

Minutes of NPBRT Meeting: 6-21-16
USFS Conf. Room (7-9 PM) 100 Main Street, Walden, CO

Members/Liaisons Present

*Mike Allnutt
*Jim Baller
Paula Belcher
Joe Brand
*Kent Crowder
*Blaine Evans
*Randy Miller
*John Rich
*Carl Trick II
*Barbara Vasquez
*Ty Wattenberg
*Rick Wyatt

Members/Liaisons Absent

Deb Alpe
Pete Conovitz
Debbi Heeney
*Mike Honholz
*Douglas Waldron
Jeremiah Zamora

Others Present

Christi Bode
Wendy Campbell
Scott Hoffner
Erin Light
Mara MacKillop
Kincaid Waldron

I. Agenda Review

Agenda was accepted as proposed.

II. Approval of Roundtable Minutes: 3-22-15

The minutes of the Mar. 22, 2016 meeting were accepted as published.

III. *Discussion and Vote on WSRA Application for \$29,200 in Basin Account Funds for Stambaugh Outlet Pipe Repair Project Submitted by Crosby Creek Ranch-Voting members of Roundtable will vote on Roundtable approval of this WSRA application -*

Scott Hoffner, Managing Partner, Crosby Creek Ranch

Scott introduced himself and reviewed the WSRA application. A revised application was sent out shortly before this meeting (distributed again with these minutes). The application requests \$29,200 to replace and/or improve the outlet infrastructure for the Stambaugh Reservoir, which has not been upgraded since 1951 when the reservoir capacity was increased to 139AF. There wasn't an additional supporting presentation, but the application includes maps of the ranch and reservoir, photographs of the existing infrastructure plus a quote from the company that would do the work amounting to the majority of the budget. The entire storage right is held by the Crosby Ranch. However, it is considered multiuse because 2/3 of the reservoir covers Forest Service Land, there is some public recreation that occurs there and there is an unimproved campsite on the FS land on the shore of the reservoir. The head-gate rebuild has already been completed. The outlet pipe will be lined with plastic to prevent future leaks. Work is scheduled to be completed by the end of Sept 2016, if approved.

Erin asked about the status of the engineering required by the State of Colorado Water Department. Scott replied that the engineering has not been completed yet and there is no written report. Carl asked whether the application is contingent on the Dam Safety Engineering approval and the engineering bid and Scott replied yes. Also there is an unimproved campsite on FS land on the shore of the reservoir. Scott said he had asked to cut beetle-killed trees on the site for fire safety. Jeremiah replied that a special use permit is required to cut on FS property. Kent clarified that this is an application for basin funds only, so no match is required. Carl reminded Scott that payment for work already completed before the application is approved may not be included. Erin asked how the project helps meet BIP goals. Kent replied that it help preserve irrigated agriculture and

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flatwater boating/fishing. The vote was called.

Carl voted yes, contingent on the project engineering and budget must be accepted. And as with all projects, any underuse of budgeted funds would be returned to the Basin Account. Barbara voted yes, with the comment that she would have preferred to see at least a 5% match from the property owner. The rest of the voting members voted to approve without comment.

IV. North Platte Video Update Presentation - Christi Bode, Moxiecran Media

Christi gave us an update on the development of a North Platte Basin video. First she walked through the outline, which the RT has worked on with her previously and asked for comments. For the C.2. Municipal and Industrial needs, the current outline reads "Not significant compared to the basin's overall demands". However Sandridge, which recently bought out EE3 and is the major shale oil player in the basin, has proposed to drill 33 new wells this year. So Industrial is responsible for a growing diversion of water and has been asking for augmentation water. For the top three constraints (D,1 in the outline) the participants proposed more than three (in no particular order): loss of population, demonstration of the connection between nonconsumptive and consumptive water use, lack of water storage capacity, riparian health, river restoration. She reviewed some of the visits she has had already (Carl Trick, 4H on Sunday and a Day with Ty on his ranch) and those she has planned for this week (meeting with Eric Wagner this weekend and Barbara tomorrow). She would like to come back for haying season as well as late fall/early winter. In the context of Christi's update, there were comments made on two ongoing projects in the basin. Carl commented that the status of the lysimeter on his ranch for the Evapotranspiration project. Wendy Ryan and CSU got it installed, but it's clearly not designed for flood irrigation. And the electronics died before they started to use it. Wendy Ryan talked to Leo (rep of the company that manufactures the lysimeter) that if they could make it work for flood irrigation, it would be an important opportunity. Blaine talked about the McFarlane Dam project. The contractors are expected on the site by July 1. The contractor bid, however, is over budget.

Christi introduced Wendy Campbell who will be helping her here in North Park with the video project. Then she showed a preview video that captures some of the footage she has created to date. The participants in the meeting were pleased with what she showed. She commented that she will be adding footage as her visits progress, and will develop a script which will be sent out for comments from the RT members. And least two people will be needed to do the voice-overs.

V. Introduction of new PEPO Coordinator - Mara MacKillop

Mara introduced herself. She spent the past two years as Board Coordinator for CWCB and has now been asked to take Kate's job as the PEPO coordinator to work with the Basin reps and the Board on Marketing, Communication, Outreach & Education. The year end for the budget will closing June 30. Carl Trick asked why the Board decided not to continue CFWE for the PEPO function. Mara replied that managing the function internally allows more funds applied to the Basins: \$6.5k per basin. The focus for Education and outreach will include 1) attaching to projects in advance 2) general public education at the RT, 3) videos and other approaches to education other basins about a particular basin. Kent commented it might be useful to link Basin videos to visitor and county websites to increase public viewing.

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

CWCB: Ty reminded us that Ted Kowalski has moved from the CWCB to the Walton Foundation. He reviewed the 4 page CWCB taking points (Funding Challenges, Impacts and the Future...distributed with these minutes). Because of a Supreme Court decision requiring the State of Colorado to refund oil and gas companies and estimated \$125M, there will be serious impacts to the WSRA funding. The current WSRA statewide account is \$2.3M and will not receive additional funding in FY 16-17. The Board instructed the CWCB staff to prepare a creative 5-yr funding plan, which will be presented to the CWCB board for approval in July. The proposed \$10M from the construction fund to WSRA could be increased to \$20M if severance tax revenue bounces back. The proposal would be added to the CWCB Projects Bill, which will be reviewed by the legislature in 2017. The WSRA may tweak the Criteria and Guidelines in response to this situation. Included in the draft ideas are 1) high matching funds criteria, 2) BIR alignment, 3) prioritize linkage to State Water Plan, 4) shift to grant + loan or loan only, 5) prioritize linkage to statewide water gap, 6) Increase project completion hold-out from 5% to 10%. Barbara asked about the status of the 3-State Agreement depletion plan. Ty explained that Dec. 31, 2019 end the first depletion plan and negotiations on the details of the plan renewal may start as early as next year. Colorado would prefer a simple extension of the existing agreement. The USFWS will need \$50M to complete a J2 Reservoir project near the ESA recover program location. They are negotiating on a piece of land that would be inundated by the reservoir. Ty also mentioned that the river near the ESA project is swept by Nebraska Power. So it leaves many basins and CWCB to 'creatively' fund BIP projects. Ty stated that it might be possible to partner with the Water & Power Authority on some projects, which has \$50M earmarked for municipal projects. Kent handed out the latest summary spreadsheet for the CWCB WSRA funding status (distributed with these minutes). The NP Basin current balance is \$953,900 with 540,942 approved state grants. Note that the state grant figure is the lowest for any of the basins whereas the basin balance is only slightly lower than the highest (Yampa/White).

IBCC: Because neither J Rich nor M Allnutt were able to attend the latest IBCC meeting, there was no update.

VII. Old Business/New Business

Old: Barbara has asked what the reported irrigated acreage has been for the previous few years against the 3-State Agreement depletion plan maximum of 134,468 acres. Kent provided the following values from the State Engineer's annual reports:

2013- 105,128acres 2014- 112,827acres 2015- 112,994acres.

New: Barbara handed out a flier (attached with these minutes) for a USGS presentation on 6/27 in Saratoga that will detail results of several years of water and bed sediment sampling and analysis in North Park in the North Platte headwaters down to the gage site above the Platte Wilderness Area.

Ty commented that he heard from Terry LaBonde that the Wyoming Weather Modification project in May might include some cloud seeding work North Park.

VIII. Date for the next meeting

The next meeting was tentatively set for late August...finalization of date to depend on agenda items and availability of members.