

**NPBRT Minutes: 3-27-12 Meeting
USFS Conf. Room (3-5 PM)
100 Main Street, Walden, CO**

Members/Liaisons Present

*Mike Allnutt
*Jimmer Baller
*James Carothers
*Kent Crowder
*Tom Hackleman
Deb Heeney
Charles Mathis
*Randy Miller
*John Rich
*Barbara Vasquez
*Ty Wattenberg
*Rick Wyatt

Members/Liaisons Absent

Deb Alpe
Mike Alpe
Paula Belcher
*Scott Fischer
*Mike Honholz

(Absent cont'd)

Pete Conovitz
*Kay Meyring
Carl Trick II
Ann Timberman
Hunter Townsend
Mike Wright

Guests

Duke Behrens
Jamie Brands
Ben Clayton
Nolan Doesken
Shanna Lewis
Erin Light
Meg McElven
Rick Wamsley

I. Agenda Review:

The agenda was accepted as published.

II. Approval of Roundtable Minutes: Feb. 28, 2012 Meeting

Jimmer Baller moved to accept the minutes. Tom Hackleman seconded the motion. RT members voted to approve the 2-28-12 minutes.

III. WSRA Project Update: North Platte Basin Climate Study– Nolan Doesken & Wendy Ryan
Nolan and Wendy reviewed the data taken to date for the North Platte Basin Climate Study (see their presentation which accompanies the minutes). The project was initiated 3 years ago and was granted 5 years of funding. The weather stations were installed at 3 sites: Larand, Hebron and Cowdrey starting May/June 2009. The graphs provided cover 3 years of data with some exceptions. The temperature data shows that Cowdrey is the warmest, with the highest maximum daily temperature, whereas Larand has the highest minimum temperature. The solar radiation data is believed to be invalid at Hebron due to accumulation of bird droppings on the sensor. Regarding precipitation measurements, the bucket design is optimized for measuring rainfall, but it isn't very good for

measuring precipitation as snow. For this reason, the data from Nov→Mar is being ignored, with the focus placed on the growing season. Wind is displayed as miles/day. The anemometer height is approximately 2m, essentially measuring ground wind speed. By contrast, the anemometer at the airport is 10m off the ground. Wind speed was strongest winter/spring and lowest late summer. Air speed was greatest in Larand and lowest in Cowdrey. The wind speed rose, which hasn't been updated since last year, shows winds in Cowdrey primarily W/SW with a secondary N/NW. Lysimeter data is in question, perhaps because it may have not been watered enough last year. In past years, Shanna and Refuge employees collaborated to water the lysimeter at least every 2 weeks. Perhaps the S one is leaking? In addition, as discussed at the last update, the area around the lysimeter is not irrigated, so may not be representative of irrigated hay meadows. The calculated crop coefficient is greater than 1. For this reason, the lysimeter data won't be used.

Wendy then went into considerable detail regarding the calculation of crop coefficients. The crop coefficient from Gunnison and S Park was used as reference for high altitude hay meadows with slight adaptation to our later cutting date (Aug 4). One can use a model based on air temperature to create a locally calibrated crop coefficient. However, there are challenges with this method: - less confident in lysimeter data & CoAgMet station in upper Gunnison not supported by the Gunnison RT. Kent asked whether Wendy could work with experts at the University of Wyoming on the North Platte. Nolan mentioned Larry Pokering who is the 'go-to' man for natural hay meadow K's. He said he needed to put time into digging into that resource. Wendy showed a graph of Kc. $K_c = 1$ means the grass is using all the water available and not limited by water. The lowest ET appears in Cowdrey. Hebron was similar in June and August, but different in July and September. The total usage in Cowdrey was 31in whereas Hebron and Larand were ~34in. ET gages are much less expensive than weather stations, but don't track weather station-generated data. Shanna asked whether Wendy looked at lysimeter ET gage data with respect to Larand? Wendy: No, but I will. Kent asked how one gets the data into a figure we can use, i.e. acre-feet/acre because Colorado, Wyoming and Nebraska, under the Three State Agreement, had agreed that for the North Platte Portion of Colorado's depletion plan, new depletions (diversions less return flows) associated with irrigating additional acres as measured at the Colorado – Wyoming state line equal 0.83 acre-feet per acre during the irrigation season. Nolan replied that they can translate their data into those units and will do so for the next update. He also pointed out that there was no more than 10% difference in the estimates across the three sites. Kent remarked the State Engineer's Office reported ~116,000 acres irrigated in Jackson County for 2011. Taking the data Wendy showed on the bar chart for the growing season, one gets approximately 21" from May-July. Erin Light commented that the entire season should be used. Barbara asked what the consequence would be if usage ends up approximately twice the figure of merit (0.83 AF/acre). The Supreme Court decision that defines the allowed usage in Jackson County (145,000 ac irrigated) would translate into greater consumptive depletion.

IV. North Platte Basin Educational Projects –Deb Alpe, Education Liaison

Education Liaison and PEPO representative Deb Alpe submitted a written report (sent with the minutes) to this meeting. She commented that Barbara Vasquez took the North Platte Basin display board to the Statewide Summit on Mar 1. Kristin Maharg of CFWE provided the Water 2012 panel to

add to our board for the meeting and Barbara brought it back to Deb for local use. The Education Committee is working with Kristin on a powerpoint to provide a common presentation tool for Education Committee Speaker's Bureau members to support their outreach. At the Mar. 17 Stockgrowers annual meeting, the hot topics survey showed water issues were near the top for most who filled it out. Earth Day event for the local school children, which is organized by members of the Jackson County Outdoor Education Network, is planned for 4/19 with a focus on Water 2012.

V. Vote on WSRA Application - Jackson County Water Conservancy District's Structures for Water Control: Headgates and Diversion – Additional Funds Requested

Rick Wyatt made a motion to approve the request for additional funds (\$55,055) by the JCWCD's project - Structure for Water Control: Headgates and Diversions. John Rich seconded it. Jimmer Baller abstained. Nine voting members of the NPBRT voted to approve the additional funding, with no dissenting votes. If approved by the CWCB for funding, this will leave approximately \$430,000 in the North Platte Roundtable's basin account.

VI. Election of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Recorder and designation of places or places for the posting of notices of Roundtable meeting times and/or locations – Kent Crowder, NPBRT Chair

The Annual meeting of the North Platte Basin Roundtable was convened with ten of the thirteen voting members present. With little discussion, Kent was asked to continue as Chair. Kent asked if there were any nominations or volunteers from the floor for Vice Chair. Rick Wyatt volunteered. Barbara Vasquez indicated she was also interested in continuing in that position. Jimmer Baller nominated Rick Wyatt, with a second by Randy Miller. Ty Wattenberg nominated Barbara Vasquez, with a second by Tom Hackleman. A written vote resulted in Rick becoming the new Vice Chair. Barbara remains the Recorder. John Rich motioned and Rick Wyatt seconded a motion to continue/add the following methods of posting notices of the Roundtable meetings &/or locations:

1) continue to email to members, liaisons and interested parties

2) continue to publish meeting notices in the Jackson County Star

3) When feasible, attempt to post at the three Post Offices in the County. James Carothers offered to help with physical posting.

The motion was carried.

VII. IBCC / CWCB Update - Carl Trick & John Rich (IBCC) Ty Wattenberg (CWCB)

Ty Wattenberg reported on the CWCB meeting. The CWCB has requested each basin to bring forward 3-5 non-consumptive projects. The DSS tool for Colorado has taken a \$20M grant spent over 20years. It was reported that another \$100k will be required to keep it running. CWCB gets 5% severance tax from the State. 2012 figures have declined somewhat from 2011.

John Rich gave a brief report on the IBCC meeting held Feb 29 in which members were asked to monitor the Statewide Summit held the next day.

VIII. Old Business/ New Business

None

IX. ***Next Meeting Date set April 24, 2012, 7-9PM***

X. Meeting Adjourned