

NPBRT Minutes: 1-18-11 Meeting

NFS Conf. Room (3-5PM)

100 Main Street, Walden, CO

Members Present

*Mike Allnutt
Deb Alpe
Mike Alpe
*Jimmer Baller
*James Carothers
*Kent Crowder
*Scott Fischer
*Tom Hackleman
*John Rich
Ann Timberman
Carl Trick II
*Ty Wattenberg
*Rick Wyatt
*Barbara Vasquez

Guests Present

Jim Dustin – Jackson County Star
Scott Graham – North Park Anglers
Deb Heeney - NRCS
Meg McAlveen – NFS
Mark McCluskey – CDM
Randy Miller – North Park Engineering
Mark Russell – Town of Walden
Shanna Schalus
Bob Timberman - USFWS
Caid Waldron
Wendy VanValkenberg – Town of Walden

Members Absent

Pete Conovitz
Paula Belcher
*Hal Hagan
*Mike Honholz
*Kay Meyring
Michael Wright
(* Voting members)

I. Agenda Review: The agenda was accepted as published.

II. Approval of NPBRT Minutes: Jan. 18, 2011 Meetings

Rick Wyatt moved to accept the minutes as amended, Ty Wattenberg seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

III. Mark McCluskey: Status update on Walden Water Supply Project

Mark provided a detailed status report of the Town of Walden Raw Water Supply Project. His presentation material (pdf) is attached along with these meeting minutes. There are 4 primary goals for the project: 1) Determine the feasibility of a new collection gallery in the alluvium upstream of existing diversion, 2) Decree the Town's wells as alternate points of diversion for senior HiHo Ditch water rights, 3) Rehabilitate the Town's original diversion structure and suggest repairs or improvements and 4) maximize the beneficial use of the Town's Walden Reservoir shares.

1) It was determined early last year that Objective 1) was not possible because the delivery rate of water thru the alluvium was insufficient.

2) Objective 2) is underway with filings in Colorado Water Court. In conjunction with the filings, CDM evaluated ways to improve the supply to the two wells. 2a-Ruction ditch recharge. But the Michigan River is too low late in the season; major work would be

required. Carl asked what the recharge rate to the two wells was from the Ruction Ditch irrigation. Mark M. replied that it only took 2-3 days. 2b-Use the old pumping plant for vault collection was ruled out; it was determined that a full rebuild would be required.

3) Because Objective 1 was not attainable, Objective 3 has become the primary thrust of the project. The plan to repair the diversion structure (with work started 9/20/10) was modified once the structure was dewatered. It was determined that the structural integrity of the diversion was in question and the entire weir needed to be replaced. Rapid adaptations to the situation were supported of the Town of Walden, NPBRT (Oct., 2010 meeting) and CWCB, to redirect funds from Objective 1 to Objective 3. A new weir was completed (Nov. 20, 2010) before winter set in. Mark Russell commented that the new structure is working well, fixing the weak link (insufficient raw water) in the system. He also has observed that the pond is up to overflow, providing a steady supply. With the increased volume of raw water, it may be possible in the spring to divert directly to the water plant, by passing the settling pond which suffers from evaporative losses, and may also loose water to the underlying soil.

Barbara asked whether the pond was lined; answer – no. Mark R. estimated it would cost \$20-\$40k to line the pond (clay or synthetic). That would allow dewatering and cleaning late in the summer when the wells are being used. Carl asked whether the sediment at the bottom of the pond could be contributing to nutrients for the algal blooms in the summer. Mark commented that the higher flow might allow faster flushing and lower organics in the future. Rick asked for clarification of the adjusted funding for the new weir. Approximately half of the \$120k needed came from CWCB and the Town put in an additional \$60k.

4) The final objective, to maximize the Town's shares in the Walden Reservoir received the most discussion during the meeting. One problem is that the shares are decreed for irrigation and cannot be changed to municipal use. Alternatives under consideration include a) trade for shares in Meadow Mountain Reservoir, b) pump (non-potable) water up from Walden Reservoir for irrigation of the landscapes around the court house, the cemetery and the two parks. This irrigation accounts for approximately 14% of the annual potable water demand over the past 3 years, and it's drawn in the highest use period (summer months). The estimated use is several thousand gallons/day in the summer. 4a has the drawback of 15 miles of open ditch for delivery of water to Walden. The expectation is that only 10-15% of the water released would make it to the town's intake facility. 4b) has the drawback of the ongoing costs for pumping. The sub-irrigation created by the landscape watering would flow back into the Illinois drainage. If derived from Mountain Meadow, it would amount to a trans-subbasin diversion. If the water is pumped up from the Walden Reservoir, it would reduce the percentage of the 1 cfs that is routed through the water treatment plant that is used for landscape irrigation. Kent reminded Mark McCluskey that the Town of Walden had committed a small portion of the water from the Walden Reservoir shares to Lions Park. Mark M. acknowledged receiving a copy of a letter from the Town committing the water, and that the commitment would be taken into account in any future proposals for the Town's shares. CDM has proposed to do a feasibility study, but it is not covered in the funds granted for the project. CDM will estimate costs and come back to the NPBRT with a proposal.

IV. Carl Trick: Consumptive Use Committee – preliminary projections

Carl's committee established a potential list of future consumptive uses in the Basin in October. Barbara created a rating spreadsheet which was used by the full RT at this meeting to contribute to the prioritization exercise. The results will be summarized and presented at

next month's meeting.

V. WSRA Applications

Two WSRA Applications were approved in Nov by the NPBRT and will be considered by the CWCB for funding at their January meeting:

1) Walden Reservoir Company Structure for Water Control – Carl Trick

A corrected application was submitted to the CWCB.

2) Solicitation of stakeholder input through production of a North Platte Basin education package – CFWE/ Kristin Maharg

VI. IBCC/CWCB Update: Kent Crowder/Carl Trick II

SWSI 2010 are due by 1/21 and will be considered at the CWCB meeting on 1/26. Part of the SWSI 2010 will include a Basin Report. Kent handed out a Basin Report Outline & Schedule. The Report is needed by April. Kent commented that CFWE project may provide some material for this report, but might not be in time. He called for the formation of a Report Committee. The members who volunteered (or were volunteered!) to assist Kent with this task are Carl Trick, Deb Alpe & Barbara Vasquez.

The IBCC also wants to have time at our February meeting to poll members for feedback on the IBCC Framework.

VII. Old Business

Deb Alpe, NPBRT Education Liaison:

Deb reported on PEPO planning for the Mar. 3 state-wide workshop. There will be 5 major topics: 1) IPPs 2) Conservation 3) New Water Supplied 4) NonConsumptive Needs 5) Ag Transfer. She encouraged participation: Be part of the conversation! Governor Hickenlooper has created a new cabinet position (Water Policy Advisor) who will also lead the IBCC. It was reported that John Stulp had been appointed to this new position. The Summit will be held on March 3 in Denver. Each RT is invited to present a poster of the work done/planned in the basin. If you are interested in attending this RT Summit, the CWCB will pay for 3 RT members per basin, plus the 2 IBCC reps. Only one person has indicated the intention to attend (BV) besides Deb. Carl commented that it would be an opportunity to interact with other basins. Carl & Deb commented that the North Platte Basin's Non-Consumptive Needs Assessment is often highlighted.

V. New Business:

Membership of NPBRT was reviewed by Kent. He read a letter of resignation by Hal Hagan, our Recreational Representative. There were two people invited to the meeting today who expressed interest in that position: Randy Miller (North Park Engineering) and Scott Graham (North Park Anglers). Randy was introduced by Kent. Randy has lived in North Park 15 years and has various personal recreational interests cited (snowmobiling, fishing, hunting, horseback riding). He has also served on the BLM NWRAC sub-RAC for recreation. Scott was introduced by Barbara who proposed that, since the NPBRT has prioritized stream and lake fishing as the #1 & #2 non-consumptive attributes, it would be appropriate to have someone fully engaged in fishing as the recreational rep. Scott has lived in North Park for 7 years and also participates in other forms of recreation in North Park, including hunting. Scott mentioned he often feels like the 'North Park Chamber of Commerce' when he attends shows.

It's unusual in this basin to have two well qualified folks interested in serving on the BRT! A vote was taken, and Randy Miller is the new Recreational Rep. Kent commented that the meeting are open to the public and encouraged Scott to attend and provide his expertise and perspective.

Kent announced that he felt it was time another member of the roundtable or a member of our community be given the opportunity to serve on the IBCC as one of the representatives from the North Platte Basin, and that he would step down from the position of IBCC representative to allow another person to have that experience. Again, there were two potentials for filling this position. Barbara had expressed interest last year. Kent commented that John Rich was interested in serving. During the voting, several members commented that they felt strongly that a member of the agricultural community should represent the North Platte Basin. John Rich was elected by the voting members to be the new IBCC representative. Carl Trick indicated that he wanted to remain has one of the IBCC representatives from the North Platte Basin Roundtable. All members were in agreement with Carl's continued representation. Kent reviewed the staggered terms of the various classes of voting members of the NPBRT. For simplicity, he called for a motion to reseal all current voting members for an additional 5 year term. The motion was made by Rick, seconded by Ty and passed by the RT. Kent reminded the RT members that an annual meeting is required before the April 1 each year. It was agreed that our next meeting, March 29 3-5PM will serve as the annual meeting.

VI. Set Next Meeting: The dates for the next two meeting were agreed. The next two meetings will be held Tuesday, Feb. 15 & Tue, Mar. 29 (**3-5PM winter hours**) in the FS Conference Room.