

Minutes of NPBRT Meeting: 11-24-15
USFS Conf. Room (3-5 PM) 100 Main Street, Walden, CO

Members/Liaisons Present

*Mike Allnutt
Deb Alpe
Mike Alpe
*Jimmer Baller
*Kent Crowder
Michael Dixon
*Blaine Evans
*Randy Miller
*John Rich
*Carl Trick II
*Ty Wattenberg
*Rick Wyatt

Members/Liaisons Absent

Paula Belcher
Pete Conovitz
Russ Gross
Debbi Heeney
*Mike Honholz
*Barbara Vasquez

Others Present

Laura Belanger-Water Resource
Advocates
Amy Conklin-CO Waterwise
Craig Godbout
Allen Jenkins
Caid Waldron
Jeremiah Zamora

I. Agenda Review

Agenda was accepted as proposed.

II. Approval of Roundtable Minutes: 11-03-15

Carl Trick II moved to accept the minutes of the 11-03-15 meeting as presented, John Rich seconded, Motion passed.

III. Craig Godbout, CWCB Water Supply/Planning Section Program Manager update

Craig informed the board that the North Platte Basin RT currently has \$752,257 in the basin account with an additional \$120,000 expected to be added 1-16-16. The State WSRA Account currently has \$1.9 M with \$1.8 M in proposed project requests. Discussion regarding the Colorado Severance Tax is projected to be reduced by as much as 50% from last year. This will impact the availability of WSRA funds. Kent asked if the \$400,000 use it or lose it annual cap to accumulate in basin accounts will go into effect and Craig reported that the cap was discussed by the CWCB but so far has not been instituted.

IV. Presentation and vote on Colorado Stormwater Council's WSRA Application, Implementing Live Like You Love It – Amy Conklin, Colorado Waterwise/Colorado Stormwater Council.

Amy Conklin presented a slide show of their proposal (attached) which she noted targets the *Millennial* age group, the generation loosely defined as those born between the early 1980's and early 2000's. She also noted that she was aware that in Jackson, because our population is less than 10,000, the EPA MS4 permit is not required by our municipality. The request is for \$2,500 from the North Platte Basin WSRA funds. Amy addressed a number of questions from the board as follows:

- RT members expressed doubts about how the project will be sustained in the long

term as well as concerns that additional financial and other requests than those expressed in the proposal may ultimately be forthcoming. Amy elaborated that in addition to extensive buy-in from utility companies, there are many other partners already committed to implement the *Live Like You Love It* campaign through “in-kind” program delivery efforts in Colorado.

- Question asked where the \$25,000 in-kind contributed by the North Platte Basin that is currently listed in the bi-fold brochure was coming from. Amy elaborated that this amount was an estimated value of our current educational efforts. After discussing this, it was decided that, since our annual educational efforts are not extensive, \$2,500 was a more realistic in-kind contribution estimate that should be published in the brochure.
- RT asked if we would have access to the *Live Like You Love It* materials such as slideshows, posters, flags (such as those already up at the Northern Water District) as well as print material.
- Amy confirmed that while all of these promotional tools are currently still being developed, we would have access to them as they become available and will have the option to customize the materials to better fit the North Platte Basin. That said, she added that promotional materials would be developed that could be used in conjunction with all participating partner efforts as long as the goal is to promote the conservation conversation.
- It was noted that educational information to promote the reduction of ag buy and dry strategies isn’t highlighted in current versions of the promotional materials and that it should be emphasized more since that is the precisely the most important reason for the conservation initiative. Amy agreed and acknowledged that the importance of maintaining agriculture in Colorado’s future could certainly be better emphasized in the materials.
- Concern was expressed that ultimately this initiative could lead to the EPA lowering the population standards required for the MS 4 permit as well as the concern that CDPHE or Storm Water Council might use program participant information to impose regulatory fees from municipalities. Amy expressed confidence that this was not at all the intention of the initiative and that she does not expect it to be an unintended consequence in the future.

Kent called for the members of the North Platte Basin Roundtable to cast their vote. The proposal was approved with 6 Yes and 3 No votes. Concerns documented by the no votes included doubts regarding the potential failure and lack of potential to sustain the program in the long term. In addition the concern was restated regarding potential negative impacts by increased regulations to small municipalities who participated in the project.

V. Presentation and vote on WaterReuse Colorado’s WSRA Application, Advancing Direct Potable Reuse to Optimize Water Supplies and Meet Future Demand – Laura Belanger, Western Resource Advocates.

In her request for \$2500 from the North Platte Basin Laura Belanger focused her discussion on how Direct Potable Reuse (DPR) has the potential to partially meet Colorado’s future water needs GAP. She emphasized that the project, if successful has potential to decrease pressure on agriculture and the West Slope as sources of water supplies to meet Front Range needs. The proposal outlines a three-pronged approach to implementing the project with the long term goal of establishing a regulatory framework to facilitate Direct Potable Reuse in Colorado. Currently there are no DPR regulations developed in Colorado. The three tasks outlined specifically are:

- 1) To develop a DPR regulatory and institutional framework for Colorado.

- 2) Engage in public outreach for DPR at the local and state level.
- 3) Leverage DPR planning tools that already exist that can be updated and adapted for Colorado.

Questions from the Roundtable were as follows.

- How were the basins selected from which to make funding requests and why weren't funds requested from all the other Colorado basin roundtables? Laura's answer indicated that essentially, she ran out of time and had difficulty coordinating how to manage attending all of the different basin roundtable meetings. She basically picked the basin's that had meetings she could attend in time to submit the proposal to meet the deadline needed to be considered by the CWCB.
- Concerns were expressed regarding creating new required DPR regulations and imposing those regulations at a high cost to municipalities. Laura assured them that the intent is for this to be a voluntary opportunity that would simply be guided by best practice regulations to insure public health concerns are met if municipalities choose to invest in DPR technology.
- Point was noted that utilities are asking for regulatory clarity with regard to DPR and that our Roundtable is against Ag buy and dry. This could potentially help prevent the need for it.
- Question was raised regarding what downstream water users in the South Platte basin think of the DPR strategy. It's possible the South Platte people may not fully understand the implications to their ag operations if DPR is extensively implemented.
- Inquiry made as to what other states are doing DPR. Laura noted Texas, New Mexico and Oregon as well as North Carolina, California and Georgia. These states have various DPR projects being piloted and that technology used is somewhat dependent on geographic variability.
- RT inquired who would be the members of the workgroup that Laura intends to convene to implement this project. Laura answered that while this has not been determined, there would certainly be representatives from CDPHE, Colorado utilities and the CWCB engineer. Discussion ensued that including ag and small municipality or small utility rep(s) would be a good idea.
- Ty Wattenberg then made a motion that the proposal include language to include an Ag representative in the "workgroup" that would be formed to address DPR and suggested that Joe Frank, chair of the South Platte Basin Roundtable should be at the table. He amended his motion to say that a representative from a small utility company also be included on the board or "workgroup" to ensure that unintended regulatory issues do not arise in the future that would impact small municipalities or utilities. Rick Wyatt seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Kent called for the RT board members to vote whether or not to contribute \$2500 in North Platte Basin Account funds to the project. The proposal was approved with 8 Yes and 1 No vote. No vote concern was that the project seemed pre-mature and not well organized.

VI. North Platte Basin Roundtable Education Committee Report-Deb Alpe

Deb Alpe reported that the Ed Committee met directly prior to the RT meeting to discuss and prioritize educational activities we had identified as potential projects to do during this fiscal year that ends June 30. There is \$6500 available from the CWCB to implement our 2016 Education Action Plan that must be expended by June 15th. The committee decided the following:

- The committee reviewed the Rio Grande Basin Video created by Christi Bode of

Moxiecran Media LLC. The 6 minute clip highlighted aspects of their BIP. In addition, Christi has recently completed another video about the Colorado Water Plan. Prior to the meeting, both Ty Wattenberg and Deb Alpe communicated with Christi Bode requesting information on what it would cost to do a North Platte Basin video. She sent a “ballpark estimate” of \$5400-\$5600 for the Ed Committee to discuss. While the group liked the idea of the video, we recognize there may be challenges with completing it by June 15 because we need the entire water year to capture shots of all the seasonal highlights of the North Platte Basin. Deb Alpe will talk to Kate McIntire at CWCB to discuss whether it’s possible to obligate funds during this Fiscal Year and complete the project next year. We will invite Christi Bode to attend an Ed Committee meeting in the near future to discuss the project. During the Ed Committee meeting and the Basin RT, the question arose as to who the target audience would be and how we would promote the video. This is an important question that definitely deserves some thought as the committee moves forward.

- The Education Committee would also like to update the table top display to highlight aspects of the North Platte BIP. Kent has collected updated WSRA project photos that may be useful. Since we already have the display board, there shouldn’t be much cost to implement this activity. The display is a good item to have available for use during various community meetings and events.
- Finally, the committee discussed whether we would like to pursue hosting a community program featuring a speaker such as Aaron Cray, the attorney who taught a one day workshop hosted by the Middle Park Conservation District a couple years ago. We discussed other potential presenters since Cray’s expertise is strongest in addressing Colorado River issues. Curran Trick is now an attorney with Lawrence Jones Custer Grasmick LLP firm in Johnstown, CO. She was in attendance for the meeting and during this discussion expressed interest in developing a presentation about Colorado Water Law in general as well as North Platte Basin information relevant to meet the needs of our local citizens. The Ed Committee agreed that Curran would be a great speaker and we will proceed to discuss this further with her. The best months for such a program were identified as February or March.

VII. Date for the next meeting

The next meeting was set for Tuesday, Jan. 19 to be held from 3-5 p.m. in the USFS Conference Room at 100 Main Street, Walden. Ty Wattenberg said he would invite Joe Busto with CWCB to talk about weather modification and radar during an upcoming meeting. Then perhaps in April or May invite Harry LaBonde with the Wyoming Water Development Commission to talk about snowtels.

VIII. Meeting Adjourned at 5:14 p.m.