

NPBRT Minutes: 4-19-11 Meeting
NFS Conf. Room (3-5PM)
100 Main Street, Walden, CO

Members/Liaisons Present

(* Voting members)

Deb Alpe
Mike Alpe
*Mike Allnutt
Pete Conovitz
*Kent Crowder
*Randy Miller
*John Rich
Hunter Townsend
*Ty Wattenberg
*Rick Wyatt
*Barbara Vasquez

Guests Present

Rick Henderson
Taryn Hutchins-Cabibi
Greg Johnson
Shanna Lewis
Meg McElveen
Sue Morea
Matt Reddy
Caid Waldron

Members/Liaisons Absent

Paula Belcher
*Jimmer Baller
*James Carothers
*Scott Fischer
*Tom Hackleman
*Mike Honholz
*Kay Meyring
Ann Timberman
Michael Wright

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

II. Approval of NPBRT Minutes: Mar.29, 2011 Meeting

The minutes were approved as published.

III. Taryn Hutchins-Cabibi, CWCB Office of Water Conservation & Drought Planning

Presentation on Recently Approved Drought Plan

Taryn presented the 2010 Drought Mitigation & Response Plan which was recently approved by the CWCB and FEMA. The 2011 drought plan didn't incorporate the lessons learned from 2002. FEMA requires an update to each state's drought plan every 3 years. Colorado recognized it was behind other states on progressive planning and decided to embark on a complete overhaul. Vulnerability assessment by basin includes projections on climate change. The full document is over 400 pages. Taryn left an 8-page brochure that summarizes the plan with the attendees of our RT meeting. Drought mitigation is any action that will reduce the impact of future drought. Any entity in the state that wants to apply for a 1030 water efficiency grant will now need a drought plan in place. The water Availability Task Force meets

monthly. Other task forces are activated only as needed by drought events. This is the first time that Agriculture has played a role in drought planning in the state. The Plan lays out a phased response, based on metrics. "Drought risk" = "Hazard" x "Vulnerability". The comprehensive approach that had been taken exceeds drought planning done previously in Colorado or in any other state. Taryn gave an example of 'mitigation'. It is well recognized that tourism is an important segment of Colorado's economy. It is the public's perception that drought has the biggest impact on tourism. The mitigation would involve adaptive management, adjusting the seasonality and variety of offerings. Such diversification should reduce vulnerability. Questions were raised on just how flexible an area can be in the face of drought or impending drought. Lack of diversification in Jackson County would limit their ability to respond to a drought event.

Drought indicators haven't been updated since adopted in '80. To include climate change in the drought planning, climatologists studied 100 paleo-resequenced tree rings. Each drought was applied to project rainfall as if climate change had happened. The North Platte was not included in this study. Also SWSI (Surface Water Supply Index) was modernized to include better spatial resolution from the 7 major basins to approximately 30 watersheds. The West Slope has been completed. Transition to the revised SWSI will be completed by end 2011.

A Tool Box for municipal drought planning has been created. Five (5) workshops will be held across Colorado in the May/June timeframe. The 1-day workshops will cost \$25 public/ \$50 private entities. More information on the Drought Planning can be seen on the CWCB website.

IV. Susan Morea, Nicole Rowan, CDM – SWSI Basin Reports

Susan passed out a draft of the North Platte Basin Needs Assessment Report that was stitched together from existing documents. The SWSI 2010 update addresses 1) Demands out to 2050, 2) Refinement on identified Projects & Plans, 3) Water supply portfolio and 4) NCNA. She commented that approximately \$1M has been spent on non-consumptive needs assessment, planning and projects across the state.

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 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 will send 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. Susan asked to have these in time to integrate & review at the next meeting.

V. Deb Alpe: Education Committee Update

Deb reported that Kristin Maharg had completed her interviews in our basin, but had not yet started to put together the package. She hopes to have it out to us to review in advance of the next meeting.

VI. John Rich –IBCC Update

No IBCC meeting has occurred since our last NPBRT meeting, so there was no report. Carl could not attend today's meeting due to the death of his father.

VII. Old Business

None offered.

V. New Business:

Pete Conovitz announced that there would be a meeting May 19 at 6:30PM to explain the CDOW plans for Lake John. Rotenone was last used in '93 to knock down the sucker population. In spite of CDOW's best efforts to exclude them, their population has again increased to the point where they are impacting trout food chain and success. The lake will be drawn down in August and the work done as quickly as possible, but there will be impact to fishing tourism in the lake. At the same time, CDOW will refurbish the outlet structure. There will be temporary disruption (~ 2 weeks) to access to the Lake during this construction work.

VI. Set Next Meeting: The date for the next meeting is set for Tue, Jun 28 (7-9PM) in the FS Conference Room. Because the conference room gets much more use over the summer months, dates were tentatively set for July as well (July 19, 7-9PM), so please mark your calendars.

ATTACHMENTS SENT WITH MEETING MINUTES:

1) "Road Forward for NPBRT"