

**NPBRT Minutes: 7-24-12 Meeting  
USFS Conf. Room (7-9 PM)  
100 Main Street, Walden, CO**

**Members/Liaisons Present**

\*Mike Allnutt  
Deb Alpe  
Mike Alpe  
Paula Belcher  
\*Kent Crowder  
Pete Conovitz  
\*Tom Hackleman  
\*Randy Miller  
\*John Rich  
Carl Trick II  
\*Barbara Vasquez  
\*Ty Wattenberg  
\*Rick Wyatt

**Visitors Present**

Greg Johnson  
Meg McElveen  
Caid Waldron

**Members Absent**

\*Mike Honholz  
\*James Carothers  
\* Scott Fischer  
\*Jimmer Baller

**I. Agenda Review**

The agenda was accepted as published.

**II. Approval of Roundtable Minutes: June 12, 2012 Meeting**

Tom Hackleman provided a correction in the discussion of the Seneca Ditch WSRA application. John Rich asked to correct and expand on one item in his report on IBCC, which he provided to Barbara in writing for incorporation. Rick Wyatt moved to accept the minutes as amended with Tom Hackleman providing the second. The minutes were approved as amended.

**III. Discussion of Project Implementation (Consumptive & Nonconsumptive) and Update on IBCC Scenario Planning and Adaptive Management Efforts – Greg Johnson, CWCB Water Supply Planning Section**

Greg took the RT through a powerpoint presentation (sent separately from the minutes due to size) explaining the current status of CWCB Scenario Planning and Adaptive Management, Projects and Methods and SWSI 2010 Implementation & SWSI 2016. He passed out paper copies of his presentation plus a 4 page overview published by the state on 'Consumptive and Nonconsumptive Projects and Methods Implementation: Technical Assistance for Basin Roundtables, CWCB and IBCC'. The Projects and Methods were the focus of Greg's discussion, as it addresses the offer from CWCB to help each RT with limited technical assistance on the minimum of 3-5 projects that they have asked them to achieve.

He then described the Scenario Planning and Adaptive Management in more detail (please refer to the powerpoint presentation). Carl Trick asked what percentage of expenditures on WSRA projects have gone to close the Colorado water availability gap? Greg said he didn't think that analysis had been done. Rick Wyatt asked if the NPBRT had a dam site and a proponent identified for a storage project, could CWCB help with the preliminary cost estimates. John opined that a storage project would have both non-consumptive and consumptive benefits. Greg commented that the Arkansas basin had asked that storage be considered the '5<sup>th</sup> leg of the stool'. Deb asked if the funds would be allocated on a first come first served? Greg said ideally the CWCB would like to see 3-5 projects implemented per basin but there wasn't a lot of money set aside for the technical assistance (\$20-\$40k/basin perhaps). He didn't comment on how CWCB would decide to distribute these funds. In the review of the Scenario Planning and Adaptive Management, Greg said the input from 34 portfolios provided to CWCB by the various RTs were boiled down to a more manageable set of 9. Barbara asked about the representative nature of this summary, since RTs didn't have uniform guidance on the final use of the portfolios submitted to CWCB. Some RTs submitted multiple portfolios that didn't correspond to their 'most favored' scenario, so giving each even weight may result in a nonsense summary. Evaluation metrics were created. Greg walked through two examples of adaptive management (with no relationship to water issues). He said during the meeting tomorrow (7/25) with the IBCC, they will try to boil the scenarios down from 9 to 5.

Greg reviewed the 'no regrets/low regrets options. From these the team will build adaptive management plan scenarios. Carl asked about the evaluation metrics. A taskforce has been formed and will define the metrics. The first metrics were proposed by the non-consumptive subcommittee and include gold medal trout fishers, Endangered species, recreational river days and riparian habitat. These metrics have not been applied to the state-wide portfolios. Carl asked, once the metrics have been established, will SWSI retrospectively evaluate projects based on how well they scored on these metrics? Greg shared Mr. Stulp's comment about the scenario planning: "We're building airplanes as we're flying them". The Scenario Committee for the IBCC includes John Rich.

Risk Management: CWCB was directed to put it aside by IBCC, but this work has recently been reactivated. There's white paper in draft, not ready to share widely yet. The attempt is to catalog risks and possible actions. In response to several questions, Greg said he'd check to see if the draft could be shared at this point. Carl asked what Ray Alvarado is working on currently? Greg thought it was the Arkansas DSS.

Kent asked Barbara to comment on a possible NPBRT workshop which was discussed at our last meeting. Barbara suggested we have a workshop with CWCB support in the fall. Greg volunteered that he, Jacob Bornstein and Chris Sturm could likely participate, laying out non-consumptive needs assessment, maps and project lists already completed by the NPBRT Nonconsumptive Subcommittee. This workshop could address both non-consumptive and consumptive project funding opportunities. It could be viewed as part of our outreach and education. In addition, it makes the attempt to thoroughly even the playing field, ensuring that all potentially interested parties with water rights in the North Platte Basin have access to the information and opportunities for funding. Greg said that CWCB could likely provide technical contractor to help evaluate proposed projects. Pete Conovitz suggested it might be combined with Yampa/White workshop, or scheduled back-to-back for convenience of out-of-town (CWCB, federal and state agency) participants.

Kent solicited feedback from other attendees on this proposed workshop. Ty commented there should be 'no guard rails' on the size of a property that could apply for project funding. Carl didn't object to the idea, feeling there's only upside to educating the basin residents on importance of water and availability of project funding. Paula suggested the workshop include information on CWCB loans. Deb Alpe said it would add to the education and outreach mandate.

Kent asked Greg to describe his idea for the workshop. Greg said he envisioned having Chris Sturm, Jacob Bornstein, himself and potential resources from CDM. It would not be during a regular RT meeting, but a separate workshop advertised to the public. Kent asked Greg to send a hypothetical agenda for discussion and perhaps minutes from the Gunnison and/or Colorado workshops. John Rich worried about 'filling the room'. Greg said the CWCB could help with a catering budget...food can help convince potential participants. Kent asked Greg to attend the next NPBRT where this workshop proposal would be discussed.

#### **IV. North Platte Basin Educational Project—Deb Alpe, Education Liaison**

Deb reported on the North Platte Basin report. Kristin has completed her part. Just a few more photos to add to our speaker's bureau powerpoint, which we had failed to supply to Kristin in a timely fashion. Deb said that out of the 2012 FY funds (\$1800) available to NPBRT Education Committee, funds would be spent on thumb drives for storing the powerpoint and associated NPBRT documents plus notebooks for organizing the paper documents and CD. Viola helped Deb with making 50 copies of 2 pages each that will grace the fronts and backs of each notebook. 1500 copies of the original pamphlet will be corrected with a sticker overlaid on the sentence containing the error (wrong side of the divide). Printing the stickers cost \$167. There was a question to Greg on how many SWSI 2012 hard copies might be available to distribute to RT members who did not get one. Greg will respond. Carl asked whether the money spent on this effort have been worth it. Deb said the measurement of success will have to wait for rollout of the Speaker's Bureau and reminded NPBRT members that she'd be looking for volunteers for this effort.

#### **V. CWCB /IBCC Update - Ty Wattenberg (CWCB)/ John Rich (IBCC)**

Ty Wattenberg reported on the 7-17-12 CWCB meeting. He said there was discussion of the Conservation Easement tool which represents at 3 out of 10 year interruptable supply. Dick Wolfe reported that there were only 117 protest out of >3000 items on the water right abandonment list (wells, irrigation, storage). This year was the first time that partial abandonments were included. Ty reported they had a presentation on new radar technology (mobile) that would enhance SNOTEL reporting. It can accurately measure ground accumulation versus elevation. They are using it in the Rio Grande, attempting to measure release as a % of accumulation. There's a working unit in Durango. He didn't know the price tag. He reported that \$8M taken from the operating budget for disaster management had been returned. Another \$6M had also been swept out and will be returned minus \$1.6M. In 2013 the severance tax is expected to drop by 66%, mostly due to reduction in price of natural gas.

There was no IBCC update.

VI. Old Business/ New Business

Old: None

New: The Metro Roundtable passed a resolution in support of the Chatfield Reallocation Project. This project uses native South Platte flows in an existing reservoir and will provide water to municipal and agricultural needs in the Metro area and the S. Platte Basin. It could increase storage by 20,000 AF. Ty motioned that the NPBRT send a letter of support to the Chatfield reallocation. During discussion of this motion, Pete was asked about the Colorado DPW position. Apparently this project will require relocation of park facilities on the reservoir. Public comment period ends Sept. 6. Carl commented that it was a good project in his opinion and recommended we support it. A vote was taken and the majority concurred to send a letter of support.

VII. ***Next Meeting Date set August 28, 2012, 7-9PM***

VIII. Meeting Adjourned