

Minutes of NPBRT Meeting: 6-17-14
USFS Conf. Room (7-9 PM) 100 Main Street, Walden, CO

Members/Liaisons Present

*Mike Allnutt
Mike Alpe
*Jimmer Baller
Pepper Canterbury
Pete Conovitz
*Kent Crowder
*Randy Miller
*John Rich
*Carl Trick II
*Rick Wyatt
*Barbara Vasquez
*Ty Wattenberg

Members/Liaisons Absent

Paula Belcher
Jason Brey
*Blaine Evans
Debbi Heeney
*Tom Hackleman
*Mike Honholz
Ann Timberman
Hunter Townsend
*Doug Waldron

Others Present

Craig Godbout (Program Manager, Water Supply Planning Section, CWCB)
Alan Jenkins (Silver Spur)
Greg Johnson (Wilson Water Group)
Kara Sobieski (Wilson Water Group)
Erin Light (Div.6)
Caid Waldron

I. Agenda Review

The agenda was accepted as published.

II. Approval of Roundtable Minutes:

Minutes for 5/13/14 NPBRT meeting will be considered at the regular June meeting (6/24).

III. Review of Draft North Platte Basin Implementation Plan - Greg Johnson & Kara Sobieski, Wilson Water Group

Greg and Kara presented a powerpoint summary of the status of the NPBIP (included with these minutes). Greg asked whether he or Kara needs to come of the next meeting in a week's time on June 24 for finalization of the 'final' draft of the BIP. The product of that meeting will be presented to the CWCB at the July 16/17 meeting in Rangely. "Final" final draft is due 7/30/14, so there will be time to incorporate additional changes after the CWCB meeting at the next NPBRT meeting on July 22. A new official timeline for the BIPs and Colorado Water Plan was shown (copy included with minutes) which shows that there will potentially be opportunities for changes through April 2015. There will be opportunities for public comment through March. Greg mentioned that the Wilson Water group contract ends with the final draft and may not have resources, without an additional contract, to support the NPBRT process into the second half of 2014 and beyond.

There were some changes requested before this meeting including removing comments under irrigation practices about impact of local rodeos & removing the suggestion that there could be a second cutting (not possible in this climate). There was long discussion about the term 'shortages'

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as to a layperson it sounds like it's avoidable. In the NP basin shortages are hydrological primarily and the result of irrigation practices secondarily. Not truly a 'shortage' except in dry years (legal shortage). None of the discussion of potentially legally available water for possible junior water rights include the assumption of 'shortages' due to irrigation management practices. Kent mentioned there was some confusion in the case study "Analysis of Ag impacts on stream flow". Kara explained that we experience fast return flows in our shallow alluvium. Focus of the analysis was on late season water left in stream because of irrigation shut off in August to dry the hay for harvest.

Ty expressed concerns about creating an augmentation plan for the basin, for fear it would encourage unwanted development. Kent countered that augmentation water would be valuable for industrial use and was linked to the proposed project for Walden Reservoir enlargement.

There were several questions on the NC project list, in particular regarding projects that seemed to be linked to previous InStream flow recommendations. For emphasis, Ty read the 12/19/06 letter signed by 8 members of NPBRT and sent to CWCB in support of their objection to any InStream flow filings below the first point of diversion in this basin (included with these meeting minutes). Barbara committed to addressing this and other questions about the list and to provide an updated final list to Greg for inclusion in the draft BIP. Kara asked Barbara for help in finalizing the project list content and format plus providing sufficient information to locate the projects on a map. These NC inputs to the BIP will be reviewed at our 6/24 meeting.

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

CWCB: No updates in the interests of time.

IBCC: John commented on the Integrated IBCC Discussion Document (6-20-14), which is included with these minutes. It deals with proposed criteria for additional transbasin diversions (major 'new water supply' projects) from the Colorado watershed, such as the Yampa Pump-back and the Flaming Gorge ("Million") diversion projects. The discussion document address a list of East Slope versus West Slope "gives and gets" and contains thorough references to work and opinions on these topics that have preceded the current document.

V. Old/New Business

Old: None **New:** None

VI. Date for the next meeting

Date for the next regular NPBRT meeting: Tue, June 24, 7-9p.m., to be held in the FS Conference Room at 100 Main Street, Walden.

VII. Meeting Adjourned