

**NPBRT Minutes: 3-12-13 Meeting
USFS Conf. Room (3-5 PM)
100 Main Street, Walden, CO**

Members/Liaisons Present

*Mike Allnutt
Mike Alpe
*Jimmer Baller
*Kent Crowder
*Blaine Evans
*Scott Fischer
Deb Heeney
Charles Mathis
*Randy Miller
*John Rich
Carl Trick II
*Barbara Vasquez
*Ty Wattenberg
*Rick Wyatt

Members Absent

Deb Alpe
Paula Belcher
*James Carothers
Pete Conovitz
*Tom Hackleman
*Mike Honholz
Ann Timberman
Hunter Townsend

Visitors Present

Ben Clayton
Greg Johnson
Erin Light
Meg McElveen
Greg Ray

I. Agenda Review

The agenda was accepted as published except for the deletion of the PEPO update due to Deb Alpe's absence.

II. Approval of Roundtable Minutes: Dec. 4, 2012 Meeting

The minutes were approved as distributed.

III. Annual NPBRT meeting: Election of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson & Recorder

After opening of the annual meeting by Kent Crowder, John Rich made a motion to retain the current Chairperson (Kent Crowder), ViceChair (Rick Wyatt) and Recorder (Barbara Vasquez). The motion was passed unanimously. Kent reviewed the 2012 NPBRT accomplishments verbally. Among his highlights were:

- Jan. 2012 – NP Basin Booklet reprint was completed by the Education Committee under Deb Alpe’s leadership. The Edu Committee is working on the powerpoint presentation material to initiate the Speaker’s Bureau.

- March 1st- Statewide Roundtable Summit: Barbara Vasquez represented the Basin at the Summit and took the North Park Basin Display for state-wide outreach.

- March 27- NPBRT approved the application for additional funds (\$55,000) from the Basin account for the JCWCD WSRA application for water control structure. Five (5) new structures were finished by the end of 2012.

- June 12, 2012 Seneca Ditch WSRA project was recommended by the RT for \$57,540 from Basin funds.

- Aug 28, 2012: The NPBRT Education Action Plan was approved.

The balance on 2/1/13 in the WSRA Basin account was \$599,424. This includes the \$5000 unused by the Hayden Homestead Center for Sustainable Agronomy-Colorado Mountain College WSRA project, which has been withdrawn. It also includes the \$1000 allocated to travel costs for Carl Trick’s attendance at the Flaming Gorge committee, which was unused.

With the likely demise of the local newspaper, there was discussion of how to effect public announcement of NPBRT meetings. It was agreed that printouts of the agendas will be posted in the post offices, the town hall, the county administrative office and the county building.

IV. Realignment of NPBRT Member’s Representation- Kent Crowder

Kent reported that he presented the proposal to the Walden Town Board that he become the municipal representative to the NPBRT, while James Carothers represents Water Provider. This frees Rick Wyatt to become the Industrial Representative. Carl Trick will represent the Jackson County Water Conservancy District, Jimmer Baller the Michigan Conservancy District. The Jackson County Board of Commissioners voted John Rich to represent the County. Below is the list of voting members following this realignment:

Ty Wattenberg	Legislative Appointee
Kent Crowder	Municipal Representative (Walden)
James Carothers	Water Provider
Carl Trick II	Jackson County Water Conservancy District
Jimmer Baller	Michigan River Conservancy District

John Rich	Jackson County Representative
Rick Wyatt	Industrial Representative
Blaine Evans	Agricultural Representative
Mike Allnutt	Agricultural Representative
Tom Hackleman	Agricultural Representative
Scott Fischer	Agricultural Representative
Mike Honholz	Agricultural Representative (Laramie River)
Randy Miller	Recreation Representative
Barbara Vasquez	Environmental Representative

V. Presentation and Updates on the Colorado River Water Availability Study – Phase 1 Summary and Phase 2 Scoping Process and Updates on the IBCC’s No/Low Regrets Action Plan Efforts–Greg Johnson, CWCB Water Supply Planning Section

Greg used the presentation materials sent with these minutes to summarize the conclusion of the CRWAS and explain the current scoping process for the CRWAS Continuation. He handed out a concise one-page summary “Draft- CRWAS Continuation Talking Points “(Phase 2) that covered Task 1-Studies, Task 2- CDSS-Level Technical Analysis and Task 3- State-level technical analysis. He also handed out a draft of “Exhibit A: Scope of Work, Colorado River Water Availability Study Continuation, January 2013”. The CWCB reviewed this draft scope at their January 2013 and directed staff to solicit feedback from the roundtables and IBCC prior to finalizing scope and moving forwarding with contracting. CRWAS Phase 1 involved water availability analysis based on current use (consumptive and nonconsumptive), current water supply infrastructure, and currently perfected water rights. The analysis was done with historical hydrology, paleohydrology and climate-adjusted hydrology. To help local entities with water supply planning the data is now available in an online data viewer tool on the CWCB website. The draft scope for the CRWAS Continuation envisions the 3 tasks summarized above. Specifically Task 2 could be used for more detailed basin-specific modeling which will help inform forthcoming basin implementation plans.

Governor Hickenlooper has announced that a State Water Plan will be published in 2015. Ty asked the RT members for their opinion on how to build a state-wide water plan. Kent replied that the NPBRT had released a statement last year that our primary objective was to preserve agricultural water use in the state. Ty said that they need to get down to the details of what projects, how much water, etc. Greg put out the general question how the RT wants to provide input into the CRWAS Continuation draft scope. Kent replied that we needed to read the materials and decide whether more CWCB presentation would be required.

Greg went on to review the “No Regrets” (or “low regrets”) implementation plan. The approach uses the five future scenarios developed by the IBCC and inventories actions needed in each of the water supply categories, regardless of which scenario transpires (see materials sent with minutes). Per IBCC discussions, storage was added as a separate topic. The action plan is intended to be a component of the updates to SWSI and the State Water Plan. Among other things, it includes the implementation of various consumptive and nonconsumptive projects that still preserve options for the use of Colorado’s compact water. In addition, the draft Nonconsumptive Toolbox document is now available and open for public comment through May 20.

VI. Presentation on WSRA Application for Basin Account Funds for Mutual Ditch –Structure for Water Control (Check/Wastegate)- Deb Heeney & Greg Ray

The application had been distributed physically to those voting members currently present and electronically to B Vasquez 30d before this meeting. Kent noted that he wanted a vote at this meeting to allow funding consideration at the CWCB May meeting. Deb Heeney presented the proposed structure and budget for a check & waste gate downstream from the headgate. It will replace an old (1949) structure to control runoff through Anderson Draw to the Grizzly. The application asks for \$41,940 from the Basin WSRA account to support a total cost projected at \$49,500. Deb noted that she used estimates on the high side to ensure that the budget covered the costs, but that any funds unused by the project would be returned to the Basin account. The vote recommended this project to the CWCB for funding consideration.

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

CWCB:

Ty gave a brief update of the CWCB meeting held Jan 29/30. The Jackson County Water Conservancy District (JCWCD) requested that the CWCB effect the withdrawal of three InStream Flow recommendations by the BLM that have been pending for several years for reaches on the North Fork of the North Platte, South Fork of Big Creek and Wheeler Creek. The rationale put forward was that per the Supreme Court decree, the water in this basin is uniquely managed based on a maximum irrigated acreage. It was the opinion of the JCWCD that an ISF that is in the administered portion of the basin would interfere with basin residents developing the waters of the basin relative to this maximum irrigated acreage. In addition to the Supreme Court Decision, the water is managed under the first 13 year increment of the Three State Agreement on the Platte River. In this Agreement, a basin entitlement approach was adopted that recognizes all four types of use (agricultural, municipal, industrial and environmental) under the maximum use equivalent to irrigating 134,467 acres for the North Platte basin. The ISF proposed on Government Creek was approved by the CWCB. However, the State Land Board filed an intent to appropriate out of Government Creek this week. Kent mentioned that any water use by the State out of Government Creek would need to be replaced 1:1 per the Three State Agreement Depletion Plan.

General CWCB updates: 30 new counties declared disaster areas (above the 13 reported previously). Western Governor's website addresses alternatives to Ag Transfer. Gunnison sage grouse likely to be listed USFWS is considering reintroduction of the wolverine. Mike King, DNR, talked about mandatory ground water testing statewide before/after oil/gas development, with some exceptions. And new COGCC rules require 500 ft setback from homes/schools/businesses in both rural and urban Colorado.

IBCC:

Mike Allnutt said the work of the IBCC was focused on finding more water from the Front Range. Many working on the IBCC are river managers (conservancy districts and/or water providers). While

we talk and plan about how to prevent 'buy and dry', transactions are occurring all the time, confirming what we know: water flows to money.

VIII. Old Business/ New Business

Old: None

New: Erin Light offered verbal estimates of the final Oct. 2012 accounting of water use in the North Platte Basin. The data submitted for 2012 are based on satellite imagery and no longer depend on reports by on-the-ground commissioners. The images were taken 6 times over the season (but missing 1 in June). Approximate values for irrigated acreage in 2012 is 81,900 compared to 116,600 for 2011. Storage was approximately 8000AF stored for irrigation in 2012. She said we should watch 2013 for storage against our 17,000AF maximum. Transbasin diversion was approximately 1600AF with a 10yr total of approximately 42,160 against the 10yr maximum allowed of 60,000AF.

Deb Heeney passed out a one page summary of the Colorado SNOTEL Statewide Snowpack Report. It shows the North Platte River Basin-wide percent of average at 77% on March 11.

IX. *Next Meeting Date set for Tuesday, April 23, 2013, 3-5PM*

X. Meeting Adjourned