



1st Annual
State of the Basin
Water Conference

***“Water Issues Affecting You Now
And In The Future”***

Information From Local and State Water Policy, Legal, and Technical Experts

Free Event and Lunch, Moisture Probe Vendors On-Hand...

Friday, March 25, 2016

**Chase County Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall
Imperial, Nebraska**

8:30 a.m. MST Registration/Visit with Exhibitors

9 a.m. **Welcome and Overview**
Jasper Fanning, Ph.D., Upper Republican NRD Manager

9:15 a.m. **Water Politics: Capitol View of SW Nebraska**
Nebraska Senator Dan Hughes, District 44
Severe consequences of noncompliance with the Republican River Compact and tough choices on how to comply have made SW Nebraskans familiar with water issues. How do lawmakers view the region’s water issues now that NRD projects ensure state compliance with the Compact?

9:45 a.m. **Legal Landscape of the Republican Basin**
Justin Lavene, Chief of Nebraska Attorney General Office’s Bureau of Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources
Although the U.S. Supreme Court issued its decision in the *Kansas v. Nebraska* lawsuit in the Republican Basin in 2015, a new slate of lawsuits in the Basin have followed from surface water users challenging the State’s administration of their water rights for Compact compliance.

BREAK: 10:30-10:45 a.m.

10:45 a.m. **Stream Flow Impacts in the Republican Basin**
Jim Schneider, Ph.D., Water Resources Team Senior Scientist, Olsson Associates and former Deputy Director, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
How much impact has reduced overland runoff caused by modern farming practices and other factors had on Republican River stream flow? How much is due to groundwater pumping? A recent analysis provides interesting clues.

- 11:30 a.m. From Haigler to Hardy, A Basin-Wide Approach to Water**
Jennifer Schellpeper, Division Head, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources Integrated Water Management
Stakeholders from across the Republican Basin are helping devise goals, objectives and actions needed to help maintain long term economic viability and sustain a balance between water uses and supplies.

CATERED LUNCH (Free): 12:15 – 1 p.m.

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- 1 p.m. A New Way Forward: Conjunctive Water Management**
Jesse Bradley, former Natural Resources Program Director, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
Water managers often speak of conjunctively managing ground and surface water for the benefit of all water users. What are some potential, practical applications of conjunctive management and how could they help reduce friction between ground and surface water users?

- 1:45 p.m. USDA Water Efficiency Programs Overview**
Andy Keep, NRCS District Conservationist for Dundy, Chase, Perkins Counties
Multiple programs are available that provide cost share for practices that make Water use more efficient and a new grant will soon make additional money available for such programs within the Upper Republican NRD.

BREAK: 2:15-2:30 p.m.

- 2:30 p.m. Probing the Benefits of Moisture Sensors**
Daran Rudnick, Ph.D., UNL Irrigation/Water Management Specialist
Maximizing use of soil moisture probes takes an understanding of how they work and factors to consider when choosing from the array of products on the market.

- 3:15 p.m. URNRD Rules and Regulations Overview**
Dirk Dinnell, URNRD Assistant Manager
An overview of the District's rules and regulations regarding irrigation as we enter the 2016 irrigation season.

- 4 p.m. Closing Comments from Fanning**