

## 01.16.2023 **Final Meeting – Meeting Summary**

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### Attendance:

**Advisory Council:** Andrew Dunkley, Liz Seacrest, Anna Wishart, Brittney Albin, Chittaranjan Ray, David Cary, Donna Garden, Elizabeth Elliott, Eliot Bostar, Glenn Johnson, Holley Salmi, Jeanne McClure, Jerry Obrist, Katie Wilson, Kennon Meyer, Lori Seibel, Lynn Rex, Martha Shulski, Richard Meginnis, Sean Flowerday, Susan Seacrest, Todd Wiltgen, Tom Beckius, Trish Owen, Tut Kailech.

**Absent:** Marc LeBaron, Michon Morrow

**City Staff:** Erika Hill, Cyndy Roth, Jocelyn Golden, Steve Owen, Kim Morrow

**Consultants:** Andrew Hansen, Ben Day, Brian Chaffin, Haley Engstrom, Jamie Carson, Jeff Henson, Stacey Roach, Terry Cole Fairchild, Tessa Yackley

**Public:** Jim Frohman, Margaret Reist

### Summary:

#### 10:30 AM – Start

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks – Susan Seacrest and Brian Chaffin
  - a. This is just the beginning; your voices will continue to influence and be a large part of this project going forward.
  - b. Moment for Martin Luther King Jr. Day – A moment of recognition was held to acknowledge the important work done by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. It was noted that the work of the Advisory Council is very much in keeping with the spirit of the holiday which encourages citizens to go out and do good in their communities.
2. Rules of Engagement, Consensus Levels and Today's Agenda – Brian Chaffin
3. Alternatives Recap – Review of scoring and Key Details/Discussion – Jeff Henson, Ben Day, and Andrew Hansen
  - a. Alternative B – Expand Existing Wellfield
    - i. Not redundant.

- ii. Easy to implement.
  - iii. Maintains City's autonomy / control.
  - iv. No change in operations.
  - v. Supply capability beyond 2075 – Negative.
- b. Alternative C – Off-Channel Reservoir
  - i. Not redundant.
  - ii. Implementation challenges related to permitting.
  - iii. Maintains City's autonomy / control.
  - iv. Modified operations.
  - v. Supply Capability beyond 2075 – Negative.
- c. Alternative D – MUD Interconnect
  - i. Partially redundant.
  - ii. Easy to implement.
  - iii. Requires agreement / contract with MUD – supply is controlled by contract terms.
  - iv. Modified operations.
  - v. Supply capability beyond 2075 – Neutral.
- d. Alternative E – Missouri River Surface Water Intake to Ashland
  - i. Partially redundant.
  - ii. Implementation requires surface water rights.
  - iii. Maintains City's autonomy / control.
  - iv. Operations and treatment most complex compared to other alternatives.
  - v. Supply capability beyond 2075 – Neutral.
- e. Alternative F – Missouri River Wellfield to Ashland
  - i. Partially redundant.
  - ii. Easier to implement with minimal water supply permitting.
  - iii. Maintains City's autonomy / control.
  - iv. Operations similar to existing.
  - v. Supply capability beyond 2075 – Neutral.

- f. Alternative G – Missouri River Surface Water Intake to Lincoln
  - i. Fully redundant.
  - ii. Implementation requires surface water rights.
  - iii. Maintains City's autonomy / control.
  - iv. Operations and treatment most complex compared to other alternatives.
  - v. Supply capability beyond 2075 – Positive.
- g. Alternative H – Missouri River Wellfield to Lincoln
  - i. Fully redundant.
  - ii. Easier to implement with minimal water supply permitting.
  - iii. Maintains City's autonomy / control.
  - iv. Operations similar to existing.
  - v. Supply capability beyond 2075 – Positive.
- 4. Second Water Source Recommendation – Brian Chaffin
  - a. Discussion on Top Ranked Alternative

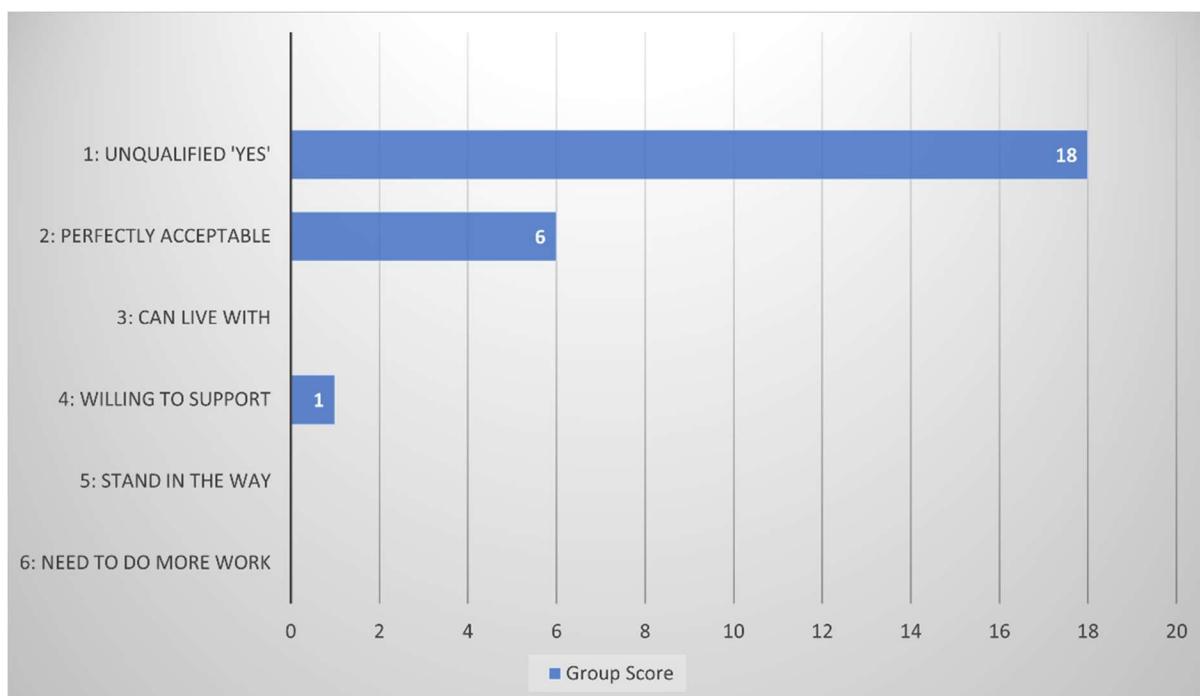
Alternative H was the highest scoring alternative of the Advisory Council. A general discussion took place focusing on Alternative H, some of the key differences between it and other alternatives, and confirming the group's view of it as the preferred alternative.

    - i. Alternative B scored lowest on environmental stewardship because of the challenges that come with permitting on the Platte.
    - ii. Alternative H provides redundancy in not only water supply but also for operations / staffing as the treatment process would be same or very similar to existing.
    - iii. Alternatives F and H would result in minimal agricultural impacts for the state.
    - iv. Alternative H provides more redundancy than alternative F because it would be completely independent of the Ashland facilities including transmission mains into Lincoln .
    - v. Missouri River alternatives have the risk of ice jams as well as the common flooding risks of any river body. Jerry Obrist shared that many

years ago the City assessed four possible locations near the Missouri river and during flooding events only two proved to be viable options.

- vi. Wellfield options would not require a river intake and would provide cleaner water than surface water options. This results in less complex treatment processes.

- b. Consensus Check: A consensus check was held for making a final recommendation of Alternative H: Missouri River Wellfield to Lincoln. All 25 members of the Advisory Council present at the meeting voted.

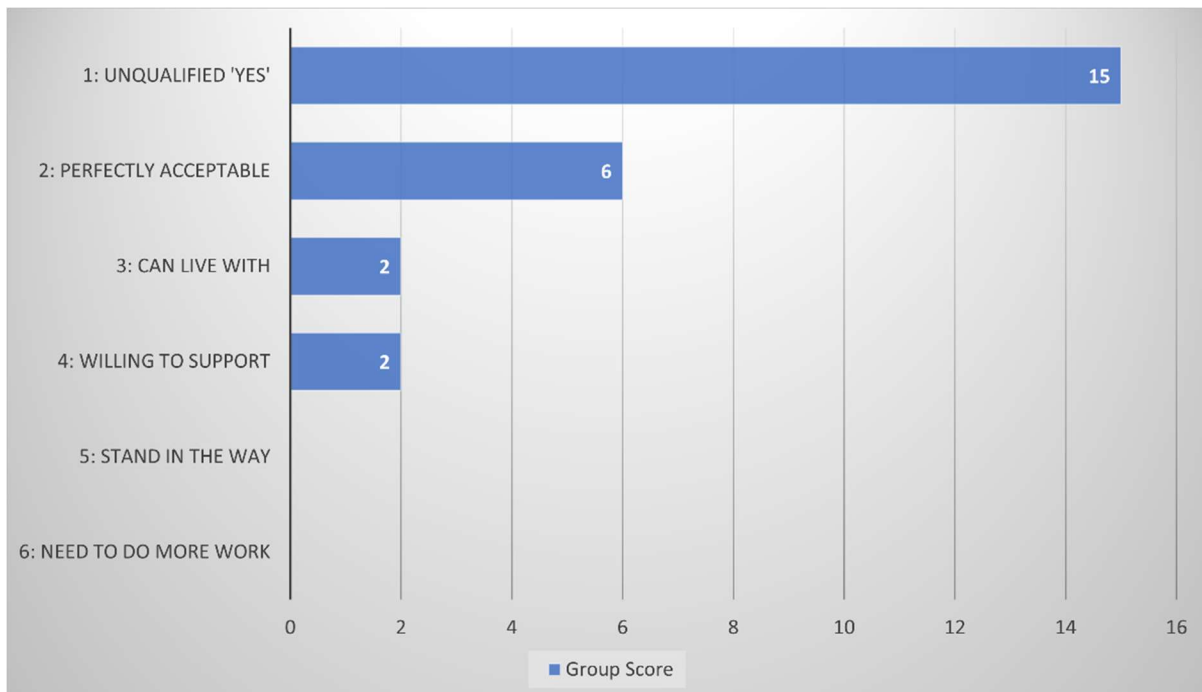


- c. Additional Considerations – Senator Eliot Bostar

- i. Senator Bostar explained that a potential lake between Lincoln and Omaha is garnering further consideration during the current legislative session. He asked that the Advisory Council consider adding language to the recommended alternative (Alternative H) that indicates support for the City exploring the potential impacts and benefits of a reservoir lake between Lincoln and Omaha. During discussion the Advisory Council expressed a desire that the City consider the same factors developed by

the Advisory Council as part of Water 2.0 when evaluating the potential lake.

- d. Consensus Check: A consensus check was held for adding language to the final recommendation indicating support for exploring potential impacts and benefits of a reservoir. All 25 members of the Advisory Council present at the meeting voted.



12:45 – 1:15 PM – Lunch

1:15 PM – Resume Meeting

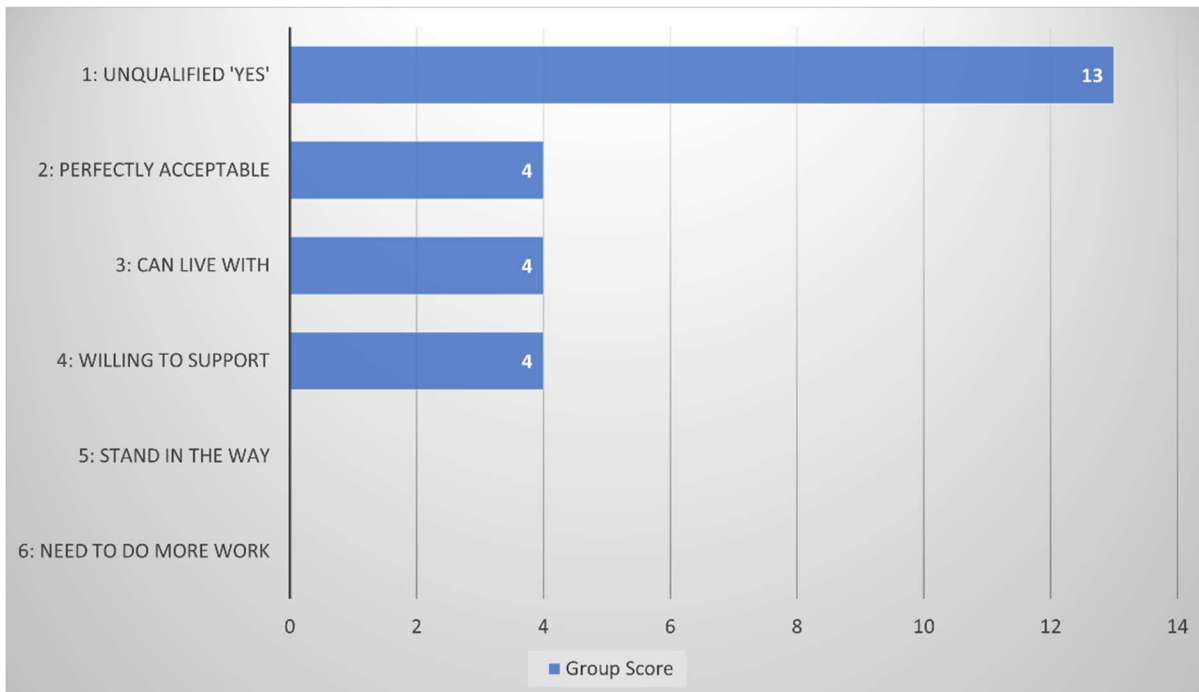
#### 5. Final Recommendation

- a. Recommendation Language presented to the group for consensus:

“We, the Water Source Advisory Council, recommend that the City pursue a wellfield and treatment facility along the Missouri River with direct transport of treated water to Lincoln. The Advisory Council also

recommends that the City explore the potential impacts and benefits of a reservoir lake, as proposed by the state legislature.”

- b. Consensus Check on Final Recommendation Language. All 25 members of the Advisory Council present at the meeting voted.



## 6. Next Steps

- a. Press Conference
  - i. Monday February 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.; location to be announced.
- b. Talking Points for Advisory Council
  - i. Summary sheet including a general message will be sent in the next few weeks to the Advisory Council to ensure consistent and accurate information.
  - ii. Questions from the community can be forwarded to Elizabeth Elliott.

- c. Public Open House
    - i. Tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 -7:30 p.m. at Southwest High School.
  - d. Advisory Council Going Forward
    - i. The Advisory Council leadership, City staff, and the Consultant team appreciate the continued support of the Council members and will keep the Council in the loop during the phases to come, including any opportunities to re-engage.
7. Advisory Council Debrief and Feedback
- a. What went well:
    - i. Extremely well organized.
    - ii. Appreciative of the City Staff and Consultant team.
    - iii. Thankful for the Chamber's hospitality.
    - iv. Detailed explanations for each option and alternatives as well as the repetition were helpful. Reiteration of themes and details helped keep members up to speed and engaged month to month.
    - v. Thoroughness of the whole technical explanation process and consensus checks.
    - vi. Very diverse group of people.
    - vii. Thankful for all of the consultants, staff, and guest speakers being able to help members understand, even if the Council didn't have background experience in the topic.
    - viii. Well-designed process but not "over designed."
    - ix. Scoring criteria sheets were very helpful.
    - x. Gained a great deal of respect for how the City's water system works.
    - xi. The process was extraordinary.
    - xii. Very comprehensive and well-thought-out process
    - xiii. Great set up that allowed lots of people to be involved and have their voices heard.
    - xiv. The Chamber appreciates the opportunity to host and be a part of the recommendation process.

- xv. Being able to leave the meetings with a good enough understanding to explain concepts well to others.
- xvi. Diverse group of people who immediately took interest in diving in and understanding.
- xvii. Such a critical process and outcome, yet didn't feel like it was an emergency; rather it was making a series of smart decisions for the community going forward.
- xviii. Learning from other communities.
- xix. Appreciative of the City for continued participation.
- xx. Appreciate the Mayor being ahead of this and to the broad base stakeholder group.

8. Closing Remarks

- a. With this project we are shaping the future of not only the next 50 years but of the next 100 years. Thank you!

2:00 PM – Adjourn