

## **Governor's Water Quality and Quantity Task Force**

### **DRAFT Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, March 25, 2026**

**Department of Water, Energy, and Environment Hearing Room 031**

**245 Fallbrook Blvd., Lincoln, NE 68521**

Members Present: Joe Anderjaska, Brittany Bartak, Don Batie, Jesse Bradley, Brian Bruckner, Devin Brundage, Russ Callan, Tom Downey, Jessica Groskopf, Brandon Hunnicutt, Steve Kyes, Matt Manning, Tim Mundorf, Scott Schaneman, Marty Stange, Annette Sudbeck.

Members Absent: Brian Kissinger, Scott Knobbe, Dean Settje, John Shadle.

Staff and Audience Present: Isabella Peterson, Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment (DWEE); Cicely Batie, Governor's Policy Research Office; Tylr Naprstek, Lower Loup Natural Resources District (NRD); Jeff Shafer, Nebraska Public Power District; Mallory Morton, Olsson; Jennifer Swanson, Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD); David Hoferer, Reinke; Madline Strain, Nebraska Pork Producers; Dustin Wilcox, NARD; Seth Mitchell, Nebraska Pork Producers; Ken Quandt, McCrometer; Crystal Powers, UNL; Mike Murphy, Middle Niobrara NRD; Joe Sanders, Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute.

Open Meetings Act Information: The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. by Jesse Bradley. Bradley stated that the meeting was being conducted in accordance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act and a copy of the current Open Meetings Act was posted and available for inspection and review near the back of the room. Bradley stated that a public meeting notice was published in the Omaha World Herald newspaper and the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment's website on March 18, 2026 in accordance with state law.

Task Force members and audience members introduced themselves.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from 12/16/2025: Scott Schaneman moved and Jessica Groskopf seconded a motion to approve the Task Force meeting minutes from December 16, 2025. There was no opposition. Motion carried.

Presentation – Overview of Task Force Final Recommendations: Bradley presented an overview of the Task Force process over the last nine months. He noted there were over twenty meetings attended by Task Force members and mentioned the wide range of presentations by subject matter experts that were brought in. He stated that the Task Force prioritized proactive solutions including incentives, innovation, and education over new regulatory requirements when developing goals and recommendations. The presentation

highlighted key recommendations from the Final Report and details related to implementation activities. A copy of the presentation can be found on the Task Force webpage at: <https://dnr.nebraska.gov/water-quality-and-quantity-task-force>.

Members discussed their appreciation for the opportunity to serve on the Task Force and expressed the desire to reconvene the group in the future to review progress on implementation of the recommended goals and action items, and to ensure metrics are being achieved. Other members agreed and stated that meeting at least annually would be acceptable. Governor Pillen stated he agreed with reconvening the Task Force in the future to ensure recommendations are effectively implemented.

Approval of Final Task Force Report: Don Batie moved and Brandon Hunnicutt seconded a motion to approve the Final Task Force Report and Appendices. There was no opposition. Motion carried.

#### Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Governor Pillen thanked the Task Force members for their work in developing goals and recommendations aimed at ensuring Nebraska's water resources are protected for future generations. He noted the urgency of these issues and the importance of maintaining Nebraska's leadership in water management and mentioned the need to remain proactive rather than reactive. He also highlighted the importance of data privacy in these discussions, ongoing efforts to secure federal resources for the state, and the critical need to protect the aquifer.

Task Force members expressed appreciation for the Governor's leadership in guiding discussions toward incentive-based and educational approaches rather than new regulatory requirements. Members noted that they have been hearing that growers are receptive to this approach and are interested in how the Report's recommendations will be implemented moving forward.

Isabella Peterson noted the Final Report and Appendices will be uploaded to the Task Force webpage at: <https://dnr.nebraska.gov/water-quality-and-quantity-task-force>.

#### Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:37 a.m.