



**NEBRASKA WELLHEAD PROTECTION NETWORK  
PARTICIPANT SURVEY II SUMMARY**  
July 2007

Number of participants contacted: 24  
Number of participants who responded: 20

**1. What is the NE WHPN's greatest strength?**

- Twelve respondents stated that the WHPN's greatest strength is the ability to network with a diverse group of professionals from different disciplines throughout the state, the resources the network is able to provide, and the ability to learn more about issues and what is being done throughout the state.
- Four respondents indicated they felt the opportunities for education and outreach offered by the WHPN was its greatest strength.
- Two respondents felt that it was important to note that Nebraska has such a network when other states do not and/or that the WHPN participants are making an effort on this front when other organizations are not.
- Two respondents felt they were too new to the WHPN to know what its greatest strength was but one added that it was nice to have the communication with and between communities that the WHPN provided.

Miscellaneous comments:

- One respondent would like to see more pump installers & well drillers participate in WHPN meetings.

**2. What is the NE WHPN's greatest weakness?**

- Four respondents could not define any weaknesses.
- Three respondents felt that the distance between the WHPN participants and the distance traveled to attend meetings were the greatest weakness.
- Two respondents felt the WHPN needed new ideas for discussion topics and that many topics had been repeated.
- One respondent felt there were no clearly defined mission, goals, or objectives for the meetings.

- Four respondents felt they were too new to the organization to be able to pinpoint any weaknesses.
- Four respondents either did not know the purpose of the WHPN. One of these respondents was unsure of how she became a member of the WHPN.
- Two respondents suggested holding meetings in other areas of the state.

Miscellaneous comments:

- One respondent noted that sometimes the “hot topics” discussed at the meetings are not priority topics.
- Needs better communication on meeting notification.
- The wide variety of levels of interest & knowledge makes it hard to meet everyone’s needs.
- Some areas of state do not have agency involved in WHPN.
- Include local zoning administrators in WHPN.
- Let local zoning administrators know what they need to know and what their responsibility is in regard to WHP.
- Make people aware of WHPN.

3. Should the NE WHPN expand their activities and organize to provide more specific services to Nebraska’s communities and water systems?

- Five respondents like the current meeting format of roundtable discussions on the “hot topic.”
- Four respondents would like a mix of the roundtable “hot topic” discussions combined with more specific activities or training.
- Seven respondents felt that there was a need to make the public aware of the WHPN through presentations at local and statewide events.
- One respondent felt that there is a need to provide communities with assistance in developing WHP plans at an economic cost and felt the WHPN could fill this niche.
- One respondent would like to receive a brief synopsis of the “hot topic” and other pertinent information via e-mail.
- Two respondents indicated the WHPN needed more people from communities (water suppliers, board members, village clerks), and outside agencies to participate.

Miscellaneous comments:

- Two respondents felt strongly that NACO should be made aware of the WHPN and requested the WHPN present at NPZA or NACO events.
- Networking was a good first step. Need to move forward to more active mission. Remain relevant and evolve.
- WHPN has gotten to the point where there is a need for more specific activities.
- Hold service-oriented meetings with hands on training for inspectors—possibly with the opportunity for CEUs.
- Provide information on how to look at WHP to analyze and develop WHP plans and lay ground work with community leaders.

- Conduct meetings in different regions focusing on regional issues with statewide meeting held 1-2 times per year.

#### **4. How would you improve the meeting format?**

- Eight respondents like the current meeting format.
- Six respondents would like the current meeting format combined specific presentations or educational opportunities.
- One respondent recommended having participants make suggestions on topics they would like discussed at meetings.
- One respondent suggested making sure all aspects/disciplines of WHP are included in meeting participation/discussion.
- One respondent noted that gas prices make it difficult to travel to meetings and requested earlier start times and longer meetings to get the most benefit from his travel dollars.
- One respondent expressed concern that holding the WHPN meetings in conjunction with other events may mean you miss out on meeting sessions.
- One respondent preferred holding WHPN meetings in conjunction with other events and preferred the meetings be kept to 60 minutes in length.
- One respondent had no comment.

#### Miscellaneous comments:

- Make sure there is a good reason or purpose for each meeting, especially if participants are traveling to meeting. Some meetings could be held via conference call, webinar or satellite.
- Form groups of various people from different agencies/expertise/experiences for small group discussions.
- Would like current format combined with a more structured agenda or more information ahead of time so she can be prepared to speak on “hot topic.”

#### **5. How often should meetings be held?**

- Fifteen respondents felt that meeting quarterly was a sufficient number of times to meet throughout the year.
- Two respondents would like meetings held biannually.
- One respondent felt that annual meetings would be sufficient.
- One respondent felt that quarterly meetings were too many but did not indicate what they felt an appropriate number of meetings would be.
- One respondent felt that given time, travel, and budget constraints meetings could be held via live broadcast through the University of Nebraska, Nebraska Educational Television, or community colleges.

#### Miscellaneous comments:

- Five respondents preferred to attend WHPN meetings held in conjunction with other events in order to make the most use of their time out of the office.

- Hold meetings in conjunction with NWRA or AWWA meetings to get a different mix of participants.
- Hold in conjunction with events that offer CEU's.
- Create informal networks through the WHPN network that could meet regionally.
- One respondent doesn't care for WHPN meetings held in conjunction with other events as it means he is out of office for longer period of time.
- Likes 10:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. timeframe is good use of time.
- Hold meetings in central location.
- Would like to see more WHPN meetings throughout the state.
- Reach out to more planning and zoning officials who have to have WHP plans but don't always understand how to develop plan.