

NPBRT Minutes: 11-23-10 Meeting
NFS Conf. Room (7-9PM)
100 Main Street, Walden, CO

Members Present

*Mike Allnutt
Mike Alpe
*Jimmer Baller
Pete Conovitz
*James Carothers
*Kent Crowder
*Tom Hackleman
*Kay Meyring
Carl Trick II
*Ty Wattenberg
*Rick Wyatt
*Barbara Vasquez

Guests Present

Corey Engen - Flywater
Deb Heeney
Rick Henderson-USFS
Shanna Schalnus
Zach Smith – CWT
Jeff Streeter-TU
Bob Timberman
Caid Waldron

Members Absent

Deb Alpe
Ann Timberman
Paula Belcher
*Scott Fischer
*Hal Hagan
*Mike Honholz
*John Rich
Michael Wright
(* Voting members, total 13)

I. Agenda Review: The agenda was accepted.

II. Approval of NPBRT Minutes: Oct.26, 2010 Meetings

Rick Wyatt moved to accept the minutes as amended, Ty Wattenberg seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously with correction. Final version of minutes will be sent out with the November meeting minutes.

III. Carl Trick: Consumptive Use Committee – preliminary projections

Carl opened the discussion about possible prioritization of the list of potential future consumptive uses in the Basin that were discussed in October. The consensus of the attendees at the this meeting (11/23) was that we should attempt to prioritize them, but that it might be more efficient to send out a spreadsheet similar to the one used for Nonconsumptive Needs prioritization. Barbara will create such a spreadsheet and send it out with the Nov. meeting minutes. Then members can spend some time considering their prioritization and come to the next meeting ready to finalize the rating.

Kent pointed out that one additional future consumptive use is to put an additional 17,000 acres in North Park under irrigation. This represents the total additional North Platte Basin water development permitted under the Supreme Court decision/ Three-State Agreement “1-bucket’ allowance. He suggested this be added to the list created by the committee and you’ll

find it on the spreadsheet attached with these minutes.

IV. WSRA Applications

Before moving to specific applications, Barbara showed a summary of the NPBRT projects (completed & on-going) already funded through the CWCB as well as open applications. The spreadsheet showed the sources of funds (Basin versus State) with the current balance available in the Basin Account. It is included with these meeting minutes.

Four WSRA applications were considered at this meeting.

1) North Platte Diversion Structure Assessment: Zack Smith, CWT & Corey Engen, Flywater

Corey Engen thanked the RT for their feedback and suggestions at the Oct. meeting when the proposal was first discussed. At that meeting, the RT members offered the applicants the opportunity to modify the project proposal and return in Nov. The modified application was delivered in time for the RT to vote on it at this meeting.

Corey handed out a one-page flow chart for the revised application and explained the major changes made in the project approach:

> Original: Applicant would develop a tool for assessing diversion structures, assess structures in the Basin for willing owners of the diversion structures to create a prioritized list of diversions for Phase II: repair &/or replacement of physical structures to improve operation, reliability & fish connectivity.

> Revised: Applicant would develop a tool for assessing diversion structures that could be used by owners of the structures. The owner of the diversion structure and/or water rights remain in control and can decide whether to approach CWT/Flywater for help with funding for Phase II (physical structure) to improve operation, reliability & fish connectivity. Because of the reduced scope of Phase I, the funding requested was reduced from \$37,550 to \$27,470.

The vote on this application is shown below. The major reason members gave for voting ‘no’ was their fatigue over funding studies rather than physical projects.

Diversion Structure Assessment for Fish Connectivity

VOTING MEMBERS	yes	no	Comments
Barbara Vasquez	x		Would develop an important tool for assessing diversion structure.
Ty Wattenberg	x		Would develop an important tool for assessing diversion structure.
Jimmer Baller		x	Fund physical projects, not studies
Rick Wyatt		x	
Tom Hackleman		x	Fund physical projects, not studies
James Carothers		x	Fund physical projects, not studies
Kay Meyring		x	Fund physical projects, not studies
Kent Crowder	x		Would develop an important tool for assessing diversion structure.
Mike Allnutt		x	

Following the vote, Board members were asked whether they thought it was a good project and whether they would support Phase II if Phase I could be accomplished without NPBRT funds. Several members spoke up in support of the Phase II in the North Platte Basin if such a tool was indeed in hand, including Carl Trick II, Mike Allnutt and Tom Hackleman. Corey Engen said he’d ‘be back’ with the tool when it was ready for use by diversion structure

owners.

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

Carl Trick II and Tom Hackleman first explained that they were making a change in the requested funding in ‘real time’ at this meeting. The amount is reduced from \$41,600 to \$36,000, the remainder to be made up by ‘in kind’ from the Walden Reservoir Company. They went on to explain the history of the structure to be replaced. The structure is used to regulate the water entering the reservoir. It was damaged beyond repair when a car was driven off the road by an uninsured motorist. The ditch was running at ~ 100cfs and the car became wedged in the box. The result: the structure was rendered non-operational and needs to be replaced, but that the Company cannot afford to do so. Barbara asked if the application was approved for funding, whether the Company is willing to return any unused funds at the end of the project. Carl agreed that this would be done. Deb commented that the drawings provided with the application are not the final design, that the check board would be replaced with a screw design. With these three changes, the voting members supported this application to be forwarded to CWCB for funding decision unanimously (with Tom Hackleman abstaining). Kent directed Carl and Debbie to get a corrected application into the RT and CWCB in time for the deadline for the 60 day rule to allow it be to be voted on by the CWCB at their January meeting.

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

Kristin participated by phone in the preliminary discussion on this application. Kent asked her “How does this project meet the needs of NPBRT?” Kristin explained that it is required by statute that each RT promotes community outreach and education on water issues. The vote to support this application for funding by the CWCB was unanimous.

4) CoAgMet education for agricultural irrigators in the North Park area – CSU Climate Center
Denis Reich participated by phone in the preliminary discussion on this application. The application proposes 3 annual training sessions for North Park irrigators to help them learn how the CoAgMet data base and system could help schedule more efficient irrigation. A number of NPBRT members raised questions about the relevance of this project for North Platte Basin. It was agreed that CSU Climate Center would withdraw the application. They will schedule a presentation to the RT to explain to us how the system works and how the training would benefit local irrigators before re-applying.

V. CWCB Update: Carl Trick II

Carl briefly explained the new flood plan regulations that were passed. The 12” rule (elevation change from the 500 year flood level within which buildings and government facilities are restricted) prevailed. There is no flood plain map for North Platte Basin, so at this time there is no relevance for us. However, there are structures that would likely violate that rule should it be applied here, such as the Walden water treatment plant.

Kent commented on the longstanding negotiations between the Jackson County Water Conservation District and the InStream Flow Program of CWCB. The North Fork of the North Platte reach will be voted on by the CWCB at the Jan. meeting. The votes on proposed

reaches for ISF on South Fork of Big Creek and Wheeler Creek are postponed.

VI. Old Business

Deb Alpe, NPBRT Education Liaison:

PEPO will meet on 12/30 before the next IBCC. The major topic will be a statewide Roundtable Summit session entitled 'Learning from our success – an exploration of cross-basin and collaborative approaches addressing multi-use solutions in the state'. Deb again asked for NPBRT members' input on what we'd like to know about other roundtables and what information they have to share about their own successes. The Summit will be held on March 3 in Denver. If you are interested in attending this RT Summit, the CWCB will pay for 3 RT members per basin, plus the 2 IBCC reps.

V. New Business:

None

VI. Set Next Meeting: The dates for the next two meeting were agreed. There will be no meeting in December. The next two meetings will be held Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2011 & Tuesday, Feb. 15 (**3-5PM WINTER HOURS**, FS Conference Room).