

NPBRT Minutes: 5-31-11 Meeting
NFS Conf. Room (7-9PM)
100 Main Street, Walden, CO

Members/Liaisons Present

(* Voting members)

Deb Alpe
Mike Alpe
*Mike Allnutt
*Jimmer Baller
Paula Belcher
*Kent Crowder
*Tom Hackleman
*Randy Miller
*Kay Meyring
Hunter Townsend
Carl Trick II
*Ty Wattenberg
*Rick Wyatt
*Barbara Vasquez

Guests Present

Greg Johnson
Shanna Lewis
Matt Reddy
Caid Waldron

Members/Liaisons Absent

*James Carothers
Pete Conovitz
*Scott Fischer
*Mike Honholz
*John Rich
Ann Timberman
Michael Wright

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

II. Approval of NPBRT Minutes: Apr.19, 2011 Meeting

The minutes were approved as published.

III. Proposed text for SWSI Basin Reports

The 2006 Basin Reports were extracted directly from SWSI I. This time, there's a desire to have the Basins personalize their reports. Several tasks were taken on or assigned last month to various member of the NPBRT to help complete this NPBRT 2010 Report. Deb Alpe, with Ty Wattenburg and Mike Allnutt will create a text box to address the interdependence of the North Park Ag business with linked business infrastructure, including hay markets, grain finishing, implement sales, etc. Kent offered a summary he had written ("Road forward for NPBRT") for the North Platte after a conference call with Chairs of other Basins. It will be sent out with the meeting minutes. Greg Johnson sent a summary of each of the North Platte WSRA grants to Barbara & Kent. Barbara offered to review/edit these. CDM will post the update. Barbara also offered to draft a general introduction, pull together the NCNA

and Consumptive Needs Assessments narrative for the report. We failed to meet Susan's requested deadline of last week, but reviewed the proposed content at this meeting. The draft text, integrating the WSRA summaries and the conclusion (Road forward) with the general intro and narratives for the nonconsumptive and consumptive needs sections is attached to these minutes.

During the discussion, Carl asked Barbara if there were any concerns about trout (introduced species) unfavorably competing with native fish. Barbara committed to get an answer.

IV. Deb Alpe: Education Committee Update

Deb reported that Kristin Maharg had sent an outline (see attachment to these minutes) for the education package which she had forwarded to her Committee for feedback. In addition, Deb will be taking some photos requested by Kirstin, including of Ty, Kent and Barbara. Kristin has a volunteer (Caitlin) that will be doing the actual writing. Kristin contacted Kent and requested 45 min on the July agenda. Barbara pointed out that the timeline offered by Kristin shows delivery of text draft to us by June 3-9 and layout ready for the printer ready June 28. She suggested it might work for Kristin to bring the printer-ready layout to our June meeting for review prior to printing. Deb will contact Kristin to determine if she needs time on our June 28 agenda.

V. WSRA Applications

An application was submitted by the Jackson County Water Conservancy District, in conjunction with NRCS, requesting \$128,828 basin funds. Deb Heeney explained the application, which involves the replacement of 4 old, deteriorating headgates to control water flow into the Bostwik, Mutual, Staples 1 and Squibob ditches and the construction of one diversion structure in the Michigan River to control water flow into the Richmond ditch. The project benefits several irrigators as well as storage rights holders along the Michigan as shown below.

- Bostwick: Donald Culver & Silver Spur Ranches own 82.5 cf
- Mutual Ditch: Evans Cattle Co., Kohmans O.K., L.P., Boyer Rich, Felch & Nichols, Ray Stevens Trust & James Elliot own a total of 158 cfs
- Staples Ditch: Jim Chance, AH VanValkenburg & Gruer own 100 cfs
- Squibob Ditch: Baller Livestock, Bernard Gateau, Michigan River Cons District & Markus Fund own 106.5 cfs
- Richmond Ditch: Murphy Ranch owns 6 cfs

Jimmer explained that for the Squibob headgate, the beneficiaries included those holding storage rights in Meadow Creek Reservoir. The land owners will contribute 10% of the cost of each subproject and be responsible for any cost overruns. When asked about how likely it was there would be cost overruns, she indicated she'd 'estimated high'. The JCWCD will take 10% off the top for administrative costs. Kent commented that they'd probably have to hire someone on contract to do the admin work.

Barbara asked whether the design for the diversion structure was 'fish friendly' and

Deb assured her it was.

Jimmer Baller, one of the irrigators who will benefit from this project, volunteered to recuse himself from the vote on this application next month.

VI. Carl Trick –IBCC/CWCB Updates

At the recent IBCC meeting, it was decided to go forward with implementation for the statewide plan. CWCB will be working with the IBCC and with each Basin to exercise the portfolio tool and register their recommendations and/or preferences for the various conservation levels and possible projects to meet the requirements of 2050. Greg added that the next IBCC meeting would be on 6/23 where the CWCB staff will reintroduce the portfolio tool. Then they'll take in 'on the road' to the various Basin RTs to do the same. Carl suggested Sept might be better for the NPBRT than earlier due to the heavy time demands of Ag operations in the Park in the summer. Kent said the next RT chairs' meeting will be July 7, at which point he will learn more about what's planned.

Carl reminded us the next CWCB meeting (July 12/13) will be held in Walden and anyone on the RT or from the public is welcome to attend. A decision is likely at this meeting about the potential ISF on the Colorado River from Pump House to Dotsero as part of an alternative package of actions to serve in place of the BLM-recommended Wild and Scenic designation.

An investigation of the impact of the drought on the tourism industry, to include impacts to nonconsumptive needs, will be conducted in the SW Basin.

Carl also described an application for WSRA funds from Lake Durango Water Authority that was denied by the CWCB. They were requesting \$1M of state funds. The project involved providing additional water to a subdivision of Durango that only had enough water for ~700 residents, but currently had ~1000. In order to fill the gap, they were proposing to pump water out of Lake Nighthorse. It appeared to be an ill-conceived plan in the first place, but the key was that the RT did not request or offer to contribute any Basin funds. It may be used as a precedent by the Criteria and Guidelines Committee to establish requirements for a certain amount of basin funding whenever State funds are requested. Greg commented that they may also actively encourage pairing of grant and loan programs. For example, a grant might fund a study or design phase and the loan program fund the construction phase of a large project.

VII. Old Business

None offered.

V. New Business:

None offered.

VI. Set Next Meeting: The date for the next meeting is set for Tue, July 19, 7-9PM.

ATTACHMENTS SENT WITH MEETING MINUTES:

- 1) North Platte Basin Report 2010-additional text.doc
- 2) Ag Dry-up consequences for North Park: *for North Platte Basin Report*

3) Education Package outline and schedule