

**Minutes of NPBRT Meeting: 11-03-15**  
**USFS Conf. Room (3-5 PM) 100 Main Street, Walden, CO**

**Members/Liaisons Present**

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

**Members/Liaisons Absent**

Mike Alpe  
Paula Belcher  
Pete Conovitz  
Russ Gross  
Debbi Heeney  
\*Mike Honholz  
\*Randy Miller

**Others Present**

Mike Else  
Dan Henrichs  
Erin Light  
Caid Waldron  
Andrea Wood (GHD, Golden, CO)

**I. Agenda Review**

The agenda was accepted as published. Barbara asked to have an update on the Climatology Project, which Kent said could be covered under Old Business.

**II. Approval of Roundtable Minutes: 7/28/15**

The minutes from the 7/28/15 NPBRT meeting were approved unanimously with minor corrections.

**III. Discussion of Colorado Stormwater Council's WSRA Application, Implementing Live Like You Love It-Requesting \$200,000.00 from Statewide Account Funds and \$50,000 from Basin Account Funds including \$2,500 from the North Platte Basin-Handout materials.**

Amy Conklin of the Colorado Stormwater Council contacted us and provided handout materials, including their WSRA application, to be considered by the NP Basin. These materials were sent out to RT members in advance of the meeting and hardcopies provided by Kent at the meeting. The project aims to leverage many existing programs and drive an education and outreach program about protecting water quality. The ask from the NP Basin is \$2500 for a project application totalling \$1M including in-kind. The application shows that funding is being asked for from all basins across the state, as this is a state-wide project. The RT members asked questions about the various levels of funding by basin, as the rationale wasn't clear. Kent will invite Amy or another representative of the CSC to present the project to the RT at the next meeting. Carl Trick suggested, since this is primarily an education and outreach project, that our Committee meet and review the application and make a recommendation to the RT. Deb will schedule this meeting the hour before our next RT meeting. But Kent was clear that the full RT would want to hear and be able to ask questions of a CSC

**Minutes of NPBRT Meeting: 11-03-15**  
**USFS Conf. Room (3-5 PM) 100 Main Street, Walden, CO**

representative. The CSC needs an response from the RT in time for their 2/1//16 deadline. Kent also said he had been approached by another similar state-wide project aimed at water conservation and he would ask them to also present at the next meeting.

**IV. Update on WSRA funding applications for MacFarlane Dam Rehabilitation Project and Basin-wide Augmentation Plan Project-** Blaine Evans or Mike Dixon and Kent Crowder, Jackson County Water Conservancy District

**MacFarlane Dam Rehabilitation Project**

Blaine Evans reported that the 95% plan was completed. The final estimate for the project was \$1.250M plus \$200k for engineering oversight. There was discussion including Mike Dixon (USFWS) as to whether the \$200k was part of the total or an additional add-on, and whether there was any contingency included (no clear answer). Carl asked Mike Dixon what would happen if there was no bid for the project that met the cost max, a question Mike will take to his contracting officer. And Carl also asked if there is little or no contingency built into the budget, how that would be handled. Kent commented that project in the basin in the past that have run into similar situations had been successful in going back to CWCB for an overrun budget. Ty asked about the bidding process for the project, how it will be structured. They need to work out how the 2 funding entities will funnel funds to the same general contractor.

Blaine said that Matt Reddy (DU) worked with CWCB to itemize the funding. The USFWS contracting officer is requiring the project to be broken up into components based on who is funding the component, so there's some rework going on. This is necessary for clear line of responsibility for the actual contracting process. Jonathan (CWCB) explained to Blaine, who was seeking a loan in parallel with the WSRA grant, that the CWCB didn't want to make a loan for less than \$100k. The final plan is that the Evans Land Company (which is party to the grant application and owned by his daughters) will provide the required funds instead of taking a loan. But in order to do that, a loan will be made from the Evans Cattle Company (owned by Blaine and his wife) to the Land Company to provide sufficient funding. CWCB is also asking for a written agreement between the Evans Land Company and the USFWS detailing the responsibilities and funding sources.

The physical work is on schedule. The USFWS has completed the access road. The reservoir will be drained mi 9/2015 and the project should be finished by the end of Nov. 2016. Blaine commented that the work includes the raising of the spillway to make good the total legal storage right (as was reported in the minutes of the 7/28/15 NPBRT meeting). Blaine reported that detailed sonar work on the reservoir showed capacity of 5600AF versus the original decree of 6507AF. There's enough freeboard on the dam to raise the spillway the to recover the permitted storage. This is needed to avoid any future abandonment issues for the storage right. Dan Henrich said it was his understanding that the spillway height increase would only be 11inches, was easily accommodated without raising the dam and would be done with cement walls, with rip rap on both sides. Carl asked Erin Light if she was aware of this. She wasn't and said a new data table would need to be generated for the reservoir once the work was completed.

**Basin-wide Augmentation Plan Project**

Kent reported that Jimmer was present at the CWCB meeting where this WSRA application was considered for funding, to answer any questions about the project. The CWCB approved funding

**Minutes of NPBRT Meeting: 11-03-15**  
**USFS Conf. Room (3-5 PM) 100 Main Street, Walden, CO**

for the project and the Contract was received by Kent's office for the JCWCD on 10/22. They will meet soon with Wilson Water Group to get started on the work for the basin-wide augmentation plan.

**V. 2016-2019 North Platte Basin Roundtable Education Action Plan Approval–** Deb Alpe, Education Liaison

The draft 3-year (2016-2019) that Deb Alpe put together was distributed prior to this meeting and handouts provided for those who hadn't reviewed it yet. Although there was no working Education and Outreach Committee meeting because of logistics, she sent out the draft to members and incorporated their comments into the draft. She also provided a copy to the current CWCB contact and received positive feedback on our draft Plan. Deb walked through the various elements of the plan with the RT members and described some of the education and outreach methods in the plan. For fiscal year 2016 (July 1-June 30 2016) each basin roundtable has \$6,500 to use for PEPO expenses. The motion to accept the 3yr EAP was approved unanimously. Erin Light indicated she'd be willing to give public presentations on water administration or other topics if that would be of interest in the NP Basin. She also said the Yampa-White was starting to create and distribute simple 1-page handouts on different topics. The goal was to make the information on topics, which are often complex, simple and readable. She offered to get a copy of the first handout for Deb to see as a potential model for things that could be done in the NP Basin.

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

**CWCB:**

Ty gave a brief update from the most recent CWCB meeting. CWCB is on track to present the Colorado Water Plan to the governor by December 10. He asked the RT members whether they had taken the opportunity to review the current version of the Plan. He pointed to Chapter 10 in particular.

Carl asked about the status of the Glenwood RICD, whether it had been heard in Water Court. Ty didn't know where it stood. Ty had asked that material on the legislative agenda be sent out prior to this meeting so RT members could see the proposals for several bills. None of them made it out of the committee except the Resolution. The item regarding standing of out-of-state parties on water issues, with specific reference to the Animas-LaPlata on the Committee's agenda brought a question from Barbara about the issue(s) behind it. Ty said there was still disagreement between CO, NM and the Ute tribes and if negotiations don't provide an agreement soon, it's headed to court.

Ty commented that he felt the NP Basin should consider doing a video about the basin to be used for Education and Outreach, which has been discussed by the RT before. Both he and Deb have seen a video done by the Rio Grande Basin and he suggested it would be a good model for us to consider. However, neither of them knew where or if it might be accessed on the internet. Deb said she'd try to get a link to a video done by the Yampa-White as well.

Finally he commented that the recent visit by the Interim Water Committee in Walden was a plus for the Basin.

**IBCC:** Mike and John gave a brief update from the recent meeting in Keystone of the IBCC. The entire meeting was dominated by the east-west disagreement about stipulations for future trans-basin diversion projects. Little progress was made.

**Minutes of NPBRT Meeting: 11-03-15**  
**USFS Conf. Room (3-5 PM) 100 Main Street, Walden, CO**

**VI. Old Business/New Business**

**Old Business:**

Climatology Project

At the last meeting, there was some concern and confusion about how the lysimeters would be installed for the Climatology Project because the key person on the project, Wendy Ryan, had moved from CSU to Wilson Water Group. When Deb Alpe reached Wendy, she said she planned to get the installation done. The project was actually moved from CSU to WWG and the installation of the lysimeters on Carl Trick's ranch next to the climate station was accomplished over two days about a month ago by Wendy with the help of Dan Henrichs, Carl Trick and Erin Light. The soil moisture probes will be installed next spring right before irrigation season begins and Erin has agreed that Dan can take care of monitoring the lysimeters. The system is fitted with automatic data transmission, so the primary issues will be the functioning of that unit as well as the reservoir and pump to move water into the contained soil columns. Dan and Deb said there were a series of photos of the installation, which several people expressed interest in seeing. Barbara will send out whatever photos Dan and/or Deb can provide. Wendy will be asked to make a presentation on the project at a future NPBRT meeting.

Mutual Ditch Project

Blaine Evans reported that the Mutual Ditch project was completed 2 or 3 weeks ago. Kent asked him to provide some 'after' photos to go with the 'before' photos already in hand.

CPW's Mallon Ditch Bypass Project

No CPW representatives were present, but Mike Else commented that Pepper Canterbury had received the funding defined in the WSRA application from the private land owner, Bob Tointon. The project will be constructed next spring as soon as the weather is warm enough for concrete work.

Effects of Mountain Pine Beetle and Forest Management on Water Quantity, Quality and Forest Recovery

Kent said he still be unable to reach Kelly Elder to schedule an update on this longstanding project.

**New Business:**

Carl asked about the issue this fall with the North Michigan Reservoir. Dan Henrich reported that there is apparently a seep about 1/3 of the way down that has been wet all summer. He was called because the State Forest Service, in discussion with Colorado Dam Safety, agreed to a voluntary reduction of the water level by 10 ft to about 30ft. It was late season and Dan had a hard time finding a way to put that water to beneficial use. While the water was low, Dam Safety ran a video camera up the outlet and everything looks fine. The vegetation on the seep has been removed and piezometers were installed to monitor the area. The earliest that the State Forest said they can fund any needed repairs would be 2017.

Kent and others commented that this seep has been there for a long time. He visited it at least a dozen years ago with a previous water administrator. In addition, a year ago, a truck rolled off the road and hit the spillway. When the truck was recovered, it was dragged up, creating scrape marks near the seep.

**VII. Date for the next meeting**

The next meeting was set for Tue, Nov.24, to be held from 3-5pm in the FS Conference Room at 100 Main Street, Walden. The Education and Outreach Committee will meet at 2pm in the same room.

**VIII. Meeting Adjourned**