

**Minutes of NPBRT Meeting: 12-16-14**  
**USFS Conf. Room (3-5 PM) 100 Main Street, Walden, CO**

**Members/Liaisons Present**

\*Mike Allnutt  
Deb Alpe  
Mike Alpe  
\*Jimmer Baller  
Jason Brey  
\*Kent Crowder  
Michael Dixon  
\*Blaine Evans  
Debbi Heeney  
\*Carl Trick II  
\*Doug Waldron  
\*Ty Wattenberg  
\*Rick Wyatt  
\*Barbara Vasquez

**Members/Liaisons Absent**

Paula Belcher  
Russ Gross  
\*Mike Honholz  
\*Randy Miller  
\*John Rich  
Ann Timberman

**Others Present**

Caid Waldron  
Allen Jenkins  
Ben Clayton  
Jim Dustin  
Pepper Canterbury

**I. Agenda Review**

The agenda was accepted as published.

**II. Approval of Roundtable Minutes:** The minutes from 8/26/14 NPBRT meeting were approved unanimously with two small corrections. Final minutes will be distributed with the final minutes of this meeting.

**III. Walden Waste Water Treatment Plan plans-** Jim Dustin, Mayor of Town of Walden

Kent introduced Jim who will give the RT a verbal summary of the Town of Walden's plans for a \$1.2M upgrade to the waste water treatment plant. At the outset, Kent explained that this project would not be appropriate for WSRA funding, but that it should be of interest to the NPBRT because of it's link to water quality in the Michigan River. Problem #1 is infiltration of irrigation, storm water and rain into the waste water system, adding unnecessary volume to the treatment plant. As evidence, he explained that a 'normal day' will see 60,000 gallons flow through the treatment plant, but at the peak of the irrigation season, they see up to 326,000 gallons. This infiltration is believed to occur by irrigation water seeping into the underground wastewater pipes in town. The State monitors the volume processed by the Town's wastewater treatment plant. Fixing the leaks in the underground sewage piping would require digging up all the joints between residences and the common pipe, as the residence piping is inserted into an opening in the

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common pipe without any seal. A sleeve would need to be installed in the existing pipes, then each joint would need to be punched, then solidified in place. Problem #2 is with the drying beds outside the sewage treatment plant. The sludge is about 1 foot deep. An agricultural company hauls off the dried sludge. The water is supposed to evaporate from the sludge, but in the climate of North Park, this doesn't happen. And in the spring, the sludge drains out into the Michigan River. The sewage treatment plant should have a spinner to remove water from the sludge, returning the water back to the plant for secondary treatment. Problem #3 is the electrical system for the plant. The installation was never correctly completed. It is missing a control board and is operated manually. The costs for fixing problems #2 & #3 are much larger than fixing #1. Jim explained that he had been to the Water and Power Authority and would be returning in a week or so to discuss options for funding. Ty explained that the interest rates for loans offered by the Water and Power Authority are based on average income in the served area. Doug Waldron asked how much the infiltration described in Problem #1 is due to city water leaking into the soil from pipe leaks. He suggested checking the difference between municipal water output versus that used by customers.

**V. Update on McFarlane Reservoir project-** Blaine Evans

Blaine passed out a package of several pages pertinent to the McFarlane Reservoir dam upgrade including a letter dated 11/18/2014 from the USFWS contracting specialist to Steve Jamieson, PE requesting a quote for the USFWS contract no. F10PD01712, a description of the task order and an estimate of schedule and costs. Blaine explained that the project will likely be pushed back a year. Mike Dixon explained that the design work won't be done in time for our February meeting but could support a WSRA application in time for the September CWCB. It was noted that any money spent prior to a state purchase order for such a grant does not count in the grant budget. Blaine said he had been thinking of a WSRA application structure with 90% state/10% basin funding. It was commented that a 20% match would more be more likely to be approved. The dam is currently classified as a 'high hazard' dam. If it was reclassified to 'low hazard', it would be exempt from requirements from FEMA. The reservoir is on BLM surface and a small corner of the USFWS Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge. The access road from CO 125 needs to be improved for equipment and material delivery. Kent commented that the State Criteria and Guidelines for WSRA funding, revised 12/4/13, would apply. Blaine explained he is 50% owner of the reservoir with additional ownership by BLM and USFWS. But the Criteria and Guidelines precludes a WSRA grant to an individual. So he can't bring the grant application forward. Michael Dixon pointed out Blaine's irrigation return flow fills the Hebron Sloughs and suggested DU would be an appropriate partner for this project. He offered to help coordinate a meeting on this project with Blaine, himself and Matt Reddy. The other challenges of the project include an increase in costs and expansion of the timeline. Michael provided a more recent and very detailed letter dated Dec 19, 2014 from the contractor (Wheeler) to the USFWS responsible for the engineering design with a revised timeline (design completion August, 2015). That letter, with its attachments including project timeline, project components and cost estimates, is attached with these meeting minutes. Michael also commented that the NEPA is being done by BLM with USFWS as a cooperating agency. ESA compliance is nearly complete at this time.

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

**CWCB:** Ty reported that the CWCB presented the draft State of Colorado Water Plan to the governor on Dec. 10. The timeline includes a Mar 2015 public comment deadline, April 2015 deadline for delivery of final Basin Implementation plans to CWCB, July 2015 deadline for the second draft of the State Water Plan, a Sept 2015 public comment period deadline and a target of Dec 2015 for publication for the final Plan.

**IBCC:** There was no update as the next meeting isn't scheduled till January. But Kent mentioned that at the All-Chairs phone conference, the Southwest Basin discussed their 12/1/14 Draft of the "Alternative to Water Sources to Meet Future East Slope Urban Water Demand". This has been discussed previously at the IBCC. The SW Basin is distributing this draft widely in order to collect comments for possible inclusion in the SW BIP at their January meeting. Kent suggested the NPBRT might consider a letter of support. There was considerable discussion about the fact that the NPBRT had 'no dog in the fight' and that any opinion that we might offer would be unimportant to those who do.

**VII. Old Business/New Business**

**Old:**

Rick and Jim Dustin commented on a meeting held last week in GJ with a representative from Utah to discuss strategies for transfer of public lands to the state.

Carl asked Barbara to include Ed Pier, the Laramie engineer who visited the NPBRT meeting last June, to be included in the future on the RT distribution list.

**New: North Platte Basin Augmentation Plan**

Carl Trick explained that the pellet mill (Confluence Energy) has approached the Walden Reservoir Company more than once with the request to buy augmentation water. It apparently needs more water for their production than they are allowed by the state to pump from their well. Kent asked Carl if he'd consider heading up a subcommittee to explore what would be required to create a basin augmentation plan. In addition to Carl, Blaine and Jimmer will be on the subcommittee. Carl or Kent will approach Ty to see if he will participate as well. The first meeting of the subcommittee will be at 10 tomorrow morning.

**VIII. Date for the next meeting**

The next meeting was set for Tue, January 27, to be held from 3-5p.m. in the FS Conference Room at 100 Main Street, Walden.

**IX. Meeting Adjourned**