

Group meets in Gothenburg to learn about Platte River Basin, work on funding sources.

Taxing everything from pop to irrigators was on the table for the Nebraska Water Funding Task Force Friday.

The 34-member group, formed by the Nebraska Legislature, met Thursday and Friday at the Monsanto Learning Center.

Lawmakers, members of the Natural Resources Commission and people appointed from cities, power districts and the agricultural sector comprise the task force.

Members have until December to figure out how to meet long-term water sustainability and increased water-use productivity by identifying and prioritizing projects that meet these goals.

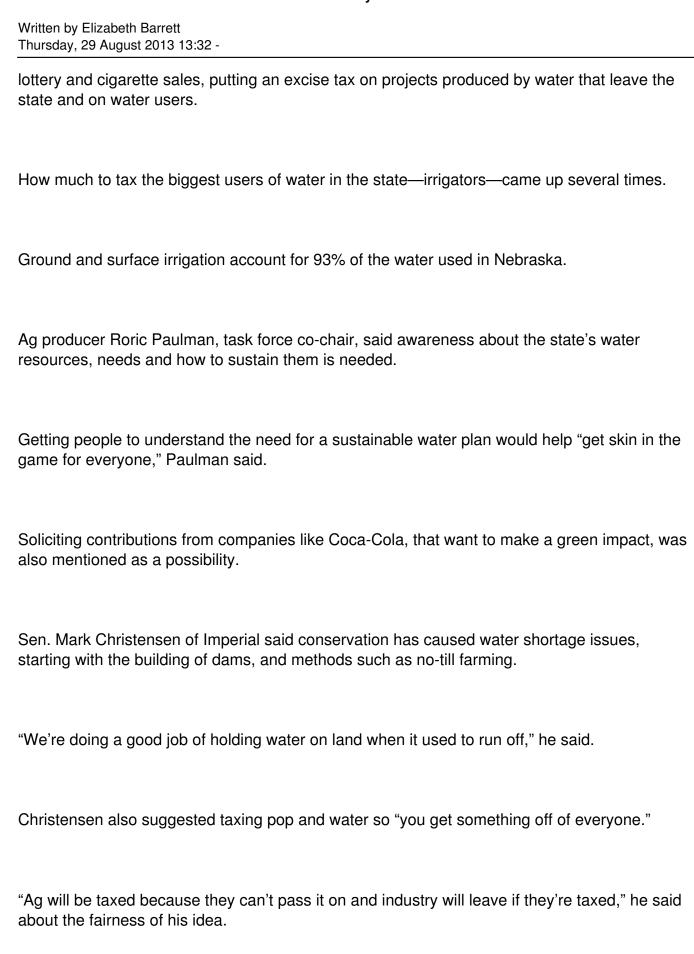
Another objective is coming up with a list of sources and possibilities to fund programs, projects and activities.

Facilitator Patti Banks said the public will expect that everyone who benefits from water should contribute to the cost but not necessarily in the same percentages.

"So stay as open minded as possible," Banks said

Some of the ideas suggested included using part of the sales tax, bonding and loans, taxing

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