

Minutes of NPBRT Meeting: 9-27-16
USFS Conf. Room (7-9 PM) 100 Main Street, Walden, CO

Members/Liaisons Present

*Mike Allnutt
Deb Alpe
*Jim Baller
Paula Belcher
Ppper Canterbury
*Kent Crowder
*Blaine Evans
*Randy Miller
*John Rich
*Barbara Vasquez
*Ty Wattenberg

Members/Liaisons Absent

Joe Brand
Pete Conovitz
Debbi Heeney
*Mike Honholz
*Carl Trick II
*Douglas Waldron
*Rick Wyatt
Jeremiah Zamora

Others Present

Christi Bode
Craig Godbout
Dan Henrichs
Scott Hoffner

I. Agenda Review

Agenda was accepted as proposed except for addition of Scott Hoffner's request to comment on his experience of applying for the Crosby Creek Ranch WSRA grant application for Stambaugh Outlet Pipe Repair Project.

II. Approval of Roundtable Minutes: 6-21-16

The minutes of the June 21, 2016 meeting were accepted with correction of attendees list (Carl Trick). Corrected minutes will be distributed.

III. Comments on WSRA Application for basin funds for Stambaugh Outlet Pipe Repair -

Scott Hoffner, Managing Partner, Crosby Creek Ranch

Scott wanted to take this opportunity to thank the NPBRT for help in applying for the WSRA grant to repair the outlet infrastructure for the Stambaugh Reservoir. It hasn't been upgraded since it was put in place in 1951 when the reservoir capacity was increased to 139AF. He also thanked Craig Godbout for his help. He walked through some details of next steps for the project. His goal is to get the work done before the winter weather shuts down the project for the season. Barbara suggested he let the RT know when the pipe lining is scheduled, as members may be interested in coming out and watching the process. But Scott was also warned by Ty W and Craig G that there can be no reimbursal for any work done before the contract for the project was approved by CWCB and a 'notice to proceed' was sent to him. Craig suggested to Scott that he write and send a letter to him requesting an extension to Dec 2017 to cover any weather constraints.

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

Christi led the meeting attendees through the script that had been sent out prior to the meeting, with an update sent same day. There was a session of live editing in the projected text script. The edited version will be sent out with these minutes. She has already selected people for the voiceovers (Mike Allnutt, Wade Allnutt and Lynette Telck), which she plans to record tomorrow. In addition, she will be capturing additional videos

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while here. She expects to provide the RT with the first draft of the video (with the audio overlay) by early November.

V. Update on Mallon Extension Ditch Bypass Structure – Pepper Canterbury, CPW District Wildlife Manager

Pepper gave the RT a status update on the Mallon Extension Ditch Bypass project. There have been a few challenges getting this project completed. After careful estimation by CPW engineers to create the WSRA grant application budget, the lowest bid CPW was able to solicit came in at 2x the budget. To accommodate this large gap, CPW will supply materials and labor for work required after the concrete is poured, including waterproofing the concrete and building/installing the catwalk and safety rail. The structural design was also decreased to a 25year structure from the original 50yr structural design. So the entire grant budget will be used to pay the contractor. She expects the contractor to start the concrete work next week and she's pushing hard to get this project done before weather prevents the work.

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

IBCC: M Allnutt reported on the Aug 17 meeting held in Golden. The IBCC voted on the 3rd draft of the WSRA Guidelines and Criteria. Next meeting is scheduled for 11/29 in coordination with Colorado Agricultural Alliance and John Stulp's Agricultural Viability Conference. There was discussion of creative ways to continue funding for WSRA. Dick Brown proposed a 2 cents/bottle tax on bottled beverage which would result in about \$100M/yr. IBCC gave the idea a thumbs-up, but making the tax a reality will be a long process (legislation or resolution).

CWCB: Ty updated the talking points entitled "Funding Challenges, Impacts and the Future" that were also discussed at the last meeting. 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 balance is \$773k (after the 9/16 Board meeting) and will not receive additional funding in FY 16-17. Refund money is expected to come from \$19.1M from the severance tax perpetual base fund and \$10M from the severance tax DNR operational fund. So no new funding for WSRA will come from severance tax this year, but as oil and gas prices rebound, this will likely change. The CWCB staff's conceptual 5-yr funding plan proposes \$30M one-time investment in a repayment guarantee fund (to support bond acquisition by small communities), \$10M annually to WSRA (needed to fund BIP and State Water Plan projects), 5M annually to the Watershed Restoration Program and \$10M annually to non-reimbursable programs. The proposal would be added to the CWCB Projects Bill, which will be reviewed by the legislature in 2017.

Ty asked Craig Godbout to speak to the new Criteria and Guidelines which are close to finalization, at which point the document will be distributed widely. Anticipated changes include:

1) Basin Account grants will require 25% applicant (cash or in-kind) or 3rd party (letter of commitment at application). This match requirement is up from the current 0%. high matching funds criteria,

2) Statewide grants will require a 50% match (up from current 25%). That 50% would be comprised of 10% from Basin Account (cash), 10% from applicant (cash or in-kind) or 3rd party and 30% from any source other than State funds.

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3) A waiver can be granted by CWCB to roll the match requirement back from 25% to 0% for Basin Account grants. The applicant must be able to convince the RT and the CWCB that the 25% match is a severe financial hardship. A waiver for the increased match on Statewide grants can also reduce the match, but the proportionate share (10%/10%/30%) for the sources of the match will be retained. The requirements for such a waiver have not been detailed yet.

4) Criteria for statewide grants may include a requirement to support an element or elements in the State Water Plan.

General provisions: A competitive bidding process will be required for grants of \$100k or greater and Administrative expenses will be limited to no greater than 15%. Grants will be administered via a purchase order if the total is less than \$100k but by contract if larger. Progress reports will be required. If 6 months late, payment for completed work may be withheld. The holdback for the final deliverable will be 10% and if the final deliverable is not received within 90d of the end date on the contract, the 10% will be returned to the WSRA fund and the applicant will be denied any future grants. The CWCB is requiring that each RT include a conflict of interest policy in its bylaws, such that any RT member that will potentially benefit from a grant must recuse themselves from voting on the application. And each RT's bylaws must include the revised Criteria and Guidelines, although they can decide to include more restrictive provisions than the statewide CWCB rules.

VII. Old Business/New Business

Old: The North Platte Basin budget balance is \$924,700. Ty suggested the RT members and liaisons be thinking of additional WSRA projects to bring to the RT.

Barbara asked Ty if he had any update on the Wyoming Weather Modification project. Jeni Cederle had informed him that the FS turned down their request for a 30yr Special Use Permit to conduct cloud seeding work. And the CWCB Board may be looking at increasing Joe Busto's Colorado weather modification budget (currently \$175k/yr). He also commented that if North Park wants to pursue weather mod work, someone would need to put together a grant application. The biggest difficulty is not the capital investment in the equipment but the ongoing cost of operation, equipment maintenance plus data collection and analysis.

New: None

VIII. Date for the next meeting

The next meeting was tentatively set for Nov. 15 (3-5pm, start of winter hours).