

Coordinated Water Quality and Water Quantity Planning for the Upper Big Blue NRD

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Introduction

- Several types of joint water management plans are developed between:
 - NRDs and NeDNR
 - NRDs and NDEQ
- Various plans serve specific purposes and have different requirements.
- Unique opportunity to coordinate planning efforts in the Upper Big Blue NRD
 - Timing, geographic area
 - First of its kind in Nebraska

Introduction

Upper Big Blue NRD Planning Initiatives

Plan Name	Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP)	Voluntary Integrated Management Plan (V-IMP)
Partners	NRD, NDEQ	NRD, NeDNR
Focus	Surface Water and Groundwater Quality	Surface Water and Groundwater Quantity & Hydrologic Connectivity
Authority	Federal Clean Water Act (319 Nonpoint Source Pollution)	Nebraska State Statutes (LB962, 2004; LB764, 2010)

NDEQ - Nonpoint Source Pollution

- From landscapes, not pipes
- Runoff transports pollutants
- Affects lakes, rivers, wetlands and groundwater
- Common pollutants are sediment, nitrogen, phosphorus and bacteria



NDEQ - Nonpoint Source Pollution Program

- Nonpoint Source Program funded via EPA through the Federal Clean Water Act, Section 319(h).
- Nebraska receives annual '319' grant and has 5 years to spend the grant funds.
- ~\$1.2 million has gone out annually to project sponsors with a **9-Element Water Quality Management Plan OR Alternative.**



NDEQ Nonpoint Source Plans

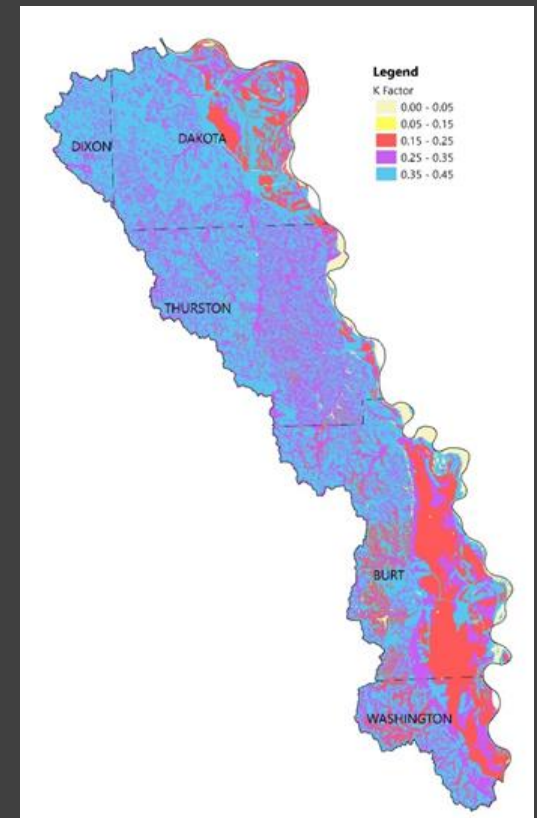
9-Element Plans	Alternative (to a 9-Element Plan)
Watershed	Groundwater Protection
Basin (NRD)	Drinking Water Protection

NDEQ Nonpoint Source Plans

9-Element Plans	Alternative (to a 9-Element)
Watershed	Groundwater Protection
South Loup Watershed	Bazile Groundwater Management Plan
Long Pine Creek Watershed	
Basin (NRD)	Drinking Water Protection
Papio-Missouri Basin Plan	Auburn
Lower Elkhorn Basin Plan	Waverly

9-Element Watershed Management Plans

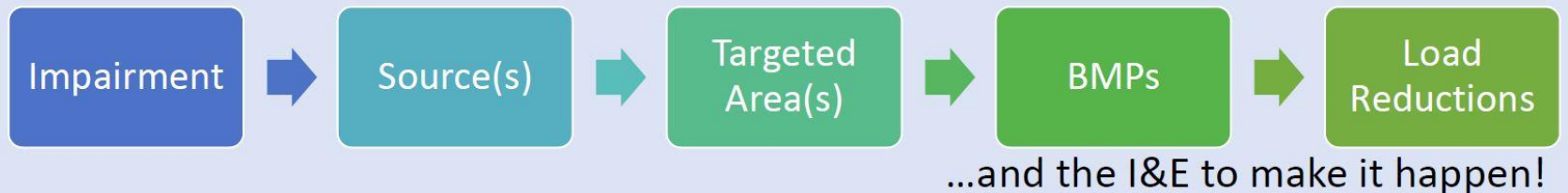
1. Identification of Pollutant Sources
2. Estimation of Pollutant Loads
3. ID Best Management Practices
4. Communication & Outreach
5. Implementation Schedule
6. Milestones to Measure Progress
7. Evaluation Criteria
8. Monitoring
9. Technical & Financial Assistance



From Papio-Missouri NRD Draft Plan, Fyra.

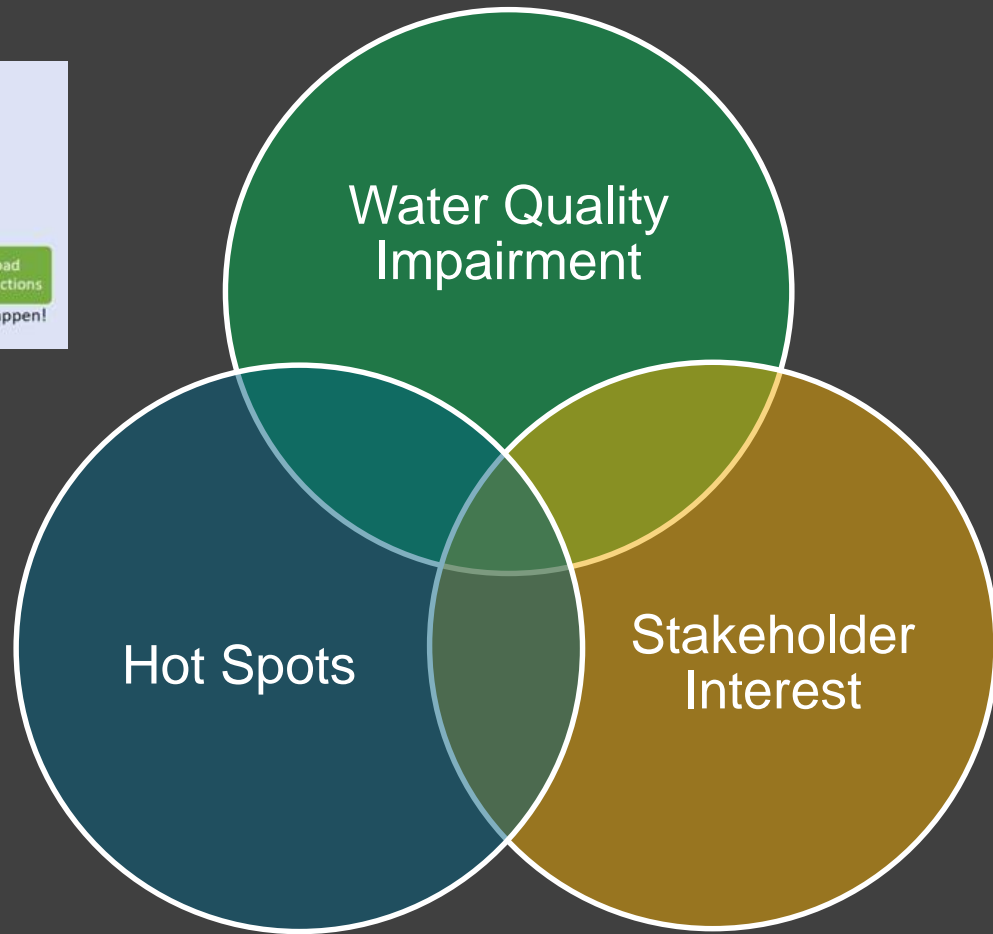
NDEQ – Writing Acceptable Plans

The Path of Least Resistance

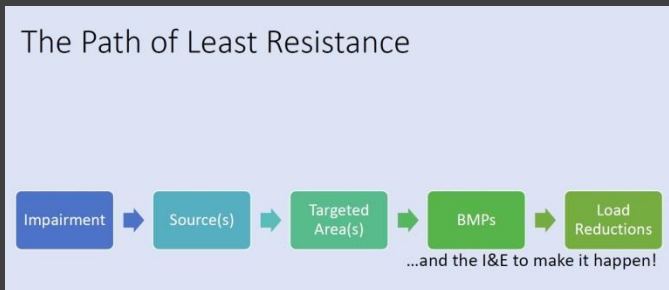


NDEQ – Targeted Areas

The Path of Least Resistance



NDEQ - Implementing Plan with Projects



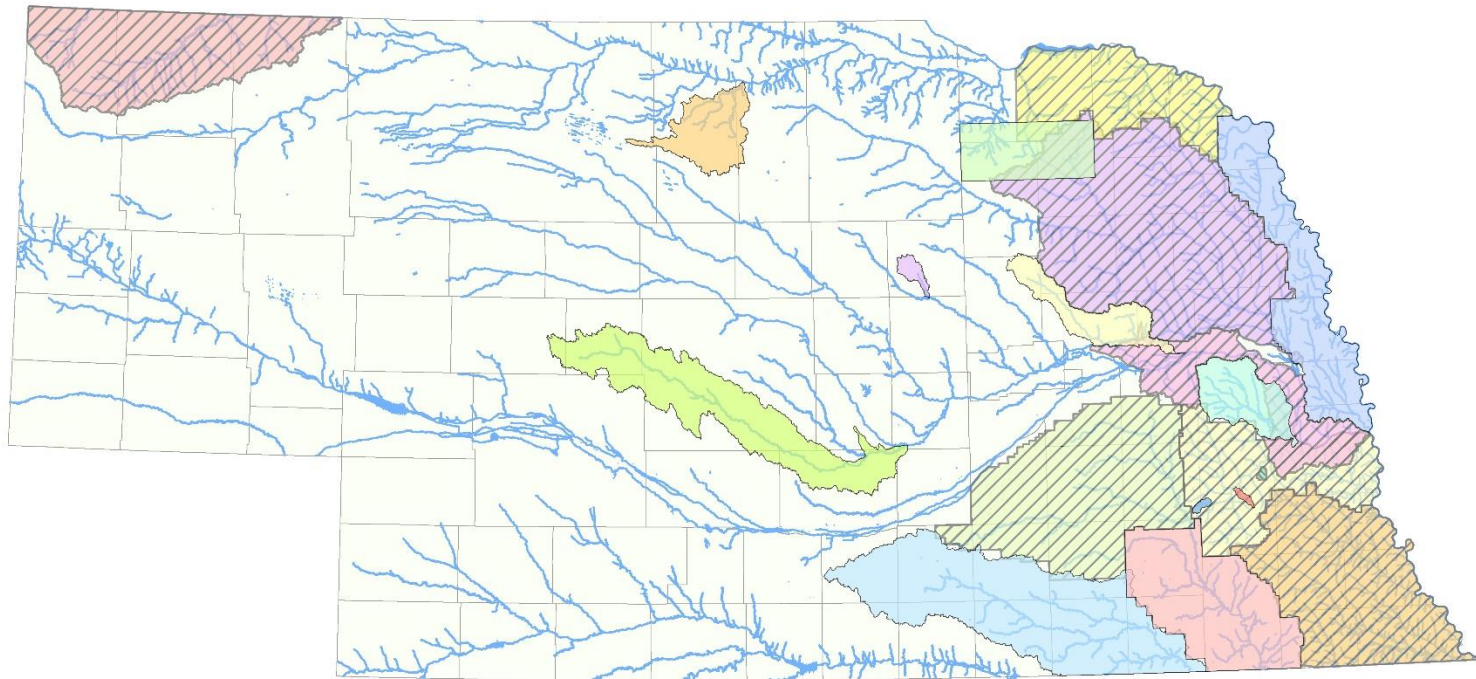
- Project Implementation Plan (PIP)
- Contract signed between NDEQ and Sponsor
- Project starts
 - Cost-share for BMPs
 - Watershed Coordinator
 - Evaluate results



NDEQ – Where are we planning?

Nonpoint Source Management Plans August 2018

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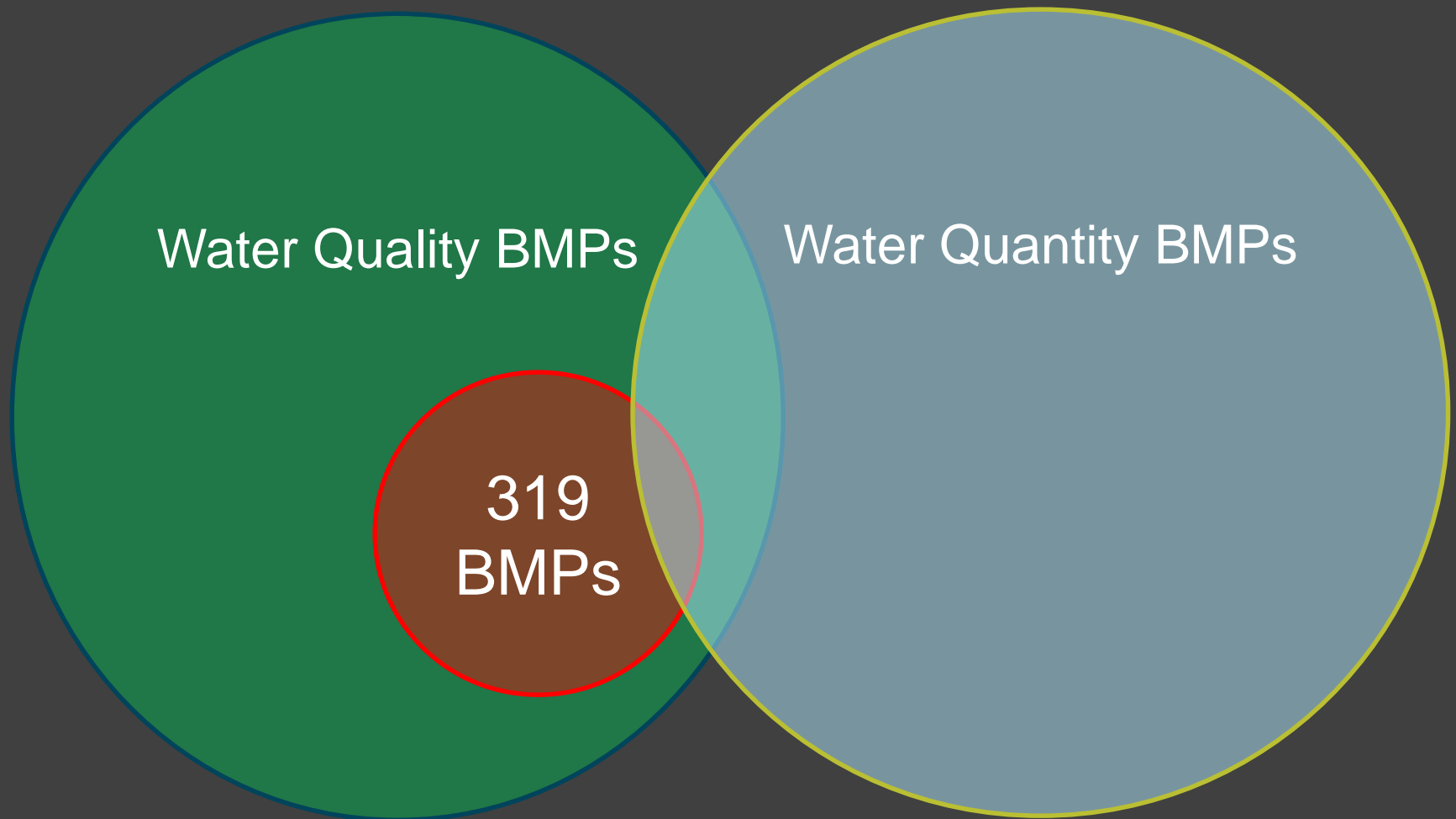
Active Plans

Antelope Creek	LBNRD
Bazile Groundwater Management Area	PMRNRD
Clear Creek/Pibel Lake	Shell Creek
Conestoga Lake	South Loup River
Long Pine Creek	Wahoo Creek
LBBNRD	

Planning in Progress

L&CNRD	Nemaha River Basin
LENRD	UBBNRD
LPRCA	White River/Hat Creek
LPSNRD	Waverly DWPMP

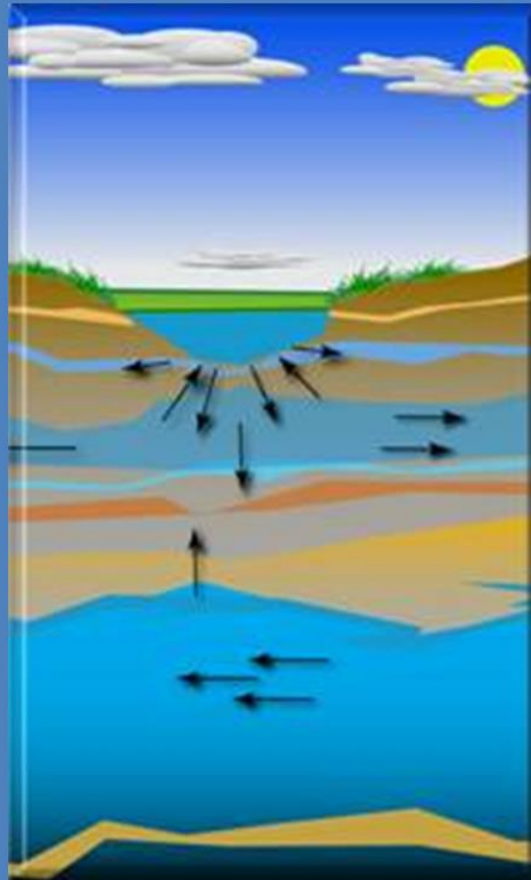
NDEQ – Plan Implementation



Integrated Water Management

- Jointly managed ground and surface water uses/supplies
- Recognizes hydrologic connection between ground and surface water

EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF HYDROLOGICALLY CONNECTED WATERS



- Surface Water Quantity
- Regulated by NeDNR
 - Prior appropriations system



- Groundwater Quantity
- Regulated by NRDs
 - Correlative rights system

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Good Life. Great Water.

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Integrated Water Management

- LB962, 2004
 - Required joint NRD and NeDNR planning for fully-appropriated basins
- LB764, 2010
 - Inclusion of voluntary integrated management planning
- LB1098, 2014
 - Water sustainability fund
 - Improved ranking for NRDs with IMPs



Governor Johanns
signed LB962 into law
on April 15, 2004

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Integrated Management Plans

Mandated IMP	Voluntary IMP
Overarching purpose: Achieve and sustain a balance between water uses and water supplies for the long term, protect existing water uses	
Statutory framework: Neb. Rev. Stat. §46-715 to §46-718	
Fully appropriated basins, sub-basins	Non-fully appropriated basins, sub-basins
<u>May</u> have more stringent controls	<u>May</u> have more “encouraging “ controls
Moratorium (GW, SW) initiated	No moratorium initiated

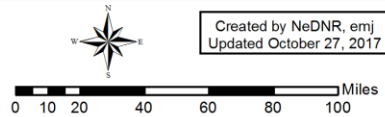
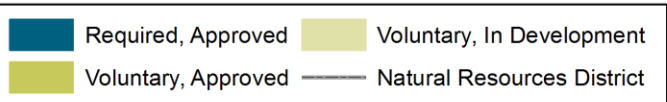
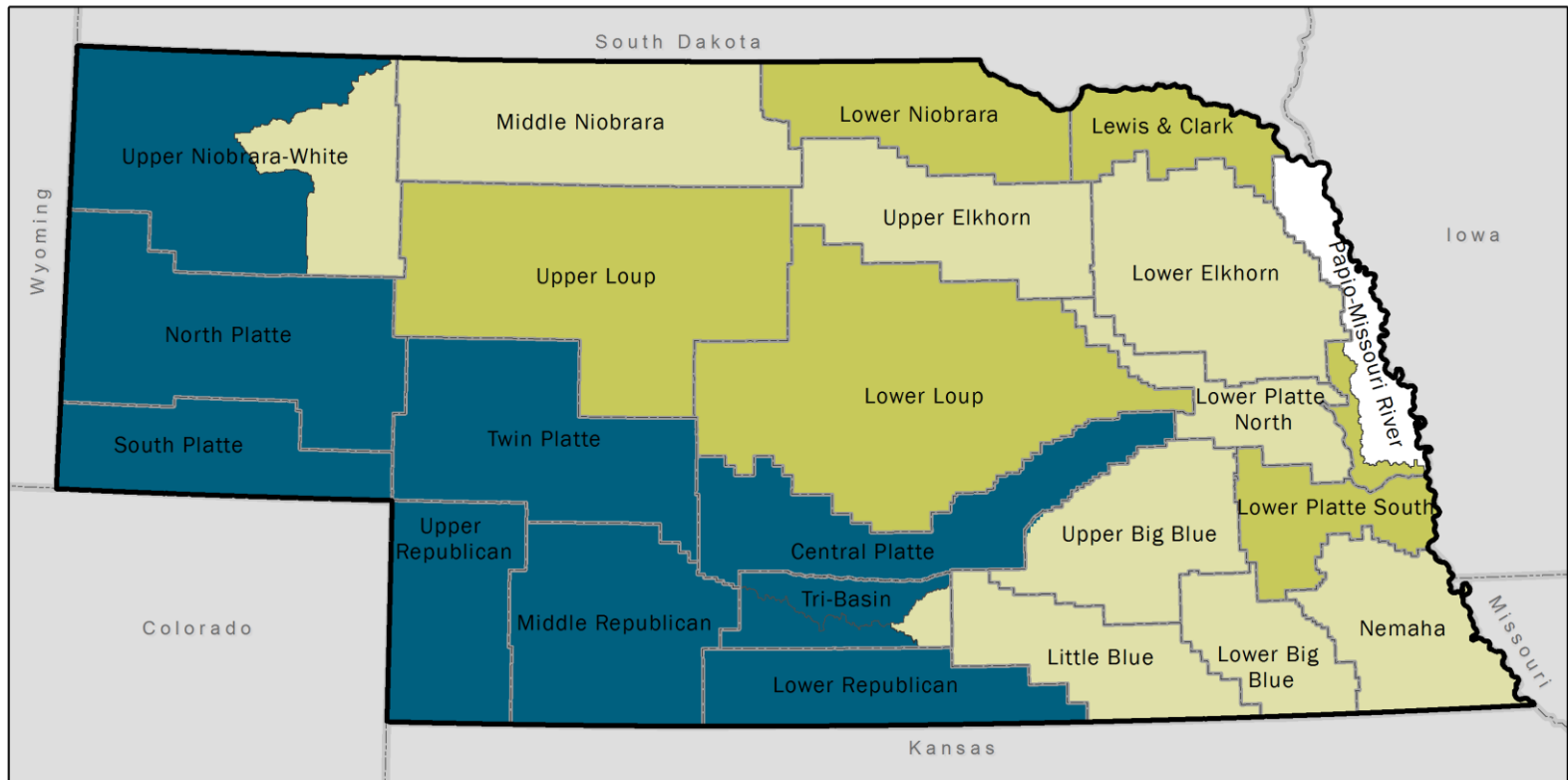
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Integrated Management Plans

NRD Areas Involved in Integrated Management Planning



Coordinated water quality and quantity planning: Challenges

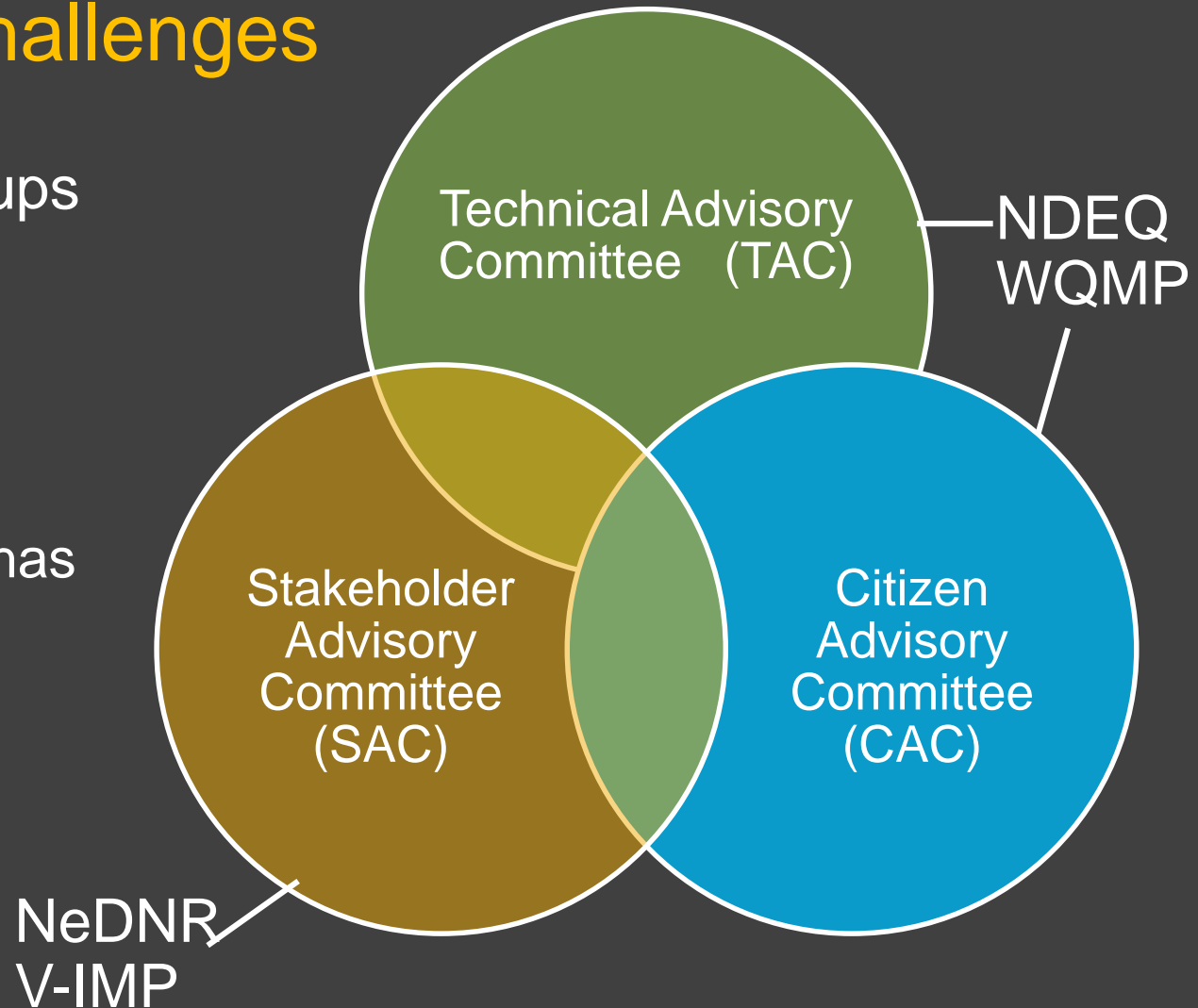
- Statutory framework
 - Nebraska State Statutes for water quantity
 - Federal Clean Water Act for water quality
- Timelines
 - WQMP has less than 2 years to write/accept plan
 - NDEQ and EPA reviews for acceptance
 - V-IMPs may take 3 to 5 years
 - NeDNR and NRD agree to adopt

Coordinated water quality and quantity planning: **Challenges**

- Differing Funding Mechanisms
 - EPA funding for NDEQ plans
 - Plan development and project implementation
 - 40% non-federal match
 - NeDNR plans
 - NRD and NeDNR share cost of development & implementation
 - Grants available for implementation (WSF, NET, etc.)

Coordinated water quality and quantity planning: Challenges

- Stakeholder groups
 - WQMP has two committees
 - TAC
 - CAC
 - V-IMP typically has one committee
 - SAC



Coordinated water quality and quantity planning: **Opportunities**

- Improved communication with public and between agencies about multiple water plans
- Minimized redundancy in planning efforts
- Time/cost savings for NRD
- **Complimentary** goals and objectives between plans
- More holistic approach to water management
- Great learning opportunity for agencies/NRD

Upper Big Blue WQMP and V-IMP- Coordination Approach

- Two separate plans (WQMP, V-IMP)
- Separate contracts for consultation services
- Common advisors (stakeholders) between plans
- NDEQ representative at V-IMP meetings, NeDNR representative at WQMP meetings
- Joint NRD, NDEQ, NeDNR coordination meetings throughout process

Upper Big Blue WQMP and V-IMP

So far...

- Alternating meetings between WQMP and V-IMP
- Committees are the same for both plans
- Water **Quality** and **Quantity** come up at all meetings.
- Agencies are more educated about other plan.
- Groundwater is a focus for both plans.

Questions?

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Nonpoint Source Pollution Program

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