fork Republican River Basin by Colorado, as required under the 2016 South Fork Resolution and its amendments.

Mr. Beightel relayed that Colorado agreed to provide certain data by the second quarterly meeting of the EC each year for the state's review. Those data include: redacted versions of the new retirement contracts and any updates to existing contracts; an updated shapefile mapping the legal descriptions of land areas from all contracts and containing a data field of the number of acres retired; and an information package updated with new contracts added and any corrections or other new information added since the 2024 informational package. Going forward, the EC will review that information and continue to report results in the annual EC report. Mr. Beightel noted that the EC recognizes that monitoring and review of the information by the EC will not formally confirm the achievement of South Fork resolution requirements; rather it will provide the RRCA with updated progress and pertinent information toward the South Fork Resolution requirements.

Commissioner Lewis asked the commissioners if they had any questions about the EC report or proposed assignments. There were no questions. Commissioner Ullmann thanked the committee for their work and report. Mr. Beightel noted that there were a few typographical errors in the report as presented at the meeting and asked for editorial license to fix those errors before posting the approved report online.

Agenda Item 7: Old Business

There was no discussion on old business.

Agenda Item 8: New Business and Assignments to Compact Committees

- a. Action on Engineering Committee Report and assignments
 - i. Commissioner Manning moved to approve the EC report with recommended edits. Commissioner Ullmann seconded the motion. The commissioners unanimously approved the EC report.
 - ii. Chairman Lewis asked for a motion to adopt the assignments as presented in the EC report. Commissioner Ullmann moved to adopt and Commissioner Manning seconded the motion. The commissioners unanimously approved the EC assignments for the coming year.
- b. Action on 2024 Accounting
 - i. The Commissioners next discussed approval of the 2024 accounting as presented by the EC. Commissioner Ullmann moved to adopt the 2024 accounting. Commissioner Manning seconded the motion. The commissioners unanimously approved the 2024 accounting.
- c. Action on Resolution honoring Tom Riley
 - i. Commissioner Manning presented a resolution honoring former Director of Natural Resources, Tom Riley, for his efforts and contributions to the RRCA. Commissioner Manning moved to adopt the resolution and Commissioner Ullmann seconded the motion. Chairman Lewis added to the discussion that he appreciated Tom's time as Director and Commissioner for his professionalism and dealing with interstate issues. The commissioners unanimously approved the Riley Resolution (Exhibit I).

Agenda Item 9: Remarks from the Public

Chairman Lewis noted that remarks from the public is next on the agenda, but had a few more questions for Mr. Mitchell with the Corps. Chairman Lewis asked what the process and timeline was for making comments on the water control manual for Harlan County Lake. Mr. Mitchell stated that now is time for comments as the Corps is in the process of updating the manual. He said that there was one public meeting with minimal feedback, followed by an agency meeting. Mr. Mitchell stated that the next public meeting for Harlan County Lake will be in 2027 or 2028. He noted that the Corps will be looking at the conditions that have changed upstream and downstream, as well as changes to the channel capacity. The main topic of the manual review will be management and operations during floods. The Corps is currently modeling flows downstream of the lake itself and plan to use that for managing flood operations. Mr. Mitchell clarified that the Corps will not be doing a reallocation study or any changes to the flood pool, multipurpose pool or irrigation pools. However, there may be fish and wildlife management opportunities. Mr. Mitchell encouraged feedback on the control manual draft and noted that Tom Zikmund, the lake manager, would be helpful in answering questions at a future meeting.

Chairman Lewis had a follow-up question for Mr. Leigh about how lake-level management and the authority focus on fish and wildlife are tied together. Mr. Mitchell responded that they are tied together in many cases, such as Kansas reservoirs but not at Harlan County Lake.

Chairman Lewis had one final question for Mr. Leigh if there is any evaluation of forecasting for

reservoir operations as part of the manual review. Mr. Leigh responded that there would be such evaluation for the flood pools and releases that are part of the manual review process.

Chairman Lewis circled back to the Corps PowerPoint presentation on the lake sediment project, but Mr. Leigh informed the commissioners that he could not download the presentation to his laptop but that he would share it with the states after the meeting.

Chairman Lewis asked if the commissioners had any other questions for Mr. Mitchell. Commissioner Manning commented that Nebraska and the other states would be very interested in how the water control manual would affect accounting or other compact issues. Mr. Mitchell responded that any impact would be minimal on compact operations but indicated that future updates can address that topic further. Both Chairman Lewis and Commissioner Ullmann echoed Commissioner Manning's comment and expressed interest in discussion of additional flexibility in operations, mentioning the 2016 resolution regarding Nebraska's compliance tied to Harlan County Lake.

Chairman Lewis posed a follow-up question for the commissioners on whether to memorialize the thought of engaging jointly or under the RRCA banner by sending a joint letter to the Corps that would detail discussions and actions that might pertain to lake level management or the water control manual update. Commissioner Ullmann asked for clarification that such a letter would indicate the state's desire to be involved in the process of the revisions to the water control manual, especially regarding compact operations. Commissioner Manning concurred that such a letter would be appropriate. Mr. Leigh noted that remarks on the process can be submitted at any time and encourages the commissioners to engage on the topic. Chairman Lewis asked the other commissioners about their preference for creating a joint letter. Commissioner Ullmann indicated he would prefer to pass a resolution regarding any action to be taken. He made a motion that the commissioner's draft a letter to the Corps indicating that the state's would like to be involved in the development of the water control manual. Commissioner Manning seconded the motion. Upon no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously. Chairman Lewis noted that Kansas would take the lead on drafting the letter and circulate to the other states for review.

Chairman Lewis asked for remarks from the public.

- a. Mr. Rod Lenz, representing the RRWCD, started by thanking the administration for offering a public comment period. He thanked Colorado staff for their work on verifying the acres for the 10,000-acre resolution and acknowledged the work that went into that process. Mr. Lenz mentioned that there are 17,000 acres contracted and still a lot of interest. He noted that the farm bill is necessary and that the district is working with USDA and federal representatives to push approval of the farm bill. Mr. Lenz mentioned that the district has funding in place, as they were able to secure \$6 million in funding from the State of Colorado. Mr. Lenz noted that the district cannot restrict water use but can retire acres across the basin, if necessary. Mr. Lenz noted that even with recent rains in the basin, high temperatures have taken a toll on water resources. He expressed concern about future water shortages and managing reservoirs. Finally, Mr. Lenz discussed Bonny Reservoir and noted that the district obtained a Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) grant for \$310,000 to study dewatering Bonny Reservoir and any actions that could be taken by

the Bureau of Reclamation. Rod noted that the district has done LIDAR mapping of the area to assist in management decisions.

- b. Chairman Lewis asked for any questions for Mr. Lenz, and Commissioner Ullmann commented on the \$6 million that the RRWCD applied for with the CWCB. He noted that the Colorado dedicated \$30 million out of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to encourage dry-up that is required under the resolution. There seemed to be a lull in interest with that plan given the funding change in terms of the amounts available per acre. He noted that the district recognized that gap and obtained additional funding to keep the dry-up program going. Upon hearing no other remarks, Chairman Lewis turned to Thane Larson for his remarks.
- c. Mr. Thane Larson identified himself as a farm owner in north-central Kansas and a water user with other businesses, as well. He thanked Chairman Lewis for holding the meeting in Concordia and indicated it was his first time attending a compact meeting. Mr. Larson noted that 20 years ago, he had testified as a farmer for the lawsuit to help form Kansas's opinion and the economic loss from compliance issues. He stated that he is aware of water issues and watches the issue daily. He stated that his concern about a new diversion point on the Republican River at Superior, Nebraska. Mr. Larson stated that he didn't think the project would have a negligible impact on Republican River flow at the state line and is concerned about what it will mean for water users, especially with junior water rights. He noted that surface water regulation is very strict in Kansas and violations are expensive and asks that the states monitor those impacts. Mr. Larson stated that any additional draw in the Republican River, especially close to the state line, will have an economic impact on those users. He wanted to press upon the RRCA to monitor how it will affect water users in Kansas.
- d. Chairman Lewis asked for any comments for Mr. Larson, and upon hearing none turned to Brad Edgerton for his remarks.
- e. Mr. Brad Edgerton identified himself as the general manager for the Frenchman-Cambridge Irrigation District (FCID). Mr. Edgerton thanked Colorado for their compliance efforts and noted that FCID gets water from the Colorado project in Swanson Reservoir. He reported that FCID currently serves 45,669 acres and has been water short for a few decades. He noted that the district has invested millions of dollars in canal automation to be more efficient with the limited water supply. The district has eliminated spill at the end of the canal to less than one percent. Mr. Edgerton stated that even with good rains the past year the district was unable to operate Red Willow Canal, with 4,700 acres under that system. He reported that out of Swanson Reservoir, the Meeker-Driftwood canal had allocated seven inches per acre and the also six inches to the Bartley Canal in the past year. Mr. Edgerton explained that the Bartley Canal is divided into two segments for a total of 6,500 acres. There is a pump station that supplements the Bartley Canal, almost half of the acres are served by that pump station while the acres above are supplied by water diverted directly out of the river. Mr. Edgerton reported that in 2025, the FCID couldn't allocate any water to the acres above the pump station – as the river went dry in late July. Mr. Edgerton explained that the water is expensive with users paying \$57 per acre-foot for what they divert out of the canal and then \$10 per acre to the natural resource district. Mr. Edgerton expressed that knowing irrigation supplies early is beneficial so producers to plan for the upcoming season.
- f. Commissioner Lewis asked for any questions for Mr. Edgerton or for any other public

comments. Upon hearing none, he turned to Mike Brzon for his remarks.

- g. Mr. Brzon introduced himself as an ag producer and concerned water user. He wanted to comment on Bonny Reservoir and the dewatering possibility. He expressed concern about the dam's role in safety of the basin, based on historical floods. He observed that many reservoirs are at record lows but feels those will fill at some point in the future. Mr. Brzon asked about the status of the maintenance of the reservoir. Mr. Craig Scott, with USBR, responded that the Bureau have day-to-day maintenance, but there are concerns with the dry dam regarding cracking and settlement over the past decade. Mr. Brzon commented that he felt one major storm could take the dam out, but Mr. Scott responded that the risk is quite low. The Bureau continues to study the issue.
- h. Commissioner Lewis asked for any questions for Mr. Brzon or Mr. Scott. Upon hearing none, Commissioner Lewis continued to future meeting arrangements.

Agenda Item 10: Future Meeting Arrangements

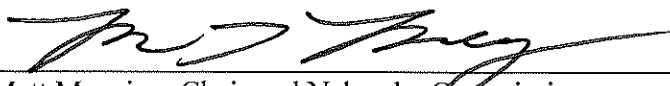
Chairman Lewis mentioned that the annual RRCA meetings will be hosted by Nebraska for the next two years, so those arrangements will come later. Commissioner Manning confirmed that there are no plans in place at the moment. Chairman Lewis noted that Kansas and Nebraska will meet in September as required during Compact Call Years by RRCA resolution to determine what actions need to be taken in advance of the end of the year or before the next irrigation season. Chairman Lewis asked for any final remarks for the RRCA, upon hearing none he proceeded to close the meeting.

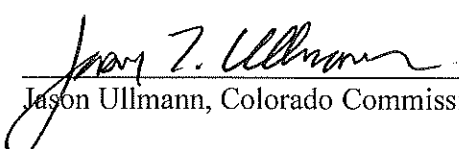
Adjournment

Chairman Lewis asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Ullmann moved to adjourn, and Commissioner Manning seconded the motion. The commissioners unanimously approved the motion to adjourn.

The August 28, 2025, Annual Meeting report is hereby approved by unanimous vote of the RRCA on this 27th day of August 2026.

As indicated by their signature and date below, the RRCA Commissioners agree that the report was approved by RRCA on the date indicated above.

 DATE SIGNED: 8/27/2026
Matt Manning, Chair and Nebraska Commissioner

 DATE SIGNED: 8/27/2026
Jason Ullmann, Colorado Commissioner

 DATE SIGNED: 8/27/2026
Earl Lewis, Kansas Commissioner

Exhibits

- Exhibit A: Transcript of the 2025 Annual Meeting
- Exhibit B: Annual Meeting Attendance with Signature Pages
- Exhibit C: Agenda of the Annual Meeting
- Exhibit D: RRCA Rules and Regulations – Revised August 28, 2025
- Exhibit E: Kansas Commissioner's Report
- Exhibit F: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Report
- Exhibit G: U.S. Geological Survey Report
- Exhibit H: Engineering Committee Report
- Exhibit I: Resolution Honoring Tom Riley

RRCA Annual Meeting

Exhibit A: Transcript

2025 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
REPUBLICAN RIVER COMPACT ADMINISTRATION
August 28, 2025
Concordia, Kansas

ATTENDEES: KANSAS

Commissioner Earl Lewis, Chairman

Chris Beightel, KS Division of Water Resources

Stephanie Kramer, KS Division of Water Resources, Chief
Counsel

Mike Brzon, Republic County, KS, Farmer-Producer

Tim Driggs, Solomon-Republican KS Regional Advisory
Committee

David Engelhaupt, KS Division of Water Resources

Chelsea Erickson, KS Division of Water Resources

Jared "Pete" Gile, KS Bostwick Irrigation District

Derek Haines, KS Water Office

Amanda Johnson, Solomon-Republican KS Regional Advisory
Committee

Sherry Koster, Jewell County, KS, Conservation District

Amelia Lane, KS Water Office

Thane Larson, Vand Water, North-Central KS Farmer-
Producer

ATTENDEES: NEBRASKA

Commissioner Matt Manning

Kari Burgert, NE Dept. of Water, Energy, & Environment

Justin Lavene, NE Attorney General's Office

Alex Boyce, NE Middle Republican Natural Resources
District

Jesse Bradley, Director, NE Dept. of Water, Energy, &
Environment

Sam Capps, NE Dept. of Water, Energy, & Environment

Brad Edgerton, NE Frenchman-Cambridge Irrigation Dist.

ATTENDEES: COLORADO

Commissioner Jason Ullmann

Ivan Franco, CO Division of Water Resources

Tracy Kosloff, CO Division of Water Resources, Deputy
State Engineer

Peter Ampe, CO Republican River Water Conservation
District

Deb Daniel, CO Republican River Water Conservation
District

Rod Lenz, Republican River Water Conservation Dist.

GENERAL REPORTING SERVICE
3201 South Street, #171, Lincoln, NE 68502
(402) 477-8425 contact@generalreportingservice.com

OTHERS PRESENT:

John Miller, U.S. Geological Survey, NE Water Science
Center

Leigh Mitchell, U.S. Corps of Engineers, Kansas City
District

Craig Scott, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Aaron M. Thompson, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

- - -

1 PROCEEDINGS:

2 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: All right. Good morning. If we
3 can find the seats and kind of settle down, we'll get
4 started here in just a minute.

5 (Room becomes quiet.)

6 That's quick. Wow. All right.

7 Good morning. Welcome to Concordia. Appreciate
8 you all taking time to come to the Republican River Compact
9 Administration meeting. We'll do introductions first, and
10 I'd ask everybody to -- well, a couple things. First of
11 all, if you haven't signed in, please sign in at the front
12 door. We want to make sure that we get your name recorded
13 for the record. If you're going to talk, I'd ask that you
14 please speak clearly and loudly and make sure that the
15 reporter knows how to spell your name and where you're from
16 if you're going to -- if you're going to talk here as well.
17 We'll do introductions around the table. And then, just
18 fair warning, we'll have folks around the room introduce
19 themselves also and then get into the agenda.

20 So, I'm Earl Lewis. I'm the Chief Engineer at
21 the Kansas Department of Agriculture's Division of Water
22 Resources and the Commissioner for Kansas.

23 MR. BEIGHTEL: I'm Chris Beightel with the Kansas
24 Department of Agriculture's Division of Water Resources,
25 and I'm on the Engineering Committee.

1 MS. KRAMER: I'm Stephanie Kramer. I am Chief
2 Counsel for the Kansas Department of Agriculture.

3 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Jason, you want to do --

4 COMMISSIONER ULLMANN: Sure. I'm Jason Ullmann,
5 State Engineer for the State of Colorado, Director of the
6 Division Water Resources and Commissioner for Colorado.

7 MR. FRANCO: My name is Ivan Franco with the
8 Colorado Division of Water Resources. I'm the Engineering
9 Committee member.

10 MS. KOSLOFF: Tracy Kosloff, Colorado Deputy
11 State Engineer.

12 ACTING COMMISSIONER MANNING: I'm Matt Manning,
13 Chief Water Officer for the State of Nebraska and soon to
14 be Commissioner for the State of Nebraska.

15 MS. BURGERT: Kari Burgert with the Nebraska
16 Department of Water, Energy, and Environment, the
17 Engineering Committee member for Nebraska.

18 MR. LAVENE: I'm Justin Lavene with the Nebraska
19 Attorney General's Office.

20 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Shall we start?

21 MR. AMPE: Peter Ampe, Hill and Robbins, counsel
22 to the Republican River Water Conservation District of
23 Colorado.

24 MS. DANIEL: Deb Daniel, General Manager of the
25 Republican River District.

1 MR. LENZ: Rod Lenz, Republican River Water
2 Conservation District.

3 MR. BRADLEY: Jesse Bradley, Director of the
4 Department of Water, Energy, and Environment in Nebraska.

5 MS. LANE: Amelia Lane with the Kansas Water
6 Office.

7 MR. HAINES: Derek Haines with the Kansas Water
8 Office.

9 MS. ERICKSON: Chelsea Erickson with Kansas
10 Division of Water Resources out of the Stockton Field
11 Office.

12 MS. CAPPS: Sam Capps, also with the Nebraska
13 Department of Water, Energy, and Environment. And I help
14 manage the Republican Con- -- or Republican River in the
15 state.

16 MR. EDGERTON: Brad Edgerton with Frenchman-
17 Cambridge Irrigation District.

18 MR. SCOTT: Craig Scott, Bureau of Reclamation,
19 McCook, Nebraska.

20 MR. MILLER: John Miller, U.S. Geological Survey,
21 North Platte, Nebraska.

22 MR. THOMPSON: Aaron Thompson, Manager of the
23 Bureau of Reclamation's Nebraska-Kansas Office.

24 MR. ENGELHAUPT: David Engelhaupt, Kansas
25 Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources.

1 MR. BRZON: Mike Brzon, Republic County, ag
2 producer.

3 MR. GILE: Pete Gile, Kansas Bostwick Irrigation
4 District.

5 MR. LARSON: Thane Larson, North Central Kansas,
6 a farmer.

7 MS. KOSTER: Sherry Koster, Jewell County
8 Conservation District Manager.

9 MS. JOHNSON: Amanda Johnson, Mitchell County
10 Conservation District Manager and Solomon-Republican
11 Advisory Committee.

12 MR. BOYCE: Alex Boyce, Middle Republican NRD.

13 MR. DRIGGS: Tim Driggs, City of Phillipsburg and
14 Solomon-Republican Advisory Committee.

15 MR. MITCHELL: And Leigh Mitchell, Army Corps of
16 Engineers, the Kansas City District.

17 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Very good. Thank you all again
18 for being here.

19 Just a couple logistics. Restrooms are down here
20 on the right if you need to use the facilities. We do have
21 coffee and some donuts in the back, so please take those
22 before we have to take them back. Appreciate that.

23 Our next item is adoption of the agenda, and I
24 think we've got to make -- we need to make one change here.
25 Moving up -- so, I propose moving up Item 8(B), action on

1 RRCA rules and regulations, up to the current title. Is
2 there any objection to that?

3 COMMISSIONER ULLMANN: No.

4 ACTING COMMISSIONER MANNING: No.

5 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: No.

6 All right. I would entertain a motion to adopt
7 the agenda as amended.

8 COMMISSIONER ULLMANN: So moved.

9 ACTING COMMISSIONER MANNING: Second.

10 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: All right, I have a motion and a
11 second. Any discussion?

12 (No response.)

13 Hearing none, all in favor say aye.

14 MULTIPLE VOICES: Aye.

15 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: All right, the motion is -- or
16 the agenda is adopted.

17 So now, 2(A), Action on RRC Rules and Regulations
18 update. So I might ask Nebraska to explain the proposed
19 change.

20 ACTING COMMISSIONER MANNING: Yeah. This
21 proposed change is kind of a result of the merger of two
22 agencies in Nebraska. As of July 1st, the Department of
23 Water, Energy, and Environment was created, which basically
24 combined the former Department of Natural Resources and
25 Department of Environment and Energy. As part of that

1 legislation, a new position was created, known as the Chief
2 Water Officer, which I, Matt Manning, am now the Chief
3 Water Officer.

4 This proposed rule change, I'll just go through
5 the changes real quick. They're short. It would just
6 change the date of the revised rules and it would, instead
7 of the director of the natural -- of the Department of
8 Natural Resources, we'd now say the Chief Water Officer of
9 the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment
10 would be the commissioner to the Republican River Compact
11 Administration. So that's -- that's the primary change.

12 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: All right, thank you. That's
13 been shared before. Would there be a motion to adopt the
14 proposed rules?

15 COMMISSIONER ULLMANN: So moved.

16 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: And I would second the motion.
17 Any discussion?

18 (No response.)

19 All those in favor say aye.

20 MULTIPLE VOICES: Aye.

21 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Motion carried.

22 Welcome to the administration.

23 COMMISSIONER MANNING: Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Third item, status of annual
25 report for year 2023 and possible action by RRCA. So,

1 Chris, do you want to talk about that?

2 MR. BEIGHTEL: Yeah. The annual report has been
3 circulated among the states and is available electronically
4 and has been shared electronically with the states. And I
5 believe, at this time, I would just ask the Commissioners
6 to approve that annual meeting. And, after the meeting, we
7 will -- I'm sorry -- approve the report. And, after the
8 meeting, we will circulate signature pages for the
9 Commissioners to sign.

10 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Any discussion on the report?

11 (No response.)

12 Okay. Do we have a motion to approve the report?

13 COMMISSIONER ULLMANN: So moved.

14 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Is there a second?

15 COMMISSIONER MANNING: Second.

16 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Motion -- any discussion on the
17 motion?

18 (No response.)

19 All those in favor say aye.

20 MULTIPLE VOICES: Aye.

21 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Aye. Motion carried.

22 Commissioners' reports. So, again, welcome to
23 the administration. You get the first opportunity to
24 address the administration as a -- a state update from
25 Nebraska, Commissioner Manning.

1 COMMISSIONER MANNING: Thank you, Commissioner
2 Lewis. Yeah, you're breaking me in early here.

3 So, as an introduction, again, my name is Matt
4 Manning. I'm the Chief Water Officer at the Department of
5 Water, Energy, and Environment for Nebraska. I may say
6 DWEE to shorten that up. I'll just give you a short
7 background on me, just kind of so you know who I am. I'm a
8 licensed civil engineer and attorney in Nebraska. Most of
9 my 40-year career has been in private -- as a private
10 engineer in the engineering and construction industries.
11 I've worked for DWEE, what is now DWEE, for almost three
12 years for the State of Nebraska.

13 A bit of new news in Nebraska is the agency
14 merger I referenced earlier. It was effective July 1,
15 2025, which merged the Department of Water, Energy, and
16 Environment -- or merged into the Department of Water,
17 Energy, and Environment from the Department of Natural
18 Resources and the Department of Environment and Energy.
19 The director of that newly merged organization is Jesse
20 Bradley, who many of you here may know. And I was
21 appointed the Chief Water Officer.

22 Before I get into the main part of my report, I'd
23 like to make a few thank yous. I'd like to thank Kansas
24 for hosting this event. I know it's a lot of work. I'd
25 like to thank a few members of our agency team: Jesse

1 Bradley, the director; Justin Levine, to my right, from the
2 Attorney General's Office; Kari Burgert, on my left, she's
3 on the -- Engineering Committee representative; and Sam
4 Capps and the rest of the Integrated Water Management
5 Planning Team. They go to a lot of work throughout the
6 course of the year and prepared a lot of -- a lot of
7 documents for this meeting. So I appreciate everything
8 they do.

9 I also appreciate and thank the Natural Resource
10 Districts in Nebraska, better known as the NRDs. There's a
11 lot of collaboration with them and, also, the Irrigation
12 Districts in Nebraska. I'm kind of new to this
13 organization, and it's been amazing to me to see how much
14 collaboration there is between those various stakeholders.
15 We appreciate that a lot.

16 News in the Republican River Basin from Nebraska.
17 Nebraska remains in full compliance with the compact and
18 intends to continue that into the future. Water supply for
19 2024, rainfall was around average to a bit wetter than
20 usual upstream of Harlan County Reservoir, and it was a bit
21 drier than normal elsewhere in the basin. Harlan County
22 Reservoir seemed to kind of hold its own with some slight
23 decrease in storage volume in 2024. I'll let the Bureau of
24 Reclamation speak on that, because they know a lot more
25 about it than I do. As far as water administration goes,

1 2024 was a Compact-Call Year, but was not a Water-Short
2 Year. Notices were mailed out as required. Generally, a
3 typical year for water administrations. Closing and
4 opening notices were issued for various interests over the
5 course of the year.

6 Moving on to integrated water management in the
7 Basin, the DWEE continues working with Tri-Basin NRD to
8 revise the Integrated Management Plan for the Republican
9 Basin portion of the NRD. Proposed changes to the plan
10 will include shifting from a ten-year plan to a long --
11 long-term plan, modifying the plan to reflect current RRCA
12 accounting methods, and adding details related to the
13 basin-wide plan. The Republican River Basin-Wide Plan,
14 work on that continues. There's a 2025 Republican River
15 Basin-Wide Plan Annual Meeting which will be held on
16 Thursday, November 20th, 2025, at the Middle Republican NRD
17 in Curtis, Nebraska. There's a forecast meeting scheduled
18 for 1:00 p.m. and a basin-wide plan meeting at 2:30 p.m.

19 Moving on to water management investments in the
20 Basin. Active project is an NBID Superior Canal Efficiency
21 Improvement Project. NRD investments include active
22 projects with Water Resources Cash Fund Contracts with
23 several Republican River Basin NRDs. DWEE has worked with
24 the Republican NRDs to fund additional installation of
25 telemetry meters and soil moisture probes throughout the

1 Basin. There's also a Platte-Republican Diversion Project.
2 The Department continues to investigate that with hopes of
3 reaching a decision sometime next year.

4 There's water sustainability money that was
5 issued in the Republican River Basin. A dam rehabilitation
6 project in Red Cloud was awarded \$145,000. Since its
7 inception, the Water Sustainability Fund has funded 13
8 projects in the Republican River Basin totaling over \$7.8
9 million.

10 Other news from Nebraska, the governor instituted
11 a Water Quality/Quantity Task Force with a purpose of
12 investigating and proposing action on issues relating to
13 both water quality and water quality [*sic*] in an integrated
14 fashion. That's all I have at this time.

15 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Manning.

16 Any questions?

17 (No response.)

18 I don't think I have any questions. Thanks for
19 your report.

20 Mr. Ullmann, you want to give a Colorado report?

21 COMMISSIONER ULLMANN: Yes. Thank you,
22 Commissioner Lewis.

23 So as -- as I introduce myself, Jason Ullmann,
24 State Engineer for the State of Colorado and Commissioner
25 for Colorado. I want to thank Kansas for hosting. As --

1 as Commissioner Manning said, it is a lot of work. So
2 appreciate the work you put into hosting it here in
3 Concordia. Tracy and I, actually, on the way in, it was
4 8:00 last night in Stockton, Kansas. It was nice to drive
5 24 and not on I-70 yesterday. So -- and it was nice and
6 cloudy; so, hopefully, there's rain falling around the
7 basin.

8 I think that, next, I'd like to thank my staff:
9 Ivan Franco, as the engineering advisor. Tracy has done a
10 lot of work this year on verifying acreage. So I
11 appreciate her and Marie and our staff that have put a lot
12 of work into verifying the dry acreage. And then, Dan
13 Steuer, who couldn't be here today, as our legal advisor.
14 He actually was supposed to ride with us, but he has COVID.
15 So, you all appreciate that he didn't come with us today.

16 And I guess, next, I want to thank the Republican
17 Water Conservation District who has -- representatives as
18 they introduce themselves here. We have a great
19 partnership with the district in helping us to keep in
20 compliance with the compact. They are the ones working
21 with our producers to do contracts for dry-up acreage and,
22 also, operate the compliance pipeline. So they do a lot of
23 work to assist the state in managing compact compliance.
24 So thank you, Deb, to you and your staff.

25 And Rod, actually, was talking just recently, a

1 few minutes ago, about conditions in the basin. Actually,
2 this summer has been fairly good across the basin. They've
3 had, I don't know the percentage of rainfall, but I know
4 Rod was saying that he's measured 20 inches. Is that
5 right? At his place? So, unfortunately, that -- I mean,
6 fortunately for the Republican and the eastern plains have
7 received quite a bit of precipitation. The rest of the
8 state of Colorado is not. We have had very low -- we had
9 very low snowpack, less than 50 percent runoff in most of
10 the streams in the rest of the state. So, thankfully for
11 this meeting here, you know, we're reporting pretty good
12 conditions in terms of precipitation; but, as you've
13 probably heard, some of the fires around the state --
14 because of the lack of precipitation, we've had some big
15 fires on the western slope near Meeker. Thankfully not a
16 lot of structures lost this year, but --

17 So, I guess I want to also thank the rest of the
18 engineering committee and the staff from the other states
19 in working through the process that I think you'll talk
20 about to verify the acreage. I think that's a big win and
21 just appreciate the effort that went into the special
22 meeting to confirm that Colorado has met its 10,000-acre
23 foot or, sorry, 10,000 acre-retirement -- dry-up
24 requirement as of December 31st of last year. So -- and
25 we're working, you know, with -- with the district to

1 continue making progress towards the 25,000 acres.

2 I would report that Colorado has received another
3 4,000 acres of South Fork Focus Zone dry-up from the
4 Republican District as of May of 2025. So, if you add that
5 to what was submitted in '24, which was approximately
6 13,000 acres, we are expecting to transmit reporting in
7 November of this year totaling about 17,000 acres of dry-up
8 in the South Fork Focus Zone. So significant progress
9 towards meeting the 25,000-acre goal.

10 And, with that, I will conclude my report.

11 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Thank you.

12 Any -- any questions?

13 (No response.)

14 All right, thank you, Commissioner. Appreciate
15 that.

16 For Kansas, we have a written report we will
17 submit for the record, and I think there were copies in the
18 back. Not sure there was copies for everybody. I won't go
19 through it line by line, but kind of hit some of the
20 highlights. First of all, appreciate the interstate
21 cooperation even in getting the meeting set up and all the
22 interstate for the engineering committee work that's gone
23 on over the past year to bring us to this point.

24 Also like to thank our staff. Chelsea Erickson
25 did a lot of the work to get us set up here today. Chris

1 Beightel -- also recognize David Engelhaupt and Chris for
2 the engineering work. And Stephanie for the -- although
3 there's not a lot of legal work right now, which I think
4 we're all appreciative of, but representing us on the legal
5 committee.

6 So, this year has been a little bit better
7 statewide, at least from a drought perspective. We've got
8 a lot of relief and, actually, we have some flooding in
9 south central Kansas right now after rainfall last night.
10 So, quite the change from what we had over the last few
11 years. Unfortunately, for part of the area in north
12 central and northwest Kansas has not seen some of the
13 relief that other parts of the state have. And we
14 certainly are still struggling from some drought in parts
15 of the basin, especially in the upper portion of the basin.
16 So, we're hoping that that continues to improve.

17 We've talked about minimum desirable stream
18 flows, I think, in the past for those who've been around.
19 But, in 1984, we established -- it's essentially akin to an
20 in-stream flow right in Kansas. So, for a number of
21 streams, 22 different streams, including the Republican
22 here, there are statutory numbers set that, at a certain
23 number of gage sites, including the one here in Concordia
24 and one downstream at Clay Center, that define how much
25 water should be in the stream for water quality, aquatic,

1 for senior surface water rights, those kind of things. And
2 anybody that has a water right after April 12th, 1984, is
3 subject to administration or being shut off if those flows
4 aren't being met.

5 We started administration in the Republican at
6 the end of September of 2022, and it's essentially been in
7 effect continuously since that time. So we're coming upon
8 three years of administration of water rights in the Lower
9 Republican. So that, again, it's been an improving
10 situation, kind of, through the central portion of our
11 state. At this time last year, I think we had on the order
12 of about five to 600 water rights through the central
13 portion of our state that were turned off because of
14 minimum desirable streamflow. We're down to, you know, 133
15 surface rights and probably 150 or so groundwater rights
16 that are being administered in the Lower Republican. So,
17 statewide, quite a bit of improvement. But for those that
18 are in this area, probably don't feel like it's got to them
19 yet.

20 This past legislative session had some activity.
21 Senate Bill 58 was a modification to our multi-flex account
22 tool that we have that came into being really in the early
23 2000s, but started getting used quite a bit in around 2012,
24 2013. It's a tool in which somebody can enroll and get a
25 five-year allocation for their water rather than a single-

1 year allocation. And so, it's a pretty good tool,
2 especially in those groundwater areas. If we're in a
3 drought, then folks can pump more than their authorized
4 quantity, but then they essentially have to borrow that
5 water from a previous or subsequent year in order to make
6 that whole. So that passed with some changes to how we
7 calculate and process those that we hope will make it more
8 efficient.

9 Like Nebraska, Kansas has a water task force that
10 was established by House Bill 2172. It's a legislative-led
11 task force. There are 13 voting members, seven members of
12 the legislature, six other members of the public that are
13 voting members, and then three ex officio members from the
14 Department of Health and Environment, director of the
15 Kansas Water Office, and then the chief engineer serve as
16 ex officio members. We've got an 18-month timeline. So
17 we'll provide an interim report to the next legislative
18 session and then a final report for the 2027 legislative
19 session.

20 And the task force is charged with kind of three
21 different pieces that are all interrelated. The first is
22 to report back on what are the current threats to our water
23 supply; and then, ultimately, what are those threats to the
24 economy and our way of life in Kansas? Second is what do
25 we do about that? What are the actions the state should

1 take in order to relieve those threats to our water supply?
2 And then, finally, which will be obviously the most
3 difficult and more important, is what level of funding do
4 we need in order to satisfy that, and where does that money
5 come from? And then, how do we most efficiently get that
6 money on the ground to producers?

7 So, again, there's going to be additional
8 meetings. We've already had two virtual meetings and a
9 two-day meeting in Dodge City this last -- oh, earlier this
10 month on that. We'll have at least another couple days
11 this year before the legislative session and then work next
12 year. So a lot of people are watching that, as you might
13 expect.

14 The budget bill passed this last year added about
15 another six, six-and-a-half million dollars to our water
16 funding statewide. And, again, we have seen an increase in
17 funding for water over the years. Traditionally, our state
18 water plan fund has been in the order of about \$20 million
19 a year. Three years ago -- three legislative sessions ago,
20 they passed what was called House Bill 2302, which added
21 \$35 million in additional water funding, 17 of that tied to
22 small-town water infrastructure, another 18 million kind of
23 general across the state water-plan fund enhancement. So,
24 essentially, you know, at least doubled, maybe closer to
25 tripled the amount of money we had for water projects

1 across the state. And then, again, this last legislative
2 session, on top of that, they added about another six-and-
3 a-half million dollars for targeted programs. So, a lot of
4 support right now for water funding and water in the
5 legislature, which we're grateful for. And I'm -- but I'm
6 sure, as our budget gets gets tighter over the next few
7 years, we'll be -- that'll be under scrutiny of what we're
8 accomplishing with that and should we continue with that.

9 There was -- I know Colorado and Nebraska both
10 use the CREP program, and we had some changes. There's a
11 state law that goes along with that in Kansas, and there
12 were changes that increased the cap amount that can be
13 retired in Kansas. It was 40,000 acres. Now, it's up to
14 60,000 acres. That's primarily along the Ark River from
15 the state line down to about Great Bend or so, kind of in
16 South Central Kansas. Changed some other things as well,
17 but the big one is -- is increasing the amount of acres we
18 can enroll in CREP.

19 South Fork Republican, getting back into the --
20 into the basin proper, a few years ago, as part of the
21 overall settlement, Colorado provided Kansas with a couple
22 of million dollars for damages that's targeted towards the
23 South Fork Republican. The Kansas Water Office administers
24 this part of that -- that funding. Well, they've
25 administered all that funding, but maintain control as part

1 of that funding to do cost-share programs, those kind of
2 things. Primarily irrigation systems, those kind of --
3 kind of things.

4 A good portion of the money was provided to the
5 Cheyenne County Conservation District, and they applied for
6 and received a Regional Conservation Partnership or RCPP
7 award a few years ago. Looking at phreatophytes, looking
8 at solar for stock water, those kind of things. And so,
9 they continue to work on -- on that. Have had some
10 additional enrollment. There's still a little over a
11 million dollars to be spent out of that pot.

12 Also, northwest Kansas in the Groundwater
13 Management District No. 4, has had Local Enhanced
14 Management Areas, or LEMAs, going clear back to 2013 for
15 part of it and 2023 for essentially all of it. And that's
16 a -- again, a tool that tries to reduce the overall use of
17 water to bring things back into balance where we've got
18 declining groundwater levels. The current plans run from
19 2023 to December 31st of 2027, but the district is already
20 in discussions with its members about further reductions in
21 '28 and beyond. Again, we're still -- while there's been
22 reductions in use, and I think most folks in that area feel
23 like it's been going pretty well, especially because they
24 get a five-year allocation and some other flexibility, that
25 we still see some declines in some areas. They want to --

1 the overall goal of the state is trying to bring those
2 declines back into balance so we have stable groundwater
3 levels. So we've still got some work to do there.

4 GMD4 in northwest Kansas is also participating,
5 as well as the other four groundwater management districts,
6 with Department of Ag's Division of Conservation on an
7 irrigation technology initiative. The department and state
8 was awarded a \$25 million grant from RCPP to match with
9 state dollars to do technical assistance, get irrigation
10 technology out across -- through the different five GMDs.
11 We're back in the process. That was one of the things --
12 it was under the IRA bill, Inflation Reduction Act bill;
13 which, now, the current administration has pulled back a
14 number of those programs, including some of the grants, if
15 they weren't signed by a certain date. And so a good
16 portion of the \$25 million is somewhat in limbo at this
17 point. We'll work -- try to work through the process of
18 delegation to make sure we get that back in our hands;
19 because it's been very successful, I think, for the folks
20 that participated and find it very useful.

21 Staying in GMD4, last year they completed an
22 aerial electromagnetic survey. I know that some districts
23 in Nebraska have done that as well. So we appreciate
24 sharing your information on that. GMD4 has done that last
25 year, found -- and found it very useful as well.

1 Obviously, I think the more information we have about
2 what's going on underground has been very helpful, and
3 they've already started putting in some management actions
4 based on the information that they found. The state and
5 GMD1, which is just south of northwest Kansas GMD4, did the
6 same survey this year. And so, we'll get information in
7 southwest Kansas, be done next year.

8 In our neighborhood -- and I see Pete Gile back
9 there, manager of Kansas Bostwick Irrigation District --
10 have been continuing to be busy on converting open channel
11 laterals to buried pipe, and as well as -- as improving the
12 turnouts and the gates along the canals and some of the
13 turnouts as well. I think 5,000 feet of pipeline was
14 buried last year, so a pretty good chunk again before this
15 -- this year. Waiting on WaterSMART grants for another
16 eight check structures and maybe another 2.1 miles of canal
17 to pipeline as well. So, a lot of work has been done in --
18 in Bostwick on -- with WaterSMART grants to convert a lot
19 of open canal and -- and automate a lot of the check
20 structures.

21 Finally, going back to northwest Almena
22 Irrigation District, which comes out of Lovewell on the
23 Prairie Dog Creek, has converted a good portion of their
24 open channel canal, and they now pump directly out of the
25 creek. There's about a quarter or so that's -- or 15

1 percent that's still out of the canal in the diversion --
2 regular diversion dam at Almena. But the rest of it is --
3 it's close enough to the creek folks just pump right out of
4 the creek and operate the district that way. Primarily, as
5 you might expect at the time, those were primarily flood
6 systems when they were put in. The district went in, and a
7 lot of folks are converting over to center pivots or other
8 things where it makes it a little tougher on the canal.
9 They're close enough to the creek they can just pump right
10 out of the creek instead. So, they think it's a little
11 more efficient delivery on a limited supply; and, again,
12 makes it better for the farmer.

13 So that's what I have for a report from Kansas.
14 And I'd be happy to answer questions if anybody has any.

15 (No response.)

16 Appreciate that. So, I think next, we have
17 federal reports. And, at first, I think we've got the
18 Bureau of Reclamation. So, Craig, yeah, if you can come up
19 here, Craig, I'd appreciate it. And, again, for the
20 record, you state your name and --

21 MR. SCOTT: Sit right here?

22 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Yep, that'd be great. Thank
23 you.

24 MR. SCOTT: All right. Good morning. My name is
25 Craig Scott, representing Reclamation's Nebraska-Kansas

1 Area Office in McCook, Nebraska. My report's going to be
2 brief this morning. We have submitted a written report for
3 the record, so I think there's extra copies in the back if
4 anybody would like to look at that in more detail. And it
5 contains all of our reservoir data for 2024 and -- as well
6 as operations data up through July 31st for 2025.

7 So, as I said, I won't go into a lot of detail,
8 but I will touch on a few highlights starting with 2024.
9 Precipitation-wise, precipitation was near normal or above
10 normal at all of our facilities with the exception of
11 Lovewell Reservoir, which was 77 percent of average. I
12 think it was mentioned earlier, the reservoirs upstream of
13 Harlan County fared a little bit better. Both Hugh Butler
14 and Harry Strunk Lakes received 120 percent of average
15 rainfall. So a little wetter in the western part, drier in
16 the eastern part of the basin.

17 Inflow-wise, you know, despite the above average
18 rainfalls, computed inflows remained below average at all
19 of our reservoirs. And as a result, irrigation deliveries
20 were reduced, ranging from 5.3 inches per acre across
21 Frenchman-Cambridge Irrigation District to approximately
22 11.5 inches of farm delivery in the Kansas Bostwick
23 Irrigation District. So I think this highlights, you know,
24 how timing and watershed conditions affect inflows even
25 with above-average precipitation. I think the timing is

1 pretty critical for our water supplies in our federal
2 reservoirs.

3 Moving on to Harlan County Lake, the irrigation
4 supply on June 30th was 119,000 acre-feet. So water-short
5 administration was not in effect in 2024. I think that was
6 mentioned as well earlier.

7 Going to move to 2025. Current reservoir data is
8 contained in Table 2. So we have kind of a summary there
9 through July 31st of this year. Going to touch on a few
10 things in '25. All project areas prior to the irrigation
11 season was extremely dry. A couple of things to note
12 there. You know, Enders Reservoir, the storage at Enders
13 remains in the dead pool. So what that means, we cannot
14 physically release water from that reservoir through our
15 outlet works. And then, one other thing I'd like to note
16 is, due to short or limited water supplies, Frenchman-
17 Cambridge Irrigation District elected not to irrigate from
18 Hugh Butler Lake this year. So that reservoir went into
19 season with very low carryover storage and, unfortunately,
20 hasn't rebounded a significant amount since 2024.

21 As far as irrigation deliveries in '25, I know we
22 were projected to deliver six to nine inches in the --
23 along the Nebraska canals and 12 inches of -- or 12 inches
24 per acre within the Kansas Bostwick Irrigation District.
25 Then as far as irrigation supplies in Harlan County, on

1 June 30th, irrigation supply was approximately 101,000 acre-
2 feet, which triggered a water-short year accounting. And
3 this is the first time since 2018 that water-short year
4 requirements have been in effect. So, there is a summary
5 of water supplies for Harlan County. I believe that's in
6 Table 3 of that report.

7 And then, lastly, I just want to touch on
8 upcoming repair work that we've got ongoing here. Coming
9 up here at Medicine Creek Dam, we currently have a
10 contractor that is mobilizing equipment to begin work in
11 our -- in the spillway and doing some concrete repairs in
12 the outlet works stilling basin. As they were doing this
13 phase-one work, the -- our operations will be interrupted,
14 and we will not be able to utilize our outlet works to make
15 any releases until about December 1st. So, hopefully, it'll
16 go quicker than that. But we're thinking we're going to be
17 out of service here for the next couple of months. And
18 then, once the outer works is complete, they will move over
19 to the spillway, and then we don't expect any further
20 interruptions in our operations once they start the
21 spillway work. However, that spillway work will take
22 longer, and we're expecting that to be completed in --
23 sometime in 2026.

24 So, with that, that's my report. And if I -- if
25 you guys have any questions.

1 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Craig, can you talk about what
2 the status of -- of Bonny Dam safety issue is, study and --
3 and progress?

4 MR. SCOTT: Yeah. So, currently, we're still in
5 what we refer to as the issue evaluation stage, a phase of
6 that, looking at alternatives to what we're going to do
7 moving forward to correct the deficiencies in our dam
8 safety, on our dam safety program. And one of the
9 alternatives that we are looking at is the potential to
10 breach that facility and looking at those cost estimates
11 and what that may look like going down the road. A
12 decision hasn't been made yet which direction we're going
13 to move towards. But between now and the end of the year,
14 we're expected to do some additional hydrology modeling to
15 get some better information on the flood potential, the --
16 if we did breach that facility and looking at some
17 additional cost estimates. So we're expecting, in 2026, to
18 maybe move towards a decision, but we haven't done that at
19 this point.

20 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Okay, thank you.

21 Any other questions?

22 (No response.)

23 No?

24 All right, thank you.

25 All right, next up, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

1 If you could introduce yourself and -- yeah,

2 MR. MITCHELL: Yeah, sure. Sorry, Leigh
3 Mitchell. Sorry, I didn't know which way to face you. Try
4 facing everyone.

5 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Yeah.

6 MR. MITCHELL: So, US Army Corps of Engineers.
7 So I'm with the Kansas City District, kind of a multi-tool,
8 I suppose. I've got lots of different things that I do.
9 But, today, I'm here with my continuing authorities program
10 manager hat on. And I'm going to be giving you a quick
11 rundown of some of the work we've been doing up at Harlan
12 County Lake. So we've got a project that has just been
13 finished.

14 THE COURT REPORTER: I didn't get your name. I'm
15 sorry.

16 MR. MITCHELL: It's Leigh Mitchell.

17 THE COURT REPORTER: Can you spell it?

18 MR. MITCHELL: Yes, yeah.

19 THE COURT REPORTER: I can't --

20 MR. MITCHELL: And it is -- it's a little
21 different. Yes. So, it's L-e-i-g-h.

22 THE COURT REPORTER: Yes.

23 MR. MITCHELL: M-i-t-c-h-e-l-l.

24 THE COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

25 MR. MITCHELL: The Leigh always gets everyone

1 All right. Yeah..

2 All right, so I'm going to plug in here. I've
3 got lots of pictures to show you all.

4 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: And, unfortunately for the folks
5 in the audience, it is on the -- on the back wall.

6 MR. MITCHELL: Yeah, we're going to have to -- I
7 did notice the chairs -- the chairs are good.

8 FEMALE VOICE: The chairs swivel.

9 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Swivel around if you want to.

10 MR. MITCHELL: All right, here we go. Just going
11 to make sure I've got the right presentation here for you.
12 Sorry, folks. Just got to make sure I got the right one.
13 No.

14 Well, while I'm actually getting that one up
15 there, I will give you a quick rundown of one other thing
16 while I'm here. I thought it might be of interest to you.
17 And so, as I said, I am a man with different hats and
18 positions with the Army Corps of Engineer- -- or Engineers.
19 One of the other projects that I'll be working on is the
20 water control manual update. So we've got a -- an update
21 to the Harlan County Lake water control manual, which is
22 underway at the moment. We've had the first of the public
23 meetings. There'll be several public meetings over -- over
24 the update period.

25 And this -- the water control, does everyone have

1 a -- an insight on what water control manuals do?

2 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: You might go ahead and just make
3 sure everyone's on the same page.

4 MR. MITCHELL: Yeah. Sure.

5 So, water control manuals, basically, they set
6 the rules for how the Army Corps of Engineers manages the
7 water within the lake and the lake itself. So those
8 manuals are pretty old in a lot of cases. So Congress, a
9 few years back, said, "Here's some money, Army Corps of
10 Engineers. Go away, update these manuals. It's about time
11 they were updated."

12 So our district is underway with updating, I
13 believe it's nine, nine of these at the moment. So, Harlan
14 County Lake is actually -- we had to stagger it for
15 resourcing purposes. Harlan County Lake's at the end of
16 the queue, but we have got that process started because
17 there's a lot of work to do to actually get these updated.
18 So we need to make sure that we've updated the manual to
19 account for drought conditions; so drought management is a
20 big component.

21 There was, believe it or not, there was a lot of
22 changes in there just on the formatting of these as well.
23 So Congress wanted to have a consistent format across the
24 nation for water control manuals. And then, also, we need
25 to look at what the current conditions are, both downstream

1 and within the lake or the lakes, to make sure that what is
2 -- so what -- if those rules still work with those current
3 conditions.

4 I've got a copy of this which I can leave at the
5 end. Well, I've actually got about 12 or 13 of them I can
6 leave on the table at the back so you can grab a copy if
7 you're interested. The next public meeting will probably
8 not be for another year or two. A year or two. So -- and
9 that public meeting will be bringing the alternatives for
10 -- for future water control manual updates along. So, if
11 folks here are interested, keep an eye out for it. It'll
12 be advertised on Army Corps of Engineers' website,
13 Facebook, et cetera. So just want to give you an update
14 that that's actually -- that is happening.

15 Now, I have to make sure I've got the right
16 presentation slides here. Okay, so I'm just going to
17 quickly grab this. I'm going to start talking while I get
18 those slides for you.

19 And so, what -- so, Section 1135 project. So we
20 had one up at Harlan County Lake. It's been underway for
21 many years now. So it was back in 2014 that they started
22 doing initial discussions and feasibility investigations
23 into that project. What is a Section 1135 project? It is
24 -- so an ecosystem restoration project under the Continuing
25 Authorities Program. So, with the Army Corps of Engineers,

1 most of their large projects are what they call
2 specifically authorized projects. So Congress needs to
3 authorize both the study, and then they have to authorize
4 the funding. So appropriate funding for those. So it's
5 Congress, they are the ones that make the decision on that
6 particular study. With a Continuing Authorities Program,
7 Congress has provided the Army Corps of Engineers a
8 continuing authority to initiate projects under nine
9 different authorities for different purposes. So the
10 Section 1135, it's just -- it's just a part of that overall
11 program, and it's for ecosystem restoration on previous
12 Army Corps of Engineers projects. So this one at the
13 Harlan County Lake, we were looking at improving fisheries
14 and wetland habitat up through that area.

15 Okay? Good. So that's that. We got that one
16 started back in 2014. In 2022, we were funded for design
17 and construction of that project. It was right around the
18 time that I started with the Army Corps of Engineers. So
19 this is one which I got handed to me on the first day of my
20 -- my work with the Army Corps of Engineers. And I've been
21 lucky enough to stay on that project right through to the
22 end of construction. It was constructed or construction
23 finished in 2025 in April.

24 I'm struggling to find this presentation, folks.
25 And now it's not letting me access it because of -- no. I

1 really had some very nice pictures to show you. Technical
2 difficulties. I'm going to get them. I will get these.

3 So, basically, what was it? We went ahead -- and
4 the coves within Harlan County Lake. So I'm sure the folks
5 here have got an understanding of what lake is like. A lot
6 of those coves have silted in around the mouth of the cove,
7 and that's because there's a lot of erosion going on around
8 the shoreline of the lake. The prevailing winds push that
9 sediment laterally along -- along the shoreline, and it's
10 actually filled in a lot of the cove openings. Why is that
11 a bad thing? Coves, fantastic for the fish. All right?
12 So that's where the fish come in, lay their eggs. The
13 little fish, they have their first part of their life
14 cycle, and then they're back out into the lake. So, if you
15 break that connectivity between the main lake and the
16 coves, you're really breaking a big important part of the
17 fish's life cycle. So the intent here: Reconnect and
18 provide some good habitat for them within that cove itself.

19 So what -- what type of work was done? So there
20 was a lot of excavation. So we excavated about 130,000 --
21 actually, it was probably more than that. About 160,000
22 cubic yards of sediment, created a 200-foot-wide channel
23 which connects the Methodist Cove. So folks know Methodist
24 Cove? Okay. It's a really nice camping spot up there if
25 you want to go up and check it out. It's got some very

1 good fishing now. So we connected the cove, and then we
2 excavated out about 20 acres of deeper-water habitat within
3 Methodist Cove itself and added habitat structures. So
4 part of the habitat structures are artificial structures,
5 so they're plastic. They -- they've tried and tested.
6 They work quite well for these small fish.

7 The rest of it, we had a waste product on site.
8 The waste product was cedar trees. So, cedar trees
9 actually make fantastic habitat as well. So, as part of
10 the project, we actually converted cedar trees into a
11 product, a productive part of the project, and replaced
12 cedar trees in through -- in through the cove as well.

13 And that wasn't all. So, we needed to make sure
14 that this thing wasn't just going to silt back in again.
15 We didn't want that to happen. or else it would have been
16 wasted effort. So there was a few different things we did.
17 We put in a large breakwater, so a 500-foot-long rock
18 breakwater. That's to disrupt that lateral movement of
19 sediment along the shoreline. It pushes that sediment back
20 out into the lake instead. Hopefully. that's going to be
21 keeping our channel open into the future.

22 We protected shoreline within the local area just
23 to make sure that we weren't seeing any local sedimentation
24 from shoreline erosion. We also -- 'cause it's on a cove,
25 there's a stream coming in. So, Methodist Creek comes in.

1 There was sediment coming down through the creek as well.
2 So we needed to make sure that we were doing something
3 there to control that sediment, make sure it wasn't getting
4 into our project site. So we dug a sediment forebay, so
5 removed about 50,000 cubic yards of sediment from an area
6 just upstream of the project site. The intent here is that
7 that's a slow spot. That's where the sediment is going to
8 drop out; and that's where, in the future, the project
9 sponsor, which I should have said right at the start,
10 project sponsor, State of Nebraska. So they've been
11 fantastic with it. So it's the Game and Parks Commission
12 that we've worked with there, and now it's been handed over
13 to them for ongoing maintenance into the future.

14 So that's it in a nutshell. What -- what we've
15 got, what we've got up there. And, for some reason my
16 computer will not --

17 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: So, Leigh, what I might do, if
18 you want to take a few minutes to try and find what -- we
19 might -- we might bump -- have you come back up in a few
20 minutes.

21 MR. MITCHELL: Sure.

22 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: So you can try and not figure
23 out your computer in front of everybody. Right?

24 MR. MITCHELL: Yeah, I know. Yeah.

25 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: And have USGS come and give

1 their report. And then, if you've been able to reconnect
2 with your presentation, we'll have you come back up.

3 MR. MITCHELL: Yes.

4 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Thanks.

5 MR. MITCHELL: Was there any questions on that,
6 that aspect at the moment, though, before I jump off or --
7 no? Okay.

8 MR. MILLER: Well, good morning. I'd like to
9 thank you for this opportunity to speak a little bit about
10 USGS operations in the Republican River Basin.

11 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Can you say your name for the
12 record?

13 MR. MILLER: There we go. Yeah. John Miller
14 with the U.S. Geological Survey out of North Platte.

15 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Thank you.

16 MR. MILLER: So I'm going to start. First, there
17 is a really informative summary sheet that is in the back,
18 located on the back table for the record and for those that
19 want to look into things after the meeting. And I'm going
20 to be speaking, in brief, directly from that summary sheet.
21 I'm going to start at the top end of the basin in Nebraska
22 and work my way on down.

23 First site, Arikaree River near Haigler has been
24 a problem site. Some of you that have kind of followed
25 Arikaree over the years, about -- I didn't write the date

1 down, but about five years ago, we relocated that gage
2 about a mile and 3/4 upstream of its historic location
3 because of beaver activity. The -- try to be as brief as I
4 can. But the landowners in that area, initially, were very
5 cooperative with us to remove the beavers. Computing
6 discharge in that type of a setting is really, really
7 difficult. So that worked for a while, and then they
8 wanted to keep the beaver dams in for storage water for
9 cattle. So that's why we moved upstream. Unfortunately
10 that colony of beavers has reached an incredible -- I don't
11 know, if -- for folks that have been in that area probably
12 see that, the old gaging site on Highway 34 is pretty much
13 a large pond now. Well, that colony has reached to a level
14 where the beavers have begun to migrate, and they have
15 followed us to our new location.

16 And we currently, in an attempt, you know, to try
17 to keep a clear channel, that's -- that is the best
18 scenario for computing discharge, we're working with local
19 landowners. Devin Ridenhauer from Colorado is -- has been
20 some significant help, and then our own agency to try to
21 get those beavers removed. I think we're going to get it
22 accomplished, but my assumption is that, because that
23 population is so huge, that they're going to come back.
24 But I think we've got a solution figured out; and, going
25 into this fall, we'll get them removed and get the dams

1 removed and improve that stage discharge relationship.

2 And one of the things -- and I'm probably getting
3 into the weeds a little bit too deep here. But, you know,
4 the sustained base flow conditions have changed over the
5 last 20, 30 years that have allowed for the change in the
6 ecology. And that system is suitable for these -- for the
7 -- for what the beavers are doing. And so, I really think
8 this is going to be an ongoing problem. But we'll continue
9 to work. That's kind of the goal of the USGS is do the
10 best that we can do to compute, you know, is -- the best
11 discharge record that we can. So that's the situation at
12 Arikaree.

13 And another flow situation, nearly 100 percent
14 of the computed flow at that Arikaree gage is returned from
15 Pioneers Canal. There's very little mainstem flow that
16 occurs these past decades, really, except during extreme
17 rain events. There will be some added flow from the
18 mainstem.

19 Okay, moving down. I've kind of lumped them for
20 the sake of time. Buffalo Creek near Haigler; North Fork,
21 the state line gage. North Fork at the Republican state
22 line. Rock Creek and Republican at Benkelman. There's
23 really been no change in their overall ranking as far as
24 the average yearly mean flow for the water year 2024.
25 Water year 2024, most of you are probably familiar, but

1 that is October 1 of 2023 to November or to September 30th
2 of 2024 is the time frame of the data that's being
3 presented. But those four sites, the long-term -- the 2024
4 record fell real similar to where it did in ranking in the
5 2023 report. One positive note is, because of the
6 increased rainfall that has been noted, the growth and the
7 movement of tumbleweeds has decreased. Another problem
8 that we have to -- as stream gagers, that we have to deal
9 with. But they're -- we've not had to deal with
10 tumbleweeds for almost three years now. So, on those
11 sites, the records have improved because of no tumbleweeds.

12 South Fork Republican near Benkelman, there was
13 just two days of reported flow in the summer of 2024; and
14 that was on June 2nd. June 3rd, as of -- this is kind of the
15 report that will be given next year -- as of 2025 water
16 year, there's been zero days of reported flow.

17 Moving downstream to Frenchman Creek near
18 Culbertson, Driftwood Creek near McCook, and even the
19 Republican River in McCook. Not a compact site, but I give
20 a little report on those. Annual means there are down from
21 the previous year, and that is due to that significant May
22 2023 flood that we had in that area that elevated those
23 mean flows significantly. But all four of those sites are
24 in the top 10 of the lowest years at 70 to 92 years of
25 record on all of the sites in the Republican River Basin.

1 Shifting down to the lower part of the basin,
2 Sappa Creek near Stamford had improved rainfall in the 2024
3 water year that actually almost doubled the annual mean
4 that was reported. Beaver Creek continues to run extremely
5 low, 2024 water year at this seventh all-time low. And
6 then, Cortland Canal, as reported in 2024, was right in
7 line with the long-term mean. Flows at Republican River at
8 Guide Rock improved, but still the seventh from the lowest
9 74 years of record.

10 And that is -- that's the end of my report. Is
11 there any questions?

12 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Any questions?

13 (No response.)

14 All right. Thank you.

15 MR. MILLER: Yep.

16 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Any luck yet, Leigh?

17 MR. MITCHELL: It's downloading.

18 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Okay.

19 MR. MITCHELL: It's downloading, yes.

20 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: We'll keep moving forward, and
21 let us know when you have success. We'll give you a spot.

22 MR. MITCHELL: Sure.

23 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Committee Reports. Engineering
24 Committee, so Mr. Beightel?

25 MR. BEIGHTEL: Thank you, Chairman Lewis.

1 My name is Chris Beightel with the Kansas
2 Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources, and
3 I serve as the Engineering Committee Chairman for the last
4 of my two-year appointment. And I'll gladly hand it over
5 to Ms. Burgert next year.

6 This year was a very active year in the
7 Engineering Committee, and I want to start by thanking my
8 fellow committee members: Kari Burgert and Ivan Franco;
9 and, also, staff in Nebraska, Sam Capps, Stefan Redmund,
10 Elizabeth Essex; and for Colorado, Tracy Kosloff, Marie
11 Sullivan. Thank you very much for all the cooperation from
12 the Kansas and, yeah, and from the Kansas staff, Sam
13 Perkins; Hongsheng Cao; and, of course, Chelsea Erickson, I
14 think stepped out just now; and David Engelhaupt. So,
15 thank you. You're all on record now.

16 Also want to thank Willem Schreüder, who's not
17 here, who is our engineering consultant. He does a lot of
18 model runs for us and -- and posts that information online.

19 The Engineering Committee report is available, at
20 least the first part of it is, on the back table there.
21 That's the report. With the report, there are also three
22 attachments. They are not printed back there, but they'll
23 be available online after we get done with this meeting and
24 finish putting that stuff together.

25 So, the first thing I'm going to do is go through

1 the assignments that were given to the committee last year.
2 I'll march through those pretty fast, except I'll hold on a
3 couple of them just to elaborate on a little bit. So, our
4 first task was to meet quarterly to review the tasks
5 assigned to the committee. We did meet quarterly. We also
6 had an additional special meeting in September that was
7 focused on South Fork acreage verification in Colorado.

8 The next assignment was to complete the 2024
9 compact accounting. We have exchanged all the data,
10 completed that accounting, and have agreed on it among the
11 states. So that will be an item that we will submit to the
12 Commissioners for their approval here a little bit later in
13 the agenda.

14 The Engineering Committee maintains a couple of
15 documents that record changes in the RRCA Accounting
16 Procedures and Reporting Requirements. So we've been --
17 we're keeping up with that. There were no changes to
18 record in 2024. We also keep an administrative website
19 called republicanrivercompact.org where we post all of the
20 documents, agendas, data, all those things. All the stuff
21 that will be generated today will be posted on that site,
22 and that will be available for public download as you wish.

23 Now, the next one is one I'm going to talk a
24 little bit more about. And the task was identify a
25 mutually agreeable verification process with criteria so

1 that the Compact Commissioners can verify that Colorado met
2 its obligation of retiring 10,000 acres and so such
3 verification can take place before the end of 2024.
4 Colorado provided redacted contracts between irrigators and
5 the Republican River Water Conservation District. At
6 Kansas' and Nebraska's request, Colorado provided GIS files
7 mapping the legal description of land areas from their
8 contracts and containing a data field of the number of
9 acres retired. Colorado further transmitted an information
10 package comprised of a summary memo, summary table, and
11 report containing NDVI, which stands for Normalized
12 Difference Vegetation Index, analysis and aerial photos.
13 The summary table also included additional information
14 related to dry-up that Colorado had available for
15 particular contracts, such as links to site-visit photos.
16 And a summary of that information package will be in the
17 PDF of the Engineering Committee report that will be
18 generated later.

19 Now, the RRCA held a special meeting on December
20 16, 2024, where the Commissioners approved the resolution
21 by the Republican River Compact Administration regarding
22 verification of Colorado's retirement of irrigated acreage
23 in the South Fork Republican River Basin and second
24 amendment to the 2016 resolution. So that was task four.

25 Now, task five, which was added at the special

1 meeting, and this task was for the Engineering Committee to
2 propose an annual monitoring program to track progress
3 towards and continued completion of the retirement of
4 25,000 acres from irrigation in the South Fork Republican
5 River Basin by Colorado, as required under the 2016 South
6 Fork Resolution and its amendments. And so, Colorado has
7 agreed to provide certain data by the second quarterly
8 meeting of the Engineering Committee each year for the
9 state's review, and that committee meeting takes place,
10 generally, in the -- in the February time frame.

11 So, Colorado has agreed to provide redacted
12 versions -- redacted versions of new retirement contracts
13 and any updates to existing contracts; all -- an updated
14 shapefile mapping the legal descriptions of land areas from
15 all contracts and containing a data field of the number of
16 acres retired; and an information package updated with new
17 contracts added and any corrections or other new
18 information added since the 2024 information package. The
19 EC will review those things and will continue to report on
20 them in our annual reports. And, importantly, the EC
21 recognizes that monitoring and review of these data by the
22 EC will not formally confirm the achievement of South Fork
23 resolution requirements; but, rather, will provide the RRCA
24 with updated progress information towards South Fork
25 resolution requirements.

1 So, these next ones will be a little bit more
2 brief. So our sixth assignment was to provide --

3 MS. KOSLOFF: Can --

4 MR. BEIGHTEL: Excuse me?

5 MS. KOSLOFF: Can I just ask you a question?

6 MR. BEIGHTEL: Absolutely.

7 MS. KOSLOFF: I may have misheard you, but the
8 date of the special meeting regarding the achievement of
9 the 10,000 acres, I thought I heard you say September.

10 MR. BEIGHTEL: I didn't mean to, but --

11 MR. FRANCO: I think you said December.

12 MS. KOSLOFF: December? Okay. Thank you. I
13 just misheard you, and I just wanted to make sure that was
14 correct.

15 MR. BEIGHTEL: Okay. Sure.

16 All right. The sixth task was to provide
17 respective state updates on progress of new and ongoing
18 management strategies for maintaining compact compliance.
19 So we accomplished that.

20 And the last one was prepare this -- the RRCA
21 63rd Annual Meeting Report, which was for the year 2023,
22 which we discussed earlier in the agenda and which was
23 approved by the Commissioners. So we got that done.

24 At this point, we have items for RRCA discussion
25 and action. And EC recommends that the proposed 2024

1 accounting, which is presented in Attachment 2 and in the
2 spreadsheet titled RRCA Accounting 2024 Final.XLSX for
3 approval by the RRCA. That is in Attachment 2 to the
4 Engineering Committee report circulated among the states
5 and agreed upon. So, we offer that to the Commissioners
6 for approval at the appropriate time. And, upon approval,
7 we'll place that with everything else on the website.

8 In addition to any other assignments that the
9 administration might give us, the EC recommends that
10 Principia Mathematica, that's our engineering consultant
11 Willem Schreüder, we recommend that he continue in compact
12 2020- -- compact year 2025 to maintain the web-based
13 accounting tool and perform periodic model and accounting
14 updates at the same level of service as he has in 2024.

15 And the EC offers the following list of
16 recommended assignments to work on in the upcoming year and
17 to report on at the 2026 annual meeting. And those
18 assignments that we'd recommend for ourselves are to: meet
19 quarterly to review the tasks of the Engineering Committee;
20 complete the 2025 Compact Accounting; continue to develop
21 and maintain the summary of RRCA changes and the website
22 and the accounting tools developed by the Engineering
23 Committee; track and monitor Colorado's progress towards
24 permanent retirement of 25,000 acres from the irrigation --
25 from irrigation in the South Fork Republican River Basin as

1 required under the 2016 South Fork Resolution; provide
2 state updates on progress of new and ongoing management
3 strategies; and prepare the 64th RRCA Annual Meeting Report
4 for approval by the RRCA at the 2026 Annual Meeting.

5 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Just a question, Chris. Was the
6 retaining Willem and Principia Mathematica a separate
7 assignment, or is that a recommended assignment to the
8 committee? So do we have -- do we need separate action on
9 that?

10 MR. BEIGHTEL: I don't believe you do. I believe
11 they -- as a recommendation, that we just --

12 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Okay. Okay. All right.

13 MR. BEIGHTEL: -- take care of it.

14 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Okay. Discussion on the EC
15 report?

16 COMMISSIONER ULLMANN: Other than thanking the
17 Engineering Committee for putting the report together and
18 the work that went into it, so --

19 MR. BEIGHTEL: Thank you. I appreciate that.

20 I did want -- I failed to point out one thing.
21 We would ask the Commissioners for leave to make any
22 typographic edits to the final report before it gets posted
23 online, because there are a couple of things that we need
24 to correct. Just small --

25 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Okay. Anything else?

1 (No response.)

2 Okay. Do we want to approve the Engineering
3 Committee report with editorial license? Any motion so?

4 COMMISSIONER MANNING: I move to approve the
5 editori- -- editorial [*sic*] report with editorial license.

6 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: All right. Thank you.

7 Is there a second?

8 COMMISSIONER ULLMANN: I will second that.

9 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Okay. Any discussion?

10 (No response.)

11 Hearing none, all in favor say aye.

12 MULTIPLE VOICES: Aye.

13 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Motion carries.

14 Any additional assignments that we want to have
15 the Engineering Committee take on?

16 (No response.)

17 If not, I would ask for a motion to adopt the
18 assignments that have been laid out in the report.

19 COMMISSIONER ULLMANN: So moved.

20 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: A motion --

21 MR. MANNING: Second.

22 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: -- and a second. Any
23 discussion?

24 (No response.)

25 Seeing none, all in favor say aye.

1 MULTIPLE VOICES: Aye.

2 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Motion carried.

3 And then, finally, adoption of the 2024
4 accounting. Any questions on the accounting or motion to
5 adopt or revise?

6 COMMISSIONER ULLMANN: I move that we adopt the
7 2024 accounting as presented.

8 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: All right, the motion.

9 COMMISSIONER MANNING: I second that motion.

10 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: And a second. Any discussion?
11 (No response.)

12 Seeing none, all in favor say aye.

13 MULTIPLE VOICES: Aye.

14 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Motion approved. The 2024
15 accounting is adopted.

16 That was under new business, actually. And we
17 got 8(a) in.

18 Leigh, any progress yet? Were you going to --

19 MR. MITCHELL: You wouldn't believe it. I cannot
20 download this (indiscernible) out of network, so no.

21 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Okay. I think action on
22 resolution honoring Tom Riley.

23 COMMISSIONER MANNING: Yep. Nebraska would like
24 to proffer a resolution honoring former Director of Natural
25 Resources Tom Riley for his efforts and contributions to

1 the Republican River Compact Administration.

2 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Do you want to -- I think we've
3 got that. You can read it, if you want to, or you just
4 want to offer it?

5 COMMISSIONER MANNING: I think I'd just offer it,
6 and it could be put in the record.

7 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Okay. Do you want to make a
8 motion to adopt the resolution?

9 COMMISSIONER MANNING: Yep. I would make a
10 motion to adopt a resolution honoring Tom Riley.

11 COMMISSIONER ULLMANN: I'll second that motion.

12 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Any discussion?

13 (No response.)

14 Only discussion I'd have is to -- is to thank
15 Nebraska for bringing this forward and offer my
16 appreciation for Tom's time as Director and Commissioner,
17 his professionalism in dealing with these issues, and any
18 other that we dealt with interstate-wise. So, all those in
19 favor say aye.

20 MULTIPLE VOICES: Aye.

21 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Motion is adopted.

22 We're going to go -- here, in just a minute,
23 we'll see -- give you all fair warning, the opportunity for
24 remarks from the public. But I might ask, even though
25 Leigh's having trouble with his pictures and the

1 PowerPoint, I might have a question to go back on the water
2 control manual. So -- and just kind of that process.
3 Where we're at as far as -- where we're at as far as the
4 pro- -- where we're at in the process. Kind of, what's the
5 timeline? 'Cause, obviously, I think the administration is
6 very interested in the operation of Harlan County.

7 MR. MITCHELL: Sure.

8 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: And may have some comments we
9 want to provide. And so, we want to make sure we're doing
10 that at the right time.

11 MR. MITCHELL: Yep. No problem. So, the right
12 time is any time at the moment. So, we are in the process
13 of updating the manual. So, we've had the first of the
14 public meetings. So, that was held late last year. We
15 didn't receive much feedback from the community. So that
16 was community. We also had, as a part of that initial
17 public consultation, an agency meeting. So, there was --
18 there was probably folks in this room who were involved in
19 that agency meeting or the agencies at least. So -- so, we
20 haven't received much in the way of feedback there as well.
21 But if anyone has feedback or any suggestions on what's
22 important, what's important for the different agencies,
23 what's important for the public for us to be considering as
24 we move through this process, we can receive those comments
25 at any time.

1 At the moment, our schedule -- so, as I said,
2 we've got nine of these water control manual updates around
3 our district. Harlan County is towards the end. We've got
4 through until 2029 to have all of these manuals revised and
5 approved. So, seems like a long time. It's not when you
6 look at how -- how much work there is to be done with
7 these. So, the next public meeting for Harlan County is
8 probably going to be in 2027 to 2028, just depending on how
9 the schedule is running. As I said, at that meeting, we'll
10 be looking at providing alternatives for how the water
11 control manual can be updated.

12 So, Harlan County Lake's -- it's going to be an
13 interesting one, and then we do have to look at what
14 conditions have changed, both within the lake itself and
15 downstream. So, from the Republican River, we haven't
16 quantified it yet, but there's likely been changes to
17 channel capacity. So, we'll be looking at the -- how we
18 can then operate during flood times. It's, you know, how
19 those flood releases will be managed moving forward. And
20 so, for the minute, what we're working on right now is
21 actually modeling -- modeling flows downstream of the lake
22 itself. Then we'll be looking at modeling inflows, et
23 cetera, into the lake to just look and see how we manage
24 the -- those flows and releases moving forward under
25 different flood conditions.

1 And so, was there any questions on that?

2 I'll just give you -- Oh, sorry.

3 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: So, just -- when you talk about
4 modeling flow conditions, especially downstream --

5 MR. MITCHELL: Uh-huh. Yeah.

6 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: -- is that solely for flood
7 operations? Is it primarily for flood operations?

8 MR. MITCHELL: Yes.

9 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Is there a balance between flood
10 operations and low-flow operations?

11 MR. MITCHELL: For us, it's just what the -- so,
12 water control -- it's just what we're -- so the arm- --
13 when I say we're, the Army Corps of Engineers is respons-
14 -- which is those flood, flood pool flows is what we'll be
15 looking at with this, this manual update. So, and I, you
16 know, it's -- it's -- it is quite a broad, broad study, but
17 there's things that we can't do. So we can't do a
18 reallocation as part of this process. There's a separate
19 process for reallocation, a reallocation study. No. So,
20 we're -- we're not going to be able to look at increasing
21 flood pool, decreasing flood pool, et cetera. We can't --
22 and multipurpose pool, irrigation pool, can't do that. You
23 know, there's -- there are things that we can look at
24 through the process of looking at, you know, potentially, a
25 lake-level management plan for wildlife management purposes

1 or for the benefit of wildlife, fish and wildlife. That's
2 likely going to be just quite small changes; and, really,
3 it's only for that management of fish and wildlife.

4 So, yeah, that's it in a nutshell for the water
5 control manual. It's a -- it is a long process. Feedback
6 is welcome. If any agencies wanted more information, if
7 you want to hear from -- I'm just the project manager. If
8 you want to hear from the folks, the engineers, the
9 engineers and the water managers themselves or the lake
10 manager, Tom Zikmund, we can -- we can arrange a time to do
11 that. Yeah. And I think they were interested. Tom wasn't
12 able to make it today. I think he's interested in coming
13 along to next year's meeting as well. And our water
14 management folks will be able to make it along as well.
15 So, to give you an update on how those lake levels have
16 been managed through the year.

17 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: So, just a follow-up question.
18 The lake-level management, the -- remind me. The authority
19 focus on the wildlife, fish and wildlife. The lake-level
20 management, that -- that is tied to that authority. Is
21 that true? Is it only tied to the fish and wildlife, or is
22 -- it can be for any project purpose?

23 MR. MITCHELL: My own -- it's my underst- --
24 yeah, just fish and wildlife. Yeah. So, it's -- all it
25 does is it gives some flexibility during certain pool times

1 or lake conditions for management of lake levels for fish
2 and wildlife. So, it's something which is more common in
3 Kansas reservoirs. The Harlan County Lake does not have
4 one of those at the moment. So we're looking to see
5 whether or not it's something which is appropriate or could
6 be done at Harlan County Lake. So --

7 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Is there any evaluation of
8 forecasting for reservoir operations as part of the manual
9 review?

10 MR. MITCHELL: Sorry? The --

11 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Is there any evaluation of
12 forecasting for reservoir operations as part of this manual
13 review?

14 MR. MITCHELL: Well, yeah, it would be for the
15 flood. For the flood pools. Yeah, for the flood pools.

16 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Okay.

17 MR. MITCHELL: Yeah. So we'd be looking at --
18 because that water control manual, it basically outlines
19 how our folks manage that flood pool -- flood pool
20 releases. So, and -- yeah. And that -- that could be --
21 it could very well be different to what it has been in the
22 previous manual. That previous manual is quite dated.

23 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Right. Correct.

24 MR. MITCHELL: It's quite old, so conditions have
25 changed pretty significantly.

1 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Okay. Okay.

2 MR. MITCHELL: Yeah, so there's that. And I
3 really am apologetic that I can't get this presentation.
4 Sometimes you learn things the hard way, and I've learned
5 the hard way this morning. We've just changed to a
6 different system where everything is now on the cloud.
7 When you save it on your desktop --

8 MULTIPLE VOICES: Yeah, yep.

9 MR. MITCHELL: Yep, you guys know about it? Yes.
10 Okay. So, it's just bitten me. It's, like, the Internet's
11 not fast enough to download my presentation. I thought I'd
12 done the right thing, putting it on my desktop.

13 Okay. And I do have for you, though -- after the
14 meeting, I have got a paper copy of the presentation. So,
15 if you'd like to see some photos, I've got some really nice
16 drone photography of the project site. So you can have a
17 look at that. And then, I'm not sure whether or not you
18 can pass around the minutes --

19 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: What we might do, if it's okay,
20 we can get that afterwards. And, if you can provide us an
21 electronic copy of that after the fact, we will make sure
22 and load it onto the compact website so everybody can look
23 at it while you're looking at the Engineering Committee
24 report.

25 MR. MITCHELL: Yeah.

1 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: So are there any other questions
2 for the Corps? Mr. Manning?

3 COMMISSIONER MANNING: No, I'd just make a
4 comment. Not knowing a lot about it at this time, but I'm
5 sure Nebraska and probably the other states would be very
6 interested in how this might affect the accounting and
7 things related to the compact.

8 MR. MITCHELL: Yeah, yeah. I would say the --
9 it's probably minimal, and that's -- that's the advice that
10 we've been given, is that to have minimal impact on compact
11 operations. And I, you know, it's probably minimal, but we
12 definitely -- we can give you updates on -- on that for
13 sure.

14 COMMISSIONER MANNING: We'd appreciate -- I think
15 we'd appreciate it.

16 MR. MITCHELL: Yeah, yeah.

17 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Yeah. Kansas -- I -- for --
18 just speaking for Kansas, I -- I would agree with that.
19 And I do think that, if some of the -- some of the
20 discussions we've had in the past and some of the actions
21 we've taken would hope to see some additional flexibility
22 in operations, including the 2016 resolution regarding
23 Nebraska's compliance tied to Harlan County. There might
24 be some opportunity for some benefit to the compact based
25 on some modified operations. And so, I think we would want

1 to engage in that discussion as quickly and as -- as -- as
2 much as we can. So --

3 COMMISSIONER ULLMANN: I -- I'd agree with my
4 counterparts from Kansas and Nebraska. So, that it's
5 important to the compact. So --

6 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: All right. Very good.

7 MR. MITCHELL: Sounds good.

8 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Okay. Any other questions?

9 (No response.)

10 All right, thank you.

11 And, as he's leaving, just as a follow-up
12 question for my fellow Commissioners is -- is whether we
13 want to memorialize that thought of engaging, by jointly or
14 under the compact banner, send a letter to the Corps kind
15 of laying out what some of those discussions have been or
16 some of the actions have been that might pertain to that
17 lake level management or the water control manual update
18 and seeking an opportunity to be engaged in that
19 discussion. So, I might offer that as a suggestion to send
20 them a letter to that effect if you are agreeable.

21 COMMISSIONER ULLMANN: Just in indicating that we
22 want to be involved in the development of that water --
23 revisions to the water control manual because of its impact
24 to compact operations?

25 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Yeah, yeah. And I think,

1 specifically, if we've got examples, I think, like the 2016
2 resolution, that talk about the operation of Harlan County
3 and how these two things might fit together. I guess,
4 that's what I -- this is not a well thought out, you know,
5 proposal at this point, or we'd have a letter. But
6 something along those lines, I guess, is the suggestion.

7 COMMISSIONER MANNING: I would -- I would concur
8 with that, that we would provide some kind of letter to the
9 Corps.

10 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: All right.

11 COMMISSIONER ULLMANN: I agree. And it sounds
12 like that process is 2027 for that water control manual.
13 Is that what you were --

14 MR. MITCHELL: 2020- -- Yeah. So, 2027 is when
15 the next public meeting will be. But, as I said, you can
16 -- you can submit comment at any point in time. And our
17 team is more than happy to engage with -- with this group,
18 with the Commission, at any point. So, yeah, we can
19 provide information. I think the longer we go in the
20 process, the more information we'll be able to provide.
21 But we're more than happy to at any point.

22 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: So what may be -- my -- my
23 preference would be to, you know, send us a letter as soon
24 as possible so that, if there's developments between now
25 and next year, that we can be involved in that. Just

1 thinking about this logistically, you know, we're not going
2 to do that today. We can't get a letter signed today.
3 We can either, you know, take action to authorize the
4 letter to be drafted. Then we either come back together or
5 just take action, and we'll deal with the broad editorial
6 license for the letter going forward. Whatever your
7 preference is here.

8 COMMISSIONER ULLMANN: Well, I'd probably prefer,
9 if we are going to send a letter, that we pass a
10 resolution. Maybe I'll make a motion that we pa- -- that
11 we draft a letter indicating what we've just discussed,
12 that we'd like to be involved in the development of the
13 water control manual. That letter would be drafted between
14 the Commissioners electronically.

15 I don't know, can we do that -- can we approve a
16 resolution allowing us to send a letter without another
17 formal action by the Commission?

18 MR. LAVENE: I would think so. Your agreement
19 would be the signature, assuming, for your approval of the
20 contents.

21 COMMISSIONER ULLMANN: So, to be signed by all
22 three Commissioners?

23 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Very good.

24 COMMISSIONER MANNING: I'd second that.

25 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: All right, we have a motion and

1 a second. Do we have any discussion?

2 (No response.)

3 All those in favor say aye.

4 MULTIPLE VOICES: Aye.

5 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Aye. Motion carried.

6 All right, thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER ULLMANN: Are you offering to take
8 the lead on drafting --

9 (Laughter.)

10 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: You made the motion.

11 (Laughter.)

12 Yeah, I -- I think -- so, yeah, we'll -- we'll
13 take the lead on drafting a letter and circulate it here in
14 the next month or two.

15 COMMISSIONER ULLMANN: Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Very good. All right. All
17 right.

18 COMMISSIONER ULLMANN: Should have put that in
19 motion, "To be drafted by" --

20 (Laughter.)

21 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: I might have voted against that
22 then.

23 All right. I think that's everything, except for
24 remarks from the public. Is there anybody in the audience
25 that would like to address the Commission?

1 Ron, would you come forward? Again, make sure
2 you state your name, where you're from for the record, and
3 then provide whatever comments you want.

4 MR. LENZ: My name is Rod Lenz with the
5 Republican River Water Conservation District. And I just
6 want to thank the administration for allowing us to have a
7 comment in this. We don't take it for granted.

8 Based on Chris's engineering report, you can only
9 guess how much work went into verifying all the acres in
10 the first 10,000-acre resolution. I want to thank our
11 staff and Tracy and Jason for all the work they did in the
12 background to prepare that solid work that we could present
13 to both Nebraska and Kansas. That wasn't a little
14 operation

15 And, looking forward, Jason referred to the
16 17,000 that we have on the books right now with signatures
17 and contracts. I will say that we have a lot of interest
18 going forward, but we're waiting for the farm bill. We're
19 waiting for the programs to be in place. We're working
20 with USDA and our federal representatives to push the farm
21 bill. We've made a trip back to D.C. for -- with that
22 express purpose. So we can only do what we can do in that
23 regard.

24 But we have a lot of people in line. We're very
25 optimistic about what we can do going forward for the final

1 8,000 acres. We also have the funding in place, the
2 projected funding. We've worked the state of Colorado.
3 Even with their budget deficit, we were grateful enough to
4 get into the water projects bill another \$6 million to help
5 fund it. So we're ready with the funding. We've got a
6 list of acres that are ready to sign up. So we just got to
7 get the programs solid, and I feel really, really good
8 about that.

9 And we're not only using those programs for the
10 South Fork Focus Zone. You understand, we can't go out and
11 regulate water or restrict water. That's not our purview.
12 But we can retire acres. And so, not only in the South
13 Fork Focus, on -- outside of that, at a much lower rate,
14 albeit, we're retiring acres there as well. So -- and
15 there is interest. So -- and with the authority we have,
16 we're doing what we can to limit our pumping.

17 Coming out here yesterday -- this is kind of
18 addressing the water-short issue. As Jason said, we've had
19 good rain in our neck of the woods, and you seem to say
20 jimony Christmas, how can we be in a water-short year. And
21 then, driving across 24, I could see where probably a month
22 ago we had some really nice crops; and, today, they're not
23 so nice because we had that 100 degree weather with no
24 help. So, as a farmer, my heart bleeds for those guys who
25 are out there trying to make a living without water.

1 So, I get the water-short aspect, but I'm
2 curious. I was really interested in this last little bit
3 with the water engineer as far as the mechanics of how you
4 manage reservoir amounts. I'm -- I'm -- I'll be an anxious
5 observer to that whole process, because it obviously
6 impacts us as well. We want to make sure we stay in
7 compact compliance. We go from a non-water-short to water
8 short. It has ramifications that we need to be aware of,
9 and that is something we want to be fully abreast of.

10 And, finally, Bonny. We have obtained through
11 CWCB, Colorado Water Conservation Board, a \$310,000 grant
12 to do a study that will prepare us to best address -- best
13 address dewatering Bonny based on whatever BOR does. We
14 want to work -- we have worked, I hope we continue to work,
15 in conjunction with BOR as they proceed in their process,
16 that we can work with them however is the best way to
17 dewater. So we've done LIDAR. We're now making
18 projections as to, you know, probably silt's not practical.
19 We don't know. But can we tile it? What can we do to
20 actually get that water through Bonny instead of just
21 soaking it up there?

22 So, I just, once again, I want to thank you for
23 the opportunity to take some of your time in public
24 comment. Thank you so much.

25 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Thanks Ron. And thank you and

1 the district for the work you've done.

2 So, (indiscernible) our questions for Ron,
3 so --

4 COMMISSIONER ULLMANN: I -- I'll just say,
5 I -- I meant to mention the \$6 million that the Republican
6 District had applied for with the Colorado Water
7 Conservation Board. As most of you probably -- as those of
8 you that have been involved know, that the State had
9 dedicated \$30 million out of the ARPA funds to encourage
10 some of the dry-up that was, you know, required under the
11 resolution. And this just continues that, because there
12 was, I think, maybe a little lull in interest given the
13 funding change in terms of the amounts that were available
14 for acre -- per acre. So, the Republican District
15 recognized that and obtained some additional funding to
16 keep that going. So --

17 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: All right, thanks.

18 Thane, did you want to come --

19 MR. LARSON: Yeah. I just want- --

20 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Can you come up to -- come up
21 here?

22 MR. LARSON: Sure.

23 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: So we get you on the -- get your
24 comments captured. And, again, if you'd say your name and
25 where you're from for the record?

1 MR. LARSON: Sure. My name's Thane Larson. I
2 own a farm in north central Kansas, I'm a water user, and
3 -- along with some other associated businesses. Thank you,
4 Chief Engineer Lewis, and the group here. Thanks for
5 advertising this and having it in Concordia. This is my
6 first compact meeting I've been to.

7 But I will tell you, 20 years ago, I testified as
8 a farmer in the lawsuit to form Kansas's opinion and the
9 economic loss we were exhibiting from the compliance
10 issues. So, I'm aware of water and watch it daily. And,
11 in fact, we have the Stockton Field number on speed dial in
12 our operation. So we take water seriously.

13 My concern, and I know water's a complex issue,
14 but I'm concerned about a new diversion point on the
15 Republican River with Nebraska at Superior. I understand.
16 I can sympathize with all that, but I know we dance on the
17 edge of MDS regulation in north central Kansas, and we play
18 within those rules. I have the -- I don't think this is
19 going to be a negligible impact at the state line and what
20 it's going to mean to us water users. I have junior
21 surface rights. I have senior surface rights. I have
22 junior and senior alluvial rights along with Bostwick
23 water. So we kind of understand the complexity and what one
24 means to the other in all phases. But the surface -- the
25 surface regulation is just very, very strict in Kansas and

1 very, very expensive to violate it. And so, I just ask
2 that we'd monitor that.

3 Like I said, I know it's going to move forward,
4 but, you know, anytime there's an additional draw in the
5 Republican River, especially this close to the state line,
6 it's going to have an economic impact on us. And I -- I'd
7 press this group to be a monitor to that and see how it
8 goes and how it affects the water users in Kansas.

9 That's just my statement. Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: No, I appreciate that.

11 Any questions for Mr. Larson?

12 (No response.)

13 All right. Thank you.

14 MR. LARSON: You bet. Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Brad.

16 MR. EDGERTON: Thank you. My name is Brad
17 Edgerton, E-d-g-e-r-t-o-n. I'm the general manager for
18 Frenchman-Cambridge Irrigation District, and I would like
19 to thank Colorado for their compliance efforts. I know we
20 see water from their project end up in Swanson Reservoir,
21 which we serve acres out of there. Our district currently
22 serves 45,669 acres. We are short water. We have been for
23 a few decades. We have invested millions of dollars in
24 canal automation, not to increase our supply, but to more
25 efficiently use our supply. So with our automation, we can

1 eliminate the spill at the end of the canal to less than 1
2 percent. So, it's pretty significant.

3 But even though we had good rains last year, we
4 were unable to operate Red Willow Canal, 4,700 acres under
5 that system. Our current allocation out of Meeker
6 Driftwood, out of Swanson Reservoir, we've allocated seven
7 inches per acre from that reservoir and six inches to the
8 Bartley Canal last year. And, this year, the Bartley's
9 kind of divided up into two segments. There's 6,500 total
10 acres. We have a pump station that will supplement Bartley
11 Canal, and almost half the acres are under the pump
12 station. The acres above are diverted directly out of the
13 river. This year, we couldn't allocate anything to the
14 acres above the pump station; but we did tell them, as long
15 as we have water in the river, we'll divert our natural
16 flow and make that water available. The river went dry,
17 like, late July. So the producers planted, like, a
18 modified dry-land population and tried to irrigate it and
19 you know, get some water in the ground while the water was
20 actually in the canal. The downside to that is it's
21 limited irrigation, but they -- they have to pay us \$57 an
22 acre foot for what they divert, and then they also have to
23 pay \$10 an acre to the natural resource district. So it's
24 pretty expensive water for them to use.

25 But, going forward, you know, right now with

1 Nebraska's compact compliance, we don't know what that's
2 going to look like and how that's going to affect us. So,
3 you know, the sooner we can tell producers, you know, what
4 to expect next year, the better they can plan. They're
5 already calling and asking questions on, you know, will
6 there be a water supply, how much and, you know, should
7 they plant wheat, or should they be prepared to plant
8 irrigated corn? So, you know, the quicker we know what our
9 fate is going forward, the better for our producers.

10 So, with that, I'd be entertaining any questions
11 if you have any. Appreciate the opportunity to give you a
12 little update on the Frenchman-Cambridge District.

13 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Thank you.

14 Any questions or comments for Mr. Edgerton?

15 (No response.)

16 Seeing none, thank you.

17 Your comments? Any other comments? Mr. Brzon?

18 MR. BRZON: Mike Brzon, Republic County resident
19 and --

20 THE COURT REPORTER: How do you spell your last
21 name, sir?

22 MR. BRZON: B-r-z-o-n.

23 THE COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

24 MR. BRZON: Ag producer and concerned water user.
25 With the comments about Bonny Reservoir,

1 dewatering Bonny, there's only one reason Bonny was built,
2 and that was one rain basically. And I think we need to be
3 well aware of the basin, as a whole, on dam safety. We've
4 seen over the history of the Republican River how one rain
5 following the Basin east to west can devastate the whole
6 basin. And I think we've seen, in the past, where our
7 reservoirs have been at historically low levels; and
8 thinking that they'll never fill again; and, within just a
9 matter of months, they're ready to open the floodgates.
10 We've seen that at Cheney Reservoir this year where they
11 were at record low levels and, within just a matter of
12 months, they were full again. So, that's the main comment
13 I have, is just to make sure we have the resources to
14 maintain the safety of our dams.

15 And just one question on the gentleman on Bonny
16 Reservoir. What is the status of the maintenance of the
17 reservoir there at all?

18 MR. SCOTT: That would be BOR.

19 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Go ahead. Yep, go ahead.

20 MR. SCOTT: We're doing the day-to-day
21 maintenance. It's still occurring there, just like it
22 normally would if it was completely full. Unfortunately,
23 with a dry dam, that will -- there is concerns with
24 cracking, settlement, things like that, that occurred over
25 the last decade.

1 MR. BRZON: Well, the way I understand it from
2 residents out there in that area, that they're just waiting
3 for one major rain to take that reservoir out from all the
4 deterioration of the reservoir.

5 MR. SCOTT: I don't think the risk is that high.
6 I wouldn't quantify it in that manner. But, yeah, there is
7 some -- we have some concerns, but -- and we're still
8 continuing to study that and see what those concerns are.

9 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Thank you.

10 THE COURT REPORTER: Sir, could I have your name?

11 MR. SCOTT: Craig Scott with the Bureau of
12 Reclamation.

13 THE COURT REPORTER: Okay, thank you.

14 MR. BRZON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Questions for Mr. Brzon?

16 (No response.)

17 All right. Thank you.

18 MR. BRZON: Thank you. Uh-huh.

19 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Does anybody else want to
20 address the administration today?

21 (No response.)

22 All right. Seeing none, thank you for the
23 comments today. So, future meeting arrangements. So,
24 again, as part of your initiation, you have your first --
25 first meeting, and then you get to host the next two years.

1 So we'll be looking forward to hearing about the
2 arrangements for next year from Nebraska.

3 MS. BURGERT: And the Commissioners do all the
4 work for that, right?

5 (Laughter.)

6 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: The Nebraska Commissioner does
7 all the work.

8 MS. BURGERT: Yeah.

9 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: So, I don't think there's
10 probably anything to announce at this point.

11 COMMISSIONER MANNING: No, I don't, not at this
12 point. But we'll look forward to it.

13 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: Yep. I know that there -- we
14 don't have any other needs for a special meeting of the
15 administration.

16 To Mr. Brzon and Mr. Larson's comments, I -- I do
17 know that Kansas and Nebraska will need to get together in
18 September, as required by the resolution, to determine
19 whatever actions need to be taken in advance of the end of
20 the year or before the next irrigation season in response
21 to the water-short year. So there'll be more information
22 on that next month, of what the -- the determination there
23 is.

24 Any other comments or questions here from the
25 administration?

1 COMMISSIONER MANNING: None here.

2 COMMISSIONER ULLMANN: None here.

3 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: I'd entertain a motion to
4 adjourn.

5 COMMISSIONER ULLMANN: So moved.

6 COMMISSIONER MANNING: Second.

7 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: All in favor say aye.

8 MULTIPLE VOICES: Aye.

9 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: We are adjourned. Thank you,
10 everyone.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

GENERAL REPORTING SERVICE, contract transcription agency for the Republican River Compact Administration, does hereby certify that this Transcript of Proceedings was prepared from the record of the proceedings made by General Reporting Service on August 28, 2025; that, to the best of my ability, the preceding pages constitute a true and accurate verbatim transcription of this proceeding in a format consistent with the requirements of the Republican River Compact Administration and Nebraska Supreme Court rules; that said Transcript of Proceedings consists of:

VOLUME I -- Pages 1 to 76, incl.;

and that the cost of said Transcript of Proceedings, including postage, if any, is \$_____.

Dated this 1st day of November 2025.

By: _____
Certified Reporter and Transcriber

- - -

RRCA Annual Meeting
Exhibit B: Attendance

EXHIBIT B - Attendance

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE REPUBLICAN RIVER COMPACT ADMINISTRATION

August 28, 2025

Concordia, Kansas

Record of Attendance

(in alphabetical order)

Name	Representing
Peter Ampe	Colorado Republican River Water Conservation District
Chris Beightel	Kansas Division of Water Resources
Alex Boyce	Nebraska Middle Republican Natural Resources District
Jesse Bradley	Director, Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment
Mike Brzon	Republic County, Kansas, Farmer-Producer
Kari Burgert	Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment
Sam Capps	Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment
Deb Daniel	Colorado Republican River Water Conservation District
Tim Driggs	Solomon-Republican Kansas Regional Advisory Committee
Brad Edgerton	Nebraska Frenchman-Cambridge Irrigation District
David Engelhaupt	Kansas Division of Water Resources
Chelsea Erickson	Kansas Division of Water Resources
Ivan Franco	Colorado Division of Water Resources
Jared "Pete" Gile	Kansas Bostwick Irrigation District
Derek Haines	Kansas Water Office
Amanda Johnson	Solomon-Republican Kansas Regional Advisory Committee
Tracy Kosloff	Colorado Deputy State Engineer
Sherry Koster	Jewell County, Kansas, Conservation District
Stephanie Kramer	Kansas Division of Water Resources Chief Counsel
Amelia Lane	Kansas Water Office
Thane Larson	Vand Water, North-Central Kansas Farmer-Producer
Justin Lavene	Nebraska Attorney General's Office
Rod Lenz	Colorado Republican River Water Conservation District
Earl Lewis	Kansas RRCA Commissioner & Chair
Matt Manning	Nebraska RRCA Commissioner
John Miller	U.S. Geologic Survey, Nebraska Water Science Center
Leigh Mitchell	U.S. Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District
Linda Rohman	Court Reporter
Craig Scott	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Aaron M. Thompson	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Jason Ullmann	Colorado RRCA Commissioner

Republican River Compact Administration
August 28, 2025 Concordia, Kansas

	Name - please print	Representing
1	CHRIS BELCHTEL	KS KDA-DWR
2	DAVID ENGELHART	KS KDA DWR
3	Stephanie Kramer	KS KDA-DWR
4	Brad Edgerton	Frenchman Cambridge Tr. Dist
5	Ivan Franco	Colorado Division of water Resources
6	Kari Burger	Nebraska
7 129	Tim Driggs	RAC Solomon-Republican
8	Amanda Johnson	Solomon/Republican RAC
9	Gail Sott	USBR
10	Kayla Larison	Vandewater, North-Central KS Farmer
11	Sam Capps	NF
12	Alex Boye	MR NRCD
13	Peter Arpe	RNRCD
14	Deb Daniel	RRWCD
15	John Miller	USGS

Republican River Compact Administration
August 28, 2025 Concordia, Kansas

	Name - please print	Representing
30	Chelsea Erickson	KS DWR-Stockton Field Office
31	Aaren Thompson	US BOR
32	Sherry Costner	Jewell Co Cons. District
33	Rod Lenz	RRWCID
34	Jared "Pete" Gile	KBID
35	Amelia Lane	KW0
36	Derek Haines	KW0
37	Jesse Bradley	DWEE
38	Earl Lewis	Kansas Commissioner
39	Jason Ullmann	Colorado Commissioner
40	Matt Manning	Nebraska Commissioner
41	Tracy Kosloff	CO DWR
42	Justin Lavene	NE Attorney General's Office
43	Linda Rohman	Court Reporter
44	Leigh Mitchell	Corps of Engineers - Kansas City District

*Note - There is no page with 16-29 numbers (skipped).

Republican River Compact Administration
August 28, 2025 Concordia, Kansas

	Name – please print	Representing
45	Mike Brown	Republic County Ag Producer
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RRCA Annual Meeting
Exhibit C: Agenda

AGENDA FOR
**2025 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
REPUBLICAN RIVER COMPACT ADMINISTRATION**

August 28, 2025

9:30 a.m. Central Time

Cloud County Co-Op, 1401 E. 6th Street, Concordia, KS

1. Introductions
2. Adoption of the Agenda
 - a. Action on RRCA Rules And Regulations update
3. Status of annual report for the year 2023 and possible action by the RRCA
4. Commissioners' Reports
 - a. Nebraska
 - b. Colorado
 - c. Kansas
5. Federal Reports
 - a. U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
 - b. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 - c. U.S. Geological Survey
6. Committee Reports
 - a. Engineering Committee
 - i. Assignments from 2024 Annual Meeting
 - ii. Committee recommendations to the RRCA
 - iii. Recommended assignments for Engineering Committee
 - iv. Discussion of Engineering Committee Report and assignments
 - v. Action on 2024 Accounting
7. Old Business
8. New Business and Assignments to Compact Committees
 - a. Action on Engineering Committee Report and assignments
 - b. Action on Resolution honoring Tom Riley
9. Remarks from the Public
10. Future Meeting Arrangements
11. Adjournment

RRCA Annual Meeting

Exhibit D: Rules and Regulations - Revised August 28, 2025

Rules and Regulations
Republican River Compact Administration
Revised August 28, 2025

1. Pursuant to Article IX of the Republican River Compact (“Compact”), the States of Colorado, Nebraska and Kansas have the duty to administer the Compact through the officials in such States who are now or may hereafter be charged with the duty of administering the public water supplies in each of such States. Such officials shall be the members of an administrative body hereby designated as the Republican River Compact Administration (“RRCA”). The purpose of the RRCA shall be to administer the Compact. Such administration shall include but not be limited to the responsibilities as are assigned to it in the Final Settlement Stipulation dated December 15, 2002, approved by the States of Colorado, Nebraska and Kansas and filed in the case of *Kansas v. Nebraska and Colorado*, No. 126, Original, in the Supreme Court of the United States (“Final Settlement Stipulation”).
2. As of the effective date of these Rules and Regulations, the officials who are charged with the duty of administering the public water supplies in each of the three States, and who therefore constitute the Members¹ are the individuals who hold the following offices: the State Engineer of the Division of Water Resources of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources; the Chief Water Officer of the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment for the State of Nebraska; and, the Chief Engineer of the Division of Water Resources of the Kansas Department of Agriculture.
3. Each RRCA Member’s term shall run concurrent with his or her term of office as the official charged with administering the public water supplies in his or her State.

¹ Reference in the RRCA records to “Commissioner(s)” refers to the Members as described in these Rules and Regulations.

4. Each State official shall be recognized as a Member of the RRCA upon furnishing to the other Members satisfactory evidence that he or she is the official in his or her State charged with the duty of administering the public water supplies in such State.
5. Any Member of the RRCA may appoint an alternate person to serve in his or her place. In the event any Member is unable to perform his or her official duties, the appointing authority of the State represented by that Member may appoint the Member's alternate to serve in his or her place. Any such alternate shall be recognized as that State's representative to the RRCA upon presentation to the Members from the other States of a written appointment letter signed by the absent Member, or, as applicable, by the appointing authority of the State involved. An appointment of an alternate shall be valid only for the period of the appointment.
6. The Chair of the RRCA shall be a Member of the RRCA. Each Chair shall serve a term encompassing two annual meetings. The Chair's term shall begin upon the conclusion of the last meeting chaired by the previous Chair and shall expire at the conclusion of the second annual meeting at which he or she serves as Chair. Unless otherwise agreed by all Members, the rotation of the Chair shall be by State in the following order beginning at the conclusion of the annual meeting in 2003: Colorado; Kansas; and Nebraska.
7. The Chair, or his or her alternate, shall preside at all meetings of the RRCA. The Chair may initiate or second motions and vote on all matters coming before the RRCA. The Chair shall issue notice of all meetings to all members as to the time, place, and agenda of the meeting at least 15 days in advance of any regular meeting, unless otherwise agreed by the Members, and as soon as possible prior to any special meeting. Any issue to be raised for dispute resolution at a regular meeting pursuant to paragraph 15 of these Rules and Regulations shall be distributed to the members at least 30 days in advance of the regular meeting. The agenda shall include all items for which a Member makes a timely request for inclusion on the agenda. The Chair or other person designated by the RRCA shall also keep a record of the proceedings, including official meeting minutes, of all meetings and of all transactions of the RRCA during his or her

term of office. The record of proceedings shall include: minutes; Annual Report; reports required by the Final Settlement Stipulation; committee and subcommittee reports; the data, computations and results required in the Accounting Procedures; and such other matters as deemed appropriate by the RRCA. Meeting minutes will not be official until approved by the RRCA. Unless otherwise agreed to by all Members of the RRCA, the Chair shall be responsible for the preparation of an electronic recording of each meeting, unless any Member requests in advance a transcript of each meeting. The Chair will be responsible for providing a copy of the record of proceedings for that year. The RRCA, through the Chair, will maintain an official repository of records of the proceedings.

8. The RRCA hereby creates a standing Engineering Committee that shall be composed of one representative from each State appointed by the RRCA Member from that State. The RRCA may create other standing, ad hoc or special committees composed of members of the RRCA and/or other persons appointed by the Members. The RRCA may assign to such committees any tasks that it determines to be appropriate.
9. The RRCA shall hold a regular annual meeting prior to September 1st each year. However, the Chair may waive an annual meeting, or hold the meeting at a later date, upon unanimous written consent of the Members. The annual meeting shall be held at a location in the Chair's State at a time and place acceptable to the other members.
10. The RRCA shall hold a special meeting, other than a meeting to address a "fast track issue" as provided for in the Section VII of the Final Settlement Stipulation, upon written request of any Member and with the concurrence of the other two Members. The Chair of the RRCA shall poll all of the Members prior to setting the meeting date, time, and place of a specially scheduled meeting. All Members shall make a good faith effort to arrange a mutually agreeable date, time, and place for all meetings.
11. A quorum for a RRCA meeting shall be present only when all of the Members or their duly appointed alternates are in attendance. The RRCA may act only by unanimous vote of all

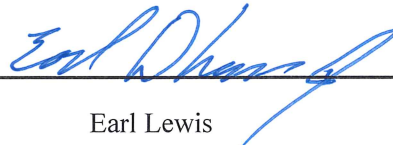
members or duly appointed alternates. Each State shall have one vote. The Chair shall document each action of the RRCA by formal written resolution or such action shall be recorded in the approved minutes. The RRCA shall honor a request by any Member or duly appointed alternate that action on any matter be by formal resolution.

12. The RRCA shall prepare and approve an annual report that includes the official actions taken by the RRCA at the annual meeting and at any special meetings, a summary of the compact accounting for the previous year and such other matters as the RRCA may deem appropriate. The Chair shall furnish copies of the report to the President of the United States, the Governors of the States of Colorado, Nebraska and Kansas, the officials of appropriate State and federal agencies and to any other person, as the RRCA determines appropriate.
13. The RRCA may make amendments, revisions, deletions, or additions to these Rules and Regulations at any meeting of the RRCA. Unless otherwise agreed to by the RRCA, written notice and a copy of any proposed change must be sent to all Members by the Member proposing the change at least 15 days in advance of any meeting at which the RRCA shall consider such changes. Any Member may offer modifications of any such proposed changes at any time prior to the RRCA acting on those proposed changes.
14. Compact accounting and data exchanges among the States shall be done annually in accordance with the Final Settlement Stipulation, including the RRCA Accounting Procedures and Reporting Requirements, dated August 21, 2020, and the Republican River Compact Administration Groundwater Model, Version 12s2 (V12s2), dated August 6, 2010. Unless otherwise agreed to by the RRCA Members, the annual accounting shall be completed by the Engineering Committee and submitted to the RRCA no later than June 1st of the year following for which the accounting is being done. The RRCA may modify the RRCA Accounting Procedures and the RRCA Groundwater model only by contemporaneously amending these Rules and Regulations to show the date, title or version, as appropriate, of the RRCA Accounting Procedures and/or the RRCA

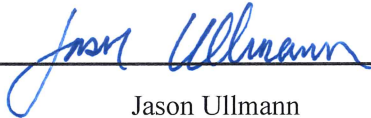
Groundwater model that the RRCA shall use. At the time of any modification, the RRCA shall specify the time and method for implementation of each modification.

15. Any dispute arising among the States shall be resolved in accordance with the procedures set forth in Article VII of the Final Settlement Stipulation.

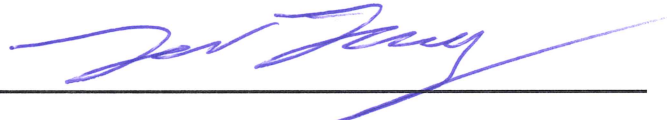
Adopted by the Republican River Compact Administration this 28th day of August, 2025.

A blue ink signature of Earl Lewis, written in a cursive style, positioned above a horizontal line.

Earl Lewis
Commissioner for Kansas

A blue ink signature of Jason Ullmann, written in a cursive style, positioned above a horizontal line.

Jason Ullmann
Commissioner for Colorado

A blue ink signature of Matthew Manning, written in a cursive style, positioned above a horizontal line.

Matthew Manning
Commissioner for Nebraska

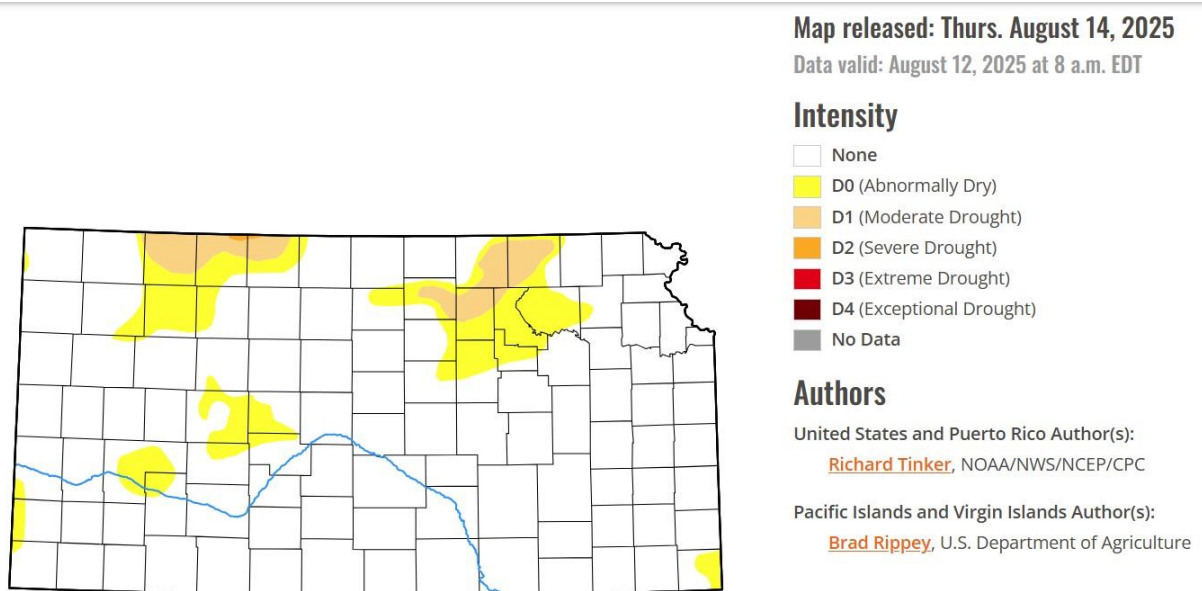
RRCA Annual Meeting

Exhibit E: KS Commissioner's Report

Kansas Report to Republican River Compact Meeting August 28, 2025

Drought

Drought coverage and intensity continued its decline throughout the Great Plains since the spring with additional heavy rainfall in early-August. Eastern Kansas has missed out on the heavy rainfall recently and abnormal dryness (D0) was added to that part of the state.



Update on Minimum Desirable Streamflow (MDS) Administration

KDA issued MDS administration orders to cease diversion by September 30, 2022, for the Lower Republican River. The MDS files must be junior to the MDS statute dated April 12, 1984.

The Division of Water Resources offers Consent Agreements to the groundwater junior files, so they can still pump 32% of their water right.

The MDS order is still in effect today for the stretch of river from the Nebraska state line all the way south to the Clay Center discharge gage. Included in this shutdown are a total of 108 groundwater alluvial water rights and a total of 133 surface water rights.

2025 Legislative Session

SB 58: The MYFA is a flexibility tool that allows irrigators to use more water to grow a crop in dry years, provided they conserve water during normal or wet years. This bill streamlined the multi-use flex account (MYFA) statute and simplified the calculation method based on authorized acres and the USDA-NRCS net irrigation requirement for corn. The updated statute went into effect July 1, 2025.

HB2172: This bill established the Water Program Task Force to evaluate the state's water program and funding for such program and requiring the task force to establish a water planning work group and submit a report to the legislature and the governor. On July 9 there was a ceremonial signing of the bill in Hays by Governor Laura Kelly.

SB125: Provides an additional \$6M annual investment to safeguard Kansas' water supply; a \$1.75M increase in matching funds for local conservation districts; and \$3M for a pilot project to manage sedimentation in John Redmond Reservoir.

HB2113: Increases annual funding from the state general fund for the State Water Plan by \$20M, which will bring the total to \$55M beginning July 1, 2025.

HB2111: Increased the CREP acreage cap to 60,000 acres, clarified eligibility and criteria, allowing exceptions for specific conditions and modifying reporting requirements to cover the last five years.

South Fork Republican River – Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

The RCPP started in 2023 and continues to this date. The Cheyenne County Conservation District had a steady flow of interest in the spring sign-up. Projects such as re-nozzeling packages, tree removal along the river and solar pump upgrades seem to be the most popular. The most recent summer sign-up ended July 11th. According to the CN Conservation District manager Dani Holzwarth, most of those applications were for redrilling livestock wells, upgrading windmill to solar and correcting failing or leaking water tanks. There is still a balance of \$1,184,351 in the account for the Colorado settlement money, per Amelia Lane at the Kansas Water Office.

Local Enhanced Management Areas

The two Local Enhanced Management Areas (LEMAs) in Northwest Kansas were renewed for 5 years in 2022 and will run January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2027. The GMD4 district is already holding hearings for the next LEMA period, where they are proposing a 15% district-wide cut.

Results from the two LEMAs (in NW Kansas) that have completed at least their first five-year period continue to show that producers continue to conserve more than originally targeted. In Sheridan County, users saved 24% versus pre-LEMA usage even during the recent drought period. In the next Sheridan 6 LEMA, the GMD wants to go to 50 inch allocation over 5 years versus the current 55 inches over 5 years.

Irrigation Technology Initiative in Northwest Kansas

The Groundwater Management District No.4, in collaboration with the Kansas Department of Agriculture's Division of Conservation and other GMDs, is participating in the Irrigation Technology Initiative. This initiative offers assessments to help irrigators better understand the efficiency of their water systems. According to GMD4 manager Shannon Kenyon, GMD staff have completed 16 of these assessments in 2025 with the goal of 50 per year. Once the assessment is complete, then the producer works with the district and Division of Conservation to receive up to \$3,000 in cost-share for efficiency updates to their irrigation system.

Aerial survey of Northwest Kansas

The goal of this survey was to create a 3-D image of the High Plains aquifer in NW Kansas using a low-flying helicopter that towed a frame holding equipment to measure electrical resistivity of materials below the land surface.

In 2024, Aqua Geo Frameworks flew 2,443 miles over portions of Cheyenne, Sherman, Wallace, Rawlins, Thomas, Decatur, and Sheridan counties. The Kansas Geologic Survey is still completing the analysis of those surveys, but according to GMD4 manager Shannon Kenyon, the surprising result is that the aquifer between the KS-CO line is not "smooth" but contains many bedrock peaks and valleys. After this discovery, the GMD declared a moratorium on all well redrills more than 300 feet from the original well.

Kansas Bostwick Irrigation District Update

Water Supply - KBID began the irrigation season with the first deliveries being made on June 12th and a 12.5" restriction in place. A couple significant precipitation events upstream of Lovewell really helped out this year and in late July the board approved an increase to a full supply of 15" to all irrigators. Harlan County remains in tough shape and could really use some significant inflows to bolster the supply there.

KBID Projects

- 5000' of pipeline was buried prior to the beginning of the 2025 irrigation season which finalized the conversion of the 48.8 open lateral to an entirely buried pipe system (only the lower 2000' of the lateral was piped prior to this project)
- KBID is awaiting announcement on a WaterSMART Grant that was applied for which would automate 8 check structures on the Ridge Canal and convert the final 2.1 miles of the Ridge Canal to pipe. If successful, KBID hopes to begin construction on this project soon after the first of the new year.
- As soon as the 2025 irrigation season is complete, and crops are out of nearby fields KBID will install 4500' of pipe on the tail end of the Pump #1 North Canal.
- If time and finances permit, there's also plans to automate another 4 lateral canal headgates before the 2026 season

Almena Irrigation District update

Last year, it was reported that the Almena Irrigation District was approved for changes to how they manage water from Keith Sebelius Reservoir. The district abandoned the lower portion of their gravity-fed canal system and are now pumping directly from Prairie Dog Creek. The district water right allows use of stored water in the reservoir, but also to capture natural flow at the Almena diversion dam and creek pump sites downstream.

The upper portion of the district has been dramatically changed as water users have converted their farming practices to center pivot irrigation systems, drip tape or no-till farming within 85% of the district's gravity-fed water delivery system boundaries. Today, the district can only service the remaining 15% and that low use is not sustainable for the district due to cost and extensive maintenance needs of the canal system. They are attempting to finalize retiring the upper portion of the district canal system, but there are local objectors. Once all the objectors are satisfied, the district will need to do another change with the Division of Water Resources to establish the additional pump sites.

RRCA Annual Meeting

Exhibit F: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Report

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Nebraska-Kansas Area Office

Report

To The

Republican River

Compact Administration

Concordia, Kansas



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Missouri Basin Region
Nebraska-Kansas Area Office

August 28, 2025

REPUBLICAN RIVER COMPACT MEETING

August 28, 2025
Concordia, Kansas

2024 Operations

As shown on the attached Table 1, precipitation in the Republican River Basin varied from 77 percent of normal at Lovewell Dam to 120 percent of normal at Red Willow Dam. Total precipitation at Reclamation project dams ranged from 19.70 inches at Enders Dam to 28.61 inches at Norton Dam.

Inflows varied from 38 percent of the most probable forecast at Bonny Reservoir to 99 percent of the most probable forecast at Lovewell Reservoir. Inflows into Bonny Reservoir totaled 1,692 AF while inflows at Harlan County Lake totaled 104,720 AF.

Average farm delivery values for total irrigable acres were as follows:

<u>District</u>	<u>Farm Delivery</u>
Frenchman Valley	0.0 inches
Frenchman-Cambridge	5.3 inches
Almena	2.2 inches
Bostwick in NE	6.5 inches
Kansas-Bostwick	11.5 inches

2024 Operation Notes

Bonny Reservoir – Remained empty at elevation 3638.00 feet, 34.0 feet below the top of conservation. The annual computed inflow totaled 1,692 AF. Reservoir inflows were bypassed the entire year as ordered by the State of Colorado. No water was bypassed into Hale Ditch in 2024.

Enders Reservoir – The reservoir level began the year at a level of 3,080.75 feet (31.5 feet below the top of conservation). This was the second lowest start of the year elevation recorded since initial filling and is 0.75 feet above the outlet works intake (Deadpool). The reservoir level increased gradually during the spring to a peak elevation of 3,082.21 feet on May 24th. Due to the extremely low water supply available, no water was released from Enders Reservoir during the irrigation season. The end of the year reservoir level was 3,080.64 feet (31.7 feet below the top of conservation). The Frenchman Valley Irrigation District did not divert natural flow from Frenchman Creek in 2024.

Swanson Lake – The lake level began the year at elevation 2,738.64 feet (13.4 feet below the top of conservation) and gradually increased throughout the late winter and spring to a yearly peak elevation of 2742.90 on June 8th. The irrigation releases decreased the reservoir level to an elevation of 2737.59 on September 3rd. The end of year elevation was 2,737.24 feet (14.8 feet below the top of conservation). The district diverted 14,686 AF into Meeker-Driftwood Canal.

Hugh Butler Lake – The reservoir level at the first of the year was 2,566.63 feet (15.2 feet below the top of conservation). Irrigation releases started June 23rd. The irrigation releases decreased the reservoir level to elevation of 2562.87 on August 29th. The end of year elevation was 2,563.79 feet (18.0 feet below the top of conservation). The district diverted 4,251 AF into Red Willow Canal and 7,099 AF into Bartley Canal.

Harry Strunk Lake – The reservoir level at the beginning of the year was 2,361.96 feet (4.1 feet below the top of conservation). The reservoir filled on March 22nd and a minimum gate release was initiated to keep water from going over the uncontrolled spillway. On April 15th the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources issued an administration notice for all Reclamations reservoirs upstream of Harlan County. Frenchman-Cambridge Irrigation District elected to release the combined inflows of Reclamation reservoirs from Harry Strunk exclusively. Approximately 3,440 AF was released before the notice was lifted on April 26th. The reservoir level peaked at elevation 2,366.71 feet (0.61 feet above conservation) on June 5th. Irrigation releases drew the lake down to elevation 2358.10 feet on September 6th. The district diverted 23,195 AF into Cambridge Canal and delivered 10,812 AF to 13,750 acres of district lands (a delivery efficiency of 47 percent). The end of year elevation was 2,362.98 feet (3.1 feet below the top of conservation).

Keith Sebelius Lake – The reservoir elevation was 2,294.55 feet (9.8 feet below the top of conservation) at the first of the year. Late winter, spring and summer inflows gradually increased the lake level to a summer peak of 2,296.00 feet on June 5th. Irrigation releases began July 15th and finished for the season on August 8th. Approximately 2,489 AF was released from Norton Dam for irrigation of which 1,753 AF was diverted into the Almena Canal with an additional 590 AF diverted from Prairie Dog Creek below the diversion dam. Inflows in November and December exceeded evaporation, gradually increasing the elevation to the end of year elevation of 2,292.61 feet (11.7 feet below top of conservation).

Harlan County Lake – Harlan County Lake began the year at 1,937.98 feet (7.8 feet below the top of conservation). The conservation pool did not fill in 2024 but did peak at 1943.07 feet (2.7 feet below top of conservation) on June 20th. The conservation pool was split June 13th as irrigation releases began. The projected irrigation supply at the end of June was 119,000 AF. It was determined that Water Short Year Administration would not be in effect in 2024. Bostwick in Nebraska Irrigation District diverted 32,828 AF in 2024. Kansas-Bostwick Irrigation District diverted 62,869 AF in 2024. A ten-year summary of Harlan County Lake operations is shown on Table 3. The end of year elevation was 1,937.59 feet (8.1 feet below the top of conservation).

Lovewell Reservoir – The reservoir elevation at the beginning of 2024 was 1,580.13 feet (2.5 foot below top of conservation). Rains in early June raised the lake elevation to a yearly peak

of 1584.83 (2.2 feet above top of conservation). All flood water accumulations were utilized for irrigation. Irrigation releases for canal seasoning/flushing began May 30th with releases in earnest starting mid-June and continuing until September 16th. Irrigation releases lowered the lake to an annual low of 1573.27 (9.3 feet below conservation) on August 30th. Republican River flow was diverted via the Courtland Canal into Lovewell Reservoir after the irrigation season. The pool level at the end of the year was 1,578.87 feet (3.7 foot below top of conservation)

Current Operations (As of 7/31/25)

Bonny Reservoir – The reservoir is currently empty. No water has been released into Hale Ditch in 2024. Bonny Dam has recorded 10.06 inches of precipitation during the first seven months of the year (85% of average).

Enders Reservoir - The reservoir level is currently 30.9 feet below full and 0.26 feet above last year at this time. Enders Dam recorded 13.72 inches of precipitation during the first seven months of the year (104% of normal). This is also the twenty-second consecutive year that Frenchman Valley Irrigation District has not received storage water for irrigation.

Swanson Lake – The lake level is currently 14.7 feet from full and is 2.4 feet below last year at this time. Precipitation for the year is at 90% of normal (12.22 inches). Irrigation releases began on June 15th.

Hugh Butler Lake – The lake level is currently 16.4 feet below full and is 0.1 feet above last year at this time. Due to low lake levels, irrigation releases will not be made in 2025. The precipitation total so far this year is 12.38 inches (95% of normal).

Harry Strunk Lake – The lake level is currently 4.7 feet below the top of conservation. Precipitation at the dam during the first seven months of the year was 10.15 inches (72% of normal). Irrigation releases began on April 21st. The lake level is currently 1.0 feet below last year at this time.

Keith Sebelius Lake – The lake is currently 13.0 feet below full. Lake level is 2.5 feet below last year at this time. Precipitation at the dam during the first seven months of the year was 11.64 inches (73% of normal).

Harlan County Lake – The lake level is approximately 8.9 feet below full. The lake level is 3.9 feet below last year at this time. Harlan County Dam has recorded 13.28 inches of precipitation so far this year (88% of normal). Irrigation releases started on June 9th. The available irrigation supply from Harlan County Lake on June 30th was 101,200 AF.

Lovewell Reservoir – The reservoir level is currently 2.4 feet above the top of conservation and approximately 5.2 feet above last year's elevation at this time. Lovewell Dam recorded 20.66 inches of precipitation during the first seven months of the year (118% of average). Canal releases began on May 28th. Heavy rains in the White Rock Creek drainage above Lovewell on June 29th and 30th caused the lake to sharply raise 3.5 feet in 2 days. The

reservoir peaked at elevation 1587.02 (4.4 feet in the flood pool). Flood releases began July 2nd and continued until July 14th. Lovewell dam recorded another 6.22” of rain the following week and the reservoir came up another 1.8 feet to elevation 1586.14 (3.5 feet in the flood pool). Flood releases started again on July 22nd and continued until August 5th when irrigation demand was sufficient to draw the lake back to conservation level.

A summary of data for the first seven months of 2025 is shown on Table 2.

TABLE 1
NEBRASKA-KANSAS PROJECTS
Summary of Precipitation, Reservoir Storage and Inflows
CALENDAR YEAR 2024

Reservoir	Total Precip. Inches	Percent Of Average %	Storage 12-31-23 AF	Storage 12-31-24 AF	Gain or Loss AF	Maximum Content AF	Storage Date	Minimum Content AF	Storage Date	Total Inflow AF	Percent Of Most Probable %
Box Butte	12.30	71	12,786	10,409	-2,377	20,905	6/3	7,169	9/5	13,565	85
Merritt	16.09	75	61,451	61,262	-189	66,668	6/21	33,853	9/13	195,582	101
Calamus	21.05	83	100,936	99,084	-1,852	121,766	5/21	55,396	10/16	281,347	103
Davis Creek	29.31	112	13,661	13,765	104	31,616	7/9	12,570	4/15	55,942	115
Bonny	20.84	118	0	0	0	0	#N/A	0	#N/A	1,692	38
Enders	19.70	102	7,948	7,884	-64	8,891	5/24	7,437	10/17	3,664	75
Swanson	20.32	100	55,612	51,020	-4,592	70,882	6/8	49,110	11/6	25,249	95
Hugh Butler	23.97	120	16,306	13,607	-2,699	18,898	6/5	12,779	10/18	7,845	78
Harry Strunk	25.44	120	27,835	29,362	1,527	35,783	6/5	22,581	9/6	32,505	80
Keith Sebelius	28.61	114	17,260	14,685	-2,575	19,361	6/5	14,360	11/2	5,616	85
Harlan County	24.87	106	219,693	215,465	-4,228	279,882	6/20	209,285	11/1	104,720	95
Lovewell	21.54	77	27,797	24,409	-3,388	42,704	6/7	14,123	8/30	48,571	99
Kirwin	26.79	112	58,237	44,817	-13,420	65,160	6/5	43,912	11/1	15,942	53
Webster	21.48	90	30,064	12,608	-17,456	34,340	5/30	12,290	11/1	9,086	47
Waconda	19.88	78	160,397	148,467	-11,930	166,562	3/14	144,790	10/30	57,181	40
Cedar Bluff	23.87	112	72,874	66,233	-6,641	73,437	2/8	65,247	11/2	8,062	71

TABLE 2
NEBRASKA-KANSAS AREA OFFICE
Summary of Precipitation, Reservoir Storage and Inflows

JANUARY - JULY 2025

Reservoir	Precip. Inches	Percent Of Average %	Storage 7/31/2024 AF	Storage 7/31/2025 AF	Gain or Loss AF	Inflow AF	Percent Of Most Probable %
Bonny	10.06	85	0	0	0	1,085	34
Enders	13.72	104	8,184	8,340	156	2,477	73
Swanson	12.22	90	59,221	51,085	(8,136)	21,324	100
Hugh Butler	12.38	95	15,029	15,144	115	5,159	78
Harry Strunk	10.15	72	28,526	27,071	(1,455)	20,527	76
Keith Sebelius	11.64	73	16,178	13,063	(3,115)	4,737	99
Harlan County	13.28	88	251,681	207,379	(44,302)	83,409	106
Lovewell	20.66	118	25,994	41,288	15,294	24,910	86

Inflow at Swanson Lake includes water from augmentation (pumping) projects.

**TABLE 3
HARLAN COUNTY LAKE**

Year	Inflow (AF)	Outflow (AF)	Gross Evap. (AF)	Precip. (Inches)	Precipitation		End of Year Content (AF)	Projected Irrig. Water Supply On June 30th (AF)
					Harlan County Dam* (% of Average)	Rep. Basin Dams (% of Average)		
2015	106,728	54,502	33,652	28.85	125%	115%	167,416	79,600
2016	126,679	63,972	35,920	27.82	120%	109%	194,203	103,500
2017	118,889	52,764	36,081	26.60	115%	104%	224,247	111,600
2018	120,146	53,451	35,914	29.61	128%	128%	255,028	106,600
2019	402,546	272,471	55,374	30.94	134%	132%	329,729	139,716
2020	125,674	130,068	45,704	17.38	75%	74%	279,631	143,392
2021	130,998	88,222	42,022	28.22	121%	91%	280,385	141,404
2022	64,506	70,579	48,842	17.02	73%	66%	225,470	130,000
2023	95,417	65,068	36,126	28.30	121%	102%	219,693	119,000
2024	104,720	64,971	43,977	24.87	106%	94%	215,465	119,000

NOTE: On June 30, 2025 Projected Irrigation Water Supply was 101,200 AF.

* Average Annual Precipitation at Harlan County Dam is 23.13 inches

RRCA Annual Meeting

Exhibit G: U.S. Geological Survey Report

Republican River Basin streamflow-gaging stations with records published by USGS for water year (WY) 2024

[DCP, data-collection platform; NDNR, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources; USACE, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; USBR, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation; USGS, U.S. Geological Survey]

Station number	Station name	Mean discharge (ft ³ /s)		WY 2024 as	WY 2024 as	WYs used	Remarks
		WY 2024	Long-term	percentage of long-term mean	rank/years (1 highest)	for long-term mean	

USGS Compact stations supported by the Groundwater Streamflow Information Program (GWSIP)

06821500	Arikaree River at Haigler, Nebr	2.0	14.6	13.5%	74/92	1933 - 2024	
06823000	North Fork Republican River at Colo-Nebr State Line	34.2	40.7	84.0%	67/89	1936 - 2024	
06823500	Buffalo Creek near Haigler, Nebr	1.9	5.5	33.5%	81/84	1937 - 2024	
06824000	Rock Creek at Parks, Nebr	4.7	11.6	40.8%	81/83	1938 - 2024	
06824500	Republican River at Benkelman, Nebr	40.8	75.7	53.9%	54/57	1939 - 2024	
06827500	South Fork Republican River near Benkelman, Nebr	0.0	30.7	0.0%	81/87	1940 - 2024	
06835500	Frenchman Creek at Culbertson, Nebr	27.6	60.8	45.4%	68/74	1941 - 2024	Since Enders Reservoir
06836500	Driftwood Creek near McCook, Nebr	2.6	7.7	33.6%	68/78	1942 - 2024	
06838000	Red Willow Creek near Red Willow, Nebr	4.9	12.3	39.8%	59/63	1943 - 2024	Since Hugh Butler Lake
06847000	Beaver Creek near Beaver City, Nebr	0.8	13.6	5.5%	70/87	1944 - 2024	
06847500	Sappa Creek near Stamford, Nebr (USACE funds DCP)	11.4	35.2	32.4%	45/78	1945 - 2024	
06852500	Courtland Canal at Nebr-Kans State Line (USBR DCP)	82.1	74.9	109.6%	29/70	1946 - 2024	
06853020	Republican River at Guide Rock, Nebr	46.1	245.6	18.8%	67/74	1947 - 2024	Based on record from this and upstream station 06853000

USGS stations supported by USGS and/or other Federal or State agencies

06828500	Republican River at Stratton, Nebr	34.3	85.7	40.0%	62/74	1951 - 2024	Funded by USACE and GWSIP
06837000	Republican River at McCook, Nebr	35.2	110.7	31.8%	62/70	1955 - 2024	Funded by USBR, NDNR, and GWSIP
06844500	Republican River near Orleans, Nebr	82.8	212.5	39.0%	68/77	1948 - 2024	Funded by USACE and GWSIP

NDNR stations with USGS/USACE support for DCP, Web display, review, and publishing

06834000	Frenchman Creek at Palisade, Nebr	14.7	54.0	27.2%	73/74	1951 - 2024	
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Online Annual Water Data Reports available at or through:

<http://wdr.water.usgs.gov>

<https://www.usgs.gov/centers/ne-water>

USGS North Platte Field Office

John Miller (jdmler@usgs.gov)

308-532-5323

USGS Lincoln Field Office

Tim Boyle (tboyle@usgs.gov)

402-328-4125

RRCA Annual Meeting

Exhibit H: Engineering Committee Report

Engineering Committee Report
Republican River Compact Administration
August 28, 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document reports the activities of the Republican River Compact Administration (RRCA) Engineering Committee (EC) from the August 28, 2024, RRCA Annual Meeting to the August 28, 2025, RRCA Annual Meeting. The EC met five times since the August 28, 2024, RRCA Annual Meeting and completed the six tasks it was assigned and the additional task assigned at the December 2024 RRCA special meeting. The following tasks were completed: 1) hold quarterly meetings; 2) complete the 2024 compact accounting including: exchange information listed in Section V of the RRCA Accounting Procedures and Reporting Requirements, including all required data and documentation, and finalize 2024 accounting; 3) continue to develop and maintain the summary of historical changes to the RRCA Accounting Procedures, the RRCA administrative website, and accounting tools developed by the committee; 4) identify a mutually agreeable verification process with criteria so that the Compact commissioners can verify that Colorado met its obligation of retiring 10,000 acres, and so such verification can take place before the end of 2024; 5) (added December 2024) propose an annual monitoring program to track progress toward and continued completion of the retirement of 25,000 acres from irrigation in the South Fork Republican River basin by Colorado, as required under the South Fork Resolution and its amendments¹; 6) provide updates on the progress of new and ongoing management strategies for maintaining Compact compliance; 7) prepare the RRCA 63rd annual meeting report (for the Year 2023).

Attachment 1: Agendas and Minutes of the meetings of the EC

Attachment 2: Accounting Inputs and Accounting Tables from the RRCA Accounting for 2024 recommended by the EC for approval by the RRCA (Task 2)

Attachment 3: South Fork Focus Zone irrigated acreage retirement documentation submitted in support of December 16, 2024 Resolution

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS AND RELATED WORK ACTIVITIES

1. Meet quarterly to review the tasks assigned to the committee.
 - a. The EC met September 19, 2024 (Special Meeting); October 31, 2024; January 16, 2025; April 17, 2025; and July 10, 2025. See Attachment 1 for the approved minutes of these meetings.
2. Complete the 2024 compact accounting:
 - a. Exchange by April 15, 2025, the information listed in Section V of the RRCA Accounting Procedures and Reporting Requirements, and other data required by that document, including all necessary documentation. By July 15, 2025, the states will exchange any updates to these data.

¹ RESOLUTION BY THE REPUBLICAN RIVER COMPACT ADMINISTRATION APPROVING OPERATION AND ACCOUNTING FOR THE COLORADO COMPACT COMPLIANCE PIPELINE AND COLORADO'S COMPLIANCE EFFORTS IN THE SOUTH FORK REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN, 24 August 2016, and First Amendment to Resolution Regarding Accounting for the Colorado Compact Compliance Pipeline in the SF Republican River, November 6, 2018.

- Nebraska posted its data on April 15, 2025, and provided an update on July 9, 2025.
 - Kansas posted its data on April 13, 2025, and provided an update to the data on July 15, 2025.
 - Colorado posted its data on April 4, 2025, along with the Crop Irrigation Requirement (CIR) data. There were no changes to the data posted in April.
- b. Finalize the 2024 accounting and recommend it for approval by the RRCA.
- Colorado, Kansas, and Nebraska accounting data for 2024 are final and the EC hereby recommends approval of the accounting by the RRCA. The applicable summary accounting tables are presented in Attachment 2.
3. Continue to develop and maintain:
- a. *Summary of Historical Changes to the RRCA's Accounting Procedures and Reporting Requirements*, as necessary.
- There have been no actions requiring updates to the document since the 2024 annual meeting.
- b. Continue efforts to develop and publish an administrative website that would be an informational page for the public.
- In coordination with the EC, state staff have maintained and updated the website, which is accessible to the public.
- c. Continue work and provide future updates on improving accounting tools developed by the Engineering Committee.
- The EC continues to use the website accounting tool developed and maintained by Principia Mathematica (Willem Schreüder) to validate the accounting spreadsheet results.
4. Identify a mutually agreeable verification process with criteria so that the Compact commissioners can verify that Colorado met its obligation of retiring 10,000 acres, and so such verification can take place before the end of 2024.
- a. Colorado provided redacted contracts between irrigators and the Republican River Water Conservation District. At Kansas' and Nebraska's request, Colorado provided GIS files mapping the legal descriptions of land areas from the contracts and containing a data field of the number of acres retired. Colorado further transmitted an information package comprised of a summary memo, summary table, and report containing NDVI (Normalized Difference Vegetation Index) analysis and aerial photos. The summary table also included additional information related to dry-up that Colorado had available for particular contracts, such as links to site visit photos. A summary of the information package is included herein as Attachment 3. The entire information package is available on the Republican River Compact Administration website at: republicanriver.org.
- b. The RRCA held a special meeting December 16, 2025, where the commissioners approved the "Resolution By The Republican River Compact Administration

Regarding Verification of Colorado's Retirement of Irrigated Acreage In The South Fork Republican River Basin And Second Amendment To The 2016 Resolution".

5. (Added December 2024) Propose an annual monitoring program to track progress toward and continued completion of the retirement of 25,000 acres from irrigation in the South Fork Republican River basin by Colorado, as required under the 2016 South Fork Resolution and its amendments.
 - a. Colorado agreed to provide certain data by the second quarterly meeting of the EC each year for the states' review, including:
 - Redacted versions of new retirement contracts and any updates to existing contracts;
 - An updated shapefile mapping the legal descriptions of land areas from all contracts and containing a data field of the number of acres retired; and
 - An information package updated with new contracts added and any corrections or other new information added since the 2024 information package.
 - b. The EC proposes that the states review these provided data and discuss at subsequent EC meetings.
 - c. The EC proposes to include in their annual report a summary of the provided data, discussion regarding review, and any unresolved issues.
 - d. The EC recognizes that monitoring and review of these data will not formally confirm the achievement of South Fork Resolution requirements but rather will provide the RRCA with updated progress information toward the South Fork Resolution requirements.
6. Provide respective state updates on the progress of new and ongoing management strategies for maintaining compact compliance.
 - a. Kansas had no updates.
 - b. Colorado reported plans to pump roughly 11,000 acre-feet from the Colorado Compliance Pipeline (CCP) in 2025.
 - c. Nebraska:
 - Informed the states that 2025 is a Compact Call Year under Nebraska's Integrated Management Plans and reiterated Nebraska's ability to take management actions in 2025 to maintain compact compliance, if necessary.
 - Reported on American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds being used for transducers and remote metering.
7. Prepare the RRCA 63rd annual meeting report (for the Year 2023).
 - a. The annual report was prepared by Kansas and reviewed by the states. The final report is submitted to the commissioners for their approval at the 2025 annual meeting.
 - b. The annual reports for the years 2019-2023 will be sent to the state governors and office of the president, via email, following the 2025 annual meeting.

ITEMS FOR RRCA DISCUSSION & ACTION

1. The EC recommends the proposed 2024 accounting presented in Attachment 2 and in the spreadsheet titled “RRCA Accounting 2024 Final.xlsx” for approval by the RRCA. Upon approval of the accounting, the above-mentioned spreadsheet file will be placed on the public website.
2. In addition to any other assignments from the Administration, the EC recommends that Principia Mathematica continue in Compact year 2025 to maintain the web-based accounting tool and perform periodic model and accounting updates at the same level of service as in 2024.
3. The EC offers the following list of recommended assignments to work on in the coming compact year and to report on at the 2026 annual meeting of the RRCA.

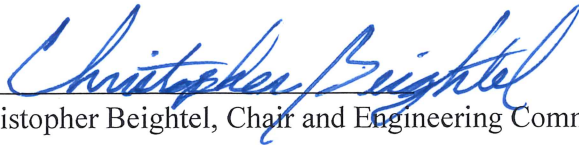
RECOMMENDED ASSIGNMENTS FOR THE COMING YEAR

1. Meet quarterly to review the tasks assigned to the committee.
2. Complete the 2025 compact accounting:
 - a. Exchange by April 15, 2026, the information listed in Section V of the RRCA Accounting Procedures and Reporting Requirements, and other data required by that document, including all necessary documentation.
 - b. Exchange by July 15, 2026, any updates to these data.
 - c. Finalize the 2025 accounting and recommend it for approval by the RRCA.
3. Continue to develop and maintain:
 - a. *Summary of Historical Changes to the RRCA’s Accounting Procedures and Reporting Requirements*, as necessary.
 - b. the RRCA administrative website that serves as an informational page for the public
 - c. accounting tools developed by the Engineering Committee.
4. Track and monitor Colorado’s progress toward permanent retirement of 25,000 acres from irrigation in the South Fork Republican River basin, as required under the 2016 South Fork Resolution and its amendments.
5. Provide respective state updates on the progress of new and ongoing management strategies for maintaining compact compliance
6. Prepare the 64th RRCA annual meeting report (for the year 2024) for approval by the RRCA at the 2026 annual meeting.

The Engineering Committee Report and the exchanged data will be posted on the web at

<http://republicanriver.org/>

SUBMITTED TO THE RRCA BY


Christopher Beightel, Chair and Engineering Committee Member for Kansas


Kari Burgert, Engineering Committee Member for Nebraska


Ivan Franco, Engineering Committee Member for Colorado

MINUTES of the
**SPECIAL MEETING of the
ENGINEERING COMMITTEE of the
REPUBLICAN RIVER COMPACT ADMINISTRATION**
September 19, 2024 2:00 pm Central Time

1. Introductions
 - a. Kansas – Chris Beightel, Chelsea Erickson
 - b. Colorado – Ivan Franco, Tracy Kosloff, Marie Sullivan
 - c. Nebraska – Kari Burgert, Sam Capps, Stefan Remund, Elizabeth Esseks
2. Review/Modify Agenda
 - a. Nebraska proposed editing the wording of committee task list assignment number four to more accurately describe the direction given at the annual working session.
 - b. Nebraska requested adding a discussion on the editorial change to the approved 2023 accounting, according to Nebraska's request.
3. Review and Update Progress on Select Engineering Committee Tasks (Below agenda items)
4. Editorial change to the approved 2023 accounting, according to Nebraska's request
 - a. Kari noted that she has sent a version of the 2023 accounting spreadsheet revised from the version the EC reviewed before the annual meeting. She stated that there should be a "1" indicating Compact Call Year on the RWS_CWSA tab rather than a "0". She stated that this Compact Call Year flag is not included in the printed 2024 final EC report but proposes it be updated in the electronic version of the 2023 accounting spreadsheet.
 - b. Kansas responded by email they agreed to the revision.
 - c. Colorado requested additional review time.
 - d. Chris inquired if this should be considered for the EC report going into the future. Kari and Ivan concurred that it should be considered in future EC reports.
5. Summary of Meeting Actions/Assignments
 - a. The EC will continue work on the assignment to verify retired acres in the South Fork Focus Zone.
 - i. NE and KS will supply questions to CO for follow up, such as confirming the acre retirement program conditions and NDVI threshold information.
 - b. Kansas will suggest dates for the EC first quarterly meeting, as well as a December special meeting.
 - c. Colorado will respond to Nebraska's 2023 accounting spreadsheet revision suggestion.
6. Future Meetings
 - a. A discussion was held regarding potential dates for the first quarter Engineering Committee meeting and a RRCA special meeting in December.
7. Adjourn

EC Task 4: Identify a mutually agreeable verification process with criteria so that the Compact commissioners can verify that Colorado met its obligation of retiring 10,000 acres, and so such verification can take place before the end of 2024.

- a. Chris Beightel reported on the progress that Kansas has made in reviewing the data presented by Colorado, including the GIS coverage and irrigated acres file.
 - i. Chris mentioned he did a preliminary analysis of the retired acres coverage and parsed that into contract years. OpenET was used to analyze from 2012 to end of 2023 to see what evapotranspiration (ET) looked like before and after the contracts. The result showed a minimal difference.
 - 1. Ivan Franco noted that some of the programs allow a year of irrigation to establish a cover crop.
 - ii. Chris asked if there are plans for the RRWCD or CO DWR to do any visual inspections of the retired acres in the contracts.
 - 1. Tracy noted that the District and Division staff are in those areas regularly and make observations about those acres, but there is no specific field review planned.
 - 2. Chris followed up by asking if there are any objections to KS staff reviewing those acres from the county roads and Tracy commented that is no problem.
- b. Kari Burgert reported that Nebraska has also reviewed the documents provided by Colorado and has several follow up questions for the Division and the District.
 - i. Kari asked: what will the product be to bring to the commissioners at a special meeting of the RRCA by the end of 2024?
 - 1. After a brief discussion, the EC decided that the process should be each state completing their own analysis and bring the findings to the next regular EC meeting to discuss along with any further questions.
 - ii. Kari asked for verification of when irrigation was required to stop for each type of contract. She provided the following observations from the data. Tracy responded that the observations seem close to right, but Nebraska should email this question to be forwarded to the District.
 - 1. CREP – irrigation for 12 months to establish coverage
 - 2. EQIP – irrigation is finished immediately
 - 3. OAI – irrigation allowed through the following December
 - 4. RAMP – irrigation is finished immediately (?)
 - iii. Kari asked Tracy Kosloff what NDVI threshold was used to identify irrigation for the 2016 irrigated parcels layer that was provided by Colorado.
 - 1. Tracy remarked that the information utilized the USDA crop data layer, and pumping records, along with the NDVI threshold because the NDVI is subject to weather interference. Tracy said she would check with Colorado's GIS team on the NDVI threshold.
 - iv. Kari wanted to verify which of the two “acres” attributes in the retired parcels layer provided by Colorado to use for the number of retired acres, the one

named “Acres_Cont” or “GIS_Acres”?

1. Tracy confirmed that the contract acres, “Acres_Cont”, is the accurate attribute field to use.
- c. Tracy made an inquiry as to whether the retired acres review could be completed by the end of the year. Tracy asked if Kansas and Nebraska would be agreeable to verifying that the contracts exist rather than the dry-ups having occurred since, given the terms of the contracts, the dry-ups might not occur until later. She suggested drafting the resolution in this manner to confirm that contracts are in place for the required 10,000 acres.
 - i. Chris & Kari both commented that they would take this proposal to their respective commissioners for review.
- d. The EC discussed the timing of a Special RRCA meeting, as well as the next EC quarterly meeting to review all the information and questions that were presented at this meeting. Late-October was mentioned as a possibility because of the need for time between the EC meeting and the RRCA special meeting for additional review.

MINUTES of the
**QUARTERLY MEETING of the
ENGINEERING COMMITTEE of the
REPUBLICAN RIVER COMPACT ADMINISTRATION**
October 31, 2024 2:00 pm Central Time

1. Introductions
 - a. Kansas – Chris Beightel, Chelsea Erickson, Hongsheng Cao
 - b. Colorado – Ivan Franco, Willem Schreuder
 - c. Nebraska – Kari Burgert, Sam Capps, Stefan Remund, Elizabeth Esseks
2. Review/Modify Agenda
 - a. Nebraska proposed editing the wording of committee task list assignment number four to more accurately describe the direction given at the annual working session.
3. Review and Update Progress on Engineering Committee Task List (Below agenda items)
4. Summary of Meeting Actions/Assignments
 - a. The EC will work on the South Fork retirement assignment, and Colorado will provide a draft of a possible resolution for the upcoming Special Meeting.
 - b. Kansas will continue work on the 2024 annual report once the transcript is edited by all the states.
5. Future Meetings
 - a. The next meetings of the RRCA Engineering Committee will be January 16, April 17, and July 10, 2025, at 2:00pm central time. Chris will send out invites to the EC with a Zoom link.
 - b. A discussion was held regarding a possible date for the December Special Meeting. The topic of a court reporter was also discussed and found that past meeting did have a reporter present. Kansas committed to providing that service, if necessary.
6. Adjourn

ENGINEERING COMMITTEE TASK LIST

1. Meet quarterly to review the tasks assigned to the committee.
 - a. The quarterly meetings have been scheduled; today's meeting was the Q1 meeting.
2. Complete the 2024 compact accounting:
 - a. Exchange by April 15, 2025, the information listed in Section V of the RRCA Accounting Procedures and Reporting Requirements, and other data required by that document, including all necessary documentation.
 - i. This task is in progress, but few updates are available at this time.
 - ii. Willem mentioned that he did a model run in the middle of October because NOAA was getting their data center back up and running again, but there were no significant changes to the predictions. He mentioned that the Colorado Compliance Pipeline (CCP) started at noon on October 25 and will run through the end of 2024. Willem plans to do another model run on November 1.
 - b. Exchange by July 15, 2025, any updates to these data.
 - i. No update to report.
 - c. Finalize the 2024 accounting and recommend it for approval by the RRCA.
 - i. No update to report
3. Continue to develop and maintain:
 - a. Summary of Historical Changes to the RRCA's Accounting Procedures and Reporting Requirements as necessary.
 - i. There were no updates to the document.
 - b. The RRCA administrative website that serves as an informational page for the public.
 - i. Chelsea reported that the website is up to date with current information. She asked that the states send updates if there are changes to the commissioners in the near future.
 - c. Accounting tools developed by the Engineering Committee.
 - i. There were no updates for accounting tools.
4. Identify a mutually agreeable verification process with criteria so that the Compact commissioners can verify that Colorado met its obligation of retiring 10,000 acres, and so such verification can take place before the end of 2024.
 - a. Chris reported that Kansas staff had reviewed the NDVI analysis on past years and identified a few parcels that looked like there could have been irrigation after the contract, but in 2024 there was no irrigation on those parcels now.
 - b. Kari mentioned that Nebraska staff had reviewed the data and additional verification provided by Colorado, but they will need to discuss everything with the interim director of Natural Resources. Kari commented that a draft of the resolution would help focus the issues.
 - c. Ivan mentioned that Tracy Kosloff was planning to answer questions posed by Nebraska, as well as provide a draft resolution by about mid-November.
 - d. Kari asked if there are any well meter records for 2024 yet to show that the newly

retired lands did not have pumping. Ivan replied that the 2024 meter data are not available until after the end of the year. Chris asked if Colorado provides meter readings in their annual exchange data, and Willem replied that those are included in the yearly spreadsheet. The question was raised is that spreadsheet can be traced back to a specific point of diversion and Willem responded that it is possible with the WDID of the well.

- e. Kari mentioned that Nebraska wanted to review a few parcels that were not clear what acres were dried up versus still under irrigation.
5. Provide respective state updates on the progress of new and ongoing management strategies for maintaining compact compliance.
- a. Willem reported that the Colorado pipeline projection is that it will run 10,000 acre-feet in 2024 total and then 11,000 acre-feet in 2025.
 - b. There were no other updates for new or ongoing management strategies.
6. Prepare the 2024 RRCA annual meeting report for approval by the RRCA at the 2025 annual meeting.
- a. Chris mentioned that the transcript for the annual meeting in August is being circulated to the states. Ivan reported that he would finish his review soon and provide those comments back to Kansas.
 - b. Chelsea reported that the various reports from the annual meeting are collected, and she will begin creating a summary of the meeting in order to finalize the 2024 annual report.

MINUTES of the
**QUARTERLY MEETING of the
ENGINEERING COMMITTEE of the
REPUBLICAN RIVER COMPACT ADMINISTRATION**
January 16, 2025 2:00 pm Central Time

1. Introductions
 - a. KS – Chris Beightel
 - b. CO – Ivan Franco, Marie Sullivan
 - c. NE – Kari Burgert, Sam Capps, Elizabeth Esseks, Stefan Remund
2. Review/Modify Agenda
 - a. There were no modifications to the agenda.
 - b. Keep task list item #4 wording as presented on the agenda.
3. Review and Update Progress on Engineering Committee Task List (Below agenda items)
4. Summary of Meeting Actions/Assignments
 - a. Finalize the annual meeting transcript to share with the states.
 - b. Review the special meeting transcript.
 - c. Continue to review the South Fork basin retirement acres using the Colorado template.
Marie will look into potentially providing shapefiles that can be used for that review.
5. Proposed EC Meetings
 - a. April 17, 2025 2:00 central
 - b. July 10, 2025 2:00 central
6. Adjourn

ENGINEERING COMMITTEE TASK LIST

1. Meet quarterly to review the tasks assigned to the committee.
 - a. The EC met October 31, 2024.
 - b. The EC upcoming meetings are April 17 and July 10, 2025.
2. Complete the 2024 compact accounting:
 - a. Exchange by April 15, 2025, the information listed in Section V of the RRCA Accounting Procedures and Reporting Requirements, and other data required by that document, including all necessary documentation.
 - i. Efforts are underway to produce and gather information for the data exchange. Request for information was sent to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.
 - ii. Chris reported that Kansas metering information is being collected now.
 - b. Exchange by July 15, 2025, any updates to these data.
 - i. No update to report.
 - c. Finalize the 2024 accounting and recommend it for approval by the RRCA.
 - i. No update to report.
3. Continue to develop and maintain:
 - a. Summary of Historical Changes to the RRCA's Accounting Procedures and Reporting Requirements as necessary.
 - i. There were no updates to the document.
 - b. The RRCA administrative website that serves as an informational page for the public
 - i. Chris relayed that Chelsea had updated the website with the signed resolution from the Special Meeting in December.
 - ii. Ivan mentioned that the website committee reviewed the website and found a broken link, which was removed.
 - c. Accounting tools developed by the Engineering Committee.
 - i. There were no updates for accounting tools.
4. Identify a mutually agreeable verification process with criteria so that the Compact commissioners can verify that Colorado met its obligation of retiring 10,000 acres, and so such verification can take place before the end of 2024.
 - a. The EC agreed to keep the wording of this task as written, reporting as complete, and citing progress leading to the Special Meeting.
5. Propose an annual monitoring program to track progress toward and continued completion of the retirement of 25,000 acres from irrigation in the South Fork Republican River basin by Colorado, as required under the South Fork Resolution and its amendments.
 - a. Marie Sullivan mentioned that Colorado was thinking about following the same process as the NDVI packet to keep providing data for current parcels and then add additional parcels when available.
 - b. Kari noted that what Colorado provided with the NDVI for aerial images and notes on infrastructure removal was very helpful. One question is at what frequency the parcel information is updated. Marie noted that the information is not consistently reported,

- but rather based on funding for the acre retirements. Once a year the state reviews all the information and could potentially deliver that analysis by late-November each year. Kari mentioned reviewing that information by the second quarterly EC meeting would be helpful to stay on top of the review process.
- c. Chris mentioned that it would be helpful to get a shapefile that has the new acres that are retired each year and Marie said she would consult with Tracy Kosloff on that request.
 - d. There was a discussion about how to preserve the acre retirement verification process in the EC and RRCA annual reports. It was noted that the Special Meeting would be part of the 2025 annual report. Kari mentioned that getting a printed image or figure of the aerial map would be a helpful addition to the EC final report for 2025.
6. Provide respective state updates on the progress of new and ongoing management strategies for maintaining compact compliance.
- a. Kansas had no update to report.
 - b. Nebraska
 - i. Kari mentioned that Nebraska sent a letter that designated 2025 as a Compact Call Year under Nebraska's Integrated Management Plans. The NRDs will report how they plan to maintain compliance with the Compact. The state will evaluate those plans soon.
 - ii. Nebraska will meet with Kansas before October 1, 2025, to discuss Kansas water needs.
 - iii. Sam Capps reported on ARPA funds being used for transducers and remote metering.
 - 1. Chris asked about the remote metering program status.
 - 2. Sam Capps replied that the Middle Republican NRD is furthest along in the process, but there are varying stages of progress with the other Republican River NRDs.
 - 3. Chris asked how often the meters are recording data; Sam believes it is real-time, but will check and share her findings.
 - c. Colorado had no update to report.
7. Prepare the 2024 RRCA annual meeting report for approval by the RRCA at the 2025 annual meeting.
- a. The status of the annual meeting transcript is that Chelsea is working with the court reporter to get a final copy to the states.
 - b. Chris reported that the RRCA Special Meeting transcript is prepared and will be shared with the EC soon.
 - c. Chelsea is still working on preparing the October 31, 2024, EC meeting minutes and will share those once completed.

MINUTES of the
**QUARTERLY MEETING of the
ENGINEERING COMMITTEE of the
REPUBLICAN RIVER COMPACT ADMINISTRATION**
April 17, 2025 2:00 pm Central Time

1. Introductions
 - a. KS – Chris Beightel, Chelsea Erickson
 - b. CO – Ivan Franco, Tracy Kosloff, Marie Sullivan
 - c. NE – Kari Burgert, Sam Capps, Elizabeth Esseks, Stefan Remund
2. Review/Modify Agenda
 - a. No modifications were offered to the agenda.
3. Status of the EC minutes
 - a. Chelsea Erickson reported that the minutes are reviewed, with the exception of the September 19, 2024, special engineering committee meeting, which should be finalized soon.
4. Review and Update Progress on Engineering Committee Task List (Below agenda items)
5. Summary of Meeting Actions/Assignments
 - a. Kansas will continue to finalize the outstanding EC minutes.
 - b. Kansas will begin developing a draft of the annual report.
 - c. The committee will think about how to memorialize the monitoring program for the South Fork retirement acres.
 - d. Chris will follow up with Willem to confirm that Colorado's April 15 data is fully submitted.
 - e. Nebraska will get their list of concerning dryup parcels to Colorado for review.
6. Proposed EC Meetings
 - a. July 10, 2025, 2:00 central
 - b. August 28, 2025, annual meeting in Concordia. Hotel reservation information will be sent shortly.
7. Adjourn

ENGINEERING COMMITTEE TASK LIST

1. Meet quarterly to review the tasks assigned to the committee.
 - a. The EC held two meetings in 2024 and two in 2025, along with the final EC meeting upcoming July 10.
2. Complete the 2024 Compact accounting:
 - a. Exchange by April 15, 2025, the information listed in Section V of the RRCA Accounting Procedures and Reporting Requirements, and other data required by that document, including all necessary documentation.
 - i. Kansas submitted data on April 3, 2025.
 - ii. Nebraska submitted data on April 15, 2025.
 - iii. Colorado submitted data on April 4, 2025.
 1. There was a discussion regarding the preliminary data from Colorado sent by Willem Schreuder on April 4, 2025. It was clarified that the preliminary surface water data and final or nearly finalized pumping data from Colorado were incorporated.
 2. Chris mentioned Sam Perkins using the pumping data for regression analysis related to climate pumping predictions.
 3. Ivan Franco noted the absence of a separate Excel file for the 2024 pumping data in the Colorado data folder, although the data appeared to be in the model data.
 4. Chris Beightel agreed to email Willem to clarify the data submission.
 - iv. Kari Burgert raised the issue that the stream gage data had not been finalized yet, as she had contacted John Miller (USGS) but had not yet received a response.
 - v. Kari also informed the committee that the NAS survey harvested acre data had not yet been published this year, with only a few crops to be included. Nebraska uses this for reporting CIR but will likely use an average from previous years. Colorado also does the same with the NAS data.
 - b. Exchange by July 15, 2025, any updates to the data.
 - i. No update to report.
 - c. Finalize the 2024 accounting and recommend it for approval by the RRCA.
 - i. No update to report.
3. Continue to develop and maintain:
 - a. Summary of Historical Changes to the RRCA's Accounting Procedures and Reporting Requirements as necessary.
 - i. There were no updates to the document.
 - b. The RRCA administrative website that serves as an informational page for the public
 - i. Chelsea reported that Kansas is getting close to announcing the annual meeting details (August 28 in Concordia). Once the location is finalized, she will contact the website committee to update the three-states website. No other documents

are ready for the website yet.

- c. Accounting tools developed by the Engineering Committee.
 - i. There were no updates for accounting tools.
- 4. Identify a mutually agreeable verification process with criteria so that the Compact commissioners can verify that Colorado met its obligation of retiring 10,000 acres, and so such verification can take place before the end of 2024.
 - a. Chris recalled that the committee previously agreed to leave this on the task list for historical purposes as the task was completed. This was confirmed by Kari and Ivan.
- 5. Propose an annual monitoring program to track progress toward and continued completion of the retirement of 25,000 acres from irrigation in the South Fork Republican River basin by Colorado, as required under the South Fork Resolution and its amendments.
 - a. Chris summarized the previous discussion, noting that requests for a shapefile for newly added retired acres and maintenance of a shapefile of recorded retired acres, with Colorado to confirm the ability to obtain such a shapefile.
 - b. Tracy Kosloff provided an update, clarifying that Colorado provides legal descriptions from the landowner's contracts, which may cover a larger area than the actual dryup acres. Coordination with the Republican River Water Conservation District revealed similar limitations in their geographic data.
 - c. Tracy explained that for the previous year's report (provided in 2024), Colorado provided the 2016 irrigated lands shapefile overlaid with legal descriptions and NDVI data for both. Tracy does not believe they can provide a more precise shapefile of the actual dryup acres.
 - d. Starting in 2025, Colorado plans to add new contracts and shapefile information for the new dryup lands each year and update the data (aerial photos, NDVI) for previously submitted parcels for continued monitoring of those parcel's dryup status.
 - e. Tracy asked for feedback on how to make the provided information more useful and invited specific questions about parcels, which Nebraska and Kansas agreed to provide any questions to Colorado. An informal meeting to review the report was also offered as a possibility.
 - f. Kari mentioned having a list of parcels in question that they plan to provide to Colorado for clarification on the acres. Kari suggested that during the fall EC meeting, Colorado could step through the information on any new parcels, which would help address potential questions on the added acreage. Tracy explained that NDVI data for the year 2025 irrigation (May-October) is not available until late-October, with the full report including NDVI available in November.
 - g. Tracy further described the NDVI process (reading from November 25, 2025, email to Earl Lewis and Jesse Bradley), which involves compiling satellite data from May to October, finding the maximum NDVI for each 30x30 meter grid cell, and then calculating the mean of these maximums across both the entire legal description and the 2016 irrigated lands within the legal description.
 - h. Kari asked about analysis or research regarding NDVI that represents irrigation. Tracy reported that Colorado uses a threshold of 130 NDVI as an indication of potential irrigation but that method is not considered definitive of irrigation, so additional

information like aerial photos and field photos (when available) are also provided. Information about removed center pivots is also considered.

6. Provide respective state updates on the progress of new and ongoing management strategies for maintaining Compact compliance.
 - a. Kansas had no update to report.
 - b. Nebraska reported sending the required letter under the FSS regarding Nebraska's ability to take management actions this year if needed.
 - c. Colorado's update concerned the Compact Compliance Pipeline (CCP) operation. Predictions for 2025 indicate pumping of around 11,000 acre-feet with approximately 1,000 acre-feet pumping in April. The projected delivery report from Hendrix Wai Engineering has more detail.
7. Prepare the 2024 RRCA annual meeting report for approval by the RRCA at the 2025 annual meeting.
 - a. Chelsea reported that all edits and final transcripts are collected, and compilation of the report will begin. A summary will be shared for the state's review, with the goal of having the report completed before the annual meeting.
 - b. There was a brief discussion about how to memorialize the monitoring program in the EC report. There is a write-up (2024 SFFZ Irrigated Acreage Retirement Data, November 25, 2024) that Colorado provided that could be included in the EC report (assignment #5). It was decided to revisit this in the next meeting when putting together the final EC report.

MINUTES for the
**QUARTERLY MEETING of the
ENGINEERING COMMITTEE of the
REPUBLICAN RIVER COMPACT ADMINISTRATION**
July 10, 2025 2:00 Central Time

1. Introductions
 - a. KS – Chris Beightel, Chelsea Erickson, Hongsheng Cao
 - b. CO – Ivan Franco, Willem Schreuder, Marie Sullivan
 - c. NE – Kari Burgert, Sam Capps, Stefan Remund
2. Review/Modify Agenda
 - a. No modifications were offered to the agenda.
3. Status of the EC minutes
 - a. Chelsea Erickson reported that the minutes are reviewed and will be finalized and sent to Chris Beightel for inclusion in the final EC report.
4. Review and Update Progress on Engineering Committee Task List (Below agenda items)
5. Annual Meeting Preparations
 - a. Logistics for the August 28th, 2025, annual meeting in Concordia at the COOP meeting room were discussed.
 - b. Willem Schreuder noted that he will not be in attendance because his school obligations start the week before.
 - c. Kari mentioned adding an agenda item for updating the RRCA Rules to reflect Nebraska's departmental restructuring.
 - i. Chris wondered about establishing a legal committee, if necessary, to update the Rules and Regs. Kari suggested that with the minimal changes she expected that the commissioners could review a draft that Nebraska could circulate soon.
6. Summary of Meeting Actions/Assignments
 - a. Kansas will submit final data by the July 15th deadline.
 - b. Nebraska will draft the Excel Accounting Spreadsheet and send it to the states for review.
 - c. Chris will complete the first draft of the Engineering Committee report for 2025 before the first week in August.
 - i. The November 25th memo from Colorado will be added to EC task 4 to complete the assignment. Then task 5 will likely list the items that Colorado agrees to provide for verifying dryup acres.
 - d. The website committee will update the site with annual meeting information and Nebraska department name and commissioner change.
 - e. Kansas will provide a draft agenda and meeting notice for the annual meeting for review.
 - f. Chelsea will finalize the annual report draft and circulate for review by the states.
 - g. Nebraska will draft the RRCA Rules and Regs change to reflect the departmental changes.
 - h. Nebraska will share the RRCA letterhead so it can be used to share annual reports with higher elected officials.
 - i. Chelsea will get the July EC minutes out for review and inclusion in the final EC report.
7. Adjourn

ENGINEERING COMMITTEE TASK LIST

1. Meet quarterly to review the tasks assigned to the committee.
 - a. This July meeting concludes the assignment for the EC to meet quarterly.
2. Complete the 2024 compact accounting:
 - a. Exchange by April 15, 2025, the information listed in Section V of the RRCA Accounting Procedures and Reporting Requirements, and other data required by that document, including all necessary documentation.
 - i. Chris Beightel noted no significant changes to the April data submission by Kansas.
 - b. Exchange by July 15, 2025, any updates to the data.
 - i. Kari noted Nebraska submission of updated data on July 9.
 - ii. Chris confirmed that the Kansas update will be posted by the July 15th deadline.
 - c. Finalize the 2024 accounting and recommend it for approval by the RRCA.
 - i. Chris reviewed the process of data finalization with the committee. Nebraska will take the lead on finalizing the accounting spreadsheet for the EC report. Then the spreadsheet is reviewed by the states and consultant Willem Schreuder.
 - ii. Kari Burgert noted that one of the Nebraska updates was for the Courtland Canal deliveries reported to them by the Bureau of Reclamation as different in two spreadsheets. The EC has seen this issue in previous years and has discussed it with the Bureau. The EC will need to track this issue each year.
 1. Chris asked for details about the Courtland Canal data issue. Kari explained that to her understanding the Bureau prepares one spreadsheet from the monthly information obtained from the district and the other spreadsheet is compiled at the end of the year with more final data, which means when there are data updates, the spreadsheets do not match. Kari noted that the difference is small but needs to be rectified each year.
3. Continue to develop and maintain:
 - a. Summary of Historical Changes to the RRCA's Accounting Procedures and Reporting Requirements as necessary.
 - i. There were no updates to the document.
 - b. The RRCA administrative website that serves as an informational page for the public
 - i. Chelsea reported that the website will be updated soon with the annual meeting information after coordination with the website committee.
 - ii. Kari reported that the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources has merged with the Department of Environment and Energy. The website will need to be updated to reflect the new Department of Water, Energy, and Environment (DWEE). Additionally, the new position of Chief Water Officer is in charge of administering public water supplies and is Nebraska's RRCA commissioner. Stefan Remund will assist Chelsea in bringing the RRCA website up to date

with these changes.

- iii. Ivan asked if the RRCA Rules & Regulations will need to be updated with the definition of the Nebraska commissioner. Sam Capps noted that currently, the rules designate the Director of the Department of Natural Resources as commissioner, so the RRCA will need to update the rules to reflect the change.
- iv. Kari asked if the annual meeting will be the appropriate meeting to change the rules. Chris agreed that it would be appropriate, but if the timing is not right then the RRCA can hold a special meeting later if necessary.
- c. Accounting tools developed by the Engineering Committee.
 - i. There were no updates for accounting tools.
- 4. Identify a mutually agreeable verification process with criteria so that the Compact commissioners can verify that Colorado met its obligation of retiring 10,000 acres, and so such verification can take place before the end of 2024.
 - a. This task is complete.
- 5. Propose an annual monitoring program to track progress toward and continued completion of the retirement of 25,000 acres from irrigation in the South Fork Republican River basin by Colorado, as required under the South Fork Resolution and its amendments.
 - a. Chris inquired about the outcome of the June 18th call between Colorado and Nebraska to address Nebraska's questions about the dryup acres. Kari responded that they are reviewing Colorado's email response about the wells associated with the acres. They are waiting for the irrigated area clarification.
 - b. As follow-up from the previous EC meeting, Kari suggested that the November 25th memo from Colorado could satisfy EC assignment 4 for completion of the verification process assignment.
 - c. Kari suggested that under assignment 5, there are three items that she understands that Colorado has agreed to provide by the first or second quarterly meeting each fall:
 - i. Redacted versions of new retirement contracts and any updates to existing contracts,
 - ii. An updated shapefile that has the legal parcels associated with those contracts and any additional spatial specificity on the historically irrigated acreage towards the Resolution provisions,
 - iii. The data package that was referred to in the November 25th Colorado memo that includes aerial images, NDVI images, and any additional inspections including well decommissioning.
 - d. Marie agreed that the three items Kari listed are very likely what Colorado is able to provide. However, she stated that follow-up with Tracy Kosloff would be needed.
 - e. Chris stated he would confer with Tracy Kosloff before agreeing to final language for the annual monitoring proposal.
 - f. Kari suggested the EC should propose to the Commissioners an on-going assignment to the EC for annual monitoring of the South Fork retirement progress.
- 6. Provide respective state updates on the progress of new and ongoing management strategies for maintaining compact compliance.

- a. Kansas had no update to report.
 - b. Willem noted that the plan is still to pump 11,000 acre-feet with the Colorado Compliance Pipeline (CCP). There is a lot of variability in precipitation, so they won't know until about September where the year stands.
 - c. Ivan asked about the Harlan County numbers and whether 2025 will be a Water Short Year (WSY). Sam Capps responded that Nebraska is waiting on an official letter from the Bureau regarding the WSY, but the project supply is currently 101,200 acre-feet, which is less than the required 119,000 acre-feet.
 - d. Sam Capps stated that if Kansas requests Remaining Compact Compliance Volume prior to October 1 of this Compact Call Year, Nebraska will coordinate with the NRDs BOR, and irrigation districts.
 - e. Kari mentioned that Nebraska will also be providing an email later today (10th of the month) for updated CCV estimate.
7. Prepare the 2024 RRCA annual meeting report for approval by the RRCA at the 2025 annual meeting.
- a. Chelsea reported that the summary for the annual report is almost complete. Then she will compile the final draft and circulate for review by the states. She will provide the draft to both states at the same time to facilitate quicker review.
 - b. Kari noted that Elizabeth Esseks had mentioned to her that the RRCA reports should be sent to the state governors and the office of the president each year and that the last three reports may not have been sent out yet. The RRCA has its own letterhead, so Elizabeth can provide that to Chelsea and after this annual meeting, we will provide a package of four reports in one email. The email will reference the website with the reports.

Calendar Year		2024
Groundwater Data		
North Fork Subbasin	GW CBCU Colorado	19,379
	GW CBCU Kansas	0
	GW CBCU Nebraska	1,347
Arikaree Subbasin	GW CBCU Colorado	2,688
	GW CBCU Kansas	104
	GW CBCU Nebraska	109
Buffalo Subbasin	GW CBCU Colorado	479
	GW CBCU Kansas	0
	GW CBCU Nebraska	3,727
Rock Subbasin	GW CBCU Colorado	100
	GW CBCU Kansas	0
	GW CBCU Nebraska	5,296
South Fork Subbasin	GW CBCU Colorado	14,188
	GW CBCU Kansas	3,839
	GW CBCU Nebraska	604
Frenchman Subbasin	GW CBCU Colorado	180
	GW CBCU Kansas	0
	GW CBCU Nebraska	80,512
Driftwood Subbasin	GW CBCU Colorado	0
	GW CBCU Kansas	0
	GW CBCU Nebraska	961
Red Willow Subbasin	GW CBCU Colorado	0
	GW CBCU Kansas	0
	GW CBCU Nebraska	9,053
Medicine Creek Subbasin	GW CBCU Colorado	0
	GW CBCU Kansas	0
	GW CBCU Nebraska	22,409
Beaver Subbasin	GW CBCU Colorado	0
	GW CBCU Kansas	5,860
	GW CBCU Nebraska	3,872
Sappa Subbasin	GW CBCU Colorado	0
	GW CBCU Kansas	1,086
	GW CBCU Nebraska	1,157
Prairie Dog Subbasin	GW CBCU Colorado	0
	GW CBCU Kansas	4,603
	GW CBCU Nebraska	0
Mainstem Subbasin	GW CBCU Colorado	(3,424)
	GW CBCU Kansas Above Guide Rock	(848)
	GW CBCU Kansas Below Guide Rock	67
	GW CBCU Nebraska Above Guide Rock	60,790
	GW CBCU Nebraska Below Guide Rock	2,674
Import Water Data		
North Fork Subbasin	Imported Water Nebraska	0
Arikaree Subbasin	Imported Water Nebraska	0
Buffalo Subbasin	Imported Water Nebraska	0
Rock Subbasin	Imported Water Nebraska	0
South Fork Subbasin	Imported Water Nebraska	0
Frenchman Subbasin	Imported Water Nebraska	0
Driftwood Subbasin	Imported Water Nebraska	0
Red Willow Subbasin	Imported Water Nebraska	40
Medicine Creek Subbasin	Imported Water Nebraska	10,937
Beaver Subbasin	Imported Water Nebraska	0
Sappa Subbasin	Imported Water Nebraska	11
Prairie Dog Subbasin	Imported Water Nebraska	0
Mainstem Subbasin	Imported Water Nebraska Above Guide Rock	7,300
	Imported Water Nebraska Below Guide Rock	(19)
	Total	18,269
SW Pumping Data		
North Fork Subbasin	SW Diversions - Irrigation -Non-Federal Canals- Colorado	174
	SW Diversions - Irrigation - Small Pumps - Colorado	0
	SW Diversions - M&I - Colorado	0
Arikaree Subbasin	SW Diversions - Irrigation -Non-Federal Canals- Colorado	0
	SW Diversions - Irrigation - Small Pumps - Colorado	0
	SW Diversions - M&I - Colorado	0
	SW Diversions - Irrigation - Non-Federal Canals- Kansas	0
	SW Diversions - Irrigation - Small Pumps - Kansas	0
	SW Diversions - M&I - Kansas	0
	SW Diversions - Irrigation - Non-Federal Canals - Nebraska	0
	SW Diversions - Irrigation - Small Pumps - Nebraska	0
	SW Diversions - M&I - Nebraska	0

Calendar Year		2024
Buffalo Subbasin	SW Diversions - Irrigation -Non-Federal Canals- Colorado	0
	SW Diversions - Irrigation - Small Pumps - Colorado	0
	SW Diversions - M&I - Colorado	0
	SW Diversions - Irrigation - Non-Federal Canals - Nebraska	133
	SW Diversions - Irrigation - Small Pumps - Nebraska	0
	SW Diversions - M&I - Nebraska	0
Rock Subbasin	SW Diversions - Irrigation - Non-Federal Canals - Nebraska	0
	SW Diversions - Irrigation - Small Pumps - Nebraska	0
	SW Diversions - M&I - Nebraska	0
South Fork Subbasin	SW Diversions - Irrigation -Non-Federal Canals- Colorado	0
	SW Diversions - Irrigation - Small Pumps - Colorado	0
	SW Diversions - M&I - Colorado	0
	SW Diversions - Irrigation - Non-Federal Canals- Kansas	0
	SW Diversions - Irrigation - Small Pumps - Kansas	0
	SW Diversions - M&I - Kansas	0
	SW Diversions - Irrigation - Non-Federal Canals - Nebraska	0
	SW Diversions - Irrigation - Small Pumps - Nebraska	0
	SW Diversions - M&I - Nebraska	0
Frenchman Subbasin	SW Diversions - Irrigation - Non-Federal Canals - Nebraska	0
	SW Diversions - Irrigation - Small Pumps - Nebraska	0
	SW Diversions - M&I - Nebraska	0
Driftwood Subbasin	SW Diversions - Irrigation - Non-Federal Canals- Kansas	0
	SW Diversions - Irrigation - Small Pumps - Kansas	0
	SW Diversions - M&I - Kansas	0
	SW Diversions - Irrigation - Non-Federal Canals - Nebraska	0
	SW Diversions - Irrigation - Small Pumps - Nebraska	0
	SW Diversions - M&I - Nebraska	0
Red Willow Subbasin	SW Diversions - Irrigation - Non-Federal Canals - Nebraska	0
	SW Diversions - Irrigation - Small Pumps - Nebraska	17
	SW Diversions - M&I - Nebraska	0
Medicine Creek Subbasin	SW Diversions - Irrigation - Non-Federal Canals - Nebraska - Above Gage	0
	SW Diversions - Irrigation - Small Pumps - Nebraska - Above Gage	0
	SW Diversions - M&I - Nebraska - Above Gage	0
	SW Diversions - Irrigation - Non-Federal Canals - Nebraska -Below Gage	0
	SW Diversions - Irrigation - Small Pumps -Nebraska - Below Gage	33
	SW Diversions - M&I - Nebraska - Below Gage	0
Beaver Subbasin	SW Diversions - Irrigation -Non-Federal Canals- Colorado	0
	SW Diversions - Irrigation - Small Pumps - Colorado	0
	SW Diversions - M&I - Colorado	0
	SW Diversions - Irrigation - Non-Federal Canals- Kansas	0
	SW Diversions - Irrigation - Small Pumps - Kansas	14
	SW Diversions - M&I - Kansas	0
	SW Diversions - Irrigation - Non-Federal Canals - Nebraska - Above Gage	0
	SW Diversions - Irrigation - Small Pumps - Nebraska - Above Gage	0
	SW Diversions - M&I - Nebraska - Above Gage	0
	SW Diversions - Irrigation - Non-Federal Canals - Nebraska -Below Gage	0
	SW Diversions - Irrigation - Small Pumps -Nebraska - Below Gage	0
	SW Diversions - M&I - Nebraska - Below Gage	0
Sappa Subbasin	SW Diversions - Irrigation - Non-Federal Canals- Kansas	0
	SW Diversions - Irrigation - Small Pumps - Kansas	0
	SW Diversions - M&I - Kansas	0
	SW Diversions - Irrigation - Non-Federal Canals - Nebraska - Above Gage	0
	SW Diversions - Irrigation - Small Pumps - Nebraska - Above Gage	0
	SW Diversions - M&I - Nebraska - Above Gage	0
	SW Diversions - Irrigation - Non-Federal Canals - Nebraska -Below Gage	0
	SW Diversions - Irrigation - Small Pumps -Nebraska - Below Gage	0
Prairie Dog Subbasin	SW Diversions - M&I - Nebraska - Below Gage	0
	SW Diversions - Irrigation - Non-Federal Canals- Kansas	0
	SW Diversions - Irrigation - Small Pumps - Kansas	531
	SW Diversions - M&I - Kansas	317
	SW Diversions - Irrigation - Non-Federal Canals - Nebraska -Below Gage	0
	SW Diversions - Irrigation - Small Pumps -Nebraska - Below Gage	132
Mainstem Subbasin	SW Diversions - M&I - Nebraska - Below Gage	0
	SW Diversions - Irrigation - Non-Federal Canals- Kansas	0
	SW Diversions - Irrigation - Small Pumps - Kansas	797
	SW Diversions - M&I - Kansas	0
	SW Diversions - Irrigation - Non-Federal Canals - Nebraska	3,405
	SW Diversions - Irrigation - Small Pumps - Nebraska	1,959
	SW Diversions - M&I - Nebraska	0
	SW Diversions - Irrigation - Non-Federal Canals - Nebraska Below Guide Rock	0
	SW Diversions - Irrigation - Small Pumps - Nebraska Below Guide Rock	944
	SW Diversions - M&I - Nebraska - Below Guide Rock	0

Calendar Year		2024
Non-Federal SW Consumptive Use		
	% Non-Federal Canal Diversion Consumed	60%
	% Small Surface Water Pumps Consumed	75%
	% Municipal And Industrial SW Consumed	50%
Non-Federal Reservoir Evaporation Data		
North Fork Subbasin	Non-Federal Reservoir Evaporation - Colorado	44
Arikaree Subbasin	Non-Federal Reservoir Evaporation - Colorado	0
	Non-Federal Reservoir Evaporation - Kansas	16
	Non-Federal Reservoir Evaporation - Nebraska	0
Buffalo Subbasin	Non-Federal Reservoir Evaporation - Colorado	0
	Non-Federal Reservoir Evaporation - Nebraska	9
Rock Subbasin	Non-Federal Reservoir Evaporation - Nebraska	105
South Fork Subbasin	Non-Federal Reservoir Evaporation - Colorado	0
	Non-Federal Reservoir Evaporation - Kansas	137
	Non-Federal Reservoir Evaporation - Nebraska	0
Frenchman Subbasin	Non-Federal Reservoir Evaporation - Nebraska	83
Driftwood Subbasin	Non-Federal Reservoir Evaporation - Kansas	12
	Non-Federal Reservoir Evaporation - Nebraska	0
Red Willow Subbasin	Non-Federal Reservoir Evaporation - Nebraska	159
Medicine Creek Subbasin	Non-Federal Reservoir Evaporation - Nebraska - Above Gage	181
	Non-Federal Reservoir Evaporation - Nebraska - Below Gage	2
Beaver Subbasin	Non-Federal Reservoir Evaporation - Colorado	0
	Non-Federal Reservoir Evaporation - Kansas	278
	Non-Federal Reservoir Evaporation - Nebraska - Above Gage	106
	Non-Federal Reservoir Evaporation - Nebraska - Below Gage	0
Sappa Subbasin	Non-Federal Reservoir Evaporation - Kansas	299
	Non-Federal Reservoir Evaporation - Nebraska - Above Gage	56
	Non-Federal Reservoir Evaporation - Nebraska - Below Gage	4
Prairie Dog Subbasin	Non-Federal Reservoir Evaporation - Kansas	197
	Non-Federal Reservoir Evaporation - Nebraska	22
Mainstem Subbasin	Non-Federal Reservoir Evaporation - Kansas	108
	Non-Federal Reservoir Evaporation - Nebraska - Above Guide Rock Gage - Whole Basin Value:	1,099
	Non-Federal Reservoir Evaporation - Nebraska - Below Guide Rock Gage - Whole Basin Value:	97

Stream Gage Data		
North Fork Subbasin	North Fork Republican River At Colorado-Nebraska State Line	23,138
Arikaree Subbasin	Arikaree River At Haigler	1,283
Buffalo Subbasin	Buffalo Creek Near Haigler	1,452
Rock Subbasin	Rock Creek At Parks	3,384
South Fork Subbasin	South Fork Republican River Near Benkelman	7
Frenchman Subbasin	Frenchman Creek At Culbertson	19,036
Driftwood Subbasin	Driftwood Creek Near McCook	1,740
Red Willow Subbasin	Red Willow Creek Near Red Willow	3,620
Medicine Creek Subbasin	Medicine Creek Below Harry Strunk	23,536
Beaver Subbasin	Beaver Creek Near Beaver City	519
Sappa Subbasin	Sappa Creek Near Stamford	8,215
Prairie Dog Subbasin	Prairie Dog Creek Near Woodruff	7,586
Mainstem Subbasin	Republican River At Guide Rock	30,975
	Republican River Near Hardy	53,546

Hardy Gage Data	USGS Gage 06853500 Republican River Near Hardy, NE	
Mainstem Subbasin	January	4,682
	February	4,161
	March	7,765
	April	7,547
	May	10,187
	June	8,278
	July	3,805
	August	1,933
	September	917
	October	917
	November	1,474
	December	1,880
	ANNUAL	53,546

Calendar Year		2024
Reservoir Data		
South Fork Subbasin	Bonny Reservoir Evaporation	0
	Bonny Reservoir Change In Storage	0
Frenchman Subbasin	Enders Reservoir Evaporation	1,289
	Enders Reservoir Change In Storage	(64)
Red Willow Subbasin	Hugh Butler Lake Evaporation	850
	Hugh Butler Lake Change In Storage	(2,699)
Medicine Creek Subbasin	Harry Strunk Lake Evaporation	2,025
	Harry Strunk Lake Change In Storage	1,527
Prairie Dog Subbasin	Keith Sebelius Lake Evaporation	1,731
	Keith Sebelius Lake Change In Storage	(2,575)
Mainstem Subbasin	Swanson Lake Evaporation	6,807
	Swanson Lake Change In Storage	(4,592)
	Harlan County Evaporation Subject to Nebraska/Kansas Split	19,649
	Harlan County Evaporation Charged to Kansas	0
	Harlan County Change In Storage	(4,228)
	Lovewell Reservoir Ev charged to the Republican River	3,525

Canal Data		
North Fork Subbasin	Haigler Canal Diversions - Colorado	0
	Haigler Canal Diversions - Nebraska	5,014
	Haigler Canal Diversions	5,014
South Fork Subbasin	Hale Ditch Diversions	0
Frenchman Subbasin	Champion Canal Diversions	0
	Riverside Canal Diversions	0
	Culbertson Canal Diversions	0
	Culbertson Canal Extension Diversions	0
	Culbertson Canal % Return Flow	1
	Culbertson Canal Extension % Return Flow	1
Driftwood Subbasin	Meeker-Driftwood Canal Diversions	15,935
	Meeker-Driftwood Canal % Return Flow	61%
Red Willow Subbasin	Red Willow Canal Diversions	4,251
	Red Willow Canal % Return Flow	68%
Prairie Dog Subbasin	Almena Canal Diversions	2,343
	Almena Canal % Return Flow	56%
Mainstem Subbasin	Bartley Canal Diversion	6,863
	Bartley Canal % Return Flow	69%
	Cambridge Canal Diversion	23,195
	Cambridge Canal % Return Flow	58%
	Naponee Canal Diversion	1,038
	Naponee Canal % Return Flow	54%
	Franklin Canal Diversion	19,075
	Franklin Canal % Return Flow	67%
	Franklin Pump Canal Diversions	1,550
	Franklin Pump Canal % Return Flow	40%
	Superior Canal Diversions	9,450
	Superior Canal % Return Flow	68%
	Courtland Canal Diversions At Headgate	73,124
	Diversions to Nebraska Courtland	1,715
	Nebraska Courtland % Return Flow	28%
	Courtland Canal, Loss in NE assigned to upper Courtland KS	3,295
	Courtland Canal, Loss in NE assigned to delivery to Lovewell	7,870
	Courtland Canal At Kansas-Nebraska State Line	60,244
	Courtland Canal Diversions to the Upper Courtland District	20,829
	Courtland Canal Above Lovewell % Return Flow	47%
	Courtland Canal, Loss assigned to deliveries of water to Lovewell, Stateline to Lovewell	3,521
	Courtland Canal Deliveries To Lovewell Reservoir	39,189
	Diversions of Republican River water from Lovewell Reservoir to the Courtland Canal below Lovewell	35,662
	Courtland Canal Below Lovewell % Return Flow	41%
	To allocate Harlan County evaporation:	
	Kansas Bostwick Diversions During Irrigation Season (actual, or 3-year average)	41,061
	Nebraska Bostwick Diversions During Irrigation Season (actual or 3-year average)	32,755

Table 1: Annual Virgin and Computed Water Supply, Allocations, and Computed Beneficial Consumptive Uses by State, Main Stem, and Sub-Basin

2024 Basin	Virgin Water Supply	Computed Water Supply	Allocations				Computed Beneficial Consumptive Use		
			Colorado	Kansas	Nebraska	Unallocated	Colorado	Kansas	Nebraska
North Fork	39,160	39,160	8,770	0	9,630	20,760	19,530	0	4,360
Arikaree	4,200	4,200	3,300	210	710	(20)	2,690	120	110
Buffalo	5,750	5,750	0	0	1,900	3,850	480	0	3,820
Rock	8,880	8,880	0	0	3,550	5,330	100	0	5,400
South Fork	18,780	18,780	8,340	7,550	260	2,630	14,190	3,980	600
Frenchman	101,030	101,090	0	0	54,180	46,910	180	0	81,880
Driftwood	380	380	0	30	60	290	0	10	960
Red Willow	14,920	17,620	0	0	3,380	14,240	0	0	9,450
Medicine	38,740	37,210	0	0	3,390	33,820	0	0	22,620
Beaver	10,650	10,650	2,130	4,130	4,320	70	0	6,150	3,980
Sappa	10,290	10,290	0	4,230	4,230	1,830	0	1,390	1,220
Prairie Dog	13,130	15,710	0	7,180	1,190	7,340	0	8,120	120
Main Stem	124,920	131,440	0	67,170	64,270	0	(3,420)	48,570	117,840
Total All Basins	390,830	401,160	22,540	90,500	151,070	137,050	33,750	68,340	252,360
Main Stem Including Unallocated		268,490	0	137,200	131,290				
Total	390,830	401,160	22,540	160,530	218,090	0	33,750	68,340	252,360

Table 2: Original Compact Virgin Water Supply and Allocations

Basin	Virgin Water Supply	Colorado Allocation	% of Basin Supply	Kansas Allocation	% of Basin Supply	Nebraska Allocation	% of Basin Supply	Unallocated	% of Basin Supply
North Fork	44,700	10,000	22.4%			11,000	24.6%	23,700	53.0%
Arikaree	19,610	15,400	78.5%	1,000	5.1%	3,300	16.8%	(90)	-0.4%
Buffalo	7,890					2,600	33.0%	5,290	67.0%
Rock	11,000					4,400	40.0%	6,600	60.0%
South Fork	57,200	25,400	44.4%	23,000	40.2%	800	1.4%	8,000	14.0%
Frenchman	98,500					52,800	53.6%	45,700	46.4%
Driftwood	7,300			500	6.9%	1,200	16.4%	5,600	76.7%
Red Willow	21,900					4,200	19.2%	17,700	80.8%
Medicine	50,800					4,600	9.1%	46,200	90.9%
Beaver	16,500	3,300	20.0%	6,400	38.8%	6,700	40.6%	100	0.6%
Sappa	21,400			8,800	41.1%	8,800	41.1%	3,800	17.8%
Prairie Dog	27,600			12,600	45.7%	2,100	7.6%	12,900	46.7%
Tributaries Sub-Total	384,000							175,500	
Main Stem	94,500								
Main Stem + Unallocated	270,000			138,000	51.1%	132,000	48.9%		
Total	478,900	54,100		190,300		234,500			

Table 3A: Table to Be Used to Calculate Colorado's Five-Year Running Average Allocation and Computed Beneficial				
	Col. 1	Col. 2	Col. 3	Col. 4
Year	Allocation	Computed Beneficial Consumptive	Imported Water Supply Credit and CORWS	Difference between Allocation and the Computed Beneficial Consumptive Use offset by Imported Water Supply Credit and CORWS Credit Col 1 – (Col 2- Col 3)
2020	24,200	26,910	6,218	3,508
2021	22,790	30,200	9,390	1,980
2022	19,270	26,580	8,501	1,191
2023	25,630	38,420	12,259	(531)
2024	22,540	33,750	9,873	(1,337)
Avg 2020-2024	22,890	31,170	9,250	960

Table 3B: Table to Be Used to Calculate Kansas's Five-Year Running Average Allocation and Computed Beneficial				
	Col. 1	Col. 2	Col. 3	Col. 4
Year	Allocation	Computed Beneficial Consumptive	Imported Water Supply Credit	Difference between Allocation and the Computed Beneficial Consumptive Use offset by Imported Water Supply Credit Col 1 – (Col 2- Col 3)
2020	247,750	53,810	NA	193,940
2021	201,890	57,130	NA	144,760
2022	168,020	67,770	NA	100,250
2023	144,570	62,370	NA	82,200
2024	160,530	68,340	NA	92,190
Avg 2020-2024	184,550	61,880	NA	122,670

Table 3C: Table to Be Used to Calculate Nebraska's Five-Year Running Average Allocation and Computed Beneficial				
	Col. 1	Col. 2	Col. 3	Col. 4
Year	Allocation	Computed Beneficial Consumptive	Imported Water Supply Credit and NERWS	Difference between Allocation and the Computed Beneficial Consumptive Use offset by Imported Water Supply Credit and NERWS Credit Col 1 – (Col 2- Col 3)
2020	303,070	252,400	18,995	69,665
2021	258,180	252,650	21,456	26,986
2022	221,860	249,960	16,157	(11,943)
2023	212,990	247,580	16,721	(17,869)
2024	218,090	252,360	18,287	(15,983)
Avg 2020-2024	242,840	250,990	18,320	10,170

Table 4A: Colorado Compliance with the Sub-basin Non-impairment Requirement

Table 4A is left unpopulated pursuant to the August 24, 2016 “RESOLUTION BY THE REPUBLICAN RIVER COMPACT ADMINISTRATION APPROVING OPERATION AND ACCOUNTING FOR THE COLORADO COMPACT COMPLIANCE PIPELINE AND COLORADO’S COMPLIANCE EFFORTS IN THE SOUTH FORK REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN”, paragraph E.

2024

	Col 1	Col 2	Col 3	Col 4	Col 5	Col 6
Sub-basin	Colorado Sub-basin Allocation (Five-year Running Average)	Unallocated Supply (Five-year Running Average)	Credits from Imported Water Supply and CORWS Credit (Five-year Running Average)	Total Available Supply (Five-year Running Average)	Colorado Computed Beneficial Consumptive Use (Five-year Running Average)	Difference Between Available Supply and Computed Beneficial Consumptive Use (Five-year Running Average)
North Fork						
Arikaree						
South Fork						
Beaver						

Table 4B: Kansas's Sub-Basin Non-impairment Compliance**2024**

	Col 1	Col 2	Col 3	Col 4	Col 5	Col 6	Col 7
Sub-basin	Kansas Sub-basin Allocation (Five-year Running Average)	Unallocated Supply (Five-year Running Average)	Unused Allocation from Colorado (Five Year Running Average)	Credits from Imported Water Supply (Five-year Running Average)	Total Available Supply Col 1 + Col 2 + Col 3 + Col 4 (Five-year Running Average)	Kansas Computed Beneficial Consumptive Use (Five-year Running Average)	Difference Between Available Supply and Computed Beneficial Consumptive Use Col 5 - Col 6 (Five-year Running Average)
Arikaree	176	(14)	968	N/A	1,130	150	980
South Fork	8,434	2,938	0	N/A	11,372	5,124	6,248
Driftwood	106	1,182	0	N/A	1,288	16	1,272
Beaver	3,596	54	1,854	N/A	5,504	5,356	148
Sappa	4,906	2,120	0	N/A	7,026	1,268	5,758
Prairie Dog	6,334	6,470	0	N/A	12,804	8,038	4,766

Table 5B: Kansas's Compliance During Water-Short Year Administration**Kansas**

Year	Allocation				Computed Beneficial Consumptive Use	Imported Water Supply Credit	Difference Between Allocation and the Computed Beneficial Consumptive Use offset by Imported Water Supply Credit
Column	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Sum Sub-basins	Kansas' Share of Unallocated Supply	Kansas' Share of the Unused Colorado Allocation	Total Col 1 + Col 2 + Col 3			Col 4 - (Col 5 - Col 6)
2023	20,950	7,783	1,456	30,189	18,860	N/A	11,329
2024	23,330	6,204	1,400	30,934	19,770	N/A	11,164
Avg 2023-2024	22,140	6,993	1,428	30,561	19,315	N/A	11,246

Table 5E: Nebraska's Tributary Compliance During Water-Short Year Administration

Year	Allocation			Computed Beneficial Consumptive Use	Imported Water Supply Credit and AWS	Allocation - (CBCU - IWS-AWS)
	Sub-Basin Total	Share of Unallocated Supply	Total			
2022	77,390	66,054	143,444	127,090	9,442	25,796
2023	94,690	70,088	164,778	141,530	11,242	34,490
2024	86,800	67,017	153,817	134,520	11,048	30,345
Avg 2023-2024	90,745	68,553	159,298	138,025	11,145	32,418

Attachment 2: Accounting Inputs and Accounting Tables from the RRCA Accounting for 2024

Table 5A: Colorado's Compliance During Water-Short Year Administration

	Col. 1	Col. 2	Col. 3	Col. 4	Col. 5	Col. 6	Col. 7
Year	Is the year Water Short Pursuant to III.J?* (Yes or No)	Statewide Allocation	Beaver Creek Reduction Pursuant to Table 5F	Allocation - Beaver Creek Reduction (Col. 2 - Col.3)	Computed Beneficial Consumptive (excluding the Beaver Creek Sub-basin)	Imported Water Supply Credit - IWS Beaver Creek + CORWS Credit	Difference between Allocation and the Computed Beneficial Consumptive Use offset by Imported Water Supply Credit and CORWS Credit (Col. 4 - Col. 5 + Col. 6)
2020	No	24,200	0	24,200	26,910	6,218	3,508
2021	No	22,790	0	22,790	30,200	9,390	1,980
2022	No	19,270	0	19,270	26,580	8,501	1,191
2023	No	25,630	0	25,630	38,420	12,259	(531)
2024	No	22,540	0	22,540	33,750	9,873	(1,337)
Avg 2020-2024	No	22,890	0	22,890	31,170	9,250	960

Table 5F: Colorado's Beaver Creek Reduction During Water-Short Years

Water Short Year (WSY) Pursuant to III.J	Beaver Creek Allocation	Reduction = Average of last five WSY Beaver Creek Allocations
	Col. 1	Col. 2
2002	770	N/A
2003	260	N/A
2004	360	N/A
2005	910	N/A
2006	1,420	N/A
2007	2,320	744
2013	1,130	1,054
2014	1,250	1,228
2015	2,130	1,406
2016	2,430	1,650
2018	1,940	1,852

Table 5C: Nebraska's Compliance During Water-Short Year Administration

Year	Allocation				Computed Beneficial Consumptive Use			Imported Water Supply Credit and NERWS Credit	Difference Between Allocation and Computed Beneficial Consumptive Use offset by Imported Water Supply Credit Above Guide Rock and NERWS Credit
Column	Col 1	Col 2	Col 3	Col 4	Col 5	Col 6	Col 7	Col 8	Col 9
	State-Wide Allocation	Allocation Below Guide Rock	Allocation Above Guide Rock	Nebraska's Share of Unused Colorado Allocation	State-Wide CBCU	CBCU Below Guide Rock	CBCU Above Guide Rock	Credits Above Guide Rock	Col 3 + Col 4 - (Col 7 - Col 8)
2023	212,990	4,040	208,950	1,394	247,580	3,702	243,879	16,738	(16,797)
2024	218,090	4,790	213,300	1,340	252,360	3,479	248,881	18,306	(15,935)
Avg 2023-2024	215,540	4,420	211,120	1,370	249,970	3,590	246,380	17,520	(16,370)

Table 5D: Nebraska's Compliance Under a Alternative Water-Short Year Administration Plan

Year	Allocation				Computed Beneficial Consumptive Use			Imported Water	Difference Between Allocation
Column	Col 1	Col 2	Col 3	Col 4	Col 5	Col 6	Col 7	Col 8	Col 9
	State-Wide Allocation	Allocation Below Guide Rock	Allocation Above Guide Rock	Share of Unused Colorado Allocation	State-Wide CBCU	CBCU Below Guide Rock	CBCU Above Guide Rock	Credits Above Guide Rock	Col 3 + Col 4 - (Col 7 - Col 8)
2022	221,860	9,277	212,583	1,017	249,960	2,870	247,090	16,174	(17,316)
2023	212,990	4,040	208,950	1,394	247,580	3,702	243,879	16,738	(16,797)
2024	218,090	4,790	213,300	1,340	252,360	3,479	248,881	18,306	(15,935)
Avg 2022-2024	217,650	6,040	211,610	1,250	249,970	3,350	246,620	17,070	(16,680)

Attachment 1: Sub-basin Flood Flow Thresholds

Sub-basin	Sub-basin Flood Flow Threshold Acre-feet per Year ³
Arikaree River	16,400
North Fork of Republican River	33,900
Buffalo Creek	9,800
Rock Creek	9,800
South Fork of Republican River	30,400
Frenchman Creek	51,900
Driftwood Creek	9,400
Red Willow Creek	15,100
Medicine Creek	55,100
Beaver Creek	13,900
Sappa Creek	26,900
Prairie Dog	15,700

³ Flows considered to be Flood Flows are flows in excess of the 94% flow based on a flood frequency analysis for the years 1971-2000. The Gaged Flows are measured after depletions by Beneficial Consumptive Use and change in reservoir storage.

Attachment 6: Computing Water Supplies and Consumptive Use Above Guide Rock

Year	Total Mainstem CWS	Hardy Gage	Superior Courtland Diversion Dam	Courtland Canal Diversions	Superior Canal Diversion	Courtland Canal Returns	Superior Canal Returns	Total Bostwick Returns Below Guide Rock	NE CBCU Below Guide Rock	KS CBCU Below Guide Rock	Total CBCU Below Guide Rock	Gain Guide Rock to Hardy	VWS Guide Rock to Hardy	Mainstem VWS Above Guide Rock	NE MS Allocation Above Guide Rock	KS MS Allocation Above Guide Rock	Nebraska Guide Rock to Hardy Allocation	Kansas Guide Rock to Hardy Allocation
2020	264,600	251,239	202,416	44,380	10,070	7,327	8,024	15,352	2,266	616	2,882	33,471	36,353	228,247	111,613	116,634	17,777	18,577
2021	204,980	142,152	115,649	73,224	9,551	10,536	6,475	17,011	3,084	723	3,807	9,492	13,299	191,681	93,732	97,949	6,503	6,796
2022	160,360	69,608	32,213	74,964	9,827	15,494	6,460	21,954	2,870	661	3,531	15,441	18,972	141,388	69,139	72,249	9,277	9,695
2023	98,590	34,861	14,677	77,296	11,708	8,802	7,692	16,494	3,702	871	4,572	3,690	8,263	90,327	44,170	46,157	4,040	4,222
2024	131,440	53,546	30,975	73,124	9,450	10,451	6,468	16,920	3,479	665	4,144	5,651	9,795	121,645	59,484	62,161	4,790	5,005

COURTLAND CANAL

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Return Flow From Courtland Canal To Republican River Above Lovewell From Kansas	536	912	835	1,007	904
Return Flow From Courtland Canal To Republican River Above Hardy From Nebraska	6,791	9,625	14,659	7,794	9,548
Courtland Canal Diversions At Headgate	44,380	73,224	74,964	77,296	73,124
Courtland Canal At Kansas-Nebraska State Line	35,756	60,776	55,667	67,145	60,244
NE Courtland Canal CBCU (includes transportation loss)	342	711	1,420	646	1,237
Superior Canal CBCU	2,046	3,076	3,367	4,016	2,982

NEBRASKA

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
SW Diversions - Irrigation - Small Pumps - Nebraska Below Guide Rock	552	665	763	1,026	944
SW Diversions - M&I - Nebraska - Below Guide Rock	0	0	0	0	0
SW Non-Federal Reservoir Evaporation - Below Guide Rock	84	51	95	78	97
SW Return - Irrigation	138	166	191	257	236
SW Return - M&I	0	0	0	0	0
GW CBCU Nebraska Below Guide Rock	1,769	2,534	2,203	2,854	2,674

KANSAS

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
SW CBCU - Irrigation - Small Pumps	565	667	598	802	598
SW CBCU - M&I	0	0	0	0	0
GW CBCU Kansas Below Guide Rock	51	56	63	69	67

Attachment 2: Accounting Inputs and Accounting Tables from the RRCA Accounting for 2024

2024

Attachment 7: Calculations of Return Flows from Bureau of Reclamation Canals

Col 1	Col 2	Col 3	Col 4	Col 5	Col 6	Col 7	Col 8	Col 9	Col 10	Col 11	Col 12
Canal	Canal Diversion	Spill to Waste-Way	Net Diversion	Field Deliveries	Canal Loss	Average Field Loss Factor	Field Loss	Total Loss from District	Percent Field and Canal Loss That Returns to the Stream	Total return to Stream from Canal and Field Loss	Return as Percent of Canal Diversion
Name Canal	Headgate Diversion	Sum of measured spills to river	Col 2 - Col 3	Sum of Deliveries to the field	Col 4 - Col 5	1 -Weighted Average Efficiency of Application System for the District*	Col 5 x Col 7	Col 6 + Col 8	Estimated Percent Loss*	Col 9 x Col 10 + Col 3	Col 11/Col 2
Σ Irrigation Season											
Σ Non- Irrigation Season											
Culbertson	0	0	0	0	0	30%	0	0	82%	0	100%
	0	0	0	0	0	30%	0	0	92%	0	100.0%
Culbertson Extension	0	0	0	0	0	30%	0	0	82%	0	100%
	0	0	0	0	0	30%	0	0	92%	0	100.0%
Meeker - Driftwood	15,935	1,511	14,424	6,298	8,126	30%	1,889	10,015	82%	9,724	61.0%
	0	0	0	0	0	30%	0	0	92%	0	100.0%
Red Willow	4,251	477	3,774	1,180	2,594	30%	354	2,948	82%	2,894	68.1%
	0	0	0	0	0	30%	0	0	92%	0	100.0%
Bartley	6,863	1,267	5,596	1,956	3,640	30%	587	4,227	82%	4,733	69.0%
	0	0	0	0	0	30%	0	0	92%	0	100.0%
Cambridge	22,696	2,937	19,759	10,812	8,947	30%	3,244	12,191	82%	12,933	57.0%
	499	14	485	0	485	30%	0	485	92%	460	92.2%
Naponee	1,038	106	932	590	342	35%	207	549	82%	556	53.5%
	0	0	0	0	0	35%	0	0	92%	0	100.0%
Franklin	19,075	2,799	16,276	6,422	9,854	35%	2,248	12,102	82%	12,722	66.7%
	0	0	0	0	0	35%	0	0	92%	0	100.0%
Franklin Pump	1,550	132	1,418	1,271	147	35%	445	592	82%	617	39.8%
	0	0	0	0	0	35%	0	0	92%	0	100.0%
Almena	2,343	0	2,343	1,058	1,285	30%	317	1,602	82%	1,314	56.1%
	9,450	228	9,222	2,336	6,886	31%	724	7,610	82%	6,468	68.4%
Superior	0	0	0	0	0	31%	0	0	92%	0	100.0%
Nebraska Courtland	1,715	0	1,715	1,470	245	23%	338	583	82%	478	27.9%
Courtland Canal Above Lovewell	20,830	1,258	19,572	11,799	7,773	23%	2,714	10,487	82%	9,857	47.3%
Courtland Canal Below Lovewell	42,039	4,461	37,578	28,811	8,767	23%	6,627	15,394	82%	17,084	40.6%

Attachment 2: Accounting Inputs and Accounting Tables from the RRCA Accounting for 2024

Attachment 8: Calculations of the Computed Water Supply Adjustment and Remaining Compact compliance Volume for Implementation of 2016 RRCA Resolution -- page 1 of 2

CCV and RCCV Tracking ^a												
	Col. 1	Col. 2	Col. 3	Col. 4	Col. 5	Col. 6	Col. 7	Col. 8	Col. 9	Col. 10	Col. 11	Col. 12
Year	Start of Year RCCV	RCCV Adjustme nt	CCV	CCV Inflow into HCL	RCCV Inflow into HCL	Total CCV and RCCV Inflow into HCL	Total CCV and RCCV Available for Release	CCV Released from HCL as Flow	CCV Released from HCL as Evaporation	CCV Retained in HCL (at End of Year)	CWSA	End of Year RCCV
	=Col. 12 of previous year	^b	^c			= Col. 4 + Col. 5	=Col. 6 + Col. 10 of previous year			= Col. 7 – (Col. 8 + Col. 9)	=Col. 10 – Col. 10 of previous year	= Col. 1 – Col. 2 + Col. 3 - Col. 6
2007	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2008	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2010	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2011	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2012	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2013	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2014	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2015	0	0	0	8332	0	8332	8332	0	0	8332	8332	0
2016	0	0	41,935	24752	0	24752	33084	5084	432	23679	15347	9,300
2017	9300	0	20,000	20,000	0	20000	43679	20000	224	21438	-224	9,300
2018	9300	0	0	0	0	0	21438	0	1339	20099	-1339	9,300
2019	9300	0	0	0	0	0	20099	0	2340	17759	-2340	9,300
2020	9300	1860	0	0	0	0	17759	0	3889	13870	-3889	7,440
2021	7,440	1860	0	0	0	0	13870	0	1550	12320	-1550	5,580
2022	5,580	1860	0	0	0	0	12320	0	4354	7966	-4354	3,720
2023	3,720	1860	0	0	1860	1860	9826	0	1026	8800	834	0
2024	0	0	0	0	0	0	8800	0	2305	6495	-2305	0

APV and RWS					RCCV Calc	
Colorado		Nebraska				
Aug. Pumping Volume (APV)	Resolution Water Supply Credit (CORWS)	Aug. Pumping Volume (APV) Rock Creek That Passed Sub-basin Gage in the Current Year	Aug. Pumping Volume (APV) N-CORPE That Passed Sub-basin Gage in the Current Year	Resolution Water Supply Credit (NERWS)	Extra CCV Efforts Above CCV (Use with RCCV Calc)	
0	0	0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	0	0	
0	0	15,766	0	15,766	0	
7,448	7,448	19,397	42,758	62,155	0	
10,760	10,760	1,098	25,932	18,698	8332	
10,130	10,130	499	22,803	41,935	449	
11,330	11,330	4,563	11,106	20,000	0	
13,578	13,578	0	0	0	0	
8,905	8,905	0	0	0	0	
6,218	6,218	0	0	0	0	
9,390	9,390	0	0	0	0	
8,501	8,501	0	0	0	0	
12,259	12,259	0	0	0	0	
9,873	9,873	0	0	0	0	

a. Calculations for RCCV, CWSA, & RWS don't start until Oct. 1, 2015

b. See Provision 10 of the RRCA Resolution signed August 24, 2016, titled "Resolution Approving Long-Term Agreement Related to the Operation of Harlan County Lake for Compact Call Years" for the terms of assigning RCCV Adjustment. The RCCV Adjustment for each year is equal to 20% of the unadjusted portion of the RCCV, if it is a non-Compact Call Year, plus any remaining volumetric reductions from the previous four years.

c. In years when the contributions from Nebraska's water management activities, consistent with the 2016 CCY HCL Operations Resolution, are greater than CCV and the NERWS is equal to the greater contribution volume, CCV in Column 3 should also be set equal to the contribution.

d. The formula for calculation of RCCV is based on calendar year operations and will vary when operations occur in a different calendar year than NERWS Credit is applied.

Attachment 8: Calculations of the Computed Water Supply Adjustment and Remaining Compact compliance Volume for Implementation of 2016 RRCA Resolution -- page 2 of 2

RCCV Adjustment Calculation							
CCY?	RCCV Annual Increase (Excluding RCCV Adj)	RCCV 5 Yr. Cum. Increase since last CCY to Non-CCY	RCCV Adjustment Year 1	RCCV Adjustment Year 2	RCCV Adjustment Year 3	RCCV Adjustment Year 4	RCCV Adjustment Year 5
1 if CCY, otherwise 0							
0	0	0	0				
0	0	0	0	0			
0	0	0	0	0	0		
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	9300	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	9300	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	9300	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	9300	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	9300	1860	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	1860	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	1860	0	0
1	-1860	0	0	0	0	1860	0
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Flood Flow Calculations Based on Accounting Procedures III.B.1 and Attachment 1.

Hardy Gage Monthly Data (acre-feet)					
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
January	55,339	7,475	8,005	2,523	4,682
February	33,332	7,332	7,615	2,410	4,161
March	33,775	28,746	9,074	7,361	7,765
April	23,421	20,400	6,592	4,173	7,547
May	31,732	25,198	4,958	2,091	10,187
June	10,810	14,672	3,981	3,006	8,278
July	30,811	8,141	18,172	2,301	3,805
August	8,337	8,550	3,666	2,561	1,933
September	3,488	3,034	2,326	1,918	917
October	4,298	2,535	1,624	1,454	917
November	7,632	7,470	1,775	1,673	1,474
December	8,265	8,600	1,815	3,389	1,880
ANNUAL	251,239	142,153	69,603	34,861	53,546
Over 400K	0	0	0	0	0

5-month Consecutive Period Flows (acre-feet)					
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Jan-May	177,598	89,151	36,244	18,558	34,342
Feb-Jun	133,069	96,348	32,220	19,041	37,938
Mar-Jul	130,548	97,157	42,777	18,932	37,582
Apr-Aug	105,110	76,961	37,369	14,132	31,750
May-Sep	85,177	59,595	33,103	11,878	25,120
Jun-Oct	57,743	36,932	29,769	11,241	15,850
Jul-Nov	54,566	29,730	27,563	9,908	9,046
Aug-Dec	32,020	30,189	11,206	10,995	7,121

2-month Consecutive Period Flows (acre-feet)					
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Jan-Feb	88,671	14,807	15,620	4,933	8,843
Feb-Mar	67,107	36,078	16,689	9,771	11,926
Mar-Apr	57,195	49,146	15,666	11,534	15,312
Apr-May	55,152	45,598	11,550	6,264	17,734
May-Jun	42,541	39,870	8,939	5,097	18,465
Jun-Jul	41,621	22,813	22,153	5,307	12,083
Jul-Aug	39,148	16,691	21,838	4,862	5,738
Aug-Sep	11,825	11,584	5,992	4,479	2,850
Sep-Oct	7,786	5,569	3,950	3,373	1,834
Oct-Nov	11,930	10,005	3,399	3,127	2,391
Nov-Dec	15,898	16,070	3,590	5,062	3,354

Final Sub-basin Flood Flows					
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
North Fork Flood Flow	0	0	0	0	0
Arikaree Flood Flow	0	0	0	0	0
Buffalo Flood Flow	0	0	0	0	0
Rock Flood Flow	0	0	0	0	0
Southfork Flood Flow	0	0	0	0	0
Frenchman Flood Flow	0	0	0	0	0
Driftwood Flood Flow	0	0	0	0	0
Red Willow Flood Flow	0	0	0	0	0
Medicine Creek Flood Flow	0	0	0	0	0
Beaver Flood Flow	0	0	0	0	0
Sappa Flood Flow	0	0	0	0	0
Prairie Dog Flood Flow	0	0	0	0	0
Mainstem Flood Flow	0	0	0	0	0

Sub-basin Flows Above Attachment 1 Flood Flow Thresholds					
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
North Fork	0	0	0	0	0
Arikaree	0	0	0	0	0
Buffalo	0	0	0	0	0
Rock	0	0	0	0	0
South Fork	0	0	0	0	0
Frenchman	0	0	0	0	0
Driftwood	0	0	0	0	0
Red Willow	0	0	0	0	0
Medicine Creek	0	0	0	0	0
Beaver	0	0	0	0	0
Sappa	0	0	0	0	0
Prairie Dog	0	0	0	0	0
Sub-basin Sum	0	0	0	0	0

5-month Consecutive Period Test					
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Jan-May	0	0	0	0	0
Feb-Jun	0	0	0	0	0
Mar-Jul	0	0	0	0	0
Apr-Aug	0	0	0	0	0
May-Sep	0	0	0	0	0
Jun-Oct	0	0	0	0	0
Jul-Nov	0	0	0	0	0
Aug-Dec	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0

2-month Consecutive Period Test					
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Jan-Feb	0	0	0	0	0
Feb-Mar	0	0	0	0	0
Mar-Apr	0	0	0	0	0
Apr-May	0	0	0	0	0
May-Jun	0	0	0	0	0
Jun-Jul	0	0	0	0	0
Jul-Aug	0	0	0	0	0
Aug-Sep	0	0	0	0	0
Sep-Oct	0	0	0	0	0
Oct-Nov	0	0	0	0	0
Nov-Dec	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0

Combined Test					
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
FINAL TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0



COLORADO
Division of Water Resources
Department of Natural Resources

MEMORANDUM

To: Earl Lewis and Tom Riley
From: Tracy Kosloff *TUK*
Date: June 25, 2024
Subject: Transmittal of data related to RRCA 2016 Resolution

Enclosed is a thumb drive containing the South Fork Focus Zone table and associated redacted contracts referenced in Jason Ullmann's June 25 email. Feel free to contact our team if there are any questions. Thank you.

1313 Sherman Street, Room 821, Denver, CO 80203 P 303.866.3581 dwr.colorado.gov/
Jared S. Polis, Governor | Dan Gibbs, Executive Director | Jason T. Ullmann, State Engineer/Director



Files provided to the RRCA engineering committee in support of the RRCA's December 16, 2024 Resolution. These files are included herein and available at <http://republicanriver.org/>

2024-09 Schreuder acreage map.pdf

2024-11 SFFZ NDVI Imagery Memo.pdf

2024-11 SFFZ_NDVI_Summary_Table.pdf

Repub_Irrig_2016.zip

Colorado SFFZ Dry-up Package 2024.xlsx

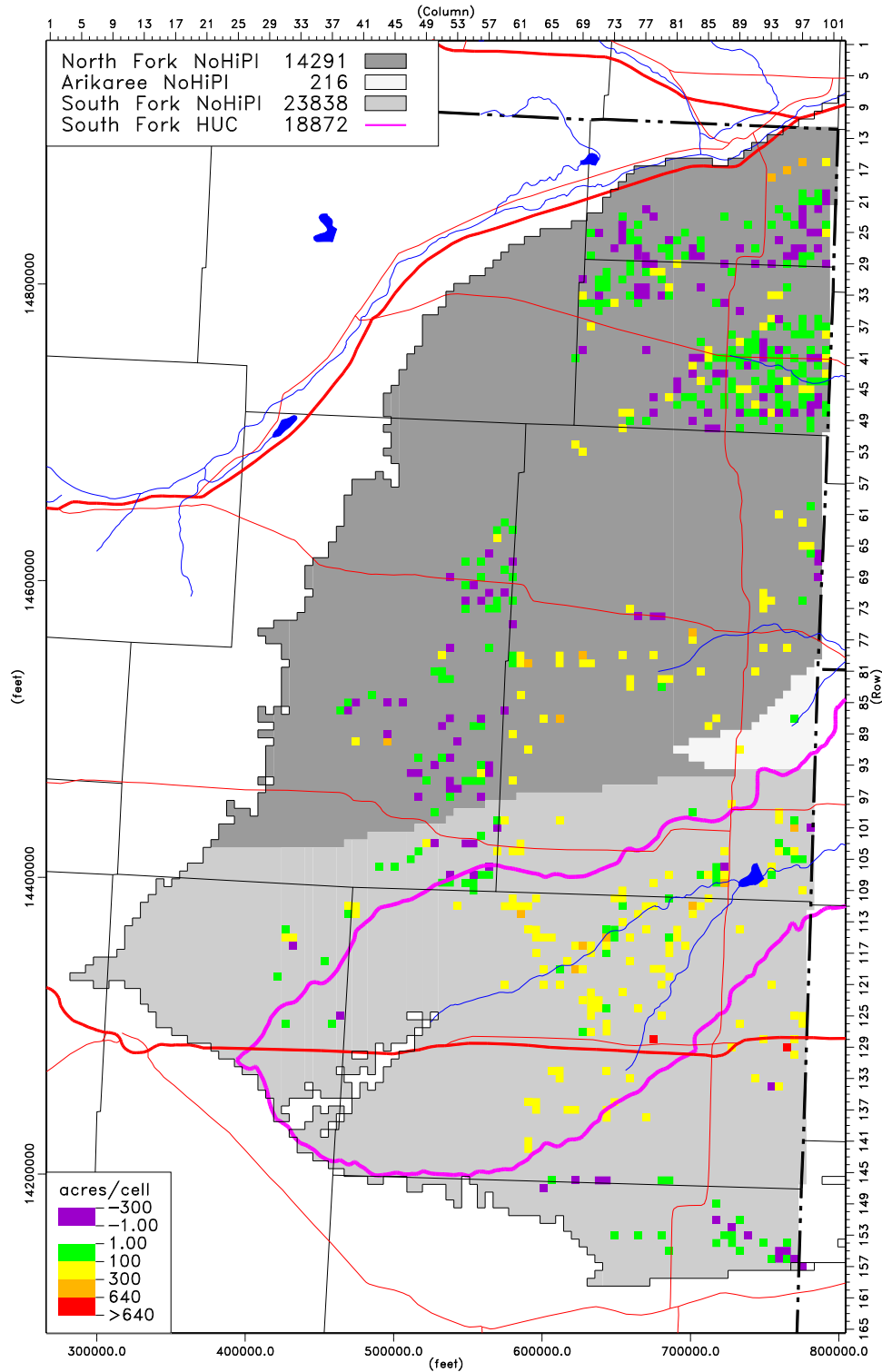
SFFZ_Dryup_Shapefile_2024.zip

SouthForkFocusZone.shp.zip



Change in Irrigated Acres 2005–2015

Republican River Compact Administration Groundwater Model



2024-09 Schreuder acreage map.pdf



COLORADO
Division of Water Resources
Department of Natural Resources

MEMORANDUM

To: Earl Lewis, Jesse Bradley
From: Tracy Kosloff
Date: November 25, 2024
Subject: 2024 SFFZ Irrigated Acreage Retirement Data

Dear Earl and Jesse,

I am pleased to transmit Colorado's compilation of the 2024 irrigation season NDVI data and aerial photos for the parcels under contract with the RRWCD from 2016 through May 2024 (the same contracts transmitted to you in June 2024).

NDVI refers to the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index, which is a metric that uses remote sensing to detect vegetation. DWR has compiled satellite data from throughout the 2024 irrigation season (May-October) into a layer called the NDVI_max, which shows the highest value, or maximum NDVI, observed at each 30 m x 30 m grid cell during that timeframe. The mean of these cell values is then calculated for each parcel. DWR calculated the 2024 NDVI_max's mean values using (1) boundaries from the contracts' legal descriptions and (2) the parcel boundaries from the 2016 irrigated land data (provided to your teams in September).

Included in this data package is a Report with two pages for each contract. The two pages have the same text, but display different imagery as described further below.

- The first page for each contract shows the NDVI_max imagery. Higher NDVI_max values are depicted in white/light gray and lower NDVI_max values are depicted with shades of dark gray/black. The image includes labels for the mean of NDVI max for the 2016 irrigated land parcels. The text shows the mean of NDVI max for the legal description in the contract (which is commonly larger than the acreage required to be dried up).
- The second page for each contract shows aerial imagery captured by Vexcel Group in June of 2024 at a 15-20 cm resolution.

The NDVI threshold generally used by DWR in our analyses to indicate lack of irrigation is 130 or less, but it is necessary to consider additional information, especially when a mean NDVI value only slightly exceeds that threshold. Furthermore, it is important to note that acres entered into EQIP contracts are allowed to dryland farm, which can result in higher NDVI values based on the presence of vegetative growth.

1313 Sherman Street, Room 821, Denver, CO 80203 P 303.866.3581 dwr.colorado.gov/
Jared S. Polis, Governor | Dan Gibbs, Executive Director | Jason T. Ullmann, State Engineer/Director



2024 Spatial Analysis SFFZ
Page 2

Also included is a summary table with one row for each contract, it indicates the Report page number for that contract and other information. In some cases, the summary table provides additional comments, such as if a center pivot is visibly removed in photographs, or when a specific part of the legal description appears to not be irrigated, achieving the contracted acreage retirement. The summary table also indicates parcels where the aerial imagery / NDVI data is not conclusive about the parcel's physical retirement status, and such parcels may warrant follow up in the future to confirm their physical lack of irrigation.

Lastly, enclosed is a draft resolution for your review for consideration by the RRCA when they meet in December.

**Attachment 3: South Fork Focus Zone irrigated acreage retirement documentation submitted in
support of December 16, 2024 Resolution**

2024 Summary Table

RRWCD Contract	Report Page	Acres Retired per Contract	Acres from GIS (Legal Desc.)	Contract Date	Contract Type	Legal Description	Associated Well Permits	NDVI Mean (of Legal Desc)	Additional Information	Additional Follow Up?	Links to Relevant Field Inspection Images
170AI08P	1	132.47	443.46	10/23/2016	OAI	Rotation of any three of four 106.67 acre circles centered in each quarter Sec 33-T9S-R47W-6PM	9062-FP	131	Well capped (see field inspection photo)		https://dnrweblink.state.co.us/dwr/Doc
170AI09P	3	187.53	443.46	10/23/2016	OAI	Rotation of any three of four 106.67 acre circles centered in each quarter Sec 33-T9S-R47W-6PM	11102-FP	131	Well capped (see field inspection photo)		https://dnrweblink.state.co.us/dwr/Doc
06CR267K	5	249	392.99	9/7/2017	CREP	Three 130-acre circles in SE1/4, SW1/4 and NW1/4 of Section 24-T7S-R44W-6PM	15222-FP	124			
06CR269K	7	108.9	327.08	11/9/2017	CREP	Part of the N1/2 of Section 15, Township 10 South, Range 47 West 6th PM	13564-FP	121			
06CR275K	9	124.4	157.84	2/11/2019	CREP	NE 1/4 NE 1/4 Sec 15-T7S-R51W-6PM	15971-FP	118			
06CR276K	11	124.4	156.36	2/11/2019	CREP	NW 1/4 NW 1/4 Sec 15-T7S-R51W-6PM	10049-FP	120			
19EQ100P	13	113.7	245.75	5/24/2019	EQUIP	Part of the SW1/4 & S1/2 of NW1/4 of Sec 10-T10S-R47W	11556-FP	118			
19EQ101P	15	56.19	321.48	5/31/2019	EQUIP	Land in the S1/2 Sec 10-T9S-R46W-6PM	6505-FP	119			
19EQ103P	17	63.81	321.48	5/31/2019	EQUIP	Land in the S1/2 Sec 10-T9S-R46W-6PM	3810-FP	119			
19EQ102P	19	120	329.89	5/31/2019	EQUIP	Land in the E1/2 Sec 15-T9S-R46W-6PM	4164-FP	124			
19EQ104P	21	82	433.20	5/31/2019	EQUIP	125-acre circle in the NE1/4 of Sec 18 and a total of 35 acres in two locations in the S1/2 of Sec7-T8S-R45W	17402-FP	122			
18CR001K	23	244.25	321.87	12/23/2019	CREP	S1/2 of N1/2 and N1/2 of S1/2 Sec 22-T7S-R47W-6PM	11287-FP,15264	122			
18CR002K	25	511.83	750.56	12/26/2019	CREP	W 1/2 of Sec. 28, E 1/2 of Sec. 29 and SW 1/4 of Sec 29 all in T-9S-R45W-6PM	3906-FP, 5776-FP	124			
18CR008K	27	130	168.16	11/6/2020	CREP	Pt of NW 1/4 Section 16-T6S-47W-6PM	17575-FP	122			
18CR009K	29	130	217.53	11/6/2020	CREP	W 1/2 of NE 1/4, 20 ac. in W 1/2 of E 1/2 of NE 1/4 and 60 ac. in E 1/2 of NW 1/4 of Section 15-T6S-47W-6PM	18157-FP	130	No center pivot (from aerial imagery and field inspection photos)		https://dnrweblink.state.co.us/dwr/Doc
20EQ106K	31	205.03	637.52	12/30/2020	EQUIP	SE1/4 and NE 1/4 Sec 33, NW 1/4 Sec 34, NW 1/4 Sec 28, all in T7S-R45W-6PM	15267-FP	129			
20EQ105K	33	275.97	637.52	12/30/2020	EQUIP	SE1/4 and NE1/4 Sec 33, NW1/4 Sec 34, NW 1/4 Sec 28, all in T7S-R45W-6PM	5135-FP	129			
21EQ108K	35	120	158.74	1/3/2022	EQUIP	NW 1/4 Sec 13-T9S-R47W-6PM	6989-FP	123			
18CR022K	37	126.35	160.67	1/14/2022	CREP	SW 1/4 SEC 3 -- T6S-R48W	14868-FP	121			
18CR023K	39	234.95	312.82	2/10/2022	CREP	NW 1/4 Sect. 22 & SW 1/4 Sec. 15 all in T7SR43W-6PM	4680-FP	124			
21EQ110K	41	91.3	316.77	2/24/2022	EQUIP	Part of SW 1/4 and NW 1/4 Sec 34-T6S-R43W-6PM	10310-FP	132	No center pivot. Dryland farming allowed		
18CR036K	43	156.2	158.58	10/25/2022	CREP	A portion of circle with approximately 130 acres in the S1/2 of Sec. 2 and approximately 30 acres in the N1/2 of Sec. 11 all in T6S-R49W-6PM	14078-FP	130			
22EQ137K	45	359.44	642.79	10/26/2022	EQUIP	311 acres in the N1/2 and 45 acres in the N1/2 of the SW1/4 of Section 3, Township 6 South, Range 46 West and 4 acres in the SW1/4 of Section 33, Township 5 South, Range 46 West of the 6th P.M.	6979-FP, 6978-FP	124	No center pivot, well capped, power meters removed, dryland farming allowed		https://dnrweblink.state.co.us/dwr/DocView.aspx?id=4087783&dbid=0 https://dnrweblink.state.co.us/dwr/DocView.aspx?id=4087784&dbid=0
18CR032K	47	243.11	326.62	10/28/2022	CREP	Part of SE/4 & SW/4 Sec. 29 T7S-R47W	15290-FP	125			
18CR035K	49	127	161.38	10/28/2022	CREP	NE/4 Sec. 17-T6S-R47W	17864-FP	124			
18CR034K	51	127	158.94	10/28/2022	CREP	SE/4 Sec. 17-T6S-R47W	17863-FP	124			
22EQ135K	53	112.37	162.26	10/28/2022	EQUIP	NE/4 Sec. 6-T8S-R45W-6PM	4129-FP	115			
22EQ136K	55	430	511.31	10/28/2022	EQUIP	A 190 acre circle in Sec. 3-T8S-R45W and 120 acres in SW/4 and 120 acres in NW/4 Sec. 33-T7S-R45W	4150-FP, 16298-FP	115			
18CR031K	57	249	320.49	10/31/2022	CREP	E/2 of Sec. 20-T6S-R47W	19228-FP	123			
22EQ128K	59	174	321.29	11/7/2022	EQUIP	S/2 of Sec. 21-T9S-R45W	15944-RFP	125	At least 174 acres in the eastern half of legal description are dry (from aerial imagery and field photo from June 2023) and has NDVI of 116 and dryland farming allowed		https://dnrweblink.state.co.us/dwr/0/d
18CR038K	61	128	175.91	11/9/2022	CREP	NE 1/4 of Sec. 8-Township 6 South-Range 47 West	19144-FP	127			
22EQ127K	63	249	327.90	11/9/2022	EQUIP	W1/2 of Sec. 5-T8S-R43W	13007-FP	132	No center pivot, powerlines are cut, well is capped in field inspection images, dryland farming allowed	Potentially	https://dnrweblink.state.co.us/dwr/Doc
18CR039Y	65	119.48	161.53	11/14/2022	CREP	NE 1/4 of Sec. 32-Township 5 South-Range 46 West	9114-FP	130			
22EQ132K	67	119.09	165.72	12/14/2022	EQUIP	NW/4 Sec.21-T6S-R49W	18968-FP	115			
22EQ133K	69	127.42	161.80	12/14/2022	EQUIP	SW/4 Sec. 21-T6S-R49W	19171-FP	140	The meter and structure removed per field inspection in Oct. 2023, dryland farming allowed		https://dnrweblink.state.co.us/dwr/Doc
23EQ140K	71	115	181.03	2/9/2023	EQUIP	Part of NWQ Sec. 24-T9S-R46W	15057-FP	128	No center pivot, dryland farming allowed		
23EQ141K	73	283.41	509.96	2/9/2023	EQUIP	Part of N/2 of Sec. 2-T9S-R45W, 96 acres in the NE/4 of Sec. 3 and the NW/4 of Sec. 2 and 88 acres in the NE/4 of Sec. 2, with 30 additional acres to be flooded in the NE/4 of Sec 2; T9S-R45W	9625-FP	122			

2024-11 SFFZ_NDVI_Summary_Table.pdf

Attachment 3: South Fork Focus Zone irrigated acreage retirement documentation submitted in support of December 16, 2024 Resolution

2024 Summary Table

RRWCD Contract	Report Page	Acres Retired per Contract	Acres from GIS (Legal Desc.)	Contract Date	Contract Type	Legal Description	Associated Well Permits	NDVI Mean (of Legal Desc)	Additional Information	Additional Follow Up?	Links to Relevant Field Inspection Images
23RP001K	75	237	238.87	2/9/2023	RAMP	A 120-acre circle in the SE 1/4 of Section 1 and a 130-acre circle in the NW 1/4 of Section 12, both in Township 9 South, Range 47 West of the 6th Principal Meridian	3786-FP	130			
18CR040K	77	480	699.14	2/17/2023	CREP	Part of Section 2, being 120 acres each in the NE/4, the SE/4 and the SW/4 and 120 acres in the SW/4 of Section 1, all in Township 6 South, Range 47 West, 6th P.M.	16986-FP, 16989	127			
18CR045K	79	108	159.85	2/18/2023	CREP	SE/4 Sec. 18-T6S-R48W	19413-FP	134		Potentially	
23EQ148Y	81	106	197.14	3/16/2023	EQIP	NW/4 Sec. 33-T3S-R42W	19764-FP	118			
23EQ142K	83	120	165.96	3/17/2023	EQIP	NW 1/4 Sec.29-Township 7 S-Range 47 W.	17427-FP	132		Potentially	
23EQ144K	85	200.54	498.03	3/21/2023	EQIP	150 acres in the SE/4 of Sec. 29 and 150 acres in the N/2 of Sec. 32, all in T6S-R44W.	10084-FP	120			
18CR044K	87	116	161.68	3/22/2023	CREP	Part of E 1/2 of NW 1/4 and W 1/2 of NE 1/4 of Section 8-Township 6 South-Range 45 West of the 6th Principal Meridian	21639-FP	128			
23RP002Y	89	30.67	199.32	4/6/2023	RAMP	Lots located in Sec.29-T5S-R44W	4104-FP	131	31 acres dried in the eastern part of the legal description, RAMP only dries up portions of land		
23EQ139K	91	240.54	566.67	4/7/2023	EQIP	Sec. 27-T8S-R45W	19355-FP, 19698	132		Potentially	
23EQ147K	93	80	159.99	4/7/2023	EQIP	Part SE1/4 Sec. 3-T11S-R47W-6th P.M.	33966-FP	124			
23EQ154Y	95	115	160.66	4/12/2023	EQIP	NE/4 Sec. 14-T3S-R43W	19763-FP	142	No center pivot, re-permitted to small capacity well, well pump downsized as seen in field inspection images, dryland farming allowed		https://dnrweblink.state.co.us/dwr/Doc
23EQ143K	97	120.66	159.82	4/13/2023	EQIP	SE 1/4 of Sec. 30-T10S-R46W	19299-FP	123			
23EQ150K	99	120	166.81	4/13/2023	EQIP	NE/4 Sec. 9-T10S-R46W	18699-FP-R	135	No center pivot, power meter removed, final permit deactivated, dryland farming allowed		https://dnrweblink.state.co.us/dwr/Doc
23EQ152K	101	120	165.55	4/13/2023	EQIP	NW/4 Sec. 3-T10S-R46W	16363-FP	142	No center pivot, power meter removed, power lines cut, final permit deactivated, dryland farming allowed		https://dnrweblink.state.co.us/dwr/Doc
23EQ151K	103	119	159.55	4/13/2023	EQIP	SE/4 Sec. 3-T10S-R46W	16365-FP	136	No center pivot, power meter removed as seen in permit images, final permit deactivated, dryland farming allowed		https://dnrweblink.state.co.us/dwr/Doc
23EQ149K	105	120	177.16	4/14/2023	EQIP	NW/4 Sec. 9-T10S-R46W	19903-FP	132	Power meter removed, dry land farming allowed, final permit deactivated, dryland farming allowed		https://dnrweblink.state.co.us/dwr/Doc
23EQ153K	107	119	150.60	4/14/2023	EQIP	NE/4 Sec. 3-T10S-R46W	16362-FP	140	No center pivot, power meter removed, final permit deactivated, dryland farming allowed		https://dnrweblink.state.co.us/dwr/Doc
23EQ155Y	109	157.5	321.54	4/25/2023	EQIP	Portions of E/2 of Sec. 23-T4S-R45W	9218-FP	144	field images show well head removal in Dec 2023, dryland farming allowed		https://dnrweblink.state.co.us/dwr/Doc
23RP006K	111	28.75	161.93	4/26/2023	RAMP	NE 1/4 of Sec. 14-T10S-R47W	17777-F	132	The outer tower of center pivot not in irrigation which accounts for the retired acreage		
23RP005K	113	34.44	321.14	4/26/2023	RAMP	Part of the SE 1/4 and part of the NE 1/4 of Sec. 13, all in T10S-R47W	15168-F	123			
23RP007K	115	32.21	161.49	4/26/2023	RAMP	SW 1/4 of Sec. 13-T10S-R47W	13824-FP	129			
23RP008K	117	37.3	158.66	4/26/2023	RAMP	NE/4 Sec. 24-T10S-R47W	11748-FP	128			
23RP009K	119	31.29	160.90	4/26/2023	RAMP	SW/4 Sec. 24-T10S-R47W	19490-FP	131	The outer tower of center pivot not in irrigation which accounts for the retired acreage		
23RP010K	121	30.91	162.44	4/26/2023	RAMP	NW/4 Sec. 30-T10S-R46W	19290-FP	131	The outer tower of center pivot not in irrigation which accounts for the retired acreage		
23EQ145K	123	67	150.98	4/28/2023	EQIP	NW/4 of Sec. 22-T7S-R44W	13526-FP	127	well capped in field inspection images, dryland farming allowed		https://dnrweblink.state.co.us/dwr/Doc
23EQ158Y	125	125.2	161.87	4/28/2023	EQIP	NW/4 Sec. 32-T5S-R46W	15838-FP	136	well disconnected in Jan 2024, dryland farming allowed		https://dnrweblink.state.co.us/dwr/Doc
23EQ167K	127	63.5	161.31	4/28/2023	EQIP	NE/4 Sec. 22-T11S-R49W	11629-FP	122			
23EQ168K	129	125	159.98	4/28/2023	EQIP	SE/4 Sec. 22-T11S-R49W	23708-FP, 23709	117			
23EQ159K	131	126.8	410.49	4/28/2023	EQIP	NE/4, E/2 of the NW/4 and the N/2 of the SE/4 all in Sec. 3-T6S-R47W	10559-FP	118			

2024-11 SFFZ_NDVI_Summary_Table.pdf

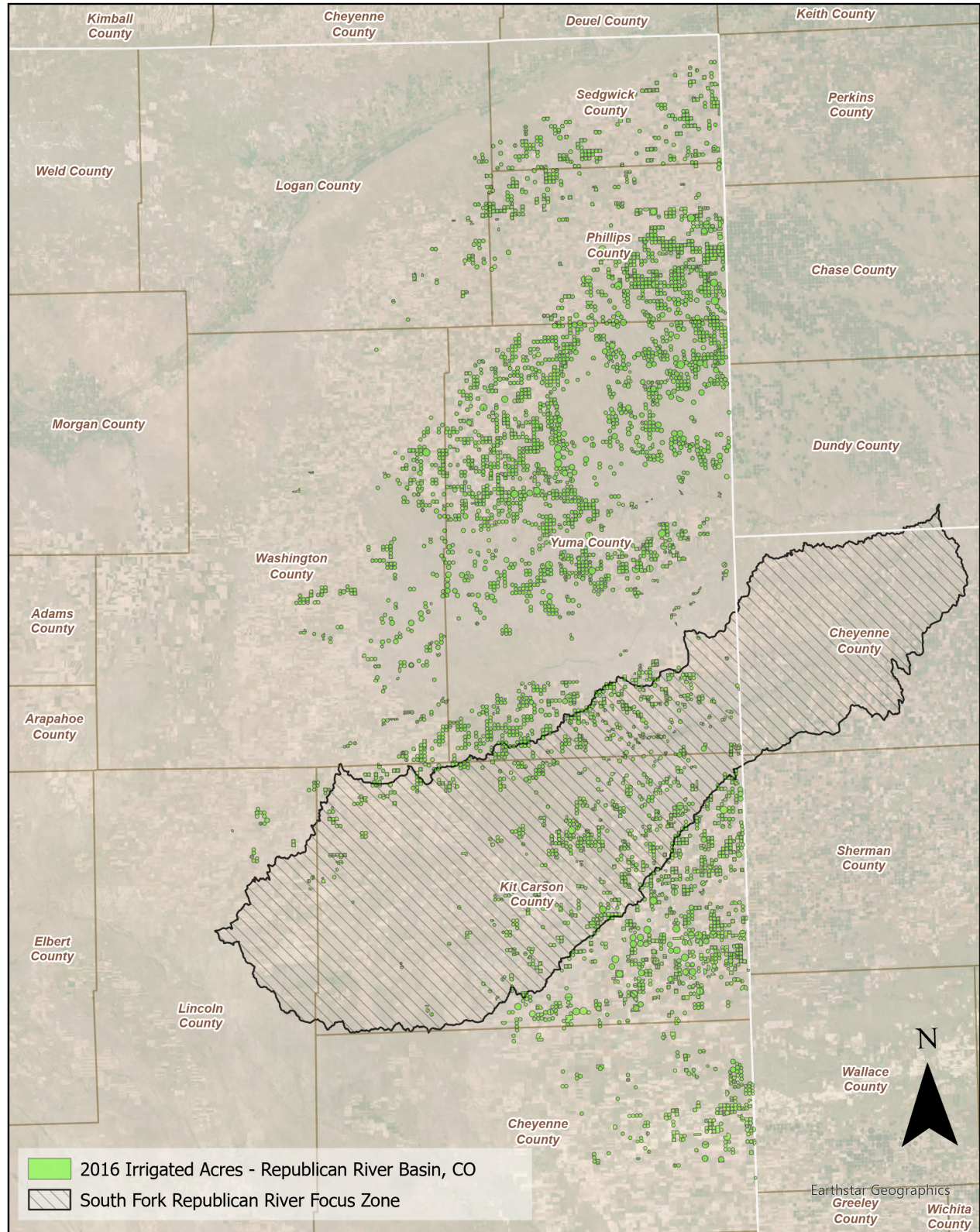
Attachment 3: South Fork Focus Zone irrigated acreage retirement documentation submitted in
support of December 16, 2024 Resolution

2024 Summary Table

RRWCD Contract	Report Page	Acres Retired per Contract	Acres from GIS (Legal Desc.)	Contract Date	Contract Type	Legal Description	Associated Well Permits	NDVI Mean (of Legal Desc)	Additional Information	Additional Follow Up?	Links to Relevant Field Inspection Images
23EQ146Y	133	146	320.55	5/2/2023	EQUIP	W/2 Sec. 28-T4S-R44W-6th P.M.	4744-FP-R	131	No center pivot, well capped, power meter removed, dryland farming allowed		https://dnrweblink.state.co.us/dwr/DocView.aspx?id=4187872&dbid=0
23EQ162K	135	112	162.22	5/2/2023	EQUIP	SW/4 Sec. 33-T9S-R45W	11141-FP	135	No center pivot, well capped, dryland farming allowed		https://dnrweblink.state.co.us/dwr/DocView.aspx?id=4187875&dbid=0
23EQ163K	137	80	166.58	5/2/2023	EQUIP	NE/4 Sec. 11-T9S-R45W	5658-FP	118			
23EQ164K	139	80	162.25	5/2/2023	EQUIP	SW/4 Sec. 11-T9S-R45W	5522-FP	118			
23EQ160K	141	234	320.10	5/5/2023	EQUIP	W/2 Sec. 2-T8S-R44W	3307-FP, 3988-FP	131	No center pivot, wells capped, dryland farming allowed		https://dnrweblink.state.co.us/dwr/DocView.aspx?id=4187872&dbid=0
23EQ161K	143	228	314.20	5/5/2023	EQUIP	N/2 Sec. 1-T8S-R44W	12425-FP	123			
23RP003Y	145	28	145.29	5/9/2023	RAMP	Circular area covering parts of the SE/4 NE/4 and NW/4 of Sec. 19-T5S-R46W	12626-FP	150	The outer tower of center pivot not in irrigation which accounts for the retired acreage		
23EQ156Y	147	126.2	160.74	5/12/2023	EQUIP	NE/4 Sec. 22-T5S-R46W	11579-FP	141		Potentially	
23EQ157Y	149	124.7	159.95	5/12/2023	EQUIP	SE/4 Sec. 22-T5S-R46W	11580-FP	135		Potentially	
23EQ173K	151	120.65	163.94	7/7/2023	EQUIP	Pt. NE/4 Sec. 30-T6S-R46W	16995-FP	125			
23EQ169K	153	120	160.00	11/1/2023	EQUIP	SE/4 Sec. 9-T10S-R47W	13921-F	123			
23EQ170K	155	117.95	148.84	11/1/2023	EQUIP	SW/4 Sec. 9-T10S-R47W	13947-FP	124			
23EQ165Y	157	124	321.47	11/28/2023	EQUIP	NE/4 and SW/4 Sec. 34-T4S-R44W	10547-FP	137	No center pivot, well capped, dryland farming allowed		https://dnrweblink.state.co.us/dwr/DocView.aspx?id=4187872&dbid=0
24RP013K	159	90.21	274.65	1/11/2024	RAMP	Portions of west half of Sec. 32-T8S-R45W	13234-F, 15765-F	124		Potentially	
24RP014K	161	120.69	159.78	1/11/2024	RAMP	Northwest Quarter Sec. 26-T9S-R46W	15979-FP, 16065-F	124			
24RP015Y	163	35.06	634.70	1/30/2024	RAMP	Portion of Sec. 12-T5S-R46W	12972-F	132	The outer tower of center pivot not in irrigation which accounts for the retired acreage		
24RP016K	165	39.59	316.63	2/7/2024	RAMP	Portions of the South half located in Sec. 8-T7S-R46W	18614-F	141	The outer tower of center pivot not in irrigation which accounts for the retired acreage		
24RP018Y	167	120	159.74	4/1/2024	RAMP	Southeast Quarter of Sec. 10-T4S-R43W	18613-FP	137		Potentially	
24RP019Y	169	56.52	54.46	4/1/2024	RAMP	A 23.3 acre circle in the NE/4 of the SE/4 and a 33.22 acre circle in the SE/4 of the SE/4 all in Southeast Quarter of Sec. 8-T4S-R43W	11482-FP, 9628-F	149	The outer tower of center pivot not in irrigation which accounts for the retired acreage		
24EQ184K	171	360	475.90	4/12/2024	EQUIP	SW/4 of Sec. 4-T8SR46W and E/2 of Sec. 4-T8S-R46W	10171-FP	139		Potentially	
24EQ181L	173	120	160.62	4/15/2024	EQUIP	SW/4 of Sec. 24-T8S-R52W	15428-RFP, 1292-F	128			
24EQ182L	175	112.61	160.40	4/15/2024	EQUIP	NE/4 of Sec. 24-T8S-R52W	15429-RFP, 1543-F	128			
24EQ185K	177	162	320.64	4/26/2024	EQUIP	W/2 of Sec. 3-T8S-R46W	9355-FP	141		Potentially	
24EQ190K	179	119.63	160.00	5/15/2024	EQUIP	SE/4 Sec. 8-Township 9 South-Range 48 West	24413-FP, 18327-F	129		Potentially	

2024-11 SFFZ_NDVI_Summary_Table.pdf

Attachment 3: South Fork Focus Zone irrigated acreage retirement documentation submitted in support of December 16, 2024 Resolution



Repub_Irrig_2016.zip and SouthForkFocusZone.shp.zip

Attachment 3: South Fork Focus Zone irrigated acreage retirement documentation submitted in support of December 16, 2024 Resolution

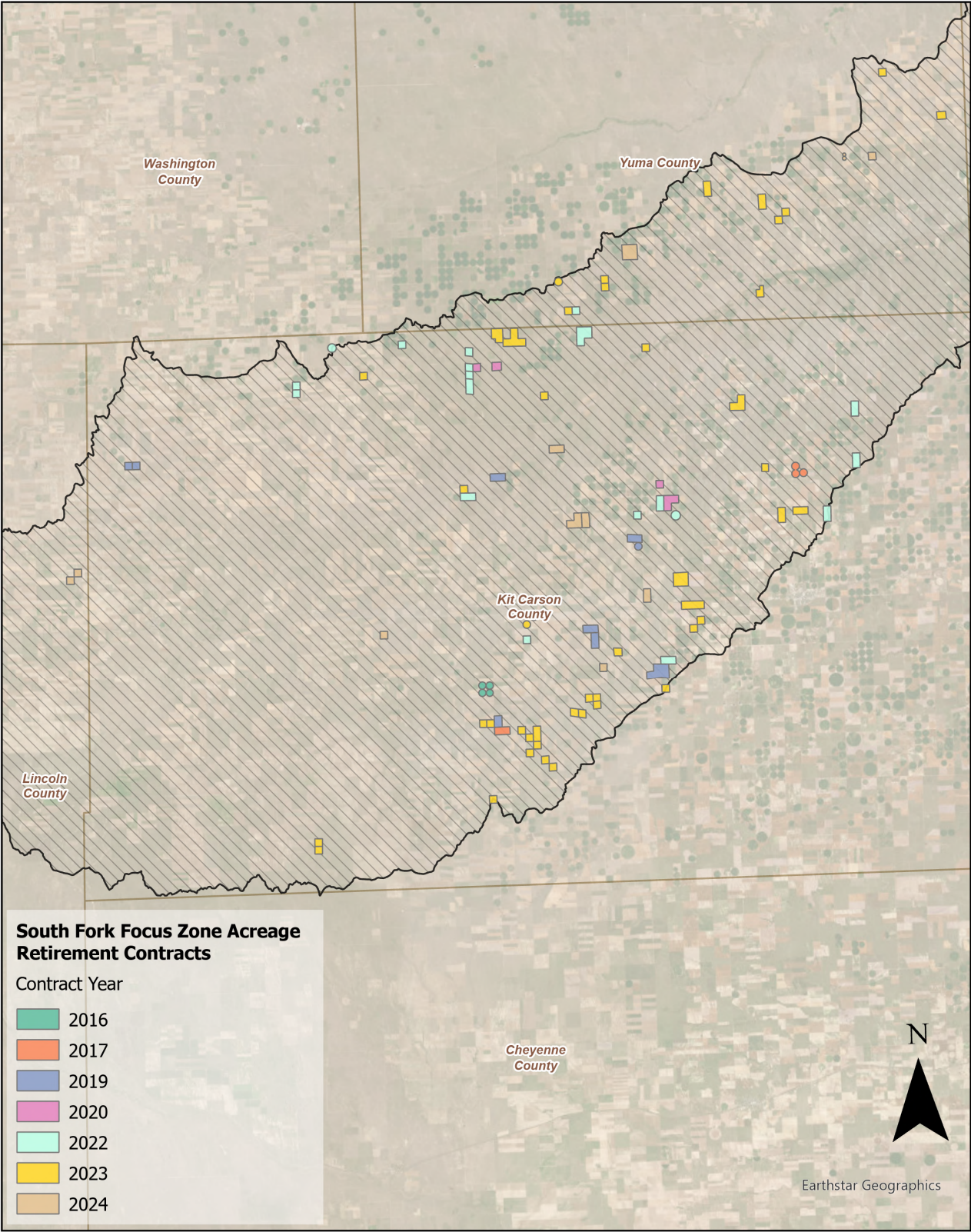
Colorado SFFZ Dry-up Package 2024.xlsx

RRWCD Contract	Acres Retired per Contract	Legal description from Contract	Well Permit Number	Receipt Number	WDID
06CR267K	249	Three 130-acre circles in SE1/4, SW1/4 and NW1/4 of Section 24-T7S-R44W-6PM	15222-FP	9036344	4905302
06CR269K	108.9	Part of the N1/2 of Section 15, Township 10 South, Range 47 West 6th PM	13564-FP	9036213	4905153
06CR275K	124.4	NE 1/4 NE 1/4 Sec 15-T7S-R51W-6PM	15971-FP	9036387	4905436
06CR276K	124.4	NW 1/4 NW 1/4 Sec 15-T7S-R51W-6PM	10049-FP	9035862	4905438
170A108P	132.47	Rotation of any three of four 106.67 acre circles centered in each quarter Sec 33-T9S-R47W-6PM	9062-FP	0496381	4905236
170A109P	187.53	Rotation of any three of four 106.67 acre circles centered in each quarter Sec 33-T9S-R47W-6PM	11102-FP	9035981	4905737
18CR001K	244.25	S1/2 of N1/2 and N1/2 of S1/2 Sec 22-T7S-R47W-6PM	11287-FP	9035989	4905095
			15264-FP	9036347	4905836
			3906-FP	0455316A	4905363
			3907-FP	0455316B	4905365
			5776-FP	0455316C	4905364
			10656-FP	0455316D	4905366
18CR002K	511.83	W 1/2 of Sec. 28, E 1/2 of Sec. 29 and SW 1/4 of Sec 29 all in T-9S-R45W-6PM	10657-FP	9035950	4905439
18CR008K	130	Pt of NW 1/4 Section 16-T6S-47W-6PM	17575-FP	9036463	4905056
18CR009K	130	W 1/2 of NE 1/4, 20 ac. in W 1/2 of E 1/2 of NE 1/4 and 60 ac. in E 1/2 of NW 1/4 of Section 15-T6S-47W-6PM	18157-FP	9036511	4905057
18CR022K	126.35	SW 1/4 SEC 3 -- T6S-R48W	14868-FP	0441415	4905053
18CR023K	234.95	NW 1/4 Sect. 22 & SW 1/4 Sec. 15 all in T7SR43W-6PM	4680-FP	9035513	4905560
18CR031K	249	E/2 of Sec. 20-T6S-R47W	19228-FP	9036579	4905342
18CR032K	243.11	Part of SE/4 & SW/4 Sec. 29 T7S-R47W	15290-FP	9036354	4905588
18CR034K	127	SE/4 Sec. 17-T6S-R47W	17863-FP	9036484	4905136
18CR035K	127	NE/4 Sec. 17-T6S-R47W	17864-FP	9036486	4905137
18CR036K	156.2	A portion of circle with approximately 130 acres in the S1/2 of Sec. 2 and approximately 30 acres in the N1/2 of Sec. 11 all in T6S-R49W-6PM	14078-FP	9036246	4905769
18CR038K	128	NE 1/4 of Sec. 8-Township 6 South-Range 47 West	19144-FP	0241806	4905021
18CR039Y	119.48	NE 1/4 of Sec. 32-Township 5 South-Range 46 West	9114-FP	0527967	4906119
18CR040K	480	Part of Section 2, being 120 acres each in the NE/4, the SE/4 and the SW/4 and 120 acres in the SW/4 of Section 1, all in Township 6 South, Range 47 West, 6th P.M.	16986-FP	9036434	4905644
			16988-FP	9036436	4905647
			16989-FP	9036437	4905645
18CR044K	116	Part of E 1/2 of NW 1/4 and W 1/2 of NE 1/4 of Section 8-Township 6 South-Range 45 West of the 6th Principal Meridian	21639-FP	9036713	4906150
18CR045K	108	SE/4 Sec. 18-T6S-R48W	19413-FP	9036592	4905331
19EQ100P	113.7	Part of the SW1/4 & S1/2 of NW1/4 of Sec 10-T10S-R47W	11556-FP	9036014	4905152
19EQ101P	56.19	Land in the S1/2 Sec 10-T9S-R46W-6PM	6505-FP	9035704	4905670
19EQ102P	120	Land in the E1/2 Sec 15-T9S-R46W-6PM	4164-FP	9035471	4905038
19EQ103P	63.81	Land in the S1/2 Sec 10-T9S-R46W-6PM	3810-FP	9035411	4905669
19EQ104P	82	125-acre circle in the NE1/4 of Sec 18 and a total of 35 acres in two locations in the S1/2 of Sec7-T8S-R45W	17402-FP	9036458	4905890
20EQ105K	275.97	SE1/4 and NE1/4 Sec 33, NW1/4 Sec 34, NW 1/4 Sec 28, all in T7S-R45W-6PM	5135-FP	0383865B	4905425
20EQ106K	205.03	SE1/4 and NE 1/4 Sec 33, NW 1/4 Sec 34, NW 1/4 Sec 28, all in T7S-R45W-6PM	15267-FP	9036350	4905426
21EQ108K	120	NW 1/4 Sec 13-T9S-R47W-6PM	6989-FP	9035746	4905379
21EQ110K	91.3	Part of SW 1/4 and NW 1/4 Sec 34-T6S-R43W-6PM	10310-FP	9035911	4905096
22EQ127K	249	W1/2 of Sec. 5-T8S-R43W	13007-FP	9036179	4905797
22EQ128K	174	S/2 of Sec. 21-T9S-R45W	15944-RFP	9036385	4905258
22EQ132K	119.09	NW/4 Sec.21-T6S-R49W	18968-FP	0916982	4906022
22EQ133K	127.42	SW/4 Sec. 21-T6S-R49W	19171-FP	9036577	4906023
22EQ135K	112.37	NE/4 Sec. 6-T8S-R45W-6PM	4129-FP	9035461	4905550
22EQ136K	430	A 190 acre circle in Sec. 3-T8S-R45W and 120 acres in SW/4 and 120 acres in NW/4 Sec. 33-T7S-R45W	4150-FP	9035467	4905405
			16298-FP	9036412	4905551
22EQ137K	359.44	311 acres in the N1/2 and 45 acres in the N1/2 of the SW1/4 of Section 3, Township 6 South, Range 46 West and 4 acres in the SW1/4 of Section 33, Township 5 South, Range 46 West of the 6th P.M.	6978-FP	9035742	4905494
			6979-FP	9035743	4905493
23EQ139K	240.54	Sec. 27-T8S-R45W	19355-FP	9036586	4905697
23EQ140K	115	Part of NWQ Sec. 24-T9S-R46W	19698-FP	9036601	4905697
			15057-FP	9036337	4905039
23EQ141K	283.41	Part of N/2 of Sec. 2-T9S-R45W, 96 acres in the NE/4 of Sec. 3 and the NW/4 of Sec. 2 and 88 acres in the NE/4 of Sec. 2, with 30 additional acres to be flooded in the NE/4 of Sec 2; T9S-R45W	9625-FP	9035844	4905223
23EQ142K	120	NW 1/4 Sec.29-Township 7 S-Range 47 W.	17427-FP	0916975	4905587
23EQ143K	120.66	SE 1/4 of Sec. 30-T10S-R46W	19299-FP	9036584	4905237
23EQ144K	200.54	150 acres in the SE/4 of Sec. 29 and 150 acres in the N/2 of Sec. 32, all in T6S-R44W.	10084-FP	9035875	4905744
23EQ145K	67	NW/4 of Sec. 22-T7S-R44W	13526-FP	9036207	4905424
23EQ146Y	146	W/2 Sec. 28-T4S-R44W-6th P.M.	4744-FP-R	0504496	4905736
23EQ147K	80	Part SE1/4 Sec. 3-T11S-R47W-6th P.M.	33966-FP	0917107	4905633
23EQ148Y	106	NW/4 Sec. 33-T3S-R42W	19764-FP	9068659	4906072
23EQ149K	120	NW/4 Sec. 9-T10S-R46W	19903-FP	9036611	4905688
23EQ150K	120	NE/4 Sec. 9-T10S-R46W	18699-FP-R	9036561	4905687
23EQ151K	119	SE/4 Sec. 3-T10S-R46W	16365-FP	9036417	4905651
23EQ152K	120	NW/4 Sec. 3-T10S-R46W	16363-FP	9036416	4905682
23EQ153K	119	NE/4 Sec. 3-T10S-R46W	16362-FP	9036415	4905683
23EQ154Y	115	NE/4 Sec. 14-T3S-R43W	19763-FP	9068658	6505512
23EQ155Y	157.5	Portions of E/2 of Sec. 23-T4S-R45W	9218-FP	9066993	4906098
23EQ156Y	126.2	NE/4 Sec. 22-T5S-R46W	11579-FP	9067266	4905310
23EQ157Y	124.7	SE/4 Sec. 22-T5S-R46W	11580-FP	9067267	4905311
23EQ158Y	125.2	NW/4 Sec. 32-T5S-R46W	15838-FP	9068159	4905048
23EQ159K	126.8	NE/4, E/2 of the NW/4 and the N/2 of the SE/4 all in Sec. 3-T6S-R47W	10559-FP	9035940	524369

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Colorado SFFZ Dry-up Package 2024.xlsx

RRWCD Contract	Acres Retired per Contract	Legal description from Contract	Well Permit Number	Receipt Number	WDID
23EQ160K	234	W/2 Sec. 2-T8S-R44W	3307-FP	9035369	4905773
23EQ161K	228	N/2 Sec. 1-T8S-R44W	3988-FP	9035442	4905774
23EQ162K	112	SW/4 Sec. 33-T9S-R45W	12425-FP	0423430	4905772
23EQ163K	80	NE/4 Sec. 11-T9S-R45W	11141-FP	9035982	4905432
23EQ164K	80	SW/4 Sec. 11-T9S-R45W	5658-FP	9035615	4905256
23EQ165Y	124	NE/4 and SW/4 Sec. 34-T4S-R44W	5522-FP	9035601	4905255
23EQ167K	63.5	NE/4 Sec. 22-T11S-R49W	10547-FP	9067098	4905119
			11629-FP	9036043	4905090
23EQ168K	125	SE/4 Sec. 22-T11S-R49W	23708-FP	0094187A	4905068
23EQ169K	120	SE/4 Sec. 9-T10S-R47W	23709-FP	0094187B	4905069
23EQ170K	117.95	SW/4 Sec. 9-T10S-R47W	13921-F	9036234	4905316
23EQ173K	120.65	Pt. NE/4 Sec. 30-T6S-R46W	13947-FP	9036235	4905317
			16995-FP	9036442	4905372
23RP001K	237	A 120-acre circle in the SE 1/4 of Section 1 and a 130-acre circle in the NW 1/4 of Section 12, both in Township 9 South, Range 47 West of the 6th Principal Meridian	3786-FP	3606860	4905154
23RP002Y	30.67	Lots located in Sec.29-T5S-R44W	4104-FP	9066714	4905889
23RP003Y	28	Circular area covering parts of the SE/4 NE/4 and NW/4 of Sec. 19-T5S-R46W	12626-FP	9067568	4906122
23RP005K	34.44	Part of the SE 1/4 and part of the NE 1/4 of Sec. 13, all in T10S-R47W	15168-F	0916911	4905655
23RP006K	28.75	NE 1/4 of Sec. 14-T10S-R47W	17777-FP	9036475	4905653
23RP007K	32.21	SW 1/4 of Sec. 13-T10S-R47W	13824-FP	9036228	4905654
23RP008K	37.3	NE/4 Sec. 24-T10S-R47W	11748-FP	9036065	4905238
23RP009K	31.29	SW/4 Sec. 24-T10S-R47W	19490-FP	9036594	4905729
23RP010K	30.91	NW/4 Sec. 30-T10S-R46W	19290-FP	9036583	4905656
			12921-FP	9042473	4905518
24EQ181L	120	SW/4 of Sec. 24-T8S-R52W	15428-RFP	9042491	4905517
			15429-RFP	9042492	4905516
24EQ182L	112.61	NE/4 of Sec. 24-T8S-R52W	15430-RFP	9042493	4905657
24EQ184K	360	SW/4 of Sec. 4-T8SR46W and E/2 of Sec. 4-T8S-R46W	10171-FP	9035890	4905482
24EQ185K	162	W/2 of Sec. 3-T8S-R46W	9355-FP	9035822	4905483
			18327-F	9036529	4906043
24EQ190K	119.63	SE/4 Sec. 8-Township 9 South-Range 48 West	24413-FP	9036754	4906043
			15765-FP	10031402	4905222
24RP013K	90.21	Portions of west half of Sec. 32-T8S-R45W	13234-F	9036190	4905221
			15979-FP	10031399	4905672
24RP014K	120.69	Northwest Quarter Sec. 26-T9S-R46W	16065-FP	10031400	4905673
24RP015Y	35.06	Portion of Sec. 12-T5S-R46W	12972-FP	9067641	4905051
24RP016K	39.59	Portions of the South half located in Sec. 8-T7S-R46W	18614-FP	9036557	4905179
24RP018Y	120	Southeast Quarter of Sec. 10-T4S-R43W	18613-FP	9068476	4906079
			9628-FP	9067015	4906081
24RP019Y	56.52	A 23.3 acre circle in the NE/4 of the SE/4 and a 33.22 acre circle in the SE/4 of the SE/4 all in Southeast Quarter of Sec. 8-T4S-R43W	11482-FP	9067229	4906080
Total Acres Retire	12941.72				



SFFZ_Dryup_Shapefile_2024.zip and SouthForkFocusZone.shp.zip

RRCA Annual Meeting

Exhibit I: Resolution Honoring Tom Riley

RESOLUTION OF THE
REPUBLICAN RIVER COMPACT ADMINISTRATION
HONORING
THOMAS E. RILEY, P.E.

Whereas, Thomas E. Riley, P.E., of Eagle, Nebraska, has resigned his position as Director of the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NeDNR) and the Nebraska Commissioner of the Republican River Compact Administration (RRCA) after having served faithfully in that position for nearly four years while dedicated to the people of Nebraska through his committed public service; and

Whereas, as Nebraska's Commissioner and Director of NeDNR, Mr. Riley brought to bear his deep scientific expertise, intimate knowledge of the Republican River Basin, and unwavering commitment to protecting Nebraska's water resources and the livelihoods of its citizens; and

Whereas, Mr. Riley consistently demonstrated leadership grounded in integrity, practical judgment, and sound science—navigating the complexities of water administration and Compact compliance—while fostering strong collaboration among Nebraska stakeholders and with the States of Colorado and Kansas and Federal agencies, in pursuit of fair, durable, and cooperative solutions under the Republican River Compact;

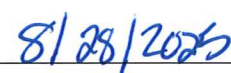
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Republican River Compact Administration extends its sincere gratitude and appreciation to Thomas E. Riley for his exemplary service as Nebraska's Commissioner and commends his enduring contributions to the RRCA, Nebraska, and the Republican River Basin; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the RRCA honors Mr. Riley by including this resolution and dedicatory remarks in the official record of its 2025 Annual Meeting and instructs the Nebraska Commissioner to transmit copies to Mr. Riley and the Governor of the State of Nebraska.

Adopted by the Republican River Compact Administration at the 2025 annual meeting of the RRCA.



Jason Ullmann, P.E.
Colorado Commissioner



Date



Earl Lewis, P.E.
Kansas Commissioner
Chairman, RRCA



Date

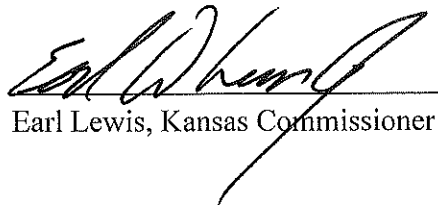


Matt Manning, P.E., J.D.
Nebraska Commissioner



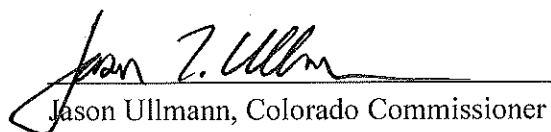
Date

The 64th annual report of the Republican River Compact Administration for the Year 2024 is hereby approved by unanimous vote on this 27th day of August 2026.


Earl Lewis, Kansas Commissioner

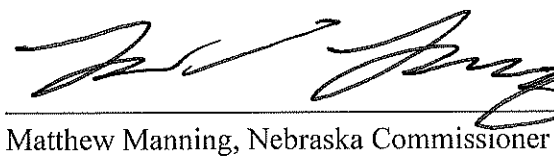
DATE SIGNED:

8/27/2026


Jason Ullmann, Colorado Commissioner

DATE SIGNED:

8/27/2026


Matthew Manning, Nebraska Commissioner

DATE SIGNED:

8/27/2026