

Minutes of NPBRT Meeting: 3-24-15
USFS Conf. Room (3-5 PM) 100 Main Street, Walden, CO

Members/Liaisons Present

*Mike Allnutt
Deb Alpe
*Jimmer Baller
Jason Brey
Pete Conovitz
*Kent Crowder
Michael Dixon
*Blaine Evans
*John Rich
*Carl Trick II
*Doug Waldron
*Ty Wattenberg
*Barbara Vasquez

Members/Liaisons Absent

Mike Alpe
Paula Belcher
Russ Gross
Debbi Heeney
*Mike Honholz
*Randy Miller
Ann Timberman
*Rick Wyatt

Others Present

Pepper Canterbury
Craig Godbout
Alan Jenkins
Caid Waldron

I. Agenda Review

The agenda was accepted as published.

II. Approval of Roundtable Minutes: 12/16/14 & 1/27/15

The minutes from the 12/16/14 NPBRT meeting were approved unanimously without correction. A number of edits were requested in the minutes from the 1/27/15 NPBRT in the description of discussions about the potential basin-wide augmentation plan. The revised minutes were approved unanimously.

III. Election of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Recorder

This March 24, 2015 meeting serves as the annual meeting that must be held prior to April 1 of each year for election of officers. John Rich nominated the current officers (Kent Crowder-Chairperson, Rick Wyatt-Vicechairperson, Barbara Vasquez-Recorder) to serve another term. No other nominations were offered from the floor. The nominations were affirmed by the voting members present at the meeting.

IV. Wolfer Ditch WSRA Grant Application – Pete Conovitz, CPW Water Resource Specialist, NE Region & Pepper Canterbury, CPW DWM, Walden West

Pete made a presentation to summarize the WSRA grant application for the Wolfer Ditch project (see his powerpoint accompanying these meeting minutes). The project benefits both consumptive and nonconsumptive needs in the Basin. Electronic copies of this WSRA grant application were sent out by email to NPBRT distribution few days prior to this meeting, but physical copies were delivered at this meeting, along with two copies of the detailed engineering plans. A preliminary presentation of this project as made by CPW to the NPBRT last fall. Because of our familiarity with the project and because of the desire to deliver the project to CWCB in a timely manner, the NPBRT voting members agreed to waive the requirement for delivery of the

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grant application 30d before their decision. "Wolfer Ditch" has been the working name for this project, but actual grant application is titled Mallon Extension Ditch Bypass Structure, as the actual work will be done on the Mallon Extension of the Wolfer Ditch. The application requests \$35,900 Basin Funds for construction of a water control structure to bypass late season water to Butte Creek for delivery to the Delaney Butte Lakes for CPW's piscatorial and recreational purposes and Double R Ranch irrigation storage. Additional funds and in-kind from CPW (\$9272) and the Double R Ranch (\$2000) complete the budget. This diversion is currently done manually, at considerable effort by CPW personnel, to allow the hay fields down gradient from the Mallon Ditch to dry out prior to cutting hay. The BLM is the owner of the surface under and adjacent to this project and they approved this project, all of which will occur within the existing historic prescriptive easement of the ditch. The NPBRT voting members unanimously voted to recommend this project to the CWCB for funding. Kent committed to getting the letter of recommendation from the NPBRT out to the CWCB within the next few days.

V. Public Education, Participation and Outreach Update – Deb Alpe, Education Liaison
Deb reported on the results of the Education and Outreach Committee held this afternoon before this RT meeting. The Committee created draft EAPs for 2015 (ending June 30, 2015) and 2016. Those two EAPs were unanimously approved by the voting members of the RT present at this meeting and are included with these meeting minutes. With the funding available for 2015, the RT agreed with Deb's plan to purchase 200 copies of the updated version of CFWE "Colorado Water Law" booklets. The plans for fiscal year 2016 include a "Hay Day" on July 8 at the Grizzly Ranch. Deb plans to invite a speaker to update attendees on the Platte Recovery Plan and suggested Allan Berryman of the Northern District. She plans to update the NPBRT information board with highlights of new WSRA grants in the basin for use at Hay Day.

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

CWCB: Public comment deadlines for the CO Water Plan are May 1 for the first draft and Sept. 17 for the second draft. Ty reported on the CWCB meeting held Mar 18&19 in Broomfield. A pilot project for ag transfer on the Arkansas has been approved, but it has 60 specific conditions that must be satisfied before it can go through. The \$300k allocated to weather modification is being reduced to \$175k to fund dewatering in the S Platte Basin. He mentioned that legislation is under consideration on agricultural efficiency that would allow water right owners to volunteer saved ag water for ISFs. He also mentioned the oil/gas taskforce, empaneled by the governor, has wrapped up its work. He summarized their three recommendations to the governor, including 1) request for legislation for a 5 year plan from all operators to be shared with local governments, 2) operators to discuss plans with local governments before going to the COGCC and 3) reduction in truck traffic.

IBCC: Mike passed out a proposed passage about future Transbasin Diversions to be considered as the North Platte Basin Roundtable's contribution to the "Conceptual Agreement", now called the "Conceptual Framework". After much discussion, it was decided to submit the following statement:

Keeping agriculture as a big part of the Colorado economy is the utmost priority of the NPBRT. We understand that our role is not to preserve agriculture, but perhaps we can help conserve it. If a new trans-mountain diversion (TMD) will help slow down the buy-and-dry of agricultural lands, then the NPBRT is in support of a new TMD, providing it doesn't damage east- or west-slope agriculture. The NPBRT wants all waters to which Colorado is entitled to be used fully before leaving the state, regardless of what direction they leave. A new TMD would be junior to existing rights and must abide by interstate compacts and Supreme Court decrees.

John reported briefly on the BRT Summit. There were approximately 350 attendees. He highlighted the discussion table process built around topics under consideration by the IBCC:

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Conservation, Ag Viability, Legislation, IPPs, Conceptual Framework (formerly "Conceptual Agreement"), Finance (including permitting and funding).

VII. Old Business/New Business

Old:

Deb A. said she will call for an Education Committee meeting for the hour before the next NPBRT meeting March 24.

Blaine Evans explained that the McFarlane Reservoir project will be pushed out a year. The State of CO needs an additional 4 months to review the engineering design. Mike Dixon explained that he coordinated a meeting with water right owners in the reservoir (Blain & ANWR) and Matt Reddy (DU). DU is interested in helping and may serve as the applicant for the WSRA grant. This would solve the problem Blaine has faced where the Guidelines for WSRA grants specifically precludes grants to individuals.

New: None

VIII. Date for the next meeting

The next meeting was set for Tue, April 28, to be held from 7-9p.m. (beginning of summer hours) in the FS Conference Room at 100 Main Street, Walden.

IX. Meeting Adjourned