

NPBRT Meeting Minutes 5-25-10
NFS Conf. Room (7-9PM)
100 Main Street, Walden, CO

Members Present

*Mike Allnutt
Deb Alpe
Mike Alpe
*Jim Baller
Paula Belcher
Pete Conovitz
*Kent Crowder
*Tom Hackleman
*Kay Meyring
*John Rich
*Barbara Vasquez
*Ty Wattenberg
*Rick Wyatt

Guests Present

Matt Reddy
Shanna Schalnus
Carl Trick II
Kincaid Waldron

Members Absent

Ann Timberman
*Hal Hagan
*Mike Honholz
*Sandy Knox
*Dirk Ramsey
Michael Wright
(* Voting members, total 13)

I. Agenda Review: The agenda was accepted.

II. Approval of NPBRT Minutes: March 9 & April 27, 2010 Meetings

The meeting minutes from both meetings were approved with one change each. The final versions of both sets of minutes were distributed electronically to the NPBRT distribution list on 5/25 after the meeting.

III. Mark McCluskey, CDM and Hal Simpson, Simpson Consulting
Update: Town of Walden Water Supply Improvement Project

Mark and Hal presented an update on the Town water supply project. Their presentation material is included with these minutes. As we heard last December, a new alluvial collection gallery is not supported by the hydraulic conductivity at the proposed site. The flow achievable based upon test holes drilled along the proposed infiltration gallery was only ~180gpm, insufficient to support the approx 450 gpm needed for the full 1cfs HiHo water right. As a result, CDM has been evaluating a combination of subprojects, each with smaller impact, which together might give the Town the desired volume of raw water. These include:

- 1) correcting apparent leakage losses in the settling ponds by lining them with clay or a geotextile liner,
- 2) rehabilitating the concrete surface water diversion structure to bring it back to it's original height, (The design has been completed and submitted to the Town.)
- 3) resolving the impediment (as yet undefined) to pumping both the Middle and South wells simultaneously.

Other alternatives considered, but unlikely to yield cost effective solutions, include:

- a) using the old vault/collection pipe diversion structure to feed either the settling ponds or to recharge the 2 wells (perforated pipe would need to be replaced and no water right has been found for this diversion)
- b) Running Ruction Ditch to recharge wells after hay season (S branch of the Michigan falls too low in late summer/early fall to reliability feed the ditch).

The 6 shares in Walden Reservoir owned by the Town were discussed. There is no historical municipal use of this water (approx 100 AF) by the Town, so going to water court to get a change of use would not likely yield much water for the Town. CDM is exploring the possibility of exchanging these shares for approx 100 AF in Meadow Creek reservoir. Carl Trick mentioned that any offering of shares in Walden Reservoir had to first be made to existing shareholders. Hal said this had been discussed last year with Newell Gear, who thought it would be possible with Silver Spur as the intermediary because they own shares in both reservoirs. However, Newell has since retired from Silver Spur, so Hal will need to start he discussion over with Silver Spur. The other challenge with water from Meadow Creek is that it is approx 12 mi from town. The transit losses are unknown but likely substantial. Hal and Mark replied that at least it's some water, whereas the shares in Walden Reservoir get no water to the town. The benefits to the Town from this potential trade are being evaluated.

Finally, applications have been prepared in cooperation with Tom Sharpe (water attny for the Town) to go to Water Court when it's decided what combination of approaches will be used by the Town. Hal was confident that the State will allow a combination of the wells plus diversion dam to operate together at the full water right of 1cfs, even though the maximum historical beneficial use is approx 0.9cfs. Furthermore, the Division of Water Resources has allowed the two wells and the surface diversion to divert up to 1.0 cfs during time of call on the river which is the amount of the senior HiHo Ditch water right owned by the Town. This is the operation intended in the application being prepared for water court.

IV. Discussion of NCNA subcommittee's proposed approach to prioritize NCNA attributes

The NCNA subcommittee is working out an approach for prioritization of the non-consumptive attributes. It's our expectation we'll be ready to do a first run through with the full RT in July.

V. Deb Alpe, NPBRT Education Liaison -

Discussion of NPBRT Education Subcommittee & creation of EAP

The Education Outreach Committee for the NPBRT has been formed with Deb Alpe as Chair. The Committee needs to work out a basin education plan. Deb asked which NPBRT members would be willing to serve on the committee, in addition to those who volunteered last month (John Rich, Ann Timberman and Barbara Vasquez). Kay Meyring, Kent Crowder and Deb

Heeney (reported by Kent) stepped forward. Deb set a date/time for the first meeting: June 30, 4PM (location tbd).

CWCB has contracted with the Colorado Foundation for Water Education (CFWE) to facilitate the formation of the Education Committees for each RT and to get them started writing their Education Action Plan (EAP). EAPs are to detail the educational goals and tasks each basin roundtable wants to undertake. The goal of the EAP is two-fold:

- 1) to conduct roundtable member education that promotes a well-informed and high-functioning basin roundtable
- 2) to define public participation objectives and methods for the basin to implement.

With a Plan in hand, a RT can apply for up to \$1800 to fund activities defined in the basin's Action Plan. Deb asked for an informal vote, which was unanimously positive, on whether the RT wanted to write such a plan, accept the funding and engage in the education efforts.

The starting point for the Education Committee direction could come from the Basin Roundtable Education Survey that Curran had the NPBRT complete last Jan. 13 out of 16 voting members plus 9 nonvoting attendees completed the survey. The preliminary results were presented to the NPBRT by Kristin Maharg of CFWE last year.

Our Basin identified the following as our top issues:

- M&I needs for the Town of Walden
- energy development - potential impacts from oil and gas development
- Ag Water Needs-consumptive uses and losses and high-altitude crop coefficients
- Forest management-impacts of bark beetle tree mortality on water quality & quantity
- water supply/unappropriated water (DSS system)

Considering our current projects, the M needs for the Town of Walden are addressed by the Raw Water project and the Ag Water Needs are addressed by the project under Nolan Doesken to assess actual high altitude crop coefficients. (Deb updated the RT that all the equipment is now in place and working for weather data collections.) The forest management issue is addressed by the project funded and underway by Kelley Elder and his team on bark beetle tree treatments to assess water quality & quantity. The only 'top issue' not addressed by ongoing NPBRT projects is the impact of energy development on water and related habitats.

Deb reviewed the items we self-reported as having high water knowledge:

- Ag water conservation
- Colorado water administration
- Water rights and/or water law
- Surface water hydrology
- Colorado's in-stream flow program
- Colorado's future water needs

Areas our basin reported as having Low Water Knowledge that we may wish to consider as topics for future internal roundtable education include:

- Groundwater hydrology*
- Water quality regulation*

- M and I water conservation
- Funding for water projects
- Drought planning*
- River restoration*

(*reported as Statewide Low Water Knowledge areas as well)

It was agreed that all of these topics were appropriate for North Platte. Ground water hydrology ties in part to energy development (produced water). Water quality regulations, as commented by Carl, are very complicated and change frequently. Under river restoration, we could definitely cover improvement of diversion structures and placement of culverts for fish passage, which has been discussed as a potential class of projects with multiple benefits. Drought planning is being addressed now at the State level. Finally, Carl commented that it's possible the State plan could include a mandate to achieve a certain municipal conservation. Our numbers per capita are high compared to the rest of the state, so it's a relevant topic for us. Ty commented that although we reported having high knowledge on Ag water conservation, we should continue to list this as a priority education items.

The Southwest Tour, put on the CFWE, will be June 9-11 based out of Durango. The registration is \$325 (before hotel & meals). Like last year, there will be scholarships (first come/first serve basis) for RT members (75% of registration cost). The deadline to register with 'early bird' discount on registration has been extended to 5/27. Barbara will send out a separate notice all RT members to alert them to the tour and the potential.

VI. New Business:

Carl Trick, CWCB - Report on CWCB's official action on DU's WSRA funding application

Carl asked Matt Reddy to speak to the North Park Wet Meadows Conservation Program-Phase I funding decision. There was comment to the CWCB before the vote from Drew Peternell, TU. He expressed concern shared by TU and BLM over the potential depletion of water from important stream fisheries by diversion for new wet meadows in this project. The comment was noted, but the CWCB voted unanimously to approve the WSRA funding (\$20k). This funding is in addition to the \$200k awarded by the CDOW Wetlands Program and potential funding from a pending NAWCA grant (potential \$100k for DU subproject).

Kent Crowder - WSRA funding updates

Kent reported that the Basin account balance is currently \$375,535, according to Greg Johnson. The increase over last month represents an inflow of 40% of the FY2010-2011 allocation for the Basin.

Barbara Vasquez- support letter from RT for application to NW RAC

Barbara has made application for the 'public at large' position on the NW RAC and asked the RT if they would consider writing a letter of support. Two positions are up for consideration in Category 3: the 'public-at-large' position (for which Barbara applied) and government-related positions. Kent pointed out that the County has written a letter of support for Lanny Weddle's reappointment in category 3 and didn't think they could/should support two candidates from the same county, even though they were for different positions. He said the competition around geographic representation was a factor to consider. Furthermore, Carl

mentioned that even though he came to the RT last year for a letter of support in his bid for a 2nd term on the CWCB, there may now be serious questions about whether that is/was appropriate. There was discussion last month at the CWCB meeting about whether a RT should formally support or oppose projects in other basins and maybe this could even apply to RT recommendations for appointments to various positions. The topic will be discussed further and perhaps a position taken, at the June CWCB meeting. Barbara asked whether, in light of this information, the RT would like to delay consideration of this request until the next meeting. A motion was made (Rick Wyatt), seconded (Tom Hackleman) and approved to table this discussion until next meeting.

VIII. Set Next Meeting: June 22, (7-9PM, FS Conference Room).

Topics will include a presentation by Joanna Lemly, CNHP, on the CDOW/EPA-funded wetlands condition study underway this season.