Little Rock Creek – Addressing Water Use Conflict

Project Summary

The Little Rock Creek project is a collaborative initiative aimed at sustainably resolving water-use conflicts by balancing agricultural irrigation demands with the ecological needs of Little Rock Creek in Central Minnesota. The project seeks to restore and protect critical streamflow conditions and aquatic habitats, while ensuring the continued economic viability of local agricultural operations.

Key Approaches Discussed During the Meeting

- Replacement of Wells w/ More Distant Wells (Remove and Replace) and Conveyance Systems - Constructing new irrigation wells outside of the impacted aquifer area and developing pipelines to deliver water to farms.
- Enhanced Groundwater Recharge Using Infiltration Zones - Increasing groundwater replenishment through engineered infiltration zones that allow water to naturally recharge aquifers.
- Enhanced Groundwater Recharge Using Impoundments - Capturing and temporarily storing surface water in constructed ponds or basins to promote gradual groundwater infiltration and aquifer recharge.

Comparative Overview Table

Approach	Regulatory & Water Availability Certainty	Implementation Timeline	Implementation Costs (Capital & O&M)	Governance Complexity
Replacement of Wells w/ Distant Wells & Conveyance Systems	High certainty; clear regulatory pathway	Medium-term (2–5 years)	High capital; Moderate to high operating & maintenance	Moderate to High
Enhanced Recharge Using Infiltration Zones	Moderate to high certainty; dependent on soil conditions and land availability	Medium-term (2–4 years)	High capital; Moderate to high operating & maintenance	Moderate
Enhanced Recharge Using Impoundments	Moderate certainty; permitting and environmental considerations needed	Medium to Long-term (3–6 years)	Moderate to high capital; Low operating & maintenance	Low to Moderate

Definition of Terms:

- Certainty: "Certainty" indicates regulatory approvals, predictability of water availability, and likelihood of meeting project goals.
- Implementation Timeline: Time required from approval to project operational completion.
- Implementation Costs: Relative scale based on anticipated capital investments and annual operation and maintenance (O&M).
- Governance Complexity: Reflects the organizational and management structures required, including agreements, legal arrangements, and stakeholder collaboration.

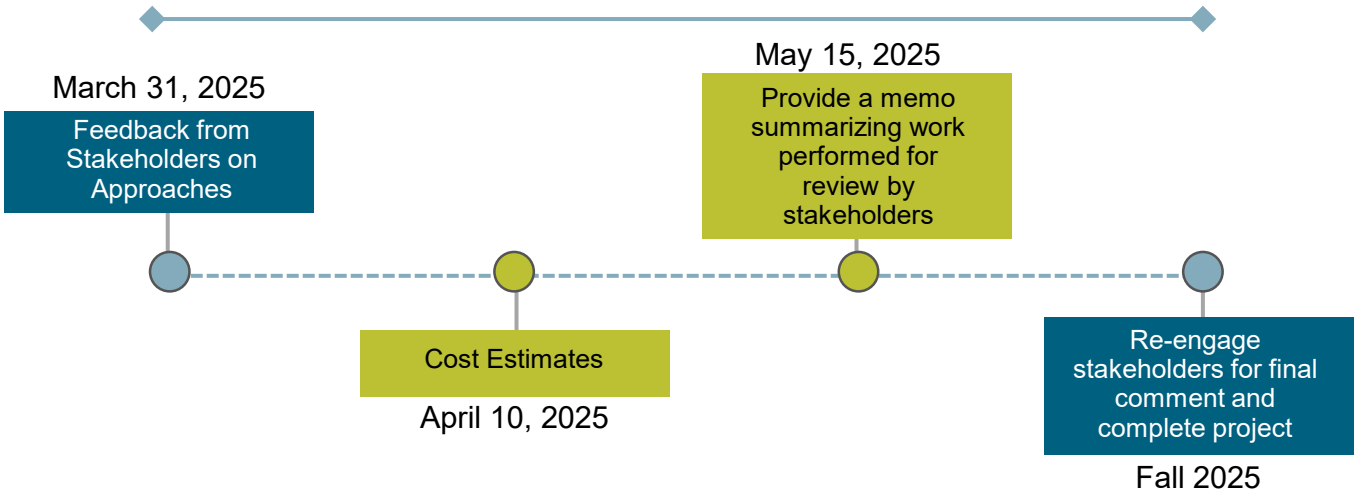
Next Steps and Stakeholder Actions

Your feedback is essential! Stakeholder input directly shapes the direction and outcomes of the Little Rock Creek Project. Your perspectives, experiences, and preferences ensure our solutions are practical, effective, and truly representative of community and agricultural needs.

Immediate Next Steps

- **Follow-up Survey:** Reminder to submit follow-up survey responses via email by March 31, 2025.
- **Weekly Stakeholder Meetings:** Reach out to Uma Vempati to get the meeting invitation to participate in virtual weekly stakeholder meetings.
- **Project Timeline:** Virtual Weekly Stakeholder Meetings.

Virtual Weekly Stakeholder Meetings (Thursdays at 8 AM Central)



Key Project Contacts

- Project Manager: Uma Vempati, Kimley-Horn (uma.vempati@kimley-horn.com, 612-474-2746)
- Modeling: Hans Holmberg, LimnoTech (hholmberg@limno.com, 651-269-4526)
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Thank You!

We sincerely appreciate your continued engagement, thoughtful insights, and valuable contributions to the Little Rock Creek Water Use Conflict project. Your active participation and ongoing commitment play a critical role in developing practical and sustainable solutions. We look forward to your continued involvement as we move ahead together toward a successful resolution.

Thank you for making a difference!

— Kimley-Horn and LimnoTech Project Team