

NPBRT Minutes: 2-28-12 Meeting
USFS Conf. Room (3-5 PM)
100 Main Street, Walden, CO

Members/Liaisons Present

*Mike Allnutt
Deb Alpe
Mike Alpe
*Jimmer Baller
*Kent Crowder
*Tom Hackleman
Deb Heeney
*Randy Miller
*John Rich
*Ty Wattenberg
*Rick Wyatt

Members/Liaisons Absent

Paula Belcher
*James Carothers
Pete Conovitz

(Absent cont'd)

*Scott Fischer
*Mike Honholz
*Kay Meyring
Carl Trick II
Ann Timberman
Hunter Townsend
*Barbara Vasquez
Mike Wright

Guests

Duke Behrens
Shanna Lewis
Lowell Moran
Matt Reddy
Martha Terlesky

- I. Agenda Review: The agenda was accepted as published. Barbara Vasquez could not make it to the meeting due to being snowed in. Deb Alpe agreed to take the minutes in her absence.
- II. Approval of NPBRT Minutes: 1-24-12 meeting
Only clarification was that Mike Allnut was not absent but present at that meeting. John Rich moved to accept the minutes with that correction, Ty Wattenberg seconded the motion. RT members voted to approve the 1-24-12 minutes.
- III. Ducks Unlimited, Inc. WSRA Project-North Park Irrigated Meadow Conservation Program-Phase 1-Landowner Outreach and Identified Locations-Matt Reddy, Regional Biologist
Matt distributed a map and list of project candidate tracts. The map identifies 30 tracts of private property selected as candidates for work under the North Park Irrigated Meadow Conservation Program. The property boundaries were overlain with potentially developable irrigated acres. The list of landowners with land condition assessment ranks was presented, Matt referred to 5 tracts considered the “best of the best” or those listed as Rank 10, with attributes of high quality habitat. Those listed as Rank 9 also have a number of high quality habitat attributes and are further ranked 1-20. Additional tracts considered having generally good

habitat attributes were also included for consideration. Matt noted that he was aware that many of the landowner names acquired from the Jackson County Assessor maps were incorrect. Those present noted specific tracts and correct names of landowners to their knowledge, with Silver Spur Ranches recognized as the landowner for a number of the identified candidate tracts. Landowner's with which Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (DU) has established projects and/or a working relationship were identified in the list. Discussions will take place with those particular landowners to determine if current DU projects are complete and functioning properly before new, additional projects under this WSRA grant would move forward. Matt explained that DU plans to contact all of 30 of the landowners listed, first via letter for the people they don't already have a working relationship with and then will follow up with a phone call. They will share this list with other partners to discern what other projects may have already been done on these properties, and will then set up a site visit to the candidate tracts. During site visits, headgates or other improvements to hay meadows will be explored as well as strategies to maintain land found to already be in good condition. The next step will be to consider all this information and identify the best projects that DU will proceed to discuss with the North Platte Basin Roundtable for input. It was emphasized that determining ditch ownership will be critical to the project selection process. It was further noted that DU cannot use WSRA funds to implement projects on public lands. John Rich offered to allow DU to consider his property as a control plot if they wished to do so. The next action will be for Matt to revisit a NPBRT meeting with 12 project portfolios to consider. He invited the board members to share with him, any concerns or insights on any of the candidate tracts.

IV. Jackson County Water Conservancy District WSRA Application Amendment-Structures for Water Control: Headgates and Diversion.

Deb Heeney, District Conservationist, NRCS presented the project amendments for discussion. Referring to p. 5, Item 3 of the application, Deb described that the amendment requests additional funds (\$61,172.00) that are needed to assist with the increased cost of materials and labor in the construction and installation of the water control structures presented in the initial application that was approved by the CWCB September 2011. Essentially, costs have increased since the original date of the price estimates in April 2011 to the planned installation date of October 2012. Only the budget amounts have been changed from the initial project and everything thing else remains the same in the proposal. Cost increases are noted on p. 12 of the proposal. Larger diameter pvc pipe, starter couplers and road base all cost much more than initial estimates. Recognizing that it is likely that prices may continue to increase, Deb explained that she estimated on the high side in hopes these current budget amendments will be high enough to cover costs. She did this by calling for local price and she found that NRCS cost calculator wasn't as high as local prices so she adjusted accordingly. Regarding progress on the project, thus far the Conservancy District has met, finalized the bid instructions, set up pre-bid conferences with interested contractors for April 24 so bids will be out and plans done as District will go out for bids around the first of May. Contractors can bid one or all five structures, but each structure will be bid separately. It was noted that all landowner partners are aware that their 10% match will increase to align with these new project costs. If the NPBRT approves this project during the April 24th meeting, the CWCB will consider this amended project proposal 60 days later.

V. North Platte Basin Educational Projects

Education Liaison and PEPO representative Deb Alpe updated the board regarding the North Platte Basin educational document project. Directly following the 1-24-12 meeting where Kristin Maharg with Colorado Foundation for Water Education presented our final printed document, Ann Timberman discovered a critical

error on p. 1 that indicated we were on the Pacific watershed side of the Continental Divide, which we all realize is incorrect. Fortunately, due to Kristin's prior negotiation with the graphic artist to reprint the document because of several graphic errors made by the printer, we had the opportunity to correct the language. The corrected North Platte Basin Special Report is now printed and available. Kristin has made some progress putting together the CD for us to use during our Education Committee Speaker's Bureau presentations, but we have not had the opportunity to review it yet. As Deb is unable to attend due to a 4-H event, Barbara Vasquez's has agreed to set up our NP Basin table top display during the March 1 Summit event. She will try to spend some time at the table and distribute our new educational piece to interested attendees. Plans are in place for us to access the Water 2012 travelling display for the March 17 NP Stockgrowers annual meeting. Deb is working with Jackson County librarian, Kathy Humrich to set up the display there if space allows as well. She may also contact Mountain Valley Bank to set it up there if they are interested. Finally, plans are underway to focus on water during the all school 2012 Earth Day event on April 19 which is organized by the members of the Jackson County Outdoor Education Network.

VI. Old Business

None

VII. New Business

None

VIII. Set Next Meeting: The date for the next meeting is set for Tuesday, March 27, 3-5 PM. This will be the annual meeting of the North Platte Basin Roundtable. Agenda items will also include consideration of the Conservancy District WSRA amendments and a WSRA ET project update with Nolan Doeskin and Wendy Ryan. The April meeting date was also scheduled for Tuesday, April 24, 3-5 PM.

VIII. Meeting Adjourned at 4:09 PM