

Minutes of NPBRT Meeting: 2-25-14
USFS Conf. Room (3-5 PM) 100 Main Street, Walden, CO

Members/Liaisons Present

*Mike Allnutt
Mike Alpe
*Jimmer Baller
Paula Belcher
*Kent Crowder
*Blaine Evans
*Tom Hackleman
Debbi Heeney
*Randy Miller
*John Rich
*Barbara Vasquez
*Doug Waldron
*Ty Wattenberg

Members/Liaisons Absent

Deb Alpe
Jason Brey
*Scott Fischer
*Mike Honholz
Ann Timberman
Hunter Townsend
*Carl Trick II
*Rick Wyatt

Others Present

Pepper Canterbury (CPW)
Craig Godbout (Program Manager, Water Supply Planning Section, CWCB)
Alan Jenkins (Silver Spur)
Greg Johnson (Wilson Water Group)
Erin Light (Div.6)
Dana Miller (Eng., Div.6)
Cade Waldron

I. Agenda Review

The agenda was accepted as published. Doug Waldron was introduced as the replacement for James Carothers as the Town of Walden, Municipal Water Supply representative.

II. Approval of Roundtable Minutes: Jan.21, 2013 Meeting

Draft meeting minutes were distributed at the meeting. Final approval of the minutes was postponed to the March meeting.

III. Presentation on Current Issues and Activities - Craig Godbout, Program Manager, Colorado Water Conservation Board Water Supply Planning Section

Craig's presentation (Scenario Planning and Adaptive Management for NPBRT_02-25-14) is included with these minutes. The current platform has been developed over the past three to four years. The BRTs developed portfolios (2011-2012), the IBCC developed scenarios (2012-2013) and the CWCB developed an adaptive management framework (2013). The BRTs created 38 portfolios, which were distilled down to 10, then to 5. Scenario planning envisions multiple outcomes to account for uncertainties, with built-in checkpoints for alternative path selection. With this approach, the IBCC distilled the cone of possibilities down to 5 scenarios, including low/no-regrets, to guide near-term (10 years) planning. Adaptive Management framework is being applied for the longer-term planning (out to 2050). It allows for changes in direction based on

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predetermined 'signposts' in the future. Five scenarios were distilled by the IBCC and five M&I portfolios were defined. Craig walked the meeting attendees through some level of detail on each of the scenarios and portfolios (see his presentation). He then reviewed the adaptive management frameworks either with or without Successful Low/No regrets near term outcomes. These portfolios and scenarios are all targeting consumptive use. Finally, he explained the ongoing SWSI Update will be different than previous versions of SWSI in the following ways:

1. Reflects uncertainty of future conditions through development of plausible scenarios
2. For each scenario, a representative portfolio of supply strategies was developed to meet demands
3. A "no/low regrets" strategy, that would provide benefits under most scenarios of the future, has been identified to be implemented within next 10 years
4. An adaptive management framework will be developed that will identify sign posts to determine which ultimate portfolio should be implemented in addition to "no/low regrets" strategy
5. If we are not successful in completing the "no/low regrets" actions, the gap will be larger and agricultural transfers or new supply options will need to be completed sooner

Craig explained the timeline for the BIPs and State Water Plan from the perspective of the Water Supply Section. They are redoing the gap analysis and IPPs after the BIPs are completed. Draft BIPs are due July 31 and will be presented to the CWCB in September. He commented that other basins are making good progress. When asked about the State Water Plan, he said CWCB's goal was to make the document 'readable' and easily accessible to the public. Deb Heeney and John Rich both commented that we need an 'everyman' definition of no/low regrets. Mike Allnut commented that certain actions predefine future situations. We need to choose, to ask what will help the most.

Craig gave dates of upcoming meetings:

- Mar. 6 Statewide BRT Summit
- Mar 18-19: CWCB
- Mar.29: IBCC
- Apr. 30 3rd BIP Coordination Meeting

IV. Section 1: Basin Goals and Measurable Outcomes – Draft 2/6/2014

Kent passed out the updated draft of Section 1 of the NP BIP, Basin Goals and Measurable Outcomes, and encouraged the RT members to review it and get back to him and/or Greg with any feedback. The update is included with these minutes. Kent explained a few of the tweaks included in this version. On p.6, language was modified to more explicitly follow SPWRAP. He also noted changes that Barbara had requested. They included adding 'wetlands' to the high level goal of 'healthy rivers' and including oil/gas development as a category of consumptive (industrial) use. To that point, Kent announced that oil and gas operators had requested an allocation of North Platte water for 2014 to drill/frack 10 wells which was equivalent to approximately 110 irrigated acres.

Non-Consumptive:

Barbara has requested a working technical meeting for collecting input for the non-consumptive elements of the NP BIP. Toward that end, she solicited preliminary input from several groups, a summary of which she presented. Based on that demonstration of interest, it was agreed that a NC working meeting would be held on Monday, March 24 from 2-5PM in the FS Conference Room. Barbara will send out the meeting notice. Greg will help provide background information to

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potential participants. The goal of the meeting is to review and update the NC project/study list with a time horizon consistent with the BIP and to locate these projects/studies on the basin map for overlay on previously mapped NC attributes. The proposed projects/studies could be either purely for non-consumptive benefit or multiple use with significant non-consumptive benefits.

V. Review and Approve 2014 North Platte Basin Roundtable Education Action Plan-

Deb Heeney for Deb Alpe, Education Liaison

The draft EAP is included with these minutes. Deb Heeney, standing in for Deb Alpe who could not be present, reviewed the draft EAP. There were no corrections or changes offered. John Rich made a motion to accept the EAP as proposed, Ty Wattenberg seconded the motion and the EAP was accepted unanimously. Deb also explained that Deb Alpe was preparing for an outreach meeting to gather stakeholder input into the BIP. Erin Light commented that there had been 4 such meetings so far in the Yampa/White with good attendance, but cautioned that this was achieved as a result of substantial advertising. In addition to flyers and announcements in the local papers, postcards were mailed to a large number of citizens and groups to stimulate attendance. It was discussed and agreed that this first North Platte Basin outreach meeting would be held at the Wattenberg Center from 6-8PM on March 25, following the March NPBRT meeting (3-5PM).

VI. CWCB/IBCC Update - Ty Wattenberg, John Rich and Mike Allnutt

CWCB: Ty Wattenberg made some brief comments on items from the Jan 27/28 CWCB meeting. Changes have been adopted regarding oil/gas operations. Fees for spills will be increased and reporting for any spill greater than 5 barrels (formerly 20 barrels) will be mandatory. The State Engineer reported that the Republican River is now operational. Repair of all of the infrastructure damaged by the flooding last fall won't be completed in time for the 2014 season, leaving 21,000 acres in the St Vrain that won't get irrigated.

IBCC: Mike Allnutt reported on the IBCC meeting. There was discussion about a proposal detailing how the un-appropriated Colorado River water would be shared. The proposal's ordered priority: 1) IPPs to include in-basin projects, 2) identified needs with attached projects 2a) West slope projects in CO basin BIP, 2b) identified justified future needs in CO River Basin without identified projects, 3) new trans-mountain diversions to supply the East slope. Mike went on to enumerate 5 bills in the legislature pertaining to water, but the IBCC decided it was not their place to discuss them. Craig Godbout agreed to send electronic versions of the 5 bills for distribution.

CWCB: Ty Wattenberg In the interests of time, Ty deferred comments on CWCB business until next meeting.

VII. Old Business/New Business - None

VIII. Date for the next meeting

Date for the next meetings: March 25 (3-5p.m.) to be followed by the Stakeholder's public meeting for BIP input (6-8p.m.). Both will be held at the Wattenberg Center.

IX. Meeting Adjourned